FINASP
Service with Humility

ACTION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Newsletter

January to March 2026

INSPIRE HIGHLIGHTS

PIP for Community Growth, Resilience, and Collective Action

At FINASP, our commitment to building sustainable, vibrant, innovative, and self-reliant communities continues to take shape through the successful implementation of the INSPIRE Project. Through the Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) approach - a powerful, community and household-centered methodology that is empowering households and communities across Lira, Alebtong, and Dokolo to take charge of their development journey.

Over 1,200 PIs Graduated

A major highlight in this journey is the successful graduation of over 1,200 PIP Innovators (PIs) across 18 subcounties—6 from each district of Lira, Alebtong, and Dokolo. These innovators are not just participants; they are community change agents, driving transformation from within.

Through their training, PIs have developed Household (HH) Plans and Integrated Plot Plans (IPPs)—practical, forward-looking tools that guide families in improving livelihoods, land use, and farming systems. Across communities, these plans are already translating into visible progress: better organized farms, diversified production, improved soil management, and stronger household resilience.

Beyond their own transformation, each PIP Innovator (PI) took on the responsibility of recruiting up to 8 Generation One (G1) farmers, creating a powerful scaling effect of knowledge sharing within communities.

These G1 farmers also underwent PIP training, successfully developing their own Household Plans (HH) and Integrated Plot Plans (IPPs). Through this scaling model, FINASP has registered and validated over 10,000 G1 farmers during Cohort 1, significantly expanding the reach and impact of the INSPIRE Project.

This approach not only strengthens farmer capacity but also ensures community ownership, continuity, and sustainability of the PIP methodology.

PIP in Action: From Vision to Reality

The strength of the PIP approach lies in its inclusiveness and focus on collective action. By engaging entire households and communities in problem analysis, visioning, and action planning, PIP fosters social cohesion, ownership, and accountability.

With clear plans in place at community and household levels, INSPIRE continues to facilitate access to knowledge, skills, and learning platforms that enable farmers to adopt sustainable and climate-smart practices. The result is a growing network of empowered farmers who are not only improving their own lives but also influencing others around them.

Building the Future, Together
The progress witnessed across Lira, Alebtong, and Dokolo is a testament to the power of participatory development. As households align their aspirations with practical actions, and communities come together to support one another, the foundation for long-term resilience and sustainability is firmly being built.

At FINASP, we remain committed to walking this journey with communities—strengthening capacity, fostering innovation, and nurturing hope. Because when communities are empowered to plan, act, and grow together, the future becomes not just possible—but sustainable.

INSPIRE staff, Subcounty stakeholders and PIs pose for a group photo during the first PIP Innovators Graduation in Ayetayet community, Okwongodul subcounty - Dokolo district

PIs expressing jolly moments during the first graduation in Ayetayet community, Okwongodul subcounty.

PIP Inovator with smiles when receiving her certificate during graduation in Amindit, Abako subcounty, Alebtong district

G1 farmer shwocasing his House Hold Vision during the graduation ceremony in Dokolo.

Chief Guest awarding tomato and cabagge seeds to the PI whose G1 won during the competition in Ojul, Awei SC

From Learning to Practice: Aceng Costa's Kitchen Garden Transformation

Costa's practice before adopting better kitechn garden practices

Costa's after adopting better kitechn garden practices

Meet Aceng Costa, a 48-year-old single mother of six from Adonyo Village, Abangoimay Parish, Abia Sub-County. As a PIP Innovator (Participatory Integrated Planning) in her community and a small business owner, Aceng has always worked hard to provide for her family. But until recently, her vegetable production was limited to the rainy season only. Without mulching, consistent watering, fencing, or diversified planting, her garden yielded little and offered no year-round harvest.

That changed through the INSPIRE Project. By joining Farmer Learning Groups (FLGs) and engaging in peer-to-peer learning, Aceng saw what was possible when fellow farmers applied improved techniques.

Inspired and guided by Field Extension Officer Jackqueline Akullu, Aceng transformed her approach. She adopted the practical and efficient keyhole kitchen garden model, featuring:

Clear pathways for easy access and family participation
A central composting basket for nutrient-rich soil
Mulching to retain moisture
Regular watering routines
Proper fencing for protection
A diverse mix of nutritious vegetables like malakwang, tomatoes, alayo, and more.

The results? Immediate and powerful.

Aceng now harvests surplus vegetables consistently — enough to sell to neighbors and earns over UGX 30,000 from just one batch. More importantly, her six children enjoy a steady supply of fresh, homegrown produce, improving family nutrition and reducing market dependency. Her garden has become a living classroom: fellow Generation One (G1) farmers regularly visit to learn and replicate these practices.

Aceng's story highlights the core of FINASP's work: when motivated farmers receive practical training and extension support, they become catalysts for wider community transformation — building food security, household income, and climate-resilient livelihoods one garden at a time.

From Planning to Permanent Shelter – Omara Emmy's Transformation in Tekidi, Awei SC

Omara Emmy standing infront of his current house hold

Emmy standing infront of his dream house that was included in his House hold plan

In Ojul Tekidi community, Awei Sub-county, one story stood out as a powerful reflection of how Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) goes beyond farming.

Omara Emmy, a dedicated PIP Innovator, not only trained 10 Generation One (G1) farmers but also transformed his own household through disciplined planning. During the graduation event, he proudly showcased a newly constructed permanent house — an achievement he directly attributes to applying PIP principles.

Before adopting PIP, Omara's investments were scattered and uncoordinated. However, through household visioning and integrated planning, he aligned his farm enterprises with long-term goals. Income from diversified activities such as crop production and small livestock was strategically reinvested toward improving his family's living conditions.

"PIP helped me see that development starts with a clear household vision. My house is a result of following the plan step by step," Omara shared.

Community members recognized his home not merely as a structure, but as evidence of intentional planning and resilience. His transformation has inspired neighboring households to develop clearer household visions and commit to structured implementation.

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Front view of Omara Emmy's parmanent building in Tekidi, Awei subcounty - Alebtong District

The side view of Omara Emmy's new house in-development.

From 0 to One Tray a Day – Daudi's Revolution

In Agweng Peer Learning Team (PLT), the homestead of Odongo Daudi stands out as a shining model of family-driven agroecological transformation under the GP-SAEP Project.

Odongo's family has embraced a diversified and integrated farming system that includes:

- Black Soldier Fly production
- Banana farming
- Kitchen gardening
- Beekeeping
- Livestock keeping

Guided by a well-articulated Family Development Plan (FDP), the family is intentionally building resilience and productivity. During a recent monitoring visit by Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS) team, Daudi's wife confidently presented their Family Development Plan, highlighting their vision and steady progress.

Even their young son stepped forward with pride to demonstrate the Black Soldier Fly production process — a powerful testimony that agroecological knowledge is being passed on to the next generation.

The results speak for themselves.

"*Since we started using BSF larvae as supplementary feed for our 35-layer birds, egg production has increased dramatically*," the family shares. "We now collect at least one full tray of eggs every day, earning up to UGX 12,000 daily from egg sales alone."

UFAAS visiting team described Odongos' home as "a talking home" — where every enterprise tells its own inspiring story of sustainable practices.

Through GP-SAEP Project, supported by UFAAS, Odongo's family has moved from low productivity to a more resilient and income-generating livelihood. Their success beautifully illustrates how integrated agroecological approaches, family planning, and peer learning can strengthen household nutrition, income, and long-term sustainability.

When families work together with purpose and receive the right support, small innovations like BSF production can create significant change — turning zero into one tray a day and building a stronger, more secure future.

We celebrate Odongo and his family as outstanding examples of agroecological transformation under GP-SAEP Project.

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