



Less Than an Acre Program

PROGRAM BRIEF

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LOPAC Special Project

Less Than an Acre Program

Creating Higher Farm Income While Protecting Land for Family Food Production

Program Overview

The LOPAC Less Than an Acre Program is a special agricultural initiative designed for smallholder Farmer Members who have limited land available for commercial production.

The program focuses on identifying and developing high-value crops and farm products that can generate stronger income from smaller areas of land. Rather than encouraging farmers to place all available land into a single cash crop, LOPAC's approach recognises that household food security must remain a priority.

The objective is simple: help Farmer Members earn more from less land while preserving enough acreage to grow food for their families.

Why Less Than an Acre Matters

Many smallholder farmers have only a limited amount of land available. If too much of that land is committed to commercial crops, the household may become dependent on purchasing food that could otherwise have been grown at home.

LOPAC therefore looks at the farm as both:

- a source of family food security, and
- a potential source of household income.

The Less Than an Acre Program aims to balance both needs.

Instead of asking, "How much land can we put into a cash crop?" the program asks:

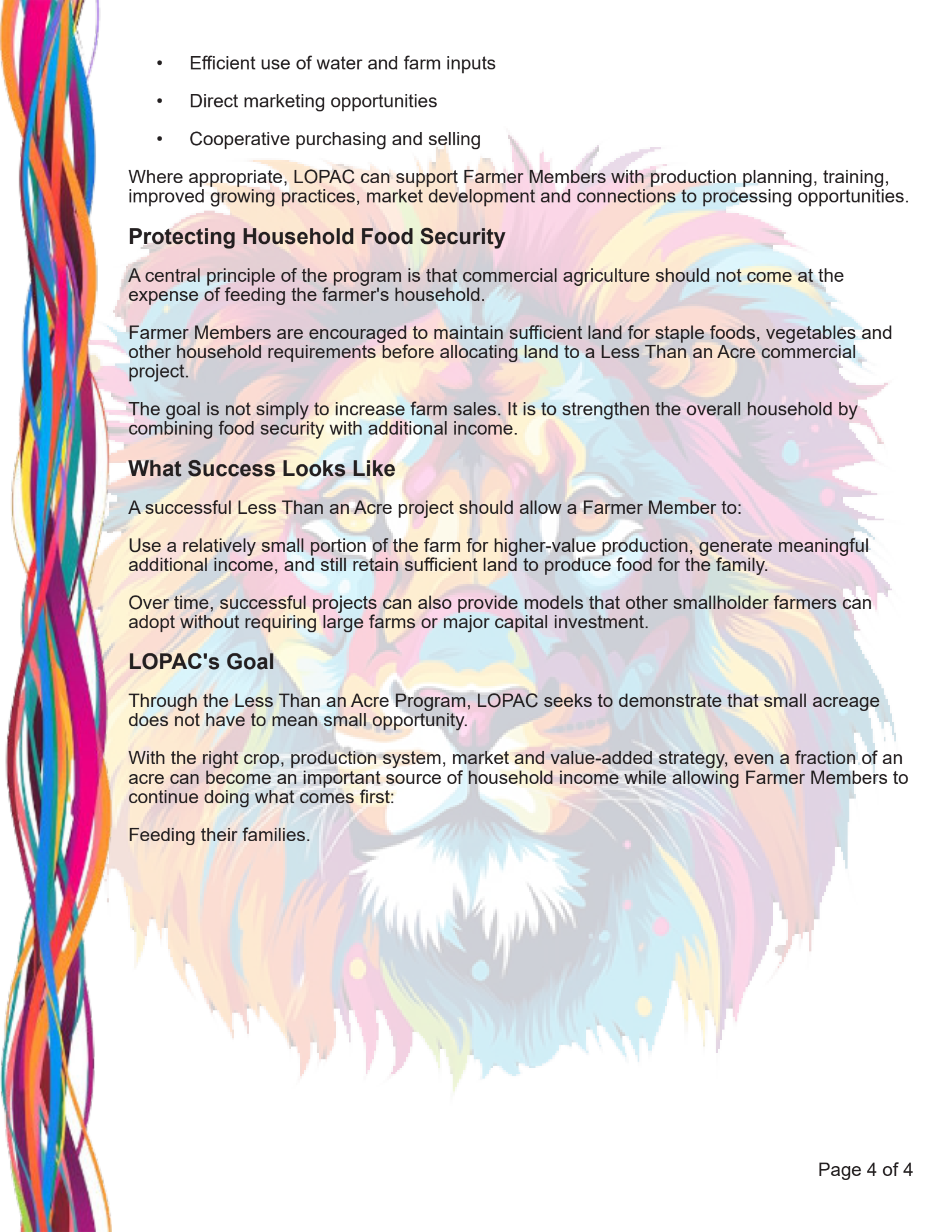
"What can we produce on a smaller area that provides the farmer with the greatest possible return?"

Program Approach

LOPAC works to identify crops and value-added products that are suitable for intensive production on small plots and that have the potential to achieve higher returns per square metre or per acre.

Projects may include crops or products that benefit from:

- Higher market value
- Shorter production cycles
- Multiple harvests
- Local processing or value addition
- Strong or underserved markets

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- Efficient use of water and farm inputs
 - Direct marketing opportunities
 - Cooperative purchasing and selling

Where appropriate, LOPAC can support Farmer Members with production planning, training, improved growing practices, market development and connections to processing opportunities.

Protecting Household Food Security

A central principle of the program is that commercial agriculture should not come at the expense of feeding the farmer's household.

Farmer Members are encouraged to maintain sufficient land for staple foods, vegetables and other household requirements before allocating land to a Less Than an Acre commercial project.

The goal is not simply to increase farm sales. It is to strengthen the overall household by combining food security with additional income.

What Success Looks Like

A successful Less Than an Acre project should allow a Farmer Member to:

Use a relatively small portion of the farm for higher-value production, generate meaningful additional income, and still retain sufficient land to produce food for the family.

Over time, successful projects can also provide models that other smallholder farmers can adopt without requiring large farms or major capital investment.

LOPAC's Goal

Through the Less Than an Acre Program, LOPAC seeks to demonstrate that small acreage does not have to mean small opportunity.

With the right crop, production system, market and value-added strategy, even a fraction of an acre can become an important source of household income while allowing Farmer Members to continue doing what comes first:

Feeding their families.