

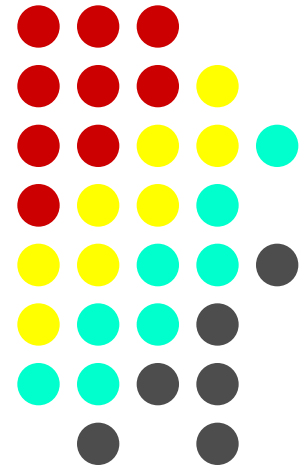
# Riddling, Agriculture and Food Security

**“Internationalization of Higher Education  
for Sustainable Development (IHESD)”**

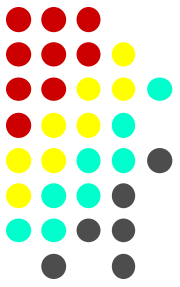
**4IIC 2017**

**Kyambogo University, Kampala Uganda**

**August 1st - 4th 2017**



# Presenter



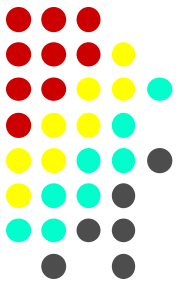
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- Fellow, AHP/ACLS, 2010
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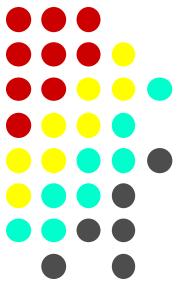
# Outline



This presentation covers:

- Why riddles and riddling?
- Problem, Scope and Methodology
- Process, Findings and Results
- Examples of riddles
- Observations, Analysis, Outcomes
- Conclusions
- Policy Implications

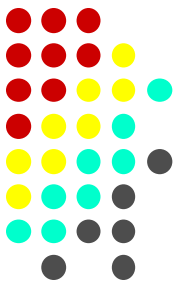
# Defining the riddle



Aristotle defines a riddle as a “perfection of style” that uses “lofty” diction in the “expression of true facts.” (Poetics XXII: 22).

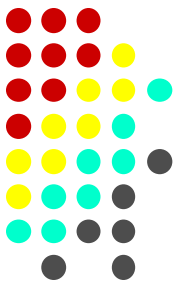
Bukenya, et.al (1994) define riddles as “clever statements, events, allegories, puzzles, games, appearances and experiences that are spoken, written, seen, touched, felt, imagined, done, and heard.”

I define the riddle as a distinct form of social communication that uses metaphor and indirection to address issues of interest in the lives of the people and their communities.



## Characteristics of the riddle

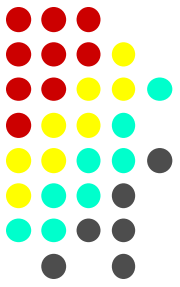
- The riddle sets up a balance between concealing and revealing.
- It presents interpretative challenges that must be ultimately (re)solved.



## Status of the riddle

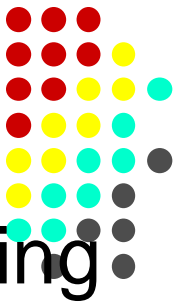
- Riddle enforces particular ethics/ethos; and
- Places the audience-participant into an initial position of ignorance until certain connections fall into place [Frame].

# Why riddling?



- Riddling uses concealment in riddle precedents as the main text to initiate debate or discussion.
- Riddling promotes consensus building among people in discourse.
- Riddling provides opportunity for people to talk and share knowledge in public while excluding those for whom it is unintended.
- Riddling is multidisciplinary, cross-gender, pluralistic, interesting, task-oriented.

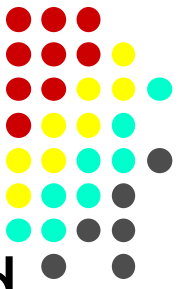
# Values of riddling



- Riddling builds on contextual clues thus making society the source of its own progress / innovation.
- Riddling builds collective knowledge bases for the community. This allows everyone to make a contribution regardless of their status.
- Riddles expose, discuss, appreciate and deliberate on issues of common good, like food, health, security.
- Riddles train people to **become who they are!!!**



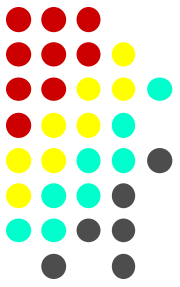
# Agriculture and Food Security



- Agriculture is anything to do with farming and farming practices, both crop and animal husbandry.
- Food security is the degree of possession, accession and utilization of foodstuff or provisions.

Ordinarily, agriculture refers to crop farming.  
?agri-buziness, agri-tainment, agri-culture.

# Problem - Questions

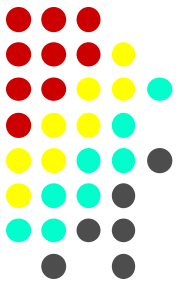


How come many people in Busoga perform riddles on food, farming and agricultural practices?

What lessons are there to learn from riddling?

Why is riddling so popular among children, women and men in Busoga?

# Scope & Context



The study interprets:

10 selected Kisoga riddle acts

Performed by:

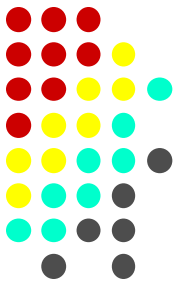
Nsinze Seed School, August 21 2009

Edhikolyoka Mailo Mixed Group, Aug. 24, 2009

At:

Nsinze village in Namutumba district, Busoga

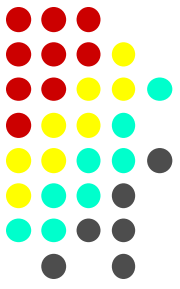
# Methodology



The theory of Contextual linguistic enquiry:

- Integrated communication activities
- Context : environment
- Language use: diction

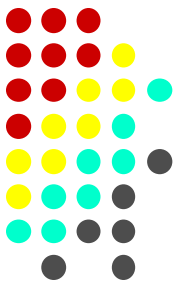
# Riddles on agricultural sci



- K.36: *Wansi mmere, wakati nku, waigulu iva* –  
**Below is food, the middle is firewood, above  
vegetable.** (Nanyange Agnes, Edhikolyoka:  
Nsinze, 24.08.2009)
- K.26: *Suntumala nkulye ebilegenda - Squat and I  
r(ea(t)p off you the dangling things.*

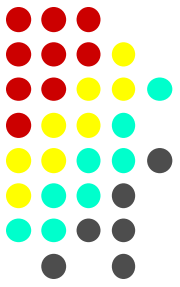
Discussions on food, firewood and vegetal source; as well as height, posture, eating, sharing, tapping into something.

# Riddling – Okukoikoza!



- Food underneath ... could mean root tubers such as potatoes, c., yams, carrots, ...
- Mid firewood ... eliminates all except c...
- Above vegetable ... affirms the c.. plant
- What knowledge does the riddle give on the c... plant? [ c... crop value chain]
- Is the c... plant a food secure crop?
- What of the other crops with similar characteristics as the c... [precedent]?
- What knowledge on food security is riddle cast?

# Riddles on food security



Agya t'ayagha akira, 'Nnalyagaana eyo' –  
whoever goes while picking up is better  
than, 'I will find it there'.

Mulwa kuyoola, alya na abaleebeesi. –  
One who delays to collect, eats with  
idlers.

Community has concerns on agricultural  
productivity, food-stuff and food security.

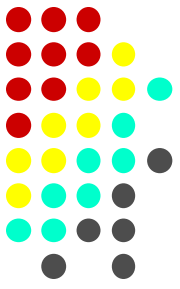


# Observations

- Refreshing peoples' power of observation
- Expressing society's practices e.g. agricultural
- Observing insightful innovations
- Influencing teamwork in knowledge creation
- Encouraging value addition (to the crop)
- Raising keenness and art of communication.
- Enlivening well-being and socialisation
- Instilling core values and benefits (individual and group)

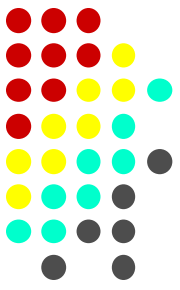


# Possible outcomes



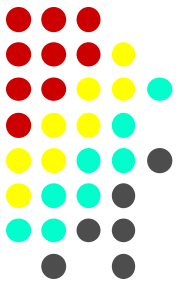
- Riddling interaction may raise the awareness about the quality of farming and quantity of production as it critically evaluates the utility[zation].
- Assessing developments and challenges facing the farmer.
- Social interactions in riddling could sharpen the mind of the audience participants to (re) think broadly and act specially/ specifically.
- Engaging in riddling could promote love of farming and learning on any subject in riddling.

# Conclusions



- Riddling serves in crafting deeper knowledge [on agriculture and farming practices].
- Riddle agricultural entertainment (agritainment), provides enjoyment and learning about [farming and food].
- Riddles provide critical thinking and innovation skills that teach and delight society on matters critical and important.

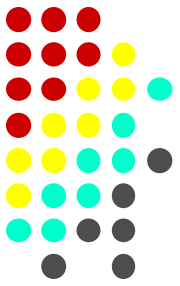
# Policy Implications



- Riddle precedents on food, food production and agricultural science proves Busoga as a food basket.
- Riddling as a source of knowledge, knowledge creation and innovation could be tapped into by policy makers to enact evidence based policies on language and agriculture.
- School should find how best to integrate riddling in their curriculum.

# Acknowledgements

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- Dr. Okot Benghe, Makerere University
- Dr. Susan N. Kiguli, Makerere University
- Mr. Dawson & Mrs. Petwa Wambi, Nsinze
- Mr. Piisooni & Mrs. Robinah Baamugha, Nsinze
- AHP/ACLS, 2010





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Thank you!