PROJECT INFORMATION:

Name of project:	Agriculture and Livestock Extension Program of BRAC Uganda
Donor:	Master Card Foundation, Wellspring
Implementing organization:	BRAC Uganda
M&E organization:	Research and Evaluation Unit, BRAC Uganda
Project start date:	October 2008
Project end date:	December 2010 (to be extended upto 2015)
Geographic coverage: (countries)	Uganda
Status of impact assessment (when are/were baselines to be conducted, what quantitative or qualitative assessments have been done, etc.)	• Baseline was conducted in November 2009 • Quantitative assessment method to be followed
To what extent is the project targeted to women?	All the target beneficiaries of the project are women.
Does this project aim to directly build assets, or would increases in assets be a secondary effect (e.g. project aims to increase incomes, but people might then invest in assets)**?**	The project aims to increase crop yield and livestock productivity by providing training and supplying quality inputs, i.e. improved seeds, vaccination, artificial insemination services.
What kinds of assets might have observable changes (for men or women)?	(For each type of capital below that you think your project may affect, please mention the kinds of assets that may be affected)
• **Natural capital (e.g. land, water):**	Land (brought more land under cultivation, increased productivity of land), ownership of land
• **Physical capital (e.g. housing, equipment, cell phones):**	Improved housing, bought household assets, control over physical assets
• **Financial capital (savings, credit, remittances):**	May have indirect influence on Credit (marginal farmers diversify non-farm business and increased their creditworthiness), control over financial asset
• **Social capital (e.g. group membership, connections, either within communities or with outsiders):**	Increased social network, beneficiaries would know each other more by social interaction or by using a common platform
• **Human capital (e.g. education, skills, health, nutritional status):**	The target beneficiary would learn new skill through capacity building training.

Brief abstract about the project—what is it trying to achieve, what is the strategy being used for integrating gender into project implementation and in M&E/impact evaluation? (max 1 page)

BRAC approach to Agricultural Extension Projects

The main challenge with the agriculture sector in Uganda is that small farmers face significant constraints - lack of information, training, credit support, and access to high quality agricultural inputs at affordable prices. Thus farmers in the country continue to be challenged by low yields and dismal levels of agricultural productivity.

BRAC's goal in working with farmers in Uganda is to help improve their productivity by encouraging them to forgo rudimentary traditional practices through:

- Training and access to information on crop production
- Providing credit services through the BRAC microfinance program
- Supplying high quality inputs – disease resistant seeds, fertilizers and pesticides at affordable cost
- Introducing technology-enabled farming (low lift pumps, power tillers etc.) at an experimental/demonstration level

BRAC Uganda is able to reach large number of farmers with the above services by leveraging the microfinance platform and its vast branch network throughout the country. Each branch has a community organizer who oversees the agriculture program. At the community level, the agricultural services are delivered through self-employed agriculture entrepreneurs who serve as outreach agents. These entrepreneurs are generally women farmers who are selected from among BRAC's microfinance members. In addition, BRAC recruits other members to serve as model farmers to create a demonstration effect in the community. Thus, traditional Government extension services are carried out by two main types of farmers under the agriculture program. By using a peer-to-peer bottom-up strategy BRAC ensures that poor women farmers are served first and benefit most but also serves the wider community. Thus the social entrepreneurship model in agriculture works for the women.

BRAC approach to Poultry & Livestock Projects

The Poultry & Livestock entrepreneurs constitute an important segment of BRAC's 'franchised' entrepreneurs delivering critical productivity-enhancing services in the Poultry & Livestock sector. The P & L entrepreneurs are women who are identified from the pool of BRAC borrowers in every branch. After selection, they are trained by the project assistants with the support of the project officers. P & L entrepreneurs are the key door-to-door outreach agents who deliver vital services including poultry vaccination, educating poultry farmers on housing, feeding, water management and disease prevention as well as livestock related services such as de-worming, best practices for housing and feeding of livestock, cattle breed selection and milking of livestock. The P & L entrepreneur earn a livelihood by charging a fee for some of the services they provide, such as poultry vaccination and cattle de-worming. Thus the social entrepreneurship model in poultry works for the women.

Another group of 'franchised' entrepreneurs in the Poultry & Livestock sector are the Artificial Insemination entrepreneurs (AI entrepreneur). About 90% of cattle breeds in Uganda are indigenous and thus most cattle rearers in the country are affected by low levels of milk production as well as meat production. The AI entrepreneurs are tasked with the job of improving the cattle breeds in the country by providing high quality AI services at affordable cost. The AI entrepreneurs are trained by BRAC and are supplied with the necessary equipment required for performing artificial insemination of cows. In addition, BRAC Uganda leverages its extensive branch network to set up a cold chain to supply the AI entrepreneurs with bull semen and liquid nitrogen, enabling them to effectively carry out insemination work.

Impact Evaluation of Agriculture and Livestock Projects

It is a non randomized evaluation. The treatment and control areas that are assigned based on geographical demarcation. The control areas are located within 6-9 km that are closest from the branch office while treatment areas are chosen within 4-6 km from the branch office. Regression Discontinuity method would be followed to see the

impact of the project. Baseline survey was conducted in June -Nov 2009. A mid-term survey also conducted in June 2010. The endline survey will be carried out in June-Nov 2011.