

MOUNTBELLEW TO ADRAA



FRANCISCAN BROTHERS ADRAA AGRICULTURE COLLEGE

In commemoration of the official opening and blessing of the college on 26 May 2017

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Message from the Irish Ambassador

Many congratulations on the official opening of Adraa Agriculture College (AAC) from all of us in the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda! This is a great achievement and we join with you in celebrating it. The work that you are doing in AAC is very important, more so today than at any other time. Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world, and for Uganda's full potential to be realised, there must be investment in the youth. Developing their skills, opening their minds, fostering their sense of pride and dedication, and enabling them to contribute to their families, their communities, and their country. The infrastructure that you are launching today, the over 2,500 students you have trained and are training, and engagement with the local community through the Offaka Development Programme, are all fantastic examples of this work in action, and we salute you for it.

It is also great to see the focus on agriculture, where Uganda has an abundance of opportunity and capacity, and which needs more investment for that to be realised. As well as that, it is laudable to see AAC responding to the refugee influx from South Sudan to integrate refugees into some of its programmes. Uganda now has the highest number of refugees in Africa, and its refugee policy is progressive and impressive. The Solidarity Summit which Uganda will host with the UN Secretary General on June 22-23 will showcase the comprehensive response to refugees here in Uganda, and our hope is that the rest of the world will listen and learn.



I want to thank the principal and staff at AAC, the AAC Board of Management, the Bishop of Nebbi, the Franciscan Brothers, the local and central Government, the local communities, AAC's many supporters, and all stakeholders in this venture. The Irish Government is proud to have been able to play its part too. Through the Mísean Cara support fund, we have provided €440,000 to AAC over the last five years. I want in particular to thank Brother Tony Dolan for his tireless efforts, for his enthusiasm and dedication to AAC during his time here, and all of the other Irish people who have supported the AAC in this time. You have been great Ambassadors for Ireland!

Finally, Ireland has a deep bond of friendship and partnership with Uganda, and AAC is a great example of this. Our own work in the Embassy of Ireland, where we are investing over €85 million in Uganda between 2016 and 2020, with a focus on the Karamoja region, is building upon the great work of Irish missionaries who for over 100 years have played, and continue to play, a great role in supporting Uganda's development. And we are delighted to support this continuing work.

Thank you,

Dónal Cronin

Irish Ambassador to Uganda

Message from the Bishop of Nebbi Catholic Diocese



As the people of God in Nebbi Catholic Diocese, we thank God Himself for the gift of the Franciscan Brothers who have graced our diocese with their residential presence, distinguished generosity, and very specially, the establishment of Adraa Agriculture College which today we solemnly bless and officially open.

The Franciscan Brothers are in this diocese to, among others, develop agriculture in so simple a way that anybody disposed can understand, adopt, practice and benefit from, and that is why they have given us Adraa Agriculture College. Thank you Franciscans! We already admire the wonderfully attractive and affordable way that has characterized the beginnings of this noble institution, so dear to us and to the rest of the people of God. The look of things suggests growth to greater horizons.

This college is an eternal signature on the landscape of our diocese given the contribution it makes and will continue to make in the arena of crop cultivation and animal husbandry, on top of opening heads, hands and hearts to receiving and utilizing comprehensive knowledge on land use, environmental conservation and the zealous protection of the eco system, in line with Pope Francis' appeal to us in LAUDATO SI, his Encyclical on CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME: "*The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know*

that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.”(No. 13)

On our diocesan emblem, we have the words **LOVE, MERCY, WORK**, inspired by John 13:34(Love one another just as I have loved you), Luke 6:36(Be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful), Matthew 18:21-22(Forgive seventy times seven times each day), Matthew 25:31-46(I was in need and you were a friend indeed), Genesis 2:5(the cultivation and care of land by humans). This College, we are abundantly confident, shall significantly help us to work and show love and mercy with the fruits of our work. Thank you Franciscans! In you we see the Hand of a Loving Providence at work.

Finally, we entrust this College and the entire Franciscan mission in this diocese to the Lord whose grace always abounds, to Mother Mary whose intercession for us never ends, and to St. Francis of Assisi who loved nature and creation. May we support this noble course by our fervent prayers, mobilization of enrollment, advocacy, and by our availability and competence.

God bless the Franciscans. God bless Nebbi Catholic Diocese.

In Christ Jesus,

Rt. Rev. Wanok Sanctus Lino

BISHOP OF NEBBI CATHOLIC DIOCESE

Message from Minister General of the Franciscan Brothers



I am very happy to join you in celebrating the official opening of Adraa Agriculture College. I bring the greetings and best wishes from our Brothers in Ireland and California and together we congratulate the East Africa Region on this great achievement.

I thank Bishop Sanctus Lino Wanok, Bishop Emeritus Martin Luluga, the priests, religious and the people of Nebbi Catholic Diocese for their hospitality and support of our Brothers since they first came to the diocese in 2009. I also thank the President and Government of the Republic of Uganda at national, district and local levels for their support and encouragement. The acceptance, co-operation and hospitality of the local geographical community of Offaka Sub-county will long be remembered by the Franciscan Brothers and we pray that their presence among you will bring many blessings.

The establishment of the college was made possible through partnership and collaboration with many agencies, families and individuals. We are extremely grateful to the Irish Government and people for their wonderful support of this project as we are to the many Irish, German and Spanish agencies who contributed to the realisation of the dream. A special word of thanks to the families and friends of our Brothers who made big sacrifices in contributing to the establishment and running of the college. We also thank our Brothers in Ireland and California for their wonderful support.

This day we remember in a very special way our late, beloved Minister General, Br. Michael Burke, who died in a tragic road accident in Ireland last August. Only two weeks earlier he had hosted Bishop Sanctus during his one week visit to Ireland. He brought him to the prime tourist and religious sites in the West of Ireland. He was very happy doing so and they promised to meet again during the scheduled official opening of Adraa Agriculture College in November 2016. He was really looking forward to coming to Uganda for this joyful event and would have loved to be with us today. But our all loving, caring Creator had other ideas. Ar deis De to raibh a anam usual.

On behalf of the Franciscan Brothers I assure the management and staff of the college the support and prayers of our Institute and encourage you to continue focusing on the most vulnerable families and individuals in the catchment area of the college and to do this through capacity and capability building rather than giving in charity. As we look at our history we see many parallels with Ireland of a hundred years ago and the response of our Brothers at that time. I encourage you to study the lessons learned from this patrimony and ensure that we learn from their mistakes and from their successes.

Br. Sean Conway

Minister General Franciscan Brothers




Message from Offaka sub-county LC3 and Chairperson of AAC Board of Management Diocese



After several years of expeditious work of the different stakeholders towards establishing an Agriculture College, I wish to extend my appreciation on behalf of the Management Board and the geographical community of Offaka sub-county for the tireless efforts towards that achievement. This acknowledgement goes to the different partners who supported the process of establishing the College. Special regards go to the Bishop of Nebbi Catholic Diocese who opened the gates for the Franciscan Brothers to come to work in the Diocese. Also to the community of Adraa who offered the land on which the College sits. I am particularly indebted to the following individuals: Rofino Awudo, Satromino Awinzu, Gencardo Acema (RIP) and Tanisileo Nguma (RIP) who on behalf of the community gave the land. It is the dream of the Management Board that, our partners will continue with this dedication and spirit to ensure that the goal and vision of the College are achieved.

The Official Opening is a mile stone in the life of the College. It is yet the start of a long, challenging journey of bringing transformation in the lives of the communities in and outside of Offaka. As a Board we are aware of these challenges but our focus will be on the strengths and the numerous opportunities existing. The potential and needs for change are there but this potential has to be tapped.



Finally, I wish to thank the Government of Uganda for the peace and the enabling environment which is supporting development agencies in improving the livelihoods of our people, and above all Government's strategic plan to skill the youth who constitute a large per cent of the Uganda population.

Dramaa Primo

LC 3, Offaka Sub-county and Chairperson of AAC Board of Management

Message from College Principal



I welcome each one of you to the official opening of Adraa Agriculture College (AAC). AAC is a corporate body under the Trustees Incorporation Act of Uganda. Its Legal identity is the registered Trustees of the Franciscan Brothers (Africa Region) Nebbi, Uganda. The College is in the process of obtaining registration as an agriculture training institution with the Ministry of Education and Sport.

Over the past five years, AAC has realized significant achievements but also experienced some challenges. Key achievements include development of key physical infrastructure, establishment of excellent working relations with community and partners, training over 2,500 students and enhancing the voice of the local community through the Offaka Development Programme. AAC has developed a five year Strategic Development Plan to provide a roadmap for the development of the College.

The College, through its programmes responds to capacity and capability development needs of marginalized and vulnerable people and communities in its catchment area. AAC recognizes Uganda's National Development Plan for Vision 2040 to which the College is committed to contribute. The tailor made training provides climate change resiliency for small scale farmers, alternative adaptation and adoption strategies/ technologies thus increasing their agricultural productivity.

Finally, partnership is one of AAC's key strategic objectives. It is through this that institutions of learning are able to do what they have done so far – including provision of holistic education that is responsive to the needs of our people and communities today. Nelson Mandela Madiba has told us that *“education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”*. I believe many of us are convinced of this fact. But it has to be a wholistic education for it to be an instrument of social, economic and ecological transformation. When education enables individuals to develop their human, social, spiritual, natural, physical and financial abilities then such individuals will be able to live up to their core values. Lack of basic needs degrades and de-humanizes a person.

I call upon the Government of Uganda at all levels, the private sector, civil society organisations, faith based organisations, academia and friends to support Adraa Agriculture College and to work together for the common good to achieve Vision 2040 Uganda and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to the Franciscan Brothers and to all those who have contributed to the development of the College. We look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

Br. Charles Lagu,

Principal, Adraa Agriculture College

The Franciscan Brothers

Franciscan Brothers – who and what are they?

- They are a religious fraternity in the catholic church called to live the gospel way of life.
- It is an institute of brothers, founded in mountbellew, Ireland in 1820 and members of the worldwide franciscan family.
- Men who publicly profess the vows of consecrated celibacy, evangelical poverty and religious obedience.
- Men who are inspired by the life and values of our Lord Jesus Christ, the example of Mary our Mother and Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi.
- They live and work in mostly rural areas respecting all persons and creation.
- Their core values are fraternity, sacredness of all, simplicity, hospitality and stewardship.

The mission of the Brothers is to:

- Bring the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ to all persons among whom we live and work.
- Peacefully challenge values and structures that dehumanize persons and violate creation.
- Promote systems that are god and people centred and environmentally sound.
- They do this through the example of their own lives and in a spirit of partnership and collaboration.





The Franciscan Brothers were founded in Mountbellew, Co. Galway, Ireland in 1820. Ireland at that time was under British rule. The country had a fast growing population and the social and economic conditions of the majority were deteriorating rapidly. The Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 gave the legal framework for freedom of worship but the free market ideology of the British Government was making the rich richer and the poor poorer. The Stanley Education Act of 1831 introduced the National Primary School System.

Dr. John MacHale was appointed Archbishop of Tuam in 1834 and was one of the most influential and controversial prelates in the Irish Catholic Church during his 47 years as Archbishop. The Brothers formed an important role in implementing his pastoral and educational strategies. By 1860, there were eleven monasteries of the Third Order of St. Francis in the Archdiocese, mainly located in rural parishes. In each community there were about ten religious, two or three of whom were particularly devoted to the education of the poor male children of the surrounding area. The remainder were employed in the tilling of their small farm or in other services for the support of the community and their work. They supported themselves and their ministries primarily by their own industry and effort and, when required, they sought the charity of the people for their work. Their schools, on the instructions of the Archbishop, were run independently from the National School System and so they were not in receipt of salaries or grants. The Archbishop wanted a denominational school system funded by a State grant but controlled for Catholics by the Catholic Church, not a system based on principles of mixed education that while admitting children of all religious persuasions should not interfere with the peculiar tenets of any as was the system in the National Schools. He also sent the Brothers to areas where proselytisers were particularly active in the more isolated and often the poorest areas of the Archdiocese to help combat Protestant on-going evangelical crusades to win converts from Catholicism.

The work of the Brothers was varied. The form of life in the communities was strict and demanding with a strong emphasis on observance of their rule of life; loyalty to the church and its teachings; penance and mortification, prayer and practical service working with and among the people. Many of the Brothers were men of strong views. The work of the Brothers extended beyond the schools to the parish community where they served, particularly through the teaching of catechism and trades to adults and through their farms which were sometimes used as model farms. Many went abroad to the United States and elsewhere to fundraise for the home Churches. Some were sent or went to establish communities abroad. These communities became independent diocesan institutes under their respective Bishops though they maintained friendly non-juridical relationships with their Irish roots.

The climate within the Archdiocese of Tuam changed when Dr. MacHale died and his successor, Dr. McEilly, took a different view on many areas of Archdiocesan policy including education. In 1904 the Brothers started the first Agriculture College in Ireland at Mountbellew. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the Institutes in Ireland and in the United States attempted to form a judicial union which came to nought. The Institutes abroad then moved independently. The Irish Institute moved to achieve greater unity among its communities in Ireland and greater autonomy in their relationship with their Bishops. As in 1829, they saw opportunities for growth and felt inhibited by their existing structures. They decided to move towards getting “Pontifical Status”, which they achieved in 1930 – some one hundred years after they became a Diocesan Institute in the Archdiocese of Tuam. While they continued their work in schools, they sought to expand particularly towards the missions and sought to put in place structures and strategies to support this expansion, particularly in the area of formation.

Onitsha in Iboland, Nigeria was their first mission in Africa in 1936 at the invitation of the Holy Ghost Missionaries. They went to the Cameroon in 1953. In both countries they worked primarily as teachers and teacher trainers. They returned to Ireland from Nigeria in 1967 and from Cameroon in 1976. In 1976 they went to the Diocese of Nakuru in Kenya to work primarily as agriculturalists and rural development facilitators among the farmers and rural communities. In 1981 they initiated a formation programme and the first postulants were accepted in 1985 and the first professions were in 1987.




New Mission in Kenya

In 1956, they went to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, initially to provide teaching staff for St. Paul's High School, Santa Fe Springs. In 1967 three Brothers joined the staff of Cardinal Hayes H.S. in New York.

In 1968 the newly established Catholic Diocese of Nakuru, Kenya under the administration of the St. Patrick's Missionary Society (Kiltegas), acquired a 950 acre farm in the 'White' Highlands of Kenya, from Kenya Government in order to establish a Farmers Training Centre (FTC) to educate and train the newly settled people of Rift Valley Province. The college commenced

operations in 1974. At the invitation of the Bishop of the diocese, Bishop Raphael Ndingi Mwana Nzeki, three Franciscan Brothers, Denis Lawlor, Tom Burke and Jim Leonard, took over the management of the FTC and farm in May 1977. In the early years the Baraka FTC curriculum promoted high external input agriculture. However, with changing demographic and economic conditions it became obvious that this form of agriculture was not responding to the needs of the increasing numbers of smallholder farmers and pastoralists. In 1977 the population of Kenya was about 14 million and in 2017 it is 43 million. In response to these changing realities, from the early eighties, the concept **sustainable agriculture** began to emerge. A watershed in the development of the college was a three week, Misereor sponsored, international workshop held at the College in August, 1986. From that time sustainable agriculture was at the core of the curriculum for all college programmes. In 1990 the name was changed to Baraka Agriculture College. The college expanded and today it offers certificate, diploma and short courses in sustainable agriculture and rural development for a wide catchment area.



The involvement of the Brothers in the diocese of Nakuru also expanded. In 1979 they established and managed, until 1992, the very successful St. Joseph's Junior Seminary, Molo. In the mid-eighties the Brothers designed and managed a diocesan agriculture and rural development programme covering the three counties of Nakuru, Kericho and Baringo. In 1986 they founded and still manage St. Francis Environmental Day Secondary School in Lare, Nakuru. St. Francis is one of the most successful rural day secondary schools in Kenya.

Today, in Kenya, the Brothers manage and run Baraka Agriculture College, St. Francis Secondary School, Mtakatifu Clara Mwangaza (an informal rural development resource centre), Peace & Environment Centre in Molo and their own 40 acre farm at Baraka. A number of Brothers also work in local government primary and secondary schools.

In the 1981 the Franciscan Brothers Formation Programme was started promoting the vocation to brotherhood in the African Church and accepting young men from East Africa who were interested in joining the Institute. Today in the African Region there are 12 finally professed African Brothers, 6 temporary professed, 5 novices and 3 postulants.



Move to Uganda

Over the years many Ugandans studied sustainable agriculture at Baraka Agricultural College. Involvement with students from Uganda created an awareness of the Brothers' mission in the country. Six Ugandan Catholic dioceses – Luweero, Masaka, Hoima, Lira, Gulu and Nebbi-made formal or informal invitations to the Brothers to start an apostolate in their diocese.

Following a fact finding visit to five of these dioceses in February/ March 2008, by two Brothers and one lay person, Nebbi Catholic Diocese was chosen. Later the bishop of Nebbi, Rev Bishop Martin Luluga, formally invited the Brothers to open a community in his diocese.

It was agreed that a major focus of the mission of the Brothers in Uganda should be on capacity and capability building farmers and rural youth. It was also agreed that the catchment area of an institution to be developed be Uganda, South Sudan and North East Democratic Republic of Congo. This is a very underdeveloped region with very high levels of rural poverty. The climate is tropical and temperatures seldom fall below 20°C but the natural resource base is rich. Because of economic, social and



political isolation, the capacity and capability of the human capital is low. It was clear from the needs of the people of the catchment area and the charism entrusted to the Brothers through their patrimony that God was/is calling them to serve His people in this part of the world. As the only Franciscan community in a large part of Northern Uganda they have the added responsibility of promoting the broader Franciscan charism that has much to offer humanity at this point in history.

The Brothers came to Nebbi in January 2009 and lived in a rented house in the town for three years until December 2011. Among the priests who received the Brothers with great hospitality were Fr Geoffrey Ocamgiu, Fr Jovenale Ayelangom and Fr Innocent

Ogabirombo who have since gone to their heavenly home. Both Fr Geoffrey and Fr Jovenale were Directors of Caritas in Nebbi Diocese and played important roles in helping the Brothers to get established.

The Brothers visited all parishes in the diocese of Nebbi researching the most suitable site for a community and ministry. After much consultation and with the blessing of Bishop Luluga they choose Adraa Village in Offaka Sub-county, Arua District.

The geographical community of Offaka received the Brothers with warmth and hospitality. After a long process of consultation with the local community, twenty four (24) hectares of land were acquired. Six families agreed to sell plots of land so that the farm would be one consolidated block. The farm is bordered by river Oza on its northern side.

In May 2011 work started on building a community house for the Brothers and fencing the land. The community house was ready for occupation in January 2012 and was officially opened by Bishop Martin Luluga and Br. Peter Roddy, Minister General of the Franciscan Brothers, on February 29, 2012. On that day Bishop Luluga also dug the first sod for the proposed new college.

A three year discernment process indicated that the greatest need was for capacity and capability building for efficient farming and non-farming rural enterprises. It was agreed that an agriculture college focusing on practical education and training for sustainable agriculture and rural enterprise would be the most appropriate response.

Partners that worked with the Brothers in Kenya were approached and their response was heartening. Plans were drawn up for the an agriculture college and building of phase one – classrooms, administration block, washrooms and sewage system- started in June 2012. This was completed in July 2013. Phase 2 – hostel, staff accommodation, guest house and crèche – was planned and work on the hostel commenced in August 2013 and was ready for use by July 2014. Work on the staff accommodation, guest house and crèche started in mid-2014 and was fully completed by December 2016. In the meantime work on Farm and Bee Development Centre continued.



In 2015 plans were finalised for a kitchen, dining and value addition training unit. The contract was signed and work on the project started in July 2015. The delay in completing this phase of the construction is due to lack of funds.

In early 2013 the new centre was named ***'Franciscan Brothers Adraa Agriculture College'***. The process of registering the college with the Uganda Ministry of Education and Sport was initiated.

In September 2012 a MOU was signed with the TRÓCAIRE/DFID Northern Uganda Livelihoods Programme for training of front line extension workers and for community opinion leaders. The first 40 hour course, in beekeeping, was run in June 2012 followed by another beekeeping course in November, 2012. In 2013, 25 forty hour (one week) courses were run with 544 women and men participating. Accommodation and food for these courses was by provided in the Franciscan Brothers Community. From September 2013 the new classroom block was used to accommodate course participants and a temporary kitchen was built.

In early 2012 work started with Offaka geographical community. Offaka Sub-county is representative of most sub-counties in Northern Uganda. Underdevelopment is very pronounced, education standards are low and poverty levels are high. To increase awareness of the need for education, especially for the girl child, in 2011 the Brothers, in cooperation with the Jesuits in Ocer Campion Secondary School, Gulu and with the support of families and friends in Ireland and the USA, started a scholarship scheme for six P7 graduates from Offaka. This scheme is continuing and in 2013 was expanded to include the local Offaka Secondary School. Currently, 55 young people from Offaka Sub-county are supported under this scheme.

The general development approach being adopted by Adraa Agriculture College is that of the geographical community with the focus on the village unit. In 2012, 4 of the 37 villages were selected and four past students of Baraka Agriculture College were appointed community mobilisers in each of these villages. The number of villages was extended to 8 in 2013.

There are 14 primary schools in Offaka with a student population of approximately 11,000. However, the dropout rate is still 80% before reaching P7. In the 2012 a schools agriculture project was commenced in which all the schools participated. This project aims at creating a positive image of farming among staff, students and their parents. It is also focuses on improving the education system in Offaka.

Cost of the Development of Adraa Agriculture College

From December 2009 to March 2011, 23.445 hectares of land was acquired by the Franciscan Brothers in Adraa village. Nine families co-operated in providing the land as follows:

Rofino Ezama Awudo	7.726 hectare
Asia Noah	5.107 hectares
Odrua S. Awinzu	4.176 hectares
Odongo R.Jino	2.834 hectares
Adrada Simon	2.202 hectares
Limara Bosco	1.141 hectares
Masensio Karamelo	0.127 hectares
Lematia Phositine	0.095 hectares
Mario Jino	0.037 hectares
TOTAL	23.445 hectares

Work on fencing the land was completed in 2011.

The architectural drawings for the Franciscan Brothers community house were done by Julius Matasyo of Inter-Arch Consultants, Nakuru, Kenya. Julius had done much of the architectural work for Baraka Agriculture College and without having the opportunity of seeing the Adraa site developed the drawings.



The contract for the construction of the house was given to Ongier Godfrey. The first sod for the community house was dug and the site blessed by Bishop Martin Luluga on March 12, 2011 and the building was opened by Br. Peter Roddy, Minister General of the Franciscan Brothers and blessed by Bishop Luluga on February 29, 2012.

The sod for the new college was dug and the site blessed by Bishop Luluga on February 29, 2012. The following were the professional teams that were employed to design, draw and oversee the construction the college:

Architects: Image Architects, Nairobi, Kenya

Quantity Surveyors: COSTPLAN, Nairobi, Kenya

Contractor: Ongier Godfrey, Nebbi, Uganda

Work on phase 1- classrooms, administration block, washrooms and sewage system- started in June 2012 and was completed in July 2013. For phase 2 – hostel, staff accommodation, guest house and crèche- work on the hostel commenced in August 2013 and was ready for use by July 2014; work on the staff accommodation, guest house and crèche started in mid-2014 and was fully completed by December 2016.

Work on phase 3 – the kitchen, dining, and value addition training unit- commenced in August 2015 and it is still on-going. As of May 2017 approximately 80% of the contract has been completed.

By May 2017 95% of the college water project was completed.

Farm structures were built by local builder, Angawku Suntus with the support of Br. Alphonsus Gavigan and the practical classrooms and offices were constructed by Tinashen Builders, Gulu.

Partners in development



Two fundamental principles underpinning the work of Adraa Agriculture College are partnership and collaboration. Without these sustainable progress is not possible.

Adraa conceptualises Partners as:

Learning partners are training and education institutions, research institutions, local and international networks.

Resource partners are indigenous knowledge institutions, internet sites, research and development institutions, local and international networks.

Positioning partners are technical and policy support partners, advocacy partners, concept and strategy promotion partners.

Funding partners are financial support partners, service provision partners and commercial financial institutions.



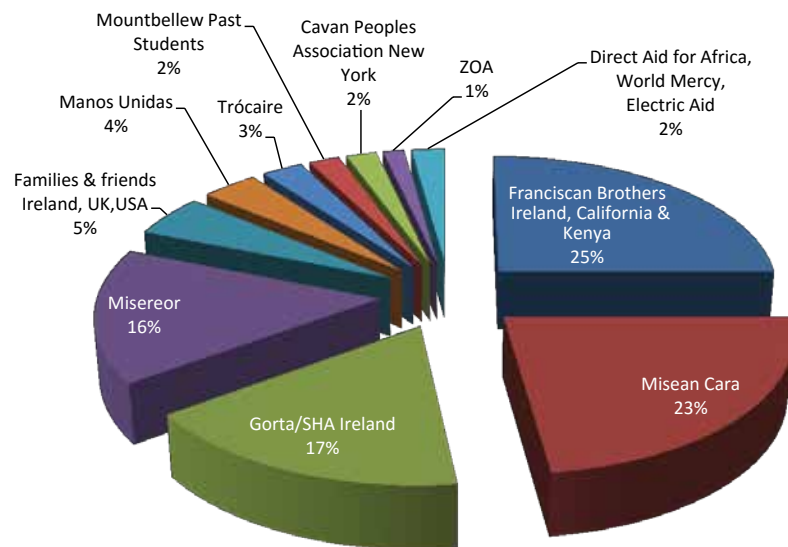
Adraa is privileged to have a large number of loyal, generous partners many of whom fit all four categories and they include:

- Government and People of the Republic of Uganda
- Government and People of Ireland
- Franciscan Brothers – Ireland, California and Kenya
- Catholic Diocese of Nebbi
- Misesan Cara – Ireland
- Misereor – Germany
- Gorta/Self Help Africa – Ireland & Uganda
- Trócaire – Ireland & Uganda
- Manos Unidas- Spain
- Families and Friends of Franciscan Brothers & Volunteers – Ireland, U.K & USA
- Sign of Hope – Germany and South Sudan
- Caritas – Nebbi, Arua, Sudan, Austria, Belgium and Uganda
- ZOA – Uganda and Netherlands
- CEFORD – Uganda
- Brighter Communities Worldwide – Kenya & Uganda
- African Beekeeping Resource Centre
- WENIPS – Nebbi,
- EyeOpener Works – Uganda & Netherlands
- Past Pupils of Mountbellew Agriculture College – Ireland
- Combined Services Third World Fund – Ireland
- Electric Aid – Ireland
- World Mercy- Germany
- Direct Aid for Africa – Ireland
- Viatores Christi – Ireland
- Missionary Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church
- SCIAF – Scotland
- TUNADO
- PELUM
- Offaka SACCO
- Bioversity Uganda
- Sisters of Christian Retreat – Ireland
- Columban Missionaries- Ireland
- Irish Society – Kampala
- Cavan Peoples Association – New York
- Baraka Agriculture College – Kenya
- Mountbellew Agricultural College – Ireland
- Galway County Council Staff
- AFARD – West Nile
- SNV- Uganda
- VSO- Gulu, Uganda
- PUM – The Netherlands
- NARO- Arua, Uganda

AAC and the Franciscan Brothers East Africa Region very much appreciate the wonderful support from individuals and agencies that facilitates their mission in East Africa.

Financial contribution to the development of AAC

Partner Contribution



From January 2011 to April 2017 approximately UGX 6.3 billion (€1.8 million) has been used in developing the Franciscan Brothers Adraa Agriculture College. This includes the purchase of the land, fencing, development of the farm, the bee development centre, the Franciscan Brothers Community House, the solar systems, water systems and all the college infrastructure.

Many Partners and Friends have contributed financially, morally and spiritually to this development. The following pie chart approximates the financial contribution of each of the main categories of donors.

To bring the development of the college so that it will be able to cater for 300 students at any one time will require a further investment of approximately UGX 3 billion (€770,000) - for further hostel accommodation, library/ ICT facilities and facilities for training in non-farming rural development business enterprises.

Foundation stones

The fundamental principles on which the mission and work of Adraa Agriculture College is based are as follows.

Guiding Philosophy:

The philosophy of the College is underpinned by the reality that every human person is a unique individual and each one has the right to an environment in which she/he can live with dignity. This philosophy is founded on the gospel of Jesus Christ that inspires it to bring this 'good news' in a practical way to all people, especially the poor. Based on the social teaching of the Catholic Church, AAC endeavours to serve all people irrespective of their religion or ethnicity by focusing on human potential, natural resource base and the environment as the foundation of economic and social activity.

Mandate:

To nurture people's capacities and capabilities to use available resources to develop sustainable livelihoods.

Goal:

Rural communities in which people live dignified and sustainable lives in harmony with the environment

Vision:

A centre of excellence in appropriate knowledge and skills in sustainable agriculture and rural development

Mission:

To provide practical education and training for sustainable agriculture and rural development for individuals and communities from the catchment area of the college..

Core Values :

- Equality of all
- Respect and care for the Earth
- Stewardship
- Spirit of excellence
- Hospitality

Motto:

Live the gospel way of life

Catchment area of College:

Adraa Agriculture College aspires to provide services for people and communities from Uganda, South Sudan and North East Democratic Republic of Congo



Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable agriculture is at the core of the Franciscan Brothers mission in East Africa. Adraa Agriculture College is passionate in promoting it as the strategy to achieve a sustainable future for Africa and humanity. It is a very rich concept that is not well understood. The concept is best defined as follows:

“Sustainable agriculture is a system of farming based on a process that strives to meet the needs – necessary for an integrated, happy life – of those depending on the farm by developing the available human, physical, financial and natural resources.

The sustainable agriculture process ensures focus on the economic, social, cultural, environmental, political and institutional factors required in order to achieve balanced, sustainable livelihoods for present and future generations. It also emphasizes the cross cutting issues affecting the farm family and community. Therefore sustainable agriculture aims at improving the livelihood of the family depending on the farm through processes and strategies that ensure focus is on the four pillars on which it is founded - economic, environmental, socio-cultural, and political-institutional”.

Principles underpinning sustainable agriculture include:

- soil fertility
- integration of crop/livestock enterprises
- biodiversity and natural resource management
- capacity building of the farm family

(Ref: Misereor 2008 Workshop of African Agricultural Education & Training Institutions)



Adraa Programmes

Adraa Agriculture College operates three programmes:

1. Education & Training Programme
2. Offaka Development Programme
3. AAC Business Units

Education & Training Programme

Adraa Agriculture College focuses on upgrading the knowledge and skills of people in sustainable agriculture and rural development. The College provides skills training by way of short courses which may vary in length from 40 hours (one

week) to 500 hours (12 weeks). The curriculum for all education and training courses include the following components: technical (60%); business (20%); social/cultural/spiritual (20%).

The emphasis on all training courses is on the participant acquiring skills that will enable her/him to establish a viable enterprise in the area that she/he has chosen. Courses include sustainable agriculture, irrigation, soil fertility, beekeeping, goats, pigs, poultry, value addition, cookery, hospitality, tree and fruit nursery, credit and savings, etc. At a later stage courses in rural businesses such as carpentry, mechanics, electrical & electronics, masonry, tailoring, energy saving technologies, water and sanitation will be added.

To date over 2500 farmers and rural youth have completed at least a 40 hour course in Adraa.



Offaka Development Programme

Offaka Development Programme (ODP) is an outreach of Adraa Agriculture College which focuses on the local community of Offaka Sub-county. The programme derives its mandate from the college's second strategic objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable livelihoods for the people of Offaka. The programme aims at creating a rural community that will also serve as a laboratory for college education and training activities.

In an effort to achieve the above mandate ODP is developing and implementing a four themed integrated development programme. The four themes are:

Sustainable Agriculture: aims at contributing to the strategic objective by building strong grassroots institutions in Offaka Sub-county that are able to enhance effective participation and ownership of all development initiatives.

Education: the college approach to education is based on the fact that 75% of children do not finish primary school in Offaka sub-county. Of particular concern is the education of level of the girl child. In addition adult literacy rates are very low.

Women: women in Offaka sub-county are highly disadvantaged and this is characterized by gender inequality and cases of gender discrimination and violence. Under this theme the programmes strives to enhance the position of women in the community by addressing gender imbalances, promoting supportive structures and social and economic empowerment of women.

Youth: a large proportion of youth are excluded from development initiatives and they are burdened with numerous socio/economic challenges. The programme mobilizes and prepares youth to actively participate and benefit from development initiatives.

Programme strategy

Sustainable Agriculture is the main development strategy. It is based on the conviction that sustainable agriculture is the most appropriate agricultural development strategy for the sub-county.

Approach

The programme uses the geographical Village Development Approach where the village community is facilitated to establish a community based leadership structure called Village Development Committee (VDC). Twenty (20) of the thirty seven (37) villages of the sub-county are in the process of establishing a VDC. It through this that all the four themes shall continue to be promoted.

A key cross cutting issue is our Environment

Under cross cutting issues, ODP, with the support of Trócaire, commissioned Dr. Edward Andama and his team of experts to conduct a botanical study to establish the existing natural resources, the threats and recommendation to address the challenges. This study is being followed up with the support of Trócaire and in partnership with Bioversity Uganda and it is planned that a comprehensive project will evolve focusing on the development and conservation of the rich ecosystem of Offaka and Zeu Sub-counties.

General

ODP works in collaboration and partnership with Offaka Local Government, World Vision, Offaka SACCO, AAC Education and Training Programme and external partners such Trócaire, Misean Cara, Sign of Hope, Misereor, Bioversity Uganda and NARO.



AAC Business Units

The management and staff of Adraa understand that the financial sustainability of the college depends on the quality and relevance of its education, training and research programmes. Each staff member is aware that their performance is measured by the quality of the last lesson she/he has facilitated. Staff are also aware that the college exists in a competitive environment and if it loses relevance in meeting the needs of farmers and rural youth of the catchment area it will become irrelevant and unsustainable.

For this reason, with the support partners like ZOA, EyeOpener and Trócaire, there has been a strong focus on capacity and capability building staff in all aspects of business. Each training

module allocates at least 20% of the time on the business aspect of the particular enterprise.

In addition to emphasizing quality of services offered Adraa is aware, that in the absence of Government financial support, it is necessary to have strong partnerships with funding partners. Also the college is in the process of developing income generating entities. These include marketing of college facilities to Government, Church and NGO agencies for workshops, seminars, meetings and retreats. A number of potential income generating farm enterprises have also been identified. These include horticulture, tree and fruit nursery, poultry, hatchery and pigs.

But the enterprise with best potential is Anyu Honey. This is a business based on the processing and marketing top quality honey produced in a pristine environment that is traceable back to the producer. It is the business arm of AAC Bee Development Centre and it is planned to work directly with beekeeping groups in Arua and the surrounding districts. The current business plan for Anyu Honey envisages selling 6 tonnes of processed honey in 2017 increasing to 12 tonnes annually by 2020.



Governance and management

Adraa Agriculture College is owned by the Franciscan Brothers who are registered in Uganda as a Corporate Body under the Trustees Incorporation Act, CAP.165. Governance of the College is provided by the Regional Council Franciscan Brothers East Africa Region. The college is managed by the Principal and Staff with the support of an external College Management Board and an internal College Management Committee.

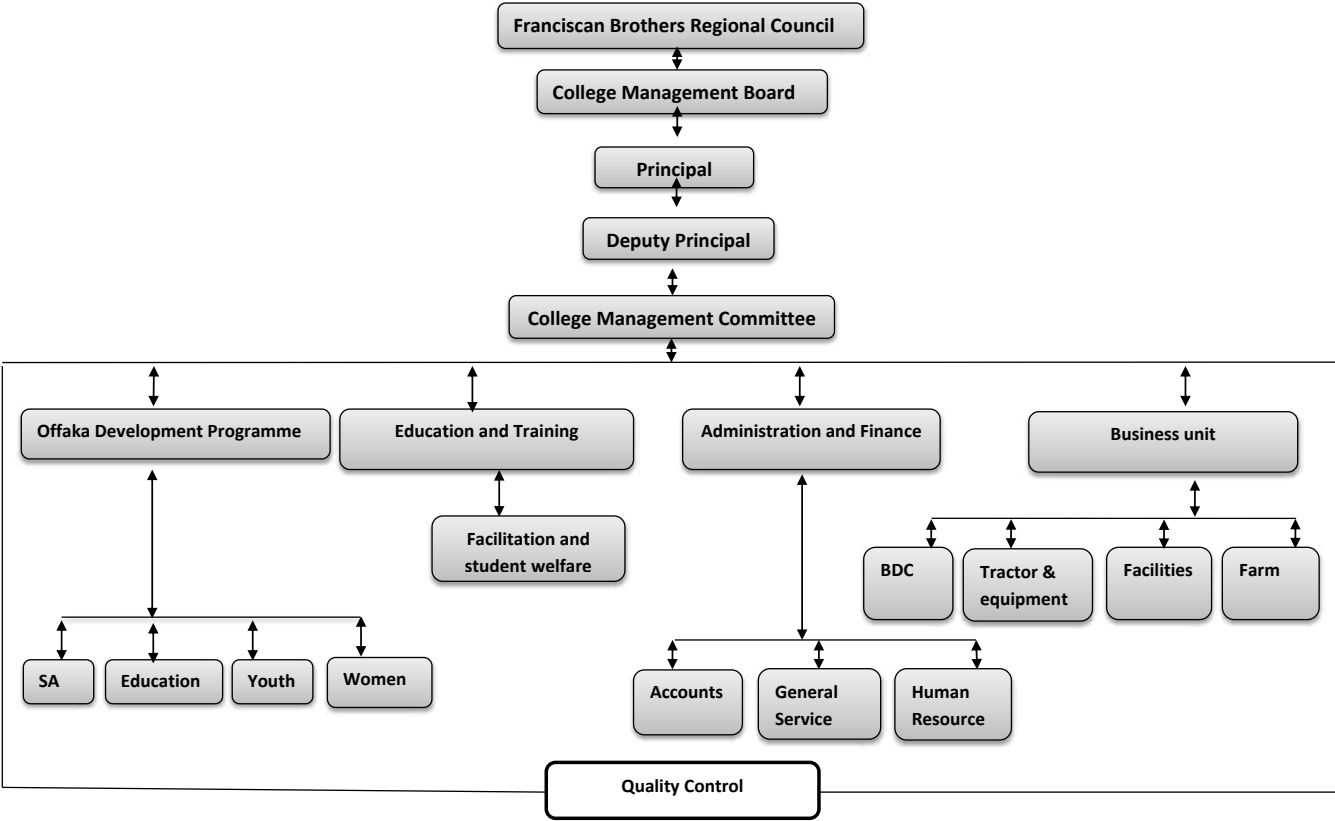
The College Board is drawn from and is representative of the local community. The current chairperson of the Board is also the LC 3 of Offaka Sub-county, Mr. Drama Primo. The ordinary members of the Board are:

Anguko Maureen, Deputy Chairperson; Charles Lagu, Secretary; Josephine Eyotaru;

Joyce Piwa; Ferdinand Afaru; Fr. Biganduwun Isaiah Milton; Patrick Berocan; Bernardette Awor; Nyivuru Patricia; Duncan Maina; Sarah Oates and Tony Dolan.

The college has an excellent staff of training facilitators; development officers; farm, administration, catering, accommodation and security staff. There are 32 staff on time specific contracts which range from 1 to 3 years. There are also many casual labourers employed when required.

The following is the organogram of the College:





Volunteers

The work of the Brothers in East Africa is greatly supported by volunteers. These are people who spend a few months or a number of years working in the ministries of the Brothers. Currently Adraa Agriculture College has two long-term volunteers from Ireland, Sarah Oates and Brigid Ryan.

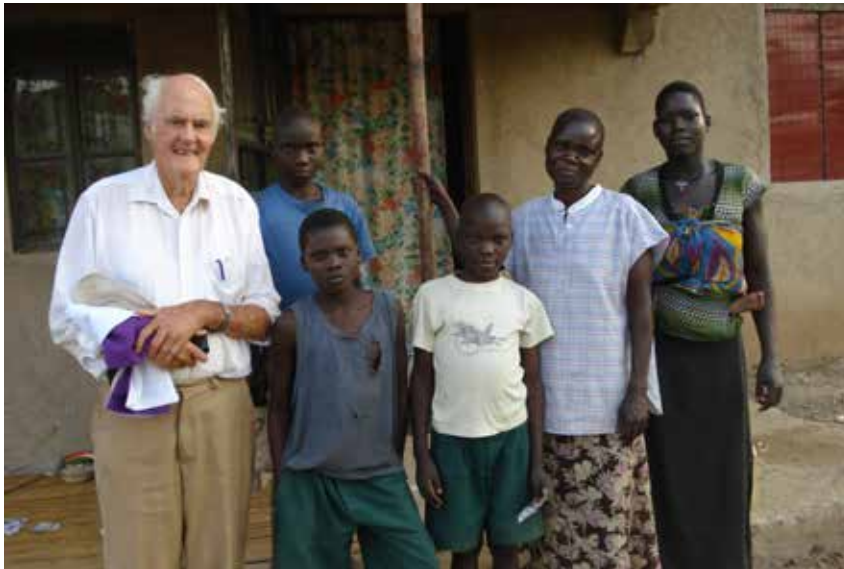
Sarah is from Carnageehy, Milltown, Co. Galway leaving her native Carlow to marry Michael Oates who was a fellow student with her in Mountbellew Agricultural College in the early eighties. She has worked with the Brothers in Uganda for almost five years. She is woman of vast experience and expertise and her contribution to the development of the Brothers' mission in East Africa has been immense. Sarah was unfortunately

widowed in 1999 and after rearing her three sons she has devoted to working with people who are greatly benefiting from her many talents. She is a grandmother and while missing the critical stages in her granddaughter's development she is committed to working for a fairer world.

Brigid joined Adraa Community in September 2016 and has had a great impact on the college students and staff and on the geographical community of Offaka. She retired from secondary school teaching in Athenry in September 2016 and volunteered to devote her many talents to supporting the work of Adraa Agriculture College. She is also a very good farmer and ran the family farm in addition to her teaching and mothering roles. She has four sons but lost her husband, Michael,

who was a nationally known and loved Teagasc dairy specialist in Ireland, to sister death twelve years ago. She worked for two years as a Concern volunteer in Bangladesh in the early 70s and has been active in striving to create a fairer world throughout her working life.

Volunteers such as Sarah and Brigid and short term volunteers will continue to play a big role in promoting the mission of the Brothers in East Africa.



Fr. Gerry Foley

In mid- November 2012 Fr. Gerry Foley CSSP joined Adraa Community. Gerry is one of the best known and loved missionaries in East Africa. He has been a missionary for almost 60 years in some of the most inhospitable missionary territory in Africa mainly along the East Coast of Kenya and East Pokot. On retirement from East Pokot he continued his great work in West Nile, Uganda. Gerry not only looked after the spiritual needs of Adraa Community but he also contributed greatly to the development of the College.

He returned to Ireland in March 2016 and is still as interested as ever in Kenya and Uganda. He is sadly missed in Adraa not just for his technical expertise in all things mechanical, his pastoral contribution to Adraa

Community and the wider Christian communities of Offaka Sub-parish, but also for his enriching presence among us. We sincerely hope he will be able to make it back to Adraa even if it is only for a few months.



South Sudan

South Sudan is four times the size of Uganda with a population of less than 15 million. The youngest country in the world it has the natural resources to create decent livelihoods for many times the population. But because of human greed, thirst for power, egotism, political and economic corruption, the country is in turmoil. There is a saying in Africa '*when elephants fight it is the grass that suffers*'. This is particularly true of South Sudan. Since the break down in relations between President Salva Kirr and Riek Machar in December 2013 the human misery caused to this beautiful people has been immense.

Uganda is currently generously hosting at least 1.3 million South Sudan refugees. Over half of these are in West Nile. Two major refugee settlements, Bidibidi (Yumbe District) and Rhinocamp (Arua District) are within 100kms of Adraa Agriculture College. Refugee settlements in Uganda are humane and families are given enough land to grow most of their required food and make small amounts of money needed for human dignity.

Adraa is privileged to work in partnership at improving the livelihoods of South Sudanese forced to flee to the Uganda refugee settlements by capacity and capability building selected individuals. Courses range from 3 to 8 weeks and the curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the participants.



Past student case studies

AAC since 2012 has trained over 2,500 farmers and youth from the college catchment area. Training is provided in different enterprises including: bee keeping, poultry, pigs, horticulture, tree & fruit nursery, sustainable agriculture, soil fertility, kitchen gardening and others. The college keeps track of her past students through regular mentoring, coaching and follow-up. Education & training provided has impacted positively on the lives of the students. The following cases studies of a selected few will give an idea of the impact of the training.

The loan for Agricultural training has changed my status - Ayikobua Joel

My name is Ayikobua Joel from Oli village, Ayavu parish, Vurra sub-county, Arua district. Like many of my fellow youth I had a negative attitude towards agriculture especially farming as a business. I used to think that money is always got through white collar jobs and for educated people. This proved wrong when I got an opportunity to go for training in Adraa Agriculture College, something which never crossed my mind in the past. The six weeks training modelled me, mentored me, and changed my attitude that agriculture is not a punishment but rather a lucrative business that many youths ignore.

After my six weeks training, I received a loan from Centenary Bank, Arua Branch. This motivated me and got me started on my journey. I came back home and prepared half acre of land and planted tomatoes during the dry season. I managed to earn a profit of 530,000 shillings though the yields were not so good. This gave me courage that there is a lot of money from growing horticultural crops.

I used part of that money to pay school fees for my child in nursery, bought a goat and provided for the other needs of my family. Most of it I invested in my business and this season I have prepared 2 acres of land for planting onions and 1 acre for tomatoes and I hope to make up to 5 million shillings from the harvest. I also serviced my motorcycle to do more marketing and link up with different dealers in Arua and part of Eastern DRC. I am confident that within one year of operation I will be able to pay back the loan.

I am now able to secure my family's basic needs like enough food, medical bills, clothing, and other household needs. I am so grateful for this opportunity that has happened in my life and I must confess that my mindset has changed from dependency to money making. I urge all the youths to engage in farming for better livelihood and employment.

Cwinyai Charles is making gains from beekeeping



My name is Cwinyai Charles, 25 years old from Awang village, Oliri parish, Kango Sub-county, Zombo District. I graduated from the six weeks training at Adraa Agriculture College in Bee Keeping in March 2016. Since then I have been making progress in my enterprise. I started as a subsistence farmer with only 3 local hives that were producing only for home consumption and I had never thought of earning money from bee keeping. The whole attitude changed when I completed my six weeks training at Adraa Agriculture College. With the skills, I acquired in bee keeping and support from my family and the community who gave me land, I have established my apiary with a total of 25 bee hives. 20 of them are now colonized.

Within one year of my operation, I realized an income of UGX

1,000,000/= from sale of bee products and related services and this has helped me a lot particularly: at family level, I have acquired an acre of land for cultivation, provide enough food for my family and to pay medical bills for my wife. This training has helped me to reach out to many bee keepers in Kango Sub-county. Many people are picking interest in bee keeping and groups are equally encouraged from my input and I am very proud of these changes happening around me. I am now able to secure my family's basic needs and I feel confident about the future in terms of income generation.

Apart from bee keeping, I grow some of the horticulture crops, specifically tomatoes and onions to boost my family income. My parents have been so supportive to me and always guide me in many areas. I have maintained close link with Adraa Agriculture College, local government of Kango Sub-county and I'm able to mobilize farmers. These close links have created market opportunities for my products and as a result, many agencies and buyers visit me for different reasons and this has encouraged me and boosted the market for my products.

As a bee keeper, I face the challenge of pests, bush burning, poor hive materials, theft and these have affected my production. These challenges have however, paved way for me to train the community members so that we can collectively protect our environment and deal with other social challenges. I look forward to acquiring personal land where I can place up to 100 bee hives and fence it off and for further training to fill my knowledge gaps. My intention is to train more bee keepers in Kango and Alangi sub-counties and become a resource person in the sub county. I urge more youth to venture in to bee keeping, it's a profitable enterprise with small start-up costs.

Adraa training changing the lives of Refugees - Kideng Mariam

My name is Kideng Mariam. I am 27 years old from Morobo County, Lejule Boma, and Central Equatoria State, South Sudan. I am married with 2 children; Ayikoru Comfort, 7 years old and Yvonne Isabella, 1 year old. Life at home was okay for us back in South Sudan. I am a tailor and used to sell tomatoes, onions, and small fish in the local market and that was how my family was surviving. The upheaval in my life all started in July 2016 when armed men came to my village and destroyed everything we had at home- the animals, food crops, houses and I lost close relatives during the conflict. This forced us out in the bush for many days without food, accommodation, and water and on 15th September 2016, we were taken to the



camp in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe District, Uganda.

One day while in Bidibidi refugee settlement, I happened to attend a meeting organized by Caritas who told us to at least have representatives of 30 members per village with a chairperson to go for a workshop in Adraa and that was how I got the opportunity to come to represent my village.

Being in Adraa has been a very wonderful opportunity in my life that I will not forget. My mind set has changed greatly. I was so much reserved because of the situations at home I could not share freely and had poor perceptions towards such gatherings after the war. Adraa is a peaceful, lovely place that I have never been to before. With the skills I gained in kitchen gardening, integrated pest management, conflict management, business and others I feel I am different and changed person than before.

When I go back home, I want to engage in production of food for my family, share the skills with others, unite with people so that their mind-sets are changed and become changed persons like me.

I am so grateful to the facilitators of Adraa Agriculture College who have pulled me out of my rigid mind-set and I wish I could have such opportunities again. I also would like to appreciate Caritas for the support. I look forward to working together for a peaceful and changed community.

Wish you God's blessing.



Inter Congregational Sustainable Agriculture Programme (ICSAP)

Humanity is faced with a water and nutrition crisis. Our great prophet of this 21st century, Pope Francis, responding to the call of our Creator, is reminding us that we must show love for our neighbour by actions that give practical expression to our faith.

With the encouragement of Misesa Cara six religious congregations- Spiritans, Jesuits, Daughters of Charity,

Salesian Sisters, Patrician Brothers and Franciscan Brothers – in East Africa have come together to show by their actions that we as Church are serious in our efforts at creating a better, fairer world. The aim of this programme is to prove that religious can work together, share lessons learned, prove that the missionary approach to development lifts the most vulnerable in our communities on to the first rung of the development ladder, challenges mainstream theories and policies and influence government and church approaches and strategies.

Two workshops, were held in Baraka, Kenya and Adraa, Uganda in 2015. Representatives of the six congregations agreed to develop and implement a pilot sustainable agriculture programme in 2016/17. There are 8 project sites each of which works with a minimum of 25 households and a maximum of 50. The focus in this pilot project is on improving food security and nutrition status of the members of the beneficiary households.



SARD-Net

Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development Network (SARD-Net) is a Network of past students of Baraka Agricultural College in Kenya, and like-minded people, established in 2009 to promote sustainable agriculture for rural development in Uganda. The Network is a faith based, non-denominational organisation that is motivated by the belief that each one has a responsibility for the development of their brothers and sisters. We believe that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

The goal of SARD-Net is to contribute to the attainment of sustainable livelihoods of rural households, the development of their communities and rural space through promotion of Sustainable Agriculture.

When the Franciscan Brother came to Uganda, it was realized that for past students to have impact on rural communities, it was necessary to develop a structure which would capacity and capability build them for promotion of sustainable agriculture. In November 2009, they decided to initiate a national network (SARD-Net) to facilitate capacity and capability development of members and target rural communities for effective and efficient promotion of sustainable agriculture for rural development.

With the wonderful support of SCIAF, a National Secretariat and total of 13 cells covering 35 districts of Uganda have been established. The cells are working with rural communities across the country. SARD-Net now has a constitution and is registered as a company limited by guarantee with its head office in Nebbi Municipality.

In 2017 SARD-Net in partnership with Trócaire are working on a five year development programme with 20 villages in Lamwo District, Northern Uganda.




Mountbellew/Offaka connection

The beautiful old chapel in Mountbellew Agricultural College which dated back to 1823, was demolished, in the name of progress, in 1970 to make way for the new college building. Among some of the items saved and stored in a farm store at the college were the Stations of the Cross. In early 2016 Br. Alphonsus Gavigan, acting on a four year old vision, decided to rescue the stations from the rafters of the old store.

Over the next nine months Alf worked at bringing the beautiful wooden frames back to their former glory. It was a meticulous labour of love, and as only an artist like Alf could, the stations were beautifully restored.

However, he had a problem, as the original images were missing and could not be traced. Not a person to give up easily, Alf had the brain wave of using the more modern universal images designed by the late, great church artist, Ray Carroll, that are in the present oratory of Mountbellew Agricultural College. With the help of Bernie Kilkenny and Michael Moran in the college and expertise and technologies of friends in Galway city a remarkable set of copies of Ray Carroll's images were produced to fit the frames.

Alf decided that the most appropriate place for the Stations was the local church in Offaka Sub-parish, Arua, West Nile, Uganda. All in Adraa agreed with this decision, and with the consent and support of the Bishop of Nebbi, the Parish Priest



and Pastoral Council, planning commenced. But the problem was how to transport 14 large Stations of the Cross, weighing 140kgs, from Mountbellew to Offaka! After researching all forms of transport including containers Alf accepted that the only safe, sure way of getting the stations to Offaka was by air to Entebbe with the final 500km by road on an Adraa Agriculture College pick-up. With the financial support of friends this is what happened.

On Palm Sunday 2017 the 'Mountbellew' Stations of the Cross were unveiled in a colourful ceremony in Offaka Church. Before hanging the stations, the church was given a face lift with a fresh coat of paint that was financed by the local Christians with the aid of an €800 grant from the Apostolic Works Society in the Diocese of Kilmore, Ireland.

The almost 200 years of Mountbellew history and patrimony will be enshrined for a long time in Offaka. The simple faith and piety of the local people of Offaka, will ensure that those who drew inspiration from these Stations over the years they hung in the old chapel in Mountbellew, will be remembered. And Alf is happy that the dream nurtured for four years is now fulfilled and this very meaningful connection will ensure that two communities are linked for years to come.



Laudato Si

The role of the Church in striving to achieve a fairer, more sustainable world is not only to bring hope to people but also to be proactive in pointing a way forward and advocating for more people and environment centred development approaches. The undiscovered treasure of the Catholic Church is the richness of its social teaching. ‘While there are just differences between people, their equal dignity as persons demands that we strive for fairer and more humane conditions. Excessive economic and social disparity between individuals and peoples of the one human race is a source of scandal and militates against social justice, equity, human

dignity as well as social and international peace (Gaudium et Spes, 29).

The publication of Laudato Si in 2015 is a watershed in the development of the Church’s Social teaching. It challenges not only the Catholic Church but ever human person to recognise the interconnectedness of all of creation and the need to care for that creation not only for now but for all future generations. Pope Francis is very clear that “Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us.” (Laudato Si, 159)

This and the leadership and example of Pope Francis and many other charismatic, visionary women and men challenges us to work hard and intelligently to create a fairer world in which all our sisters and brothers have the chance of living a life of dignity. “we have to realise that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (Laudato Si, 49)




Sustainable livelihoods

Not unlike Ireland of the first half of the 19th century, East Africa has a rapidly growing population. The populations of Kenya and Uganda have grown from eight million at independence in 1963 to 43 million in 2017 and from 6 million in 1962 to 37 million in 2017 respectively. The total labour force for both countries stands at approximately 38 million and less than ten million of these are employed in the so called modern sector of the economy. Put this in the context of global warming, environmental degradation, immigration, food insecurity, low levels of education, inappropriate development policies, greed and selfishness and it is not difficult to visualize the challenges facing the

countries of East Africa. However, cruel it may have been for the 19th century Irish, emigration was an option. There is no such option for 99% of East Africans.

Many Irish people in collaboration and partnership with their East African colleagues, be they Missionaries, NGO or Government personnel, are striving to build a fairer world. The Agriculture Sector is of critical importance in striving to achieve a sustainable future for all. In the context of the social, economic and environmental realities of East Africa agriculture has a multifunctional role to play. The concept of multifunctionality recognizes that farming is a multi-output activity producing not only commodities (food, fibre, agro fuels, medicinal products and ornamentals), but also non-commodity outputs such as environmental services, landscape amenities and cultural heritages. For the foreseeable future agriculture will remain the main source of livelihoods for the large majority of the people.

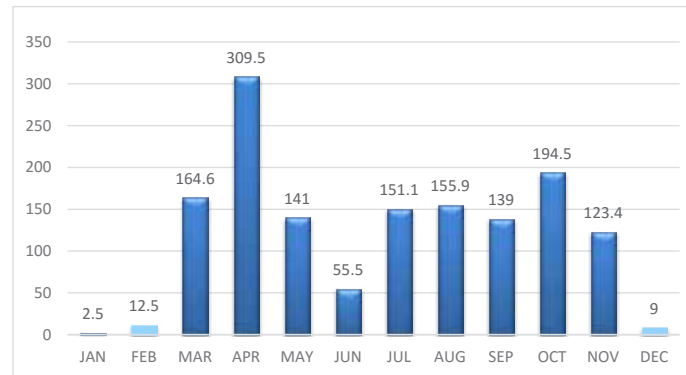


All that has happened in the evolution of Adraa Agriculture College to date indicates that it is an institution that is needed by the people. The interest and hospitality of the Catholic Diocese of Nebbi; the goodwill and support the Government of Uganda at sub-county, district and national levels; the commitment of the Franciscan Brothers at regional and generalate levels; the warmth and hospitality of the people of Offaka; the availability of a local, reliable, professional building contractor; the feedback from Government and local and international NGOs all point the to the need for a faith based response to the realities of in the catchment area of the College.

Adraa Rainfall

TOTAL RAINFALL 2013 – 2016													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
Year 2016	2.5	12.5	164.6	309.5	141	55.5	151.1	155.9	139	194.5	123.4	9	1458.5
Year 2015	0	47.2	108.2	98.6	89.2	97.7	122.3	56.7	54.7	219.8	161.5	15.2	1071.1
Year 2014	1.4	4	93.3	92.8	162.2	61.9	151.8	241.5	124.3	288.5	195.7	0	1417.4
Year 2013	38.9	8.9	128.9	136.9	38.7	173.9	240.3	226.9	193.4	127.3	215.6	22.2	1551.9

2016 Rainfall





Acknowledgments

We wish to thank all who contributed to the production of this publication.

A picture speaks a thousand words and we are grateful for the photographs and those who took them, especially Lar Boland photographer for Misesan Cara (pages 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 32, 35, 46, 47, 50) and Maria Kidney, Brighter Communities Worldwide for the cover photo.

FRANCISCAN BROTHERS ADRAA AGRICULTURE COLLEGE

OFFICIALLY OPENED

by

DÓNAL CRONIN

AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND

and

BLESSED

by

BISHOP SANCTUS LINO WANOK

NEBBI CATHOLIC DIOCESE

In the presence of

Br. Seán Conway, Minister General, Franciscan Brothers

on

26th MAY 2017





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