



### **Farming as family business through effective trainings and support from CIDI**

Way back in 2005, Matovu Jimmy from Rakai district, Kyotera had only 3 acres of land where he was planting Matoke and growing seasonal crops for food. There was hardly any surplus to sell. With the inception of CAPCA project of CIDI Rakai team in October 2006, he and his colleagues from Kitasiba village formed a group of 25 people called Akezimbira Kitasiba Group through which they were able to access support from the project.

At first, he was given two bags of cassava cuttings and 80 banana suckers which he planted on the 3 acres of land that he had where he had also planted 250 coffee trees by then. "Later on, the project gave me 500 coffee seedlings which helped me to increase the size of my garden and also planted some along the boundaries of my land. The cassava yielded a lot and I was able to sell over 10 bags of cassava and I also sold the cassava cuttings." Said Mr. Matovu.

Mr. Matovu could sell some banana once in a while. With increased training and more input support from CIDI (1500 coffee seedlings and a piggery unit stocked with 2 piglets). He was able to raise money to buy 10 extra acres of land from his neighbors. Since then his life has been transformed, he takes farming as a business because he is able to gain between 20,000 to 50,000 Shilling from his banana garden depending on the season, and he is harvesting 875 kgs of beans last season which he sold at shs 1,600 per kg, 420kgs of maize which I sold at shs 350 per kg, harvested 30 bags of coffee during the main coffee season from where he earned over 5.6 M.

The wife was at first hesitant to join him but she is now the supervisor of part of the banana plantation and also in charge of the proceeds from there. His children now go to good boarding schools.

