

# Newsletter



## SIMAVI Managing Director visits JESE

Dieneke Vander Wijk was excited by the progress of the WASH projects that JESE is implementing in partnership with SIMAVI, especially in Bunyagabu district... [pg 2](#)

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# Editor's Note

## ABOUT JESE

JESE is an indigenous non-government, service-providing organization registered as a company by guarantee NO 47579. The NGO BOARD 55914/1019. Since its establishment in 1993, JESE, through her work in improved Agriculture Production and Natural Resources Management and long term development, has greatly contributed to improved livelihoods of target beneficiaries and provided opportunities for a better life especially for the rural poor households and communities.

### Vision

A community where people and nature flourish.

### Mission

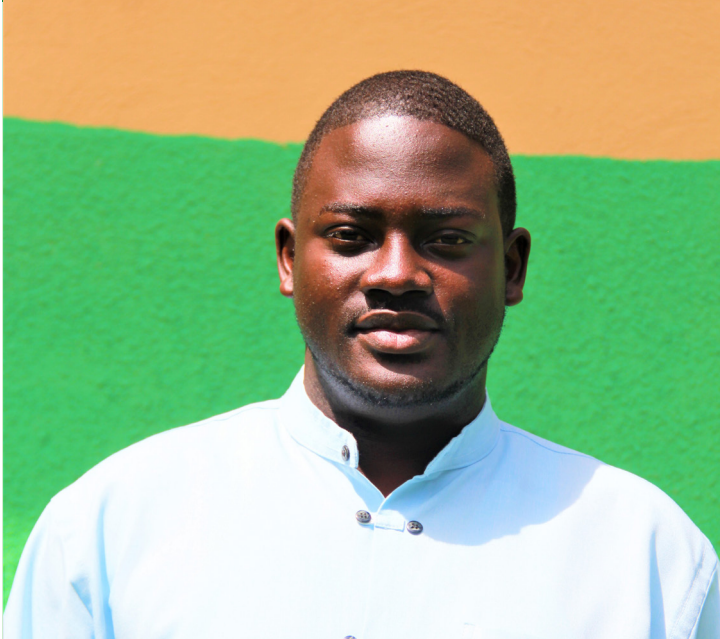
To facilitate people-centred innovative actions that foster equity, sustainable management of natural resources and livelihood improvement

### Overall Goal

Empowered community equitably accessing and sustainably managing natural resources for improved livelihoods and well-being.

### Our Values

- Environmental Integrity
- Transparency
- Gender Equity
- Volunteerism
- Teamwork



Dear Reader,

**W**e are delighted to bring to you this edition of the JESE newsletter for the month of July. In this issue, our focus is on the major events that happened in the same month and the success stories from the various projects that we implement with support from our different donors and partners.

As you know, we work tirelessly within communities in different districts in Uganda like Kabarole, Kamwenge, Buliisa, Hoima, Kitagwenda, Bunyangabu, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Agago, Isingiro and others to ensure that the services go directly to the intended beneficiaries. Our dedication to achieve our set goals and objectives is what has kept us growing since 1993.

We hope that the success stories and innovations in this newsletter will inspire you so that you can also be a change maker in your community. Wishing you a nice reading.

**By: Christopher Tusiime**

*Communications and Advocacy Officer, JESE*

# SIMAVI Managing Director visits JESE



*SIMAVI Managing Director, Dieneke Vander Wijk (fourth from the left) poses for a group photo with the JESE Staff at the organisation's head offices in Kitumba, Fort Portal Tourism City.*

By Richard Alituha

**O**n 20th July, 2023, JESE received a distinguished guest, the Managing Director of SIMAVI, a renowned international Development organization from Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Deineke was in company of the SIMAVI representative to Uganda Ms. Kulanayi Rashidah and the WASH and Learn Knowledge Management Officer, Ms. Diana Kazooba.

During her visit, Deineke engaged the senior Management Team (SMT) at JESE led by the Executive Director, Mr. Patrick Baguma. Mr. Baguma appreciated the partnership between SIMAVI and JESE which he said has moved from development partnership to strategic partnership. The senior Management Team was supported by the project Officers for the SIMAVI funded projects like the WASH and Learn project, WASH SDG, WASH First and Innovation Fund. The purpose of the visit was to gain insights into the WASH & Learn project that is being implemented in Bunyangabu district.

The SIMAVI Director with the team from JESE headed by the Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Godfrey Rugumayo, headed to the field and visited the Bunyangabu District Local Government officials headed by the Chairperson LC5, Mr. James Ategeka Mugarama, and the District Education Officer, Mr. Sunday Robert. The District officials appreciated the partnership between JESE, SIMAVI and the District local Government which they said had led to improvement in the provision of WASH service delivery in the district.

“Our WASH status has improved from 64% in 2017 when Bunyangabu became an independent Local Government to 74% currently. The increment is attributed to projects imple-

mented by SIMAVI i.e. WASH and Learn 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0. As a local government and indeed as a government generally, we are very grateful. The Education sector is pleased with the works of JESE and SIMAVI and we request that more projects be implemented in the district,” said Mr. Sanyu Robert DEO.

The Managing Director SIMAVI also appreciated the District local government and the central governments of Uganda for creating an enabling environment that has made it possible for SIMAVI partners to serve the people of the Tooro region and Uganda at large. She emphasized that gender issues are key for SIMAVI because they bring about equity amongst the human beings. As SIMAVI, the director also noted that the girl child is the emphasis and encouraging energy that push SIMAVI to keep the funding flowing. Her genuine interest and attentive demeanor made everyone feel valued and heard.

The LC5 chairperson Bunyangabu district, Hon. Ategeka James Mugarama, also thanked JESE and SIMAVI for the investment they have made in the district since the district became independent in 2017.

“As a Local government, we have some relief in the Education department because of the interventions of the WASH and Learn program. As government, our resource envelop is already constrained and we allocate very little to WASH in schools. However, where the program is being implemented, we have received sanitation facilities, water harvesting tanks and general WASH in communities. We pledge to continue supporting the facilities when finally the partners hand them over to the district authority,” said the LC5 Chairperson.

Another highlight of the visit was engagement with Busiita primary school where JESE implemented work in 2018. During

her visit to the school, it was noticed that the sanitation facilities still appear as good as new. The head teacher of the school informed the visitors that the facilities have been well maintained because the parents agreed to support the school cost recovery plan which enables them to collect operation and maintenance fees. He said the role of the school Administration is to utilize the funds well and properly account for the money received.

The day was concluded by the MD visiting a community women's group in Kateebwa 1 village who are doing WASH as a business. The women showcased their handwork, books of accounts and a vibrant VSLA that has grown from 167,000/= shillings to 2.4 million shillings in one year.

Throughout her visit from JESE office to the district and to the field, the MD listened intently as different stakeholders told stories of how SIMAVI interventions had transformed people's lives. Deineke was inspired by their resilience and determination and she reaffirmed SIMAVI's commitment to their well-being.



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**Dieneke Vander Wijk**

Managing Director, SIMAVI

## JESE Supports Kabambiro Farmers to start **maize milling factory**



*JESE with support from IDP handed over a brand new tricycle to the marketing association to bridge the transport needs gap.*

**J**oint Effort to Save the Environment with funding from IDP is implementing a program called Mpanga Super Farmers Program (MSFP) in Kabambiro sub county-Kamwenge District. This program aims at striking a balance between environmental, social and economic aspects in the implementing communities.

This program targets small holder farming households. In the year 2018 and 2019, maize price was at an average of 300 shillings in Kamwenge and our beneficiaries suffered great loss amidst much efforts of negotiating for better prices from potential buyers like New Kakinga and JB Kaganga but could not yield much. In the year 2020, MSFP beneficiaries started working towards maize value addition while processing it to posho and bran as a bi-product.

During the meeting to discuss the planned ideas on maize milling, JESE initiated the process of forming a marketing association (MA) for collectively marketing beneficiaries' harvests. The meeting also resolved that members should start fundraising through members' registration and buying of shares. JESE took the responsibility of building the MA capacity in areas of quality management, business development packages, leadership and governance packages.

Through MSFP, the MA in partnership with JESE undertook the initiative to raise money

for MA maize milling business. This initiative had a primary purpose of providing milling services to program beneficiaries and the community so that they can spend less on acquiring posho and bran for human and livestock. The MA started a fundraising drive from its members where an approximate of 11 million shillings was raised.

After raising the money, it was agreed that the money be used in acquiring land for the business and JESE pledged to support them with a full set of milling machine, electricity installation and connection. Last year, the MA were able to buy a plot of land with a permanent structure and also restructured it to suit the milling project. Thereafter, JESE installed and connected power to the structure and also procured and delivered a full set of milling machine. On 24/12/2023 the MA started its milling business while serving its members and the entire community. All community members were very happy with the quality of posho produced and they pledged to support the business. By the end of April 2023, the business was able to generate 6.860.000 million shillings from milling for community members.

This interested JESE to negotiate with the MA leaders to do a co-funding on supporting the business with branding and packaging of their product, secure a digital weighing scale and a tricycle to facilitate marketing of posho within the sub county and nearby sub counties.

# Kyegegwa Host Communities Embrace Biogas Technology as Alternative to wood fuel



*Biogas system is very efficient at cooking*

**By Jude Twesige**

In November 2022, JESE under an addendum entered a partnership with the Office of Prime Minister for the Development Response to Displacement Impact Project (DRDIP). The project aims at supporting selected sub projects in the district of Kyegegwa within the host communities with biogas technologies as an alternative source of energy.

Working with the Uganda Biogas Association, JESE selected the use of portable biogas technology because of its efficiency as it has up to only 10% gas loss as compared to the conventional biogas technologies, which have up to 50% gas loss.

The technology has a warranty of up to one year, which is a positive for operation and maintenance and it consumes less time during installation.

The beneficiaries for this project are groups that were identified and selected by the district officials about two years ago.

The system can be supported by a farmer who owns between 5 to 10 heads of cattle that are able to produce 10 Kgs of dung on a daily basis. Other droppings of goats and pigs can be used if the farmer has them in plenty.

Currently, a total of 15 plants have been established and the beneficiaries are appreciative. For instance, Tumwujukye Ephraim is a beneficiary from Mpara Sub County and he says that the biogas plant has helped his family prepare meals on time since the technology is fast and efficient.

“My children no longer go to forests to pick firewood which would put their

lives in danger. The plant works so well and the byproduct that we get from there we use it in our gardens and banana plantations. This way, we are able to protect forests from degradation for firewood while at the same time improving on our farm yields with biosillary from the plant,” Tumwujukye says.

## How the system works

It is biogas system that is made of plastic and polythene that can be installed in a space of about 6 X 10 metres (this is a small piece of land).

To make the system work, two pits are dug: one of 6ft X 12ft and one of 3ft X 3ft and fitted with a dump-free material. Later, an already-made polythene bag with capacity of 16 cubic is inserted into the pits and later fed with premixed dung and then filled with 300 jerry cans of water.

After this, the pipes are fitted into the polythene bag and then extended to the cooking area and then a cooking burner is fitted. The system is covered for about 10 to 15 days for the gas to be produced. When the polythene bag bulges and starts producing biosillary, then a technician is invited for fitting and commissioning.

## Sustainability

For sustainability, operation and maintenance, JESE is training local-lead artisans in operation and maintenance skills. JESE is also



## Two pits

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encouraging farmers to adopt kitchen gardens to enhance household nutrition using manure from the biosillary. For scaling up, JESE is encouraging other members of the community groups to start joint saving groups so that they are able to access this biogas technology through loans and savings.

### Advantages

This technology provides alternative source of energy, which in turn reduces pressure on forests. Additionally, the byproduct of biogas can be used to enhance productivity in the gardens since it can work as manure and finally, It is a clean source of energy since its carbons are way lesser than those produced by wood energy.

*“My children no longer go to forests to pick firewood which would put their lives in danger. This way we are able to protect forests from degradation for firewood while at the same time improving on our farm yields with biosillary from the plant,” Tuwmwijukye says.*



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

# Multimillion WASH facilities handed over to Bunoga Primary School



are well protected against any form of destruction,” Byarugaba said. The school headteacher, Julius Twinomujuni, was equally happy about the intervention, saying the pupils in the school would stop walking long distances in search of clean water.

“Also, the pupil-stance ratio, which was at 112:1 for girls and 238:1 for boys has now reduced to about 58:1 for both,” Twinomujuni noted.

At JESE, we believe that WASH interventions can help build resilience to climatic since they promote climate and environmentally appropriate management of ecosystems that reduce climatic risks and water resources to ensure adequate and sustainable supply to clean water free of contamination which results from poor disposal human waste.

By Johnpauls Jamwa

**O**n July 24th, JESE handed over sanitation facilities to Bunoga Primary School in Kamwenge district. These included two 4-stance Ecological Sanitation Toilets and a rainwater harvesting tank of 1000CC. All these were constructed with financial support from Join For Water, one of JESE’s oldest partner. The Chief Guest at the event was the Kamwenge Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Isaiah Byarugaba, appreciated JESE and Join For Water for the intervention, saying it greatly contributed to the district’s master plan.

“I encourage the school to work together with the surrounding communities to ensure that these facilities

## Case for ECOSAN toilets

Ecosan toilets capture and contain waste from sipping into the ground since they have a cemented floor. By design, they ensure that urine and feces do not mix, which keeps the toilet clean and free from any bad smell. Ecosan toilets are very important especially in places which have a very high water table. Using the conventional pit latrines would lead to digging up to the water, which in turn leads to quick contamination of the under ground water with fecal matter.

This intervention is one of the many that JESE in partnership with Join For Water is implementing in the Mpanga Midstream as strategy to microcatchment protection under the protection and Conservation of Water Resources programme.



**The Ecosan toilets constructed at Bunoga Primary School reduced the pupil-stance ratio.**



# Skill Up! Trainees Undergo DIT Assessment



*A skill Up! trainee in tailoring during her assessment.*

By Bright Wamara

**D**uring the month of July, a total of 72 youths trained under the Skill Up! project in Kyenjojo and Fort Portal were assessed by the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT), the body mandated by Ministry of Education and Sports to assess and certify non-formal skilling in Uganda.

The youth were assessed in the trades of Tailoring, hairdressing, Welding, Carpentry and Joinery and Motorcycle Mechanics.

The assessed had undergone technical training for a period of about 10 months in the respective trades, which is in accordance with the Skill Up! quality standards and principles.

After the assessment, those who will excel will be awarded the Workers' Practically Acquired Skills Cer-

tificate, which is internationally recognized.

Consequently, the youth will be able to either get employed or start their own businesses, thereby reducing on the high levels of unemployment in the Rwenzori Sub-region and the country at large.

## Background

In 2021, JESE in partnership with Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and funding from BMZ, started implementing the Skill Up! project, where 300 youths were targeted as beneficiaries in Rwenzori Sub-region. In the first cohort, 233 youths were trained and they had all graduated by December 2022.

In the second cohort, 120 youths were also trained and these are the ones who have been assessed and are awaiting graduation later this year.

The Skill Up! project targets vulnerable youth who have never gone to school, those who dropped out of school and those who are unemployed. After advertising and selection, the beneficiaries are taken to training enterprises where they spend about 8 months being trained in technical, entrepreneurial and life skills.

During the course of training, JESE in partnership with WHH, supports the youth with training materials and equipment and also offer a lunch contribution to ensure that the trainees do not drop out due to financial constraints.



*A youth trained in hairdressing doing her DIT assessment.*

# JESE Holds Radio Talkshows to Promote Protection and Conservation of Water Resources



*George Bwambale from Join For Water (in the foreground) with BUSIINGE Christopher in the VOK Studios.*

**O**n July 11th and 12th, JESE in partnership with Join For Water, held talkshows on Voice Of Kamwenge (VOK) in abid to promote the protection and conservation of water resources.

This was in line with the JESE advocacy strategy which emphasises the use of main stream media to raise awareness about the importance of water resources and how they can be protected and conserved.

While focusing on Kitagwenda, the District Senior Environment Officer, Athony Kalyegira, noted hat the district has 46 wetlands, though most of them were being degraded by farmers to carry out agricultural activities.

Kalyegira said that communities surrounding wetlands and rivers do not respect the buffer zones, a practice that is threatening the existence of these water resources.

“For River Mpanga, the buffer zone is 100 metres from the river. But you find someone growing their crops up to where the river starts from. This is dangerous,” Kalyegira said.

Busiinge Christopher, the Head of Natural Resources Department at JESE told the listeners that rivers, lakes and wetlands are very important for the survival of the human race.

“Science tells us that the biggest percentage of the human

body is made up of water. This means that we all need water to survive. If we keep destroying these water resources, we shall remain with very little or not water at all. What then shall we consume?,” Mr. Busiinge wondered.

To help on restoration, JESE and Join For Water, came up with a number of interventions that include establishment of community tree nurseries which provide trees that are planted in areas where degradation has taken place. JESE has also worked with district authorities to demarcate buffer zones especially in the Mpanga gorge, and has supported Kamwenge and Kitagwenda districts to pass ordinances aimed at ensuring the protection of water resources.

However, there were still some issues that were raised by the listeners and the panelists. These said that there are some ‘big wigs’ in the government and the ‘untouchables’ who continue to degrade wetlands and encroach on buffer zones for farming and other activities. A case in point was the farming activities by Kiburara Prisons around R. Mpanga at the boarder of Kitagwenda and Ibanda Districts.

In response, JESE committed to engage all the key stakeholders to ensure that the issue is resolved and the degraded buffer zone restored and protected against any further degradation.



*A photo taken in July 2023 showing farming activities around River Mpanga at the boarder of Ibanda and Kitagwenda districts. This was a major concern for most of the listeners.*