



RUCID CHAMPIONS ORGANIC AGRICULTURE TRAINING IN UGANDA

Documented by Mr. Ssebadduka Elisha | Principal at RUCID and vice chairperson of the Capacity building technical working group at FoSCU

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In a groundbreaking initiative, Rural Community in Development (RUCID), a member of the Food Safety Coalition of Uganda (FoSCU), is transforming the landscape of organic agriculture in Uganda. For two decades, this Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and training institution has been at the forefront of promoting rural development and organic farming practices.

Mr. Samuel Nyanzi, RUCID's Executive Director, shared his vision: *"We aim to be a leading organization in spreading healthy and sustainable food production and consumption practices across Uganda."* RUCID's commitment to organic agriculture is evident in its comprehensive approach, which includes training, organic pesticide production, biomedicine and cosmetics manufacturing, and marketing of organic produce.

The organization has recently launched an innovative program engaging local schools. Two nearby institutions- a primary and a secondary school have been selected for a hands on learning experience. RUCID staff and students visit weekly, teaching students about environmentally friendly land preparation, balanced diet, planting systems, and eco-friendly pest management.

In collaboration with **Body and Soil**, RUCID has initiated a program involving both students and parents to promote healthy food access at school and home. The newly operational Body and Soil Kitchen at RUCID serves as a training ground for students to prepare nutritious meals using local ingredients.

Student engagement has been remarkable, with clubs formed around Agriculture, Food Processing, and Nutrition and Cooking. Initially, the Nutrition and Cooking club was the most popular, but interest in Agriculture has grown significantly over time.

RUCID's impact extends beyond the classroom. Students from the RUCID Organic Vocational Training Institute participate in community outreach programs, emphasizing proper input application and withdrawal periods for crops and livestock. The organization's **"healthy soil, healthy food initiative"** has taken root in several districts, including Kasese, Mubende, Buyikwe, Mayuge, and Iganga.

As RUCID continues to expand its reach, it stands as a beacon of sustainable agriculture in Uganda, nurturing the next generation of organic farmers and promoting food safety across the country.

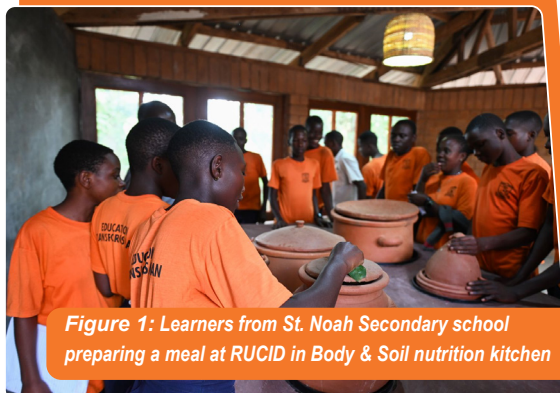


Figure 1: Learners from St. Noah Secondary school preparing a meal at RUCID in Body & Soil nutrition kitchen



Figure 2: Learners at community based primary school preparing plots for their school garden