

# Ox Plows Open Doors for Sudanese Farmers

Winrock International

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Lucia Angoth Maluth and her son using her newly purchased ox-plow.

**“Don’t be surprised to see me with over 50 feddans in less than three years.”**

**- Lucia Angoth Maluth**

Lucia Angoth Maluth lives with her 11 children and nine additional dependents in Gogorial West County in Warrap State of Southern Sudan. Lucia works hard to cultivate sorghum to feed her growing family. Like many other farmers in the area, Lucia was using a local farming tool to cultivate her land. Using this tool, she could not cultivate more than three feddans before the end of each planting period.

Training from the USAID-funded Sudan BRIDGE Program changed her life. Lucia first witnessed farmers using ox-plow technology during a visit to Western Bahr el Ghazal, and she was keen to apply these practices to her own land. Soon after, Lucia heard about training opportunities with BRIDGE and eagerly sent her adult son to participate. Lucia’s son and other farmers learned about ox-

plowing, a technology that has shown to reduce workloads and enable farmers to cultivate three to five times as much land. This is critical in a region where 1.5 million people, like Lucia, face severe food insecurity.

After the training, Lucia purchased three ox-plows and increased her cultivated land area from three feddans to 12. This has also enabled her to diversify crops, adding sesame and maize to her growing sorghum fields. Her income is further supplemented by renting her ox plows to three of her neighbors for 50SDG per day. With the promising harvest this year, Lucia is planning to sell some of the surplus grain at the Gogrial market and to any NGO looking for seeds. “I want to supply seeds to FAO in two years time and to compete with the northern traders in the big market,” says Lucia.

Lucia is just one of many farmers who have benefitted from training facilitated by BRIDGE. In the first nine months of work in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, and Unity states, BRIDGE has provided training to over 825 farmers and agricultural input suppliers on various topics, including ox-plowing. The ox-plow training enables farmers to test different ox plows and learn how to train their oxen.

The introduction of ox-plow technology has significantly increased incomes, as well as confidence, of Lucia and other Southern Sudanese farmers. “Don’t be surprised to see me with over 50 feddans in less than three years,” asserts Lucia.