

# ROTOM GRANNY VEGETABLE GARDENS

*Less effort and less land - still greater harvest and healthier seniors*



*A granny's vegetable garden covered with God's Blanket*

This year ROTOM has embarked on a new journey of providing seniors with a continuous harvest of inexpensive, nutritious food right next to their homes in Mukono. The gardens measure 10ft x 12fts (3x4) m for the less active seniors and with the dimensions of 12fts x 20fts (4x6) m for active older persons. For these 160 seniors who are pioneering the project, it has lessened the burden of tilling large chunks of land with low productivity. These gardens are easy to weed and look after.

For senior Museveni from Katuba the saying came true: "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

*Volunteers learning how to make organic pesticides using wild chili pepper.*

He says he has heard teachings and broadcasts about improved farming methods in the past, but none seemed to be helping



## Outreach

August 2015



ReachOne  
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Ministries

*Older persons living dignified and fulfilled lives!*

his garden. This changed when ROTOM made him a small garden by his house and showed him how to make organic fertilizers and pesticides. He is now the proud owner of a healthy vegetable garden. His biggest challenge in the past was that he had no money to buy pesticides or fertilizers. Now senior Museveni can make fertilizers and pesticides from things like small wild chillies, which are readily available around his home.

In partnership with Missionary Agricultural Resource Service (MARS), ROTOM is able to improve food security through the Granny Vegetable Gardens. It has brought smiles on many senior's faces who testify that with just a small piece of land and some training these gardens are a great source of home grown food, enough to sustain a household. Later this year drip irrigation buckets will be installed thanks to a donation from Chapin Living Waters Foundation.

# FARMING GOD'S WAY

In rural Africa farming means breaking up the ground with a hoe, putting the crop in the soil and fervently praying that God will send the rain to help the crops grow and yield enough to feed the family before the cycle is repeated again year in and year out. It is very unkind to the seniors' backs and many of them simply give up once their strength is gone. Season after season the same crop of potatoes, corn, beans and nuts are planted and after a few years, the land produces less and less foods since no fertilizers are put in.

Farming God's Way is simply an equipping tool to empower the poor to help themselves. Farming God's Way was originated before man was on the face of the earth and it involves, no ploughing, 100% mulch covers (which we refer to as God's Blanket) and practising rotations. An organization which teaches Farming God's Way came and trained ROTOM seniors earlier this year and one of the seniors is Mukasa John from Katikolo. He had given up on farming because of his infertile land and after the training, he cautiously farmed a small corner of his land.

Grandpa Mukasa first planted maize and beans. He was so overwhelmed by his harvest that he has doubled the size of his garden. He sold part of his bean and maize harvest and bought bricks and sand. With help from ROTOM and his friend, he is building his new home and will be able to leave the shack he has been living in and move into a beautiful



new brick house. He has planted onions, cabbages, eggplant and many other crops which are doing very well.

*Grandpa John in front of the house he is building from money he got from his harvest. Inset: His old house*

A total of 210 volunteers from Mukono have so far been trained by the Farming God's Way team and they in turn are helping other seniors implement these skills in their gardens. More and more seniors are once again picking up their tools and going out to grow food for their families and like John, they are beginning to believe hunger can be beaten for good.

## ROTOM update

**On the 25th of July ROTOM held the third Annual General meeting which saw ROTOM members, board members, beneficiary representatives and staff come together to review the ministry ROTOM has done in the year June 2015 to July 2015. The report gave evidence of great increase in the number of supported seniors as well as the number of projects under ROTOM from just four projects in 2013 to seven projects by June 2015.**

Particular	Dec 2013	Jun 2015
Older persons and grannies sponsored	670	816
Sponsored grandchildren supported	135	243
Number of projects	4	7
Sub-counties covered	9	10
Number of senior's fellowship centers	14	21
Villages covered	84	93
Staff	24	42

## SUPPORT A SENIOR!

For only UGX 60,000, US \$30, Euro 25 or CDN \$30 a month, you can support a senior in Uganda. Your friendship allows seniors to:

- Hear a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Participate in regular Christian support fellowship
- Receive bi-weekly home visits from volunteer counselors
- Receive free regular medical screening and treatment
- Receive support to enable improvement in income and food security
- Access safe and healthy water and housing

Friends receive a photo, update report and two letters every year from the senior they sponsor.



## CHRISTMAS GIFT

Improve a senior's life by giving a SOLAR LAMP for Christmas (only \$25). These lamps are 8x brighter than kerosene lamps. No need for kerosene, candles, and matches; no more darkness; and no more fire and health hazards.

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