1. **Objective and relevance (the world around us)**

* What changes for the target group do you wish to bring about by means of the intervention?
* How will the intervention promote the target group’s engagement and participation in the field of development cooperation?

***The overall purpose of this “project” is to engage people in Denmark – working within and/or having an interest in the agriculture sector – to be interested in defining and implementing agriculture projects in developing countries.***

A recent World Bank report establish the fact, that development is far more in favour of the poor population, if it takes place in sectors, where the poor themselves work and where the production factors are soil and labour … that is agriculture. Agriculture development typically reduces poverty two to three times more than development in other sectors.

Overwhelmingly, farming in Uganda is organic. This is highly relevant to Danish farmers, since many researchers claim, that a shift to sustainable farming practices such as organic is needed if the global community wants to maintain sustainable food systems for future generations and tackle the many challenges facing our planet, including the climate crisis.

The key questions is: If Danish agriculture will have to undergo throughout changes to become (more) sustainable … then what is the path that a poor farmer in a developing country should follow to achieve a much needed higher income (consideration for the family) without compromising the growing sustainability issues (global consideration)?

We, the applicants, believe that the key “drivers” (change agents) of agriculture development in a developing country are:

* A quality agricultural education
* An effective and reliable agricultural advisory services
* Formation of farmer- family organisations (groups)

Therefore our wish is to use “the project activities” to motivate Danes – whether young or older, male or female - within the target groups to engage in sustainable agriculture projects in developing countries.

Our hope is, through this intervention, to be able to create a composite (ages / sexes) project group / friendship association / network, which are motivated to engage in agricultural projects in developing countries.

This will be achieved through visits to schools and clubs by invited Ugandans. For more details see under “Planning”.

**Sustainability**

* How have you reflected on social justice in your preparation of the intervention? This could be, for instance, through the issues that you address, or the selection of participants.
* How have you reflected on responsible climate and environmental conduct in your preparation of the intervention? This could concern, for instance, living conditions in developing countries or the climate and environmental impact of actual activities to be carried out, such as travel.

The target group (see below) comprises both male and female participants (students / members). However, the ratio between female and male students, members and farming youth can of course not be controlled. As for host- farmer representatives, the project will make sure that at least 50% are female.

Students at the agriculture schools in Denmark have very different attitudes towards their study. Some are academically oriented, while others are more interested in the practical work. Both “groups” could be interested in our interventions.

The invited guests from Uganda will be 2 farmers (female and male) , 2 agriculture students (female and male) and 2 agriculture school teachers (female and male) – all from (students, teachers) or around (farmers) the” Innovative Institute of Agriculture, Business and Capacity Building (**IABC)”, Kigumba (a small town some 200 kilometers north of Kampala). IABC is a newly constructed agriculture school, which members from SUG have visited twice.** They will all be fluent in English and furthermore carefully selected (specific criteria developed by us) to assure maximum outcome for the target group. IABC has expressed willingness to participate in this intervention.

Agriculture in developing countries is “the poor man’s choice”. You become a farmer because there is no other option! Farmer families are among the poorest fraction of the population. We must develop agriculture to a stage (income opportunity) whereby farming is chosen by the youth due to its potential.

Bringing the Ugandans (all six) to Denmark (return flight) has of course a negative climate impact. However, we believe that the direct dialogue between the Ugandans and interested Danes is essential for creating the necessary engagement / motivation. The Ugandans will stay in Denmark for about one month (rather long duration) and participate in as many interventions as possible (cost effectiveness).

We believe, (from the many very positive reactions we have had so far, that the interest from the target groups is high. Thus we will possibly have to “choose” … and focus on target groups in Southern Jutland and perhaps Fyn to minimize transportation and thereby be able to carry out more activities.

1. **The applicant organisation and other organisations/actors (our starting point)**

* What is your capacity as an applicant organisation to implement the intervention (experiences, resources, network, interaction with other activities, etc.)?
* If you are applying in cooperation with one or several other organisations/actors:
* How will you, as the applicant organisation, ensure coordination of the intervention?
* Describe the contributions, roles and areas of responsibility of each organisation/actor.

This application is on behalf of “Seniors Without Borders” (SWB) (responsible).

Grindsted Agriculture School (GAS) has promised to help with accommodation and contacts. During the last about 20 years, there have been foreign students at GAS. It started with students from Ukraine, Estonia and Lithuania. Later on only students from EU were given permission (and grants) to study in Denmark.

SWB is a Danish NGO with about 250 members. SWB project groups are implementing about 40 projects in various developing countries. Quite a few projects are related to agriculture (directly or indirectly) – also in Uganda, the country where SWB has most projects. The enthusiastic members all work voluntarily – no members are paid any salary. According to the recent “Capacity Assessment” of SWB (arranged by and paid for by CISU) - and the associated “Action Plan”, agriculture development remains a key strategy to SWB. In relation to this “project” it is also worth mentioning, that SWB – through its projects - have very good relations to the Danish Association of Ecology (Danish: Økologisk Landsforening).

Responsibility outline:

* SWB will arrange for visa for the Ugandans
* SWB will arrange for flight tickets for the Ugandans
* SWB will arrange for all target group meetings (Agriculture Schools, Danish Rural Youth Clubs, Danish Folk High Schools, Senior Farmer´s clubs, Practicing farmers andKaragwes Friends ULD-80).
* SWB will arrange for all transportation of the Ugandans (rented and private cars).
* At any time during the visit, two members of the SWB project group will accompany the guests (no salary). They will eat together with the guests at GAS (no cost to the project), but will arrange for private sleepover (no cost to the project).

GAS has promised to take care of the following points:

* Arrange for accommodation and food for the Ugandans.
* Assist the project in finding interested Danish farmers (e.g. through its host-farmers network and board members) – farmers which are carefully selected based on their interest in international cooperation, and the fact that several of them are employers of young foreign agricultural students (boys and girls) in an educational program training in Denmark.
* Help to orient Danish agriculture school of the possibility for an interaction event with the Ugandan guests (the GAS principal is the chairperson of the association of Danish agricultural schools).
* Host the final workshop.

The project group under SUG consists of:

Hans Elbæk - Experience as farmer, agriculture school director, agriculture teacher on several agriculture schools and presently on GAS.

Karsten Schleiss - Agronomist, former agriculture teacher and extensive experience from posts in developing countries.

Peder Lund Nørfelt - Agronomist, former agriculture teacher and extensive experience from posts in developing countries.

Per Hartmann – Forester and farmer with extensive experience from posts in developing countries including Uganda (4½ years).

**4. The work to be carried out (our intervention)**

**The target group**

* What is/are the target group(s) that you set out to reach? This includes expected number of persons (also be as specific as possible as regards their age and geographical location).
* How will the intervention reach the chosen target group(s)?
* How do you ensure that this/these target group(s) perceive the intervention as relevant to them?

We will target Danes with a demonstrated interest in agriculture / sustainability (that is why the intervention is relevant to them). The interventions will take place as physical meetings between Ugandan visitors / Target group (any number of students / members as the school / club wishes).

We expect to be able to carry out about 20 interventions (duration 2-4 hours each) with the Ugandans during their visit of 1 month. We expect on average 25 students / members to participate in one intervention – thus around 500 people “will be covered”. The age of the target group will vary according to the school / club involved. The geography covered will (mainly or only) be Southern Jutland and Fyn.

The target group is Danes from about 20 years of age and up in the following schools, associations, clubs and NGO. We hope to be able to cover all type of target groups, but other than that … the higher on the below list, the higher the priority:

Danish Agricultural Schools.

* Danish agricultural schools are children of the folk high school movement in Denmark.
* Their purpose is to educate young agricultural enthusiasts, be it Danish girls and boys or youth from within the EU, the entire farmer education based on the statutory Danish education model and plan.
* The students can freely choose among the 11 agriculture schools the school in Denmark including whether to be day- school students or boarding school students.
* The boarding school environment at the agriculture schools assures the personal and social development of students parallel to the vocational training. This takes place under the motto: "freedom under responsibility" at joint, social events across student age groups.

Agriculture students are about 20 years old (plus / minus a few years depending on level of education). As agriculture students they have a natural interest in agriculture … and not least a sustainable future agriculture … thus “a natural target” for our activity. The professional staffs (teachers) at the schools are also included in the target group.

Agriculture schools in Denmark are increasingly becoming interested in cooperation across borders. We hope that this initiative will reinforce this tendency as there could be many actions, which both agriculture schools in Denmark and agriculture schools in developing countries could benefit from. Interchange of agricultural students and/or teachers is an obvious idea, but we hope – during the implementation of this “project” to find many more “mutual interests” and the way forward for realizing the ideas.

Danish rural youth (Landbo-ungdom)

* There are 46 farmer youth clubs in Denmark with approx. 4000 members - boys and girls who are either present or former agriculture students or “just” members with a general interest in the rural lifestyle.
* The local rural youth organizations have their own board. There are also both regional and national boards.
* There is a special and close bond between the rural youth clubs and Danish agricultural schools.
* Club activities comprise farm visits, company visits, course activities, plowing competitions, tractor pulls and various social activities.
* The rural youth clubs focuse on the following UN world goals: 2: Stop hunger / 4: Quality education / 11: Sustainable cities and communities / 12: Responsible consumption and production / 13: Climate action and 15. Life on land.

Members of the youth clubs are from about 20 years to around 35 years old. Since members are agriculture students, young practicing farmers … or youth interested in the rural lifestyle, they all have a natural interest in the future agriculture … thus “a natural target” for our activity. Becoming engaged in developing agriculture projects abroad could become a new focus area for the Rural Youth Clubs.

Danish Folk High Schools

* There are about 70 Folk High Schools in Denmark.
* The Folk High Schools offer both long and short courses.
* Some 28 of the schools are member of “The sustainability network of Folk High Schools”.

The schools long courses are generally applied for by the youth, whereas the short courses are sought after by all ages including the elderly. Participation in all courses is of course purely voluntary (driven by interest). Thus, if a school shows interest in what we can offer (through this “project”), then it is due to the types of courses it runs (our intervention is relevant) … and the students at these courses thereby become “a natural target” for our activity.

Senior farmer clubs (LandboSenior)

* The national association LandboSenior consists of 61 clubs all over Denmark.
* The clubs hold many different kinds of events: Lectures, excursions, company visits, theater evenings, travel and much more.
* Members are 60+ and interested in being active in the "third age".

Since members have a “farming background” and action potential, they are “a natural target” for our activity.

Danish practicing farmers

Considering the objective of this “project”, visiting individual farmers is not very effective. Still we will visit a few farmers (female and male) within the Grindsted Agriculture School´s host-farmer network.

*We have had a few “sensors” out to check whether the above target groups would be interested in our activities and have received very positive feedback from representatives from all of them.*

Karagwes Friends ULD-80

This is an association (NGO) with members +60 years that for 40 years have worked with independent projects in Karagwe District in northwestern Tanzania in cooperation with local organizations. Karagwes Friends is a member of CISU.

Completed projects in Karagwe include:

* Radio Karagwe I Kayanga.
* Karakwe District Vocational Training Center (KDVTC) in Kayanga.

Karagwes Friends have shown interest in our project (Hans Elbæk from SWB is also a member of Karagwes Friends). Members of Karagwes Friends therefore now wish to arrange for a meeting with the Ugandans, hoping the meeting / dialogue will inspire them to new initiatives.

**Planning**

* Describe how you will achieve the desired change. Set out the planned activities and how they will lead to specific outputs.
* How will the intervention expand the opportunities of the target group(s) for participating, taking action and finding joint solutions for a more sustainable world?
* How will you systematise experiences and learning during and after the intervention?

All Ugandan guests may not necessarily participate in all events since Danish farmers may be mostly interested in a dialogue with farmers, teachers with teachers and students with students. One of the teachers from Uganda will be the IABC director … and for him a dialogue with agriculture school principals will also be interesting (and vice versa!). Thus the number of interventions could very well be higher than the expected +/- 20.

The language of an intervention will be English (we – the accompanying Danes from SWB will translate as necessary). We will be very flexible allowing the school / club to create their own agenda for an intervention. However, we do have a “standard agenda” prepared:

* Overall general presentation of Ugandan agriculture (overwhelmingly organic) versus Danish agriculture (still mostly conventional). We will make sure that our guests (combined with the statistics that the project group can provide) can “cover” most aspects of agriculture in Uganda – and can illustrate the actual situation with photos / videos. The presentation can take place during the intervention … or we can forward the material to the school / club ahead of the intervention if that is preferred. We will make sure to have profound knowledge (statistics) available so that we may be able to answer questions from the target group … but the presentation will stick to more general aspects and use photos / videos as much as possible.
* Group work of participants (students / members) on relevant topics. We will have a list of possibilities e.g. on sustainability issues, but schools / clubs may freely choose their preferred topics. The groups will use the Ugandans as a “resource base” during the group work. Group work should concentrate on finding solutions by overcoming problems / exploit potentials.
* Presentation of findings in plenum with a first-hand dialogue / discussions with the Ugandans (farmers, agriculture students, agriculture teachers).
* The Danes from SWB will make a summary of the findings (as agreed on by the target group) for use in the final workshop.
* Target group members showing a profound interest in “agriculture development projects” will be invited to the final workshop.
* Other interested participants in the meetings can choose to be informed of any further development (e.g. results from the workshop) through email or otherwise (e.g. Facebook). They may at any time join the project group / friendship association / network that we hope will be the outcome of this “project”.
* Target group´s evaluation of the intervention for our continuous improvement.

After the intervention we – the Ugandan guests and the accompanying SWB members – will further discuss the intervention with the teachers / leaders etc. to get their evaluations / comments / suggestions for improvement of interventions.

We will also encourage the Ugandans to keep a diary … what did they learn from the interventions? Their view is very important for the outcome of the final workshop.

**Final workshop**

At the end of the visit, we will organize a full-day workshop for 20-25 participants.

Apart from the Ugandan guests and members of the project group, the participants will be invited persons, who - during the different presentations / meetings / discussions - have expressed special interest in the raised issues.

The purpose of the workshop will be to find answers to questions like:

* What have you – the Danish participants – learned from the interactions with our guests?
* What have you - the Ugandan guests (farmers, students and teachers respectively) seen / learned which can be used in Uganda – although perhaps in a modified version? Can be prioritized in specific activities and / or more complex “projects”.
* To what extent do you – the Ugandan guests – need (external) assistance to carry out your ideas? What type of assistance?
* Can we – the Danish participants help out our Ugandan guests to implement their ideas?
* Is a project group / friendship association / network a solution?

We hope (expect) that the workshop:

1. Will help to define potential relevant agriculture projects in developing countries (e.g. Uganda)
2. Help to find “new blood” willing to engage in the Danish development system through voluntary unpaid work. That could be in any relevant, or new? NGO - since SWB may not be the first choice for a young person! We will do our best to find the right solution for those interested.

**Methods**

* How will you give voice to people from developing countries in the intervention?
* Which developing country (or countries) does the intervention relate to?
* How will you ensure that the messages to be conveyed through the activities of the intervention are nuanced and constructive, fostering understanding of the fundamental causes behind the issues addressed?
* To what extent do you make use of new methods and/or cooperation?

We want to invite the Ugandans – thus giving them a direct influence on the interventions.

We believe that the direct meetings between “us” (the target groups) and “them” (the Ugandans) will contribute to a very realistic discussion / dialogue.

We are dealing with real problems as experienced by our guests. The target group can inquire into the reasons behind the present problems … and get the true answer from those experiencing them. We can … we will, and we need to find solutions that suit them (true bottom-up approach).

Although the guests are from Uganda, the agricultural situation in most other developing countries is pretty much the same. Thus the outcome (e.g. ideas for agriculture projects) of this “project” will have general relevance.

We believe that by inviting guests from a developing country, having various intervention with Danes (all ages) interested in agriculture – and with a final workshop for defining further actions … is a somehow new approach.

**Timing**

Detailed planning of the visit and activities will start as soon as possible (COVID 19). However:

* Finalization of selection criteria for Ugandan guests (farmers, students and teachers) has been done.
* We have tested the interest from a few target groups (all types) … with very positive feedback.

**Risks**

We are carefully following the COVID-19 situation. The visit by the Ugandans will not be possible until the COVID-19 situation is fully under control. Since vaccination against COVID-19 in Denmark is due to start late December 2020, probably life will not “be back to normal” before spring / early summer 2021. Possibly the Ugandans will need to present a COVID-19 vaccination attest to board the flight to Denmark (and maybe also for achieving a visa to Denmark). We assume that COVID-19 vaccinations will be available in Uganda sometime early 2021. Thus we hope and expect that the visit will be possible once life is “back to normal” in Denmark – hopefully by spring / early summer 2021.