L3F linking sector players through ICT

EQUITY Bank: Credit

Cognitive Social Capital

Market

ICTs

Knowledge Institutions
EXPERIENCES FROM THE L3F INITIATIVE IN UGANDA

- Make effective use of ICTs to facilitate learning for development while helping rural communities find appropriate technology-based open and distance education to improve their livelihoods.

- Complement the conventional extension system by delivering relevant and timely agricultural information to rural farming communities in their local dialects.

- Providing low interest micro credit to rural farming communities especially women through ICT.
EXTENSION CHALLENGES IN UGANDA

- Very few extension officers to serve farmers; 3 extension educators required to serve up to 46,000 farmers

- Lack of relevant research information presented in an easy to understand manner and localized to the needs of local small holder farmers

- Very challenging to serve farmers with diverse enterprises
Diverse enterprises on the same piece of land
CAN MOBILE PHONES HELP?

- Close to 17 million subscribers-more than half of the population (33M)
- Transcend the challenges of traditional extension systems i.e. impassable roads, low motivation of officers, few officers
- Very challenging to serve farmers with diverse enterprises and ever changing information needs
“Use neem tree leaves to keep your grain safe: Dry the leaves, grind them and mix with the grain in the bags that you want to store.”

“Use tobacco to control spidermites in tomatoes and borer in cabbage. Grind the leaves, mix with ash and soap water. Let it stay for a night, sift and spray.”
M-LEARNING FOR AGRICULTURE EXTENSION

In 2009 COL conducted an information needs assessment survey to find out the sources of agriculture extension information, means of access and several other parameters.
SAA OFFICERS LEARN MORE ABOUT ICT TO BETTER REACH OUT TO FARMERS

http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=85681
Is ICT the answer to Food insecurity?

- ICT alone cannot be the answer

- A paradigm shift is required in the concept and practice of agriculture extension and only then ICT can add value.
KIGEZI HIGHLANDS