



Outspan Enterprises Ltd
Exporters of organic sesame

*Organic exports from Apach, Lira and
Kaberamaido Districts, Uganda*

Project Period:- 1st April 02 to 31st March 05
Extension Period:- 1st April 05 – 31st March 06

Project End Report

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Executive summary

In 1999, through the Kagaa Organic Export Project, Sida INEC began to support the smallholders in Ochero and Adigo sub-counties (Soroti and Apac districts) in the development of production of organic cotton. In the first year, the cotton price decreased significantly and the project shifted its attention to sesame. The original project came to an end in 2001. The support continued under the EPOPA programme for another three years in April 2002 to develop annual exports to 200 tons of sesame by March 2005. Another extension until March 2006, mainly based on marketing, increased this target to 300 tons of sesame with a special focus to develop second crops (ginger, chilli or cotton, etc). During this last year, another area, Kangai, was included.

Sesame has been produced in an organic-by-default way, mainly for home consumption, by thousands of farmers in Northern Uganda for many years. Outspan has been buying the crop for over 6 years in Ochero and Apach project areas. With the market opportunities Outspan provided to farmers for their organic certified sesame, interest in the crop increased and sesame is now an important cash crop in the area.

EPOPA support to the project involved setting up of the organic field operation, training in organic agriculture principles, improved sesame production, development of the internal control system, certification costs and marketing assistance. EPOPA supported other development activities, such as tree planting for environment conservation and sensitisation on HIV/AIDS.

The farmers benefited from the project by increased contact with Outspan (their buyer) through the field officers, training in organic farming and increased production due to an improved sesame variety (Sesame II) that was introduced. Outspan also established buying stations in very remote areas where all the sesame presented by the farmers was bought at the same price as at other centres located near towns much further away.

By the end of the project period, 4,537 farmers were registered as organic sesame producers for Outspan. The exports of sesame had reached 400 ton. Although exports of ginger, chilli or cotton were not achieved, there is interest amongst the farmers to grow the crops. Towards the end, Outspan went into partnership with a major cotton company to further boost their exports in sesame and to begin in cotton. Organic cotton exports can be expected in 2007.