



APRIL 2025

NEWSLETTER



EDITORIAL

We are excited to share highlights of the April 2025 events. JESE envisions a community where nature and people flourish. Our strides are in Natural Resource Management, Livelihood Improvement, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Skills development.

We want to use the space to thank you for staying with us on our journey. We cannot do it alone. In our April Newsletter, we bring you updates from various thematic areas of Skills development, Agricultural Enterprise, and operations to keep you tuned to our activities.

Additionally, we want to share with you the best practices and success stories from beneficiaries and key stakeholders.

These updates are a result of collaboration, partnerships with other partners and stakeholders at local, regional, national and international levels.

ATHIENO Caroline

Communications and Advocacy Manager- JESE.

JESE SACCO GAINS EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

By: BUSIINGE AMOOTI, ATHIENO Caroline & ISINGOMA Edward

Thanks to a committed Executive committee and Technical Team!



Photo: JESACCO Members during the 2nd AGM at the Jese Board room.

What started as an idea is now a dream coming to reality. The idea of the Jese Development Sacco was mooted in 2023 by 9 members of the Jese staff who started it off as the initial promoters. The initial promoters were the following: Mr. RUGUMAYO Godfrey, Ms. SIIMA Salome, WAMARA Bright Raymond, Ms. TUSIIME Kate, BUSIINGE Christopher, Ms. ANGUMYE Rebecca, Mr. KUGONZA Fred, Mr. NYAKOOJO Sam, and ISINGOMA Edward.

Up until January 2024, when Jese Management bought into the idea, the promoters had mobilised UGX 6M as foundation capital for the SACCO. Today, the SACCO has mobilised working capital of UGX 125M from 65 members and is already offering services to 60% of its members.

According to the SACCO Chairman, Mr. RUGUMAYO Godfrey, “in February 2024, we had a total collection of UGX 13,880,000 and by March 2025, we had a total collection of UGX 125,500,000 (in shares, savings, and Interest).

According to the Chairman, SACCO had posted a profit of UGX 8,000,000 by the end of the 2024 financial year.

JESE DEVELOPMENT SACCO (JESACCO) is a Cooperative Society that is user-owned, user governed and user financed, registered under the Cooperative Societies Statute offering micro-finance and other financial services to all their clients regardless of their sex, creed, religion, race or marital status.

The SACCO offers its members a number of products such as savings, credit and training services at very competitive interest rates. The SACCO is currently composed of current staff working with Jese, Jese former staff and board members.

JESE BOARD MEETS, ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Mrs. Grace Waako Katuturamu , the outgoing Board chairperson handing over to the incoming new board chairperson Mr. Happy Richard.

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JESE Board Meeting Highlights: Steering Towards Impacts in 2025

Today April 4, 2025, the board of directors of JESE convened for a pivotal meeting to discuss progress made in 2024 and plan for the year ahead. Held at our headquarters in Kitumba, the session brought together both incoming and outgoing board members.

The meeting kicked off with a review of our 2024 initiatives and celebrating milestones that were achieved. The key highlight was the approval of our recently published annual audit report for 2024. At the climax of the meeting JESE outgoing Board chairperson, Ms. Grace Waako Katuramu handed over office to the incoming Board Chairperson Mr. Happy Richard, the other outgoing members include; Gertrude Tumuhairwe, Ms. Ellen Bajenja, Dr. Sam Mugume Koojo, Ms. Grace Waako. The incoming new board members include; Ms. Mary Namukose, Ms. Kandole Annet, and Mr. Friday Thomas and Happy Richard.



The outgoing Board Chairperson JESE Mrs Grace Waako Katuturamu receiving an appreciation plaque

From the Executive Director, JESE, Mr. Baguma Patrick

JESE APRIL PRAYER ALTAR-COLLECTS ALMS FOR WOMEN INMATES AT KATOOJO GOVERNMENT PRISON IN FORT-PORTAL.

Today the 7th of April 2025, Jese staff gathered for our usual Monthly Alter- prayers at the Jese Board room. The prayer altar takes place every 1st Monday of the month. We had Mass led by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Baguma Araali, the Parish priest of St. Charles Lwanga, Parish in Fort-Portal. The key message of his sermon was on “Justice for the weak” in specific reference to the story of injustice on Susana in the bible (Daniel 13:1-9. 15:17. 19:30,33-62). He reminded members that, during this lent season, we are reminded about “forgiveness, alms giving and prayer”. During mass Jese staff collected Sanitary materials for female inmates at Katojo Government Prison.





Mr. Buguma Patrick, ED JESE, addresses the staff after Mass in the JESE boardroom.

JESE participates in the Organizational Capacity Building training.

The Joint Effort to Save the Environment (JESE) underwent an Organizational Capacity Assessment by the Internal Risk Management Group (IRMG) to improve internal capacities and operations. Join For Water organized the OCA assessment for all the MYP 5 implementing partners.

Following the OCA assessment, a capacity session was organized for four days. This targeted all the MYP5 partners. The training was attended by 15 participants (5f&10m) from JESE, including the MYP 5 Program staff, SMT members, Program Coordinators, and Managers.

The focus areas included: Governance and Leadership, Project Planning and Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Reporting and learning, Risk Management, Financial Control Mechanisms, Understanding sustainability, Concept development and Proposal writing, and Building Partnerships and Networking.



Bottom-Up, JESE staff undertaking a group assignment on designing a project following the project life cycle during the OCA training at Tooro Botanical Gardens.

JESE participates in the annual Humanitarian Network Partnerships Week (HNPW) in Geneva, Switzerland.

JESE attended the annual Humanitarian Network Partnership Week in Geneva, Switzerland, from the 24th to the 28th March 2025. Organized by: Charter 4 Change, Oxfam, Christian Aid, and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, this event is held annually in different countries to address the urgent need to advance localisation through equitable partnerships in humanitarian response. This event brings together donors, funders, international humanitarian organizations, and local actors with a main focus on reforming the humanitarian system and ensuring there is mutual collaboration in responding to humanitarian crises. For this year, a representative from the Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform was nominated to the event focusing on *“Fair and Equitable Partnerships in Humanitarian Response: building and scaling models for local leadership.”*



Panel discussion “Fair and Equitable Partnerships in Humanitarian Response: building and scaling models for local leadership,” during the Week

This activity is aimed at significantly advancing the adoption of fair and equitable partnerships within the humanitarian sector. By precisely showcasing successful models, fostering collaborative learning, and driving peer-to-peer advocacy, it sought to create a lasting impact. The outputs, ranging from dynamic platforms for dialogue and knowledge sharing, were designed towards trust, shared power, and mutual collaboration. This initiative was not merely about highlighting best practices but about catalyzing a fundamental shift in how humanitarian aid is delivered, prioritizing local leadership and ensuring sustainable, impactful responses to crises. This therefore drives the potential to transform partnerships, leading to more just, effective, and locally owned humanitarian action.



Rebecca Angumye, Project Coordinator, JESE, during the panel discussion on the “Fair and Equitable Partnerships in Humanitarian Response: building and scaling models for local leadership.”

According to Ms. Rebecca Angumye, a program Coordinator with JESE who attended the Week, the platform itself was created by local actors for local coordination and joint action. It wasn't created to fit in a donor-driven project: We saw a need and a gap, and decided to come together to fill it. This has meant that from the beginning, there has been trust, accountability, and collaboration among members.

“We sit as equals, around the same table. Our goal is collaboration, not competition, with simplified tools to ensure accessibility and collective engagement. The fact that Oxfam's support has recognized that approach has been key.” She remarked.

JESE ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP DACUM FOR PERMACULTURE ATP AT ATACO COUNTRY RESORT, FORT PORTAL.

Joint Effort to Save the Environment, held a three days (11th to 13th April 2025) engagement with a panel of experts and Instructors from our partner TVET Institutions to review, harmonize and develop the permaculture assessment and training package (ATP) market oriented, the exercise was facilitated by the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) under the MOES.

With funding from (WHH) Welthungerhilfe and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), JESE, Bunyangabu Beekeepers Cooperative (BBC), and Margharita Training Institute (MTI) are implementing a project named Expansion of Green Colleges. This is a 4-year project running up to 2026. The project is being implemented in the Rwenzori region, in the districts of Kabarole, Bunyangabu, Fort Portal Tourism City, and Kasese.

The project aims at using existing potential in the region, strengthening the capacities of training institutions in the field of green skilling, networking with each other and realizing an increased participation of youth in ecologically and economically sustainable sectors since one of our core roles in the project is the development and review of curricula to enhance the delivery of non-formal skills training.



Directorate of industrial training facilitator giving guidance on how to develop assessment training package for permaculture during a workshop at ATACO



Participants undertaking group assignments.

JESE USES MARKETING ASSOCIATIONS TO SUPPORT FARMERS IN COLLECTIVE MARKETING AND VALUE ADDITION.

JESE amplified efforts towards the initiation and strengthening of farmer marketing associations. 03 Marketing Associations in banana bulking & 01 in maize bulking & value addition have been formed. Marketing Associations attracted 345 registered households (208 females & 137 males).

The initiation of farmer marketing associations has significantly improved market access and profitability for smallholder farmers. By organizing 345 registered members (137 males and 208 females) into 04 associations focused on collective marketing and value addition, farmers achieved tangible economic benefits. This demonstrates how structured cooperation increases bargaining power, creates economies of scale, and strengthens rural enterprises through farmer business development support and governance structures.



Farmers deliver their produce to the Kicwamba Banana Marketing Association, Kabarole District.

During the 7 months of operation (May to November 2024), we registered increased cohesion & income with 2,805 bunches sold at an average of 13,000/= (36,465,000). They can sell according to grades (small, medium & large). An average price increment of 2000 UGX per bunch. Kabam-biro Marketing Association was able to bulk 23,150 kilograms of maize and sold it at Ugx 950 per kilogram, and this translated to Ugx 21,992,500. An average price increment of 200 UGX per kg of maize grain was achieved.



Farmers display their produce at Kabambiro Marketing Association, Kamwenge District.

Success story.

Sustainable Food Systems improve Women's Rights.

Tusiime Mary – 36 years old, from Kicwamba, a wife to Asaba Isaac, mother of four children, current Secretary of the Buhara Farmers Marketing Association, and trained Gender Focal Person.



Tusiime Mary presents their family IFP while the husband is holding the drawing for her.

“I am proud to share how the integrated farm plan approach has transformed our family’s livelihood. Through the family’s careful planning and investment in selected enterprises (crop and livestock) diversification, we have created a sustainable food system that not only feeds our family but also contributes to our regional food security through team bulking and collectively marketing to regional buyers.” Mary shared.

Mary shares that the approach has empowered her to be an active contributor to their household’s economic and nutritional well-being. “My husband and I agreed that I should take the lead in marketing our bananas in our marketing association, and we currently plan together for our family resources and investments.” She noted. “We offer support to other farming families towards achieving a sustainable food system and enhanced income in the community through on-farm training sessions.” She continued.

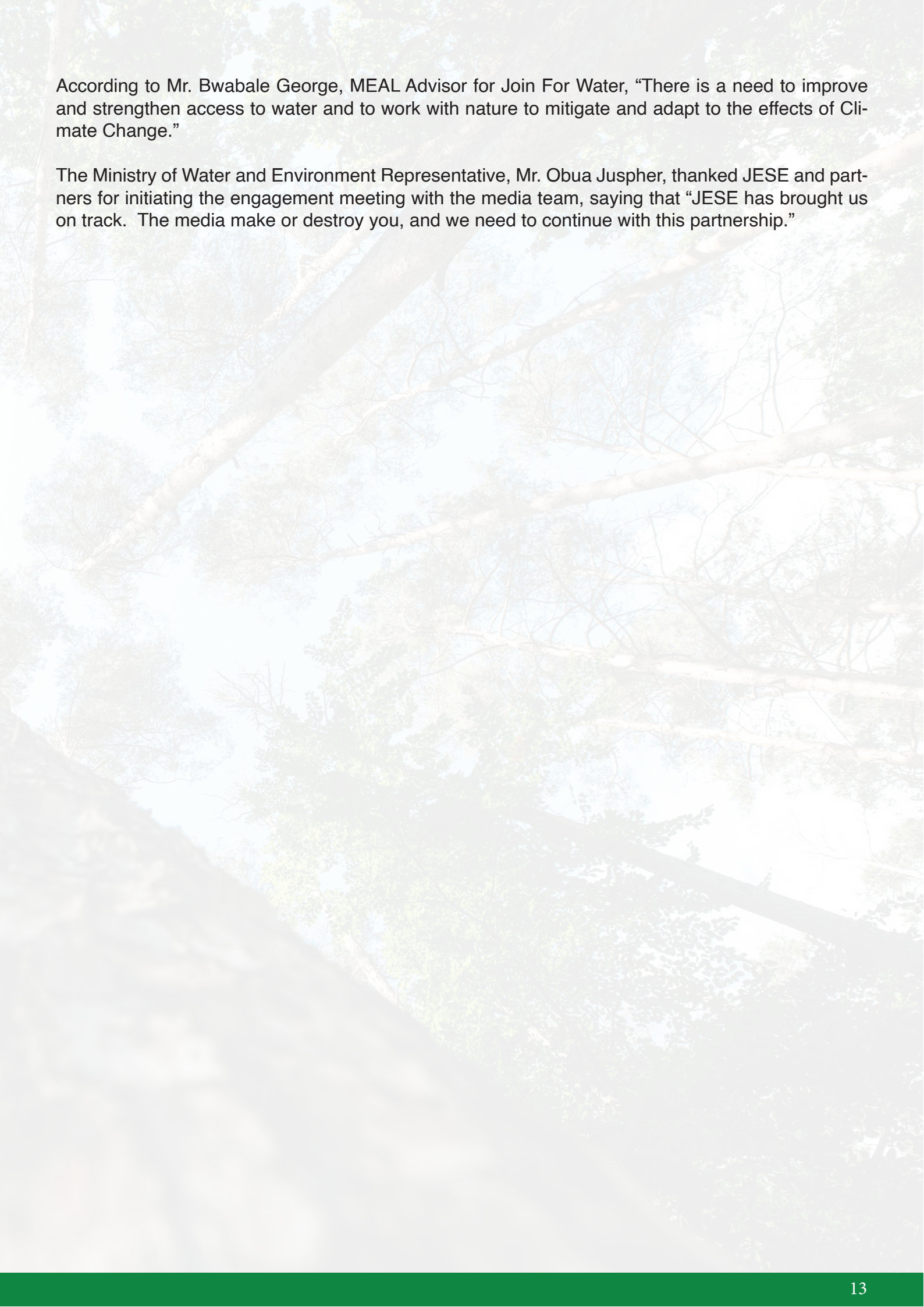


Mary is training and inspiring women farmers in goat rearing at her farm.

JESE AND PARTNERS CONDUCT AN ORIENTATION MEETING FOR THE MEDIA TEAM IN THE RWENZORI REGION.

On the 16th April 2025, Joint Effort to Save the Environment and Partners, National Resource Defense Initiative (NRDI), Kyaninga Forest Foundation (KFF), with funding from Join For Water, held a one-day orientation meeting targeting media houses in the Rwenzori region. The meeting aimed at sharing what JESE and her partners do, the geographical scope, how interventions are done, and brainstorming how to work more effectively and explore available opportunities.

The participants included representatives from: TV West, UBC, The Daily Monitor, Fort TV, Jubilee FM, Mountains of the Moon University FM, Sky TV, Next media, Ngabo FM, Voice of Tooro, Voice of Kamwenge, and The Ministry of Water and Environment- Albertian Water Management Zone, Fort Portal.



According to Mr. Bwabale George, MEAL Advisor for Join For Water, “There is a need to improve and strengthen access to water and to work with nature to mitigate and adapt to the effects of Climate Change.”

The Ministry of Water and Environment Representative, Mr. Obua Juspher, thanked JESE and partners for initiating the engagement meeting with the media team, saying that “JESE has brought us on track. The media make or destroy you, and we need to continue with this partnership.”



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