

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Kenya

Project/Initiative Title: Isiolo Food Security

Nos. farmers: 212

Hectares: 200

Agro-Ecological Zone: II

Improvement types

1x	2	3	4	5x	6x	7	8	9
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Success and Limits to spread

Success	Limits
1b,3c,3e	2b,3a,3e,5b,7b

A. Key Impacts

A1 – Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Sorghum /millet			15

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

- ?? Soil and water conservation structures have been dug across steep grounds (and stop above 5%).
- ?? Area has few streams and pollution can't be assessed.
- ?? We have started planting seedlings. Seedlings planted in 1991 are over 3 metres tall.
- ?? Inter-cropping has been widely adopted.

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

- ?? Land not decimated and no change in wages and land prices.
- ?? Very slight migration into the farm.
- ?? No change to access to credit to poor groups.
- ?? No decrease in financial or other incentives to encourage farmers participation.
- ?? We have trained 52 contact farmers who have trained at least 4 others. We have also trained 72 community Animal Health advisors
- ?? There are community development groups: 21 groups active in development

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

- ?? Income has increased by about 60%.
- ?? Food availability has increased during the short rains. But when drought strikes, relief food is inevitable.
- ?? Farmers are better in coping with drought: there is storage aspect in the program,
- ?? Our target groups have been the poor and marginalized and therefore they are the beneficiaries of our project.

- ?? Poor have benefited by assurance of food security.
- ?? Pastoralists have their livestock improve their conditions, the gap between poor and rich have slightly narrowed.

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

- ?? 52 contact farmers and 160 follow up farmers.
- ?? Total area cannot be quantified because we deal with small-scale farmers.
- ?? Total number of beneficiaries is about 800 people.
- ?? There is some slight copying by farmers from the neighbouring areas.

In Turkana community:

- ?? We have decentralised community based animal health services: we train volunteer animal health attendants and give them drugs on credit.
- ?? We have seen a decrease of tick born diseases from 70% - 10%.
- ?? Survival rate of infant mortality of goats have gone down from 40% - 70%. Animal (goats) mature earlier by 3 months.
- ?? All of the above achieved within 4 years.

In Meru community:

- ?? There has been a 15% increase in yields of drought to reliant cultivars e.g. sorghum, millets, cow peas and maize.
- ?? Proportion of farmers practising sustainable agriculture is 60%. Our target groups within 4 years: input cost has gone down.

Food availability has risen but when a severe drought the improvements are not sufficient

B. Types of Sustainable Agriculture Improvements

- Type 1: Better use of available renewable natural capital
- Type 2: Intensification of single sub-component of farm system
- Type 3: Diversify by adding new productive natural capital and regenerative components
- Type 4: Better use of non-renewable inputs and technologies
- Type 5: Social and participatory processes leading to group action for making better use of natural capital
- Type 6: Human capital building through training-learning programmes
- Type 7: Access to Finance
- Type 8: Add value by processing to reduce losses and increase returns
- Type 9: Add value by direct or organised marketing of produce to consumers

	Yes/No	Narrative
Type 1	x	?? Water harvesting for crop production. ?? Inter-cropping - Integrated pest management. ?? Agroforestry and use of mulches - soil and water conservation in mixed farming.
Type 2		
Type 3		
Type 4		
Type 5	x	?? 21 groups formed ?? We strengthen the community institutions (community

		development groups). Groups prioritise their needs also identify their resources and the missing means.
Type 6	x	<p>?? We always start with participatory community need assessment.</p> <p>?? We also practice continuous participatory monitoring and evaluation. Community is always involved in planning, implementation, and evaluation.</p> <p>?? We practice farming system approach to extension and as much as possible. Works with group.</p>
Type 7		
Type 8		
Type 9		

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C3 – Limitations preventing spread

Macro-economic factors:

- ?? Structural adjustment.
- ?? Unstable market prices.
- ?? Unfavourable exchange rates.

National factors:

- ?? Over emphasis of support for high external input. Agricultural activities and input.
- ?? Lack of support for sustainable agriculture activities by the central government.

Organizational:

- ?? Inflexible approaches/rigid time scale.

C4 – Policy issues

Lack of support for sustainable agriculture activities by the central government.

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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