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2. Choose one or more of the targets of goal two. What are your observations and recommendations for addressing this target in your host country, based on your experience?

Goal Two: Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Based on my experience from living in the Kabale region of Uganda, I will respond to the SDG's goal two of zero hunger and will focus on target 2.3, "By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment".

The Kabale region of Uganda is a diverse landscape, where much of the land is used for cultivation. I have noticed that almost all the farming is done by small-scale, family producers. Farming is not only a source of income, but also very important to a household's food consumption. Productivity is important to local farmers, as they rely on the food they grow to feed their families. Due to lack of resources, people rely heavily on certain crops, that are cheap and easy to grow and can withstand the changes in the climate. This leads to a diet based on a few staple foods that are consumed year round, and this lack of variety and nutrients can lead to malnutrition. If there was a system in place for more financial help, small-scale family farmers could increase their production and grow a variety of crops year round. This would increase the nutritional intake to a household and help combat malnutrition in children.

Lack of capital to invest in agricultural tools such as, sprinkling systems, greenhouses or other growing aids, makes farmers very reliant on the weather. Climate change has taken a huge toll on local producers, as weather has become increasingly unpredictable. Crops suffer from draught, soil erosion and flooding; which in turn leads to less productivity and food consumption for a household. It is important to focus on creating capital or financial assistance for small-scale producers to access sprinklers and other farming aids that will help them in their growing process. It is interesting to see that most of the farming is done without the use of pesticides or fertilizers. This is important, as it can be quite costly and unsustainable to introduce foreign products into a farming practice. I think efforts should instead, be focused on introducing sustainable, cost effective practices. For example, use of compost is something that is not readily done in this area and I think could have a significant help to small-scale producers. Compost helps create nutrient rich soil and assists with waste management. Compost systems can be made with very little investment and could be sustained easily with just leftover food scraps and ground debris. As well, access to sprinklers would help farmers greatly, as they would not be so reliant on weather patterns. However, sprinklers are much more expensive and access to a water source can be quite challenging for some households.

Another important issue that target 2.3 brings up is secure and equal access to land. In rural communities, most households have a small plot of land that they will cultivate year round for their own use. If the soil or land is infertile, or a person does not have access to a piece of land, they will not have enough food to provide for their family. Without land, one is reliant

on buying food from another source which is very hard to do without much income. Those without the support of a family or the funds to buy land are at a huge disadvantage, and will suffer from hunger and poverty. I have heard that it is particularly hard for a woman to purchase a piece of land without a man. This leads to a huge disadvantage to those women who do not have a husband or have lost their husband to provide for themselves and their families. Those who are more wealthy are able to buy more land, and those without funds to invest will suffer even more. It is very important to create a system, specially in rural areas, where those without capital have access to land that they can grow crops. Land cooperatives, or community gardens so to speak, could be a solution to this. This would allow people without enough money or a family, to work together to buy or lease a small piece of land to farm.

In summary, people in Uganda, specifically the most vulnerable are reliant on producing food to sustain for themselves and their family. Already, people here seem to grow a lot with very little. With initiatives like farming cooperatives, equal access to land, access financial services, and knowledge, people will be able to support themselves and their families even more. Therefore, supporting a system that helps double productivity, with securing land access for the most vulnerable, is of upmost important to help reduce hunger, achieve food security and improve food nutrition.