



For immediate release

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Development in action goes live with FARM-Africa

The NGO FARM-Africa is part of a radical new development project that launches today in partnership with its sister organisation AMREF (The African Medical Research Foundation), The Guardian and Observer newspapers, Barclays and the community in Katine.

Katine – It Starts with a Village is an ambitious new project that will bring together different strands of development to help the people of Katine village in north-east Uganda improve their lives through improved access to health, education and livelihoods.

FARM-Africa is an NGO which has spent the last twenty-two years working to alleviate poverty in rural Africa, and is the livelihoods partner in this project will support the local people of Katine increase their incomes through improved agricultural practices.

During the three years of the project FARM-Africa will help the community to increase their incomes through the formation of rural innovation groups (farmers' groups) which will be used to help local farmers share knowledge of how best to increase agricultural productivity through new techniques and technologies. The communities' concerns about the environment and coping strategies to reduce the impact of climate change will also be discussed.

Training will be a significant focus of FARM-Africa's work with farmers receiving training on veterinary services agribusiness and marketing to increase the profitability of local agriculture for the community.

Dr Christie Peacock, CEO of FARM-Africa, said, "Our involvement in this unique project offers the public an opportunity to directly engage with the work of FARM-

Africa and fits into our organisational strategy to scale-up lessons learnt at the grassroots to increase the impact of poverty alleviation across Africa.”

The aim of this project is to improve the lives of those living in Katine and has the potential to produce a model that could be scaled-up or replicated with potential to reduce poverty for millions of rural Africans.

The three-year project will bring the public face-to-face with development through the Katine website- www.guardian.co.uk/katine - where a number of short films can be found, showing areas of life in the village, regular blogs and public debate around the issues of development will also take place on the site.

This is development in action and the findings will be documented by the Guardian team and local African journalists working with media NGO, Panos.

For more information go to www.guardian.co.uk/katine or visit www.amref.org.uk or www.farmafrica.org.uk

Notes to editors

For further information on FARM-Africa please contact Michael Newsom on 020 7430 0440 or go to www.farmafrica.org.uk

FARM-Africa

FARM-Africa (Food and Agricultural Research Management) is an international non-governmental organisation that aims to reduce poverty through developing innovative approaches to natural resource management in Africa. Through our projects in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania Southern Sudan and Uganda we work in partnership with marginal small-scale farmers and herders to improve the ways in which they farm their land. Working with a wide range of rural communities, we concentrate on four priority areas – Pastoral Development, Community Forest Management, Smallholder Development and Land Reform. With the international headquarters based in London, UK, we have country offices in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Tanzania and Sudan.

AMREF

For further information about AMREF, The African Medical and Research Foundation, please visit www.amref.org.uk