

## **Editorial**

Welcome to this exciting first issue of the Livelihoods Concern Newsletter! Previously, our Newsletter has been published under the name of Environment Concern but we have deemed it necessary to change the name. This is because in our 2009-2013 strategic plan, there has been a strategic shift in programming emphasis to include market access as a critical addition to our work. Our vision, mission, and strategic objectives have also been revised hence the change in the name.

Unfolding in this issue is IRDI's enlightening experience in participatory approaches. Although IRDI has been involved in participatory approaches before, this experience was extraordinary in the sense that it was the first incident that a partner; International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) funded the planning phase and got directly involved in the development of a project plan. Another remarkable experience was the IRDI/ ISF baseline survey on Household poverty reduction through enhanced production and access to markets among the rural poor in Namayumba and Masuliita sub counties Wakiso district. The exceptionality in this baseline is the fact that it targeted the direct beneficiaries of the project.

Still on the same project, you will read about how ISF and IRDI will transform beneficiary farmer groups into co- operative societies capable of producing, processing and marketing farm produce.

Majority of communities in Namayumba Sub County are facing a water crisis so great that they have no alternative but to move long distances to collect water and a times cross to other water sources in the neighboring villages when their water sources run dry. Read about how these water stressed communities are going to benefit from the Macknight/UWASNET/ IRDI project on Rain Water Harvesting and Solar Disinfection of Water (SODIS).

Are agricultural policies responsive to the poor? Are they fair to a subsisting population? Well, we included two special issues on NAADS and the Liberalized Economy Policy, read to get your own stance.

Enjoy reading this issue! Views and comments are welcome. If you wish to contribute articles to this newsletter, please contact IRDI.