

# SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

**Country: Kenya**

Project/Initiative Title: Kowuor Farmer Association in Rural Area of Siaya District

Nos. farmers: 40

Hectares: 20

Agro-Ecological Zone: III

Improvement types

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

Success	Limits
1a,1b	3a,5a,5b,6a,6b,7a,7b

## A. Key Impacts

### ***A2 – Impacts on natural capital***

- ?? There has been a very high decline in the application of pesticides/fertilizers. Farmers used fertilizers and they have been discouraged due to unpredictable rainfall. Once they apply, crops get dried in cases of little rainfall.
- ?? Also due to little training on how to use the same, most farmers have been affected by different diseases like skin, chest and eye.
- ?? Soil erosion has been controlled as most farmers were trained how to build gabious terraces.
- ?? Soil fertility has been improved in the project area.
- ?? There has been a great change in the number of plants used by farmers. Most of them are for food crops which increase their yields.
- ?? They have also started keeping small animals like sheep, goats, pigs and rabbits. - We found that if a farmer keeps for example, sheep rather than large ruminants he reduces the risk of total loss of his animals. "Imagine a farmer with ten sheep and another farmer with one cow. Suppose an epidemic reaches the area and an average of 60% of all animals die. Six of the sheep die, but the sheep farmer is still left with four. It is probable that the cow will die so the second farmer is left with no animals". An experience after reading the book "Sheep" by Roth M. Gatenby.
- ?? Water awareness.
- ?? The area is cleaner.
- ?? Forest cover has been reduced but most areas where there were forests has been improved by afforestation, as it was proposed that once you cut one tree you plant three.
- ?? Inter-cropping has increased as mono-cropping used to exhaust the nutrients in the soil.
- ?? There has been no major change in groundwater recharge as most wells have been preserved and trees and undergrowth upstream are not interfered with.

### ***A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)***

- ?? There is a great change in labour wage and prices for example, ten years ago, a man used work on a farm for six hours and he would be paid only US \$0.25 and nowadays it is

around US \$0.75 for the same period. An acre of land used to cost US \$100 and now it is US \$700.

- ?? There has been very little change as regards to access to credit of poor groups with little or no collateral as there must be some guarantors before such a step is taken. A farmer used not to save any money by then. They used to store their produce instead.
- ?? Food availability is low as most farmers sell their produce and remain with little money after using most of it. The farmers involved in the project are better because during hunger they buy food from neighbouring districts with the money they had saved.
- ?? They also cope with the environmental change and market changes. Once there is a change in environment e.g. climate and weather, the trained men will inform them of what to do.
- ?? On the market they sell their produce according to what is needed by the time, e.g. some months the prices are low so they store them until the prices go up. There has been about 60% improvement in the living standards of the vulnerable groups.
- ?? There has been an increase of about 80% of the members who are now settled.
- ?? The richer are also trying to help the poorer groups. The landed have tried to raise some money so that the landless can also be settled.

**A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)**

There has been about 60% improvement in the living standards of the vulnerable groups.

**A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system**

- ?? The area of the project where the farmers live is about 20 hectares and is occupied by about 30-40 families.
- ?? The rate of production of crops has increases compared to last year's.
- ?? Livestock yield has increased and also milk production.
- ?? The first five years after the beginning of the project, it took about two years for farmers to know the importance of farming. It is now ten years since we started and we can see that the economy of the farmers has improved compared to when we started.
- ?? About 25 farms have adopted sustainable agriculture approaches. The area being about 20 ha. where the project of sustainable agriculture approaches is used. The number of people benefiting from the positive impacts are about 300 people. A few farmers have copied the approach only that they have not formed groups. Each farmer is doing it individually and borrowing ideas from our group.

**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
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Type 1	x	<p>?? There have been new approaches e.g. in integrated pest management, the farmers are using local plants to kill pests, The juices are extracted from their leaves then they sprinkle the leaves of vegetable legumes and tomatoes. This reduces the use of pesticides. Safety gadgets are not available so we are still looking willing donors to help us buy them.</p> <p>?? Rotation of crops have increased the yields as continuous mono-cropping exhausts the land.</p> <p>?? Inter-cropping. Farmers divide their farms into small portions. This one helps in pest management. They prefer it to inter-cropping where the plants are mixed together.</p> <p>?? Livestock manure has been very important as the farmers find that it is cheap and chemical free. Most farmers store the manure and use it during planting period.</p> <p>?? Composts have been very important. At first they used to burn but after keen advice the farmers dig pits and throw it where it rots</p> <p>?? Contour farming has been introduced where they build ridges and plant crops.</p>
Type 2	x	?? Silt traps have been formed by farmers.
Type 3	x	<p>?? Green manures have been used since the inception of the project. In agroforestry the farmers are trying to plant trees when once they cut any tree down</p> <p>?? In mulching, the farmers cover crops with leaves. They don't burn leaves any more.</p> <p>?? Cover crops are also grown.</p> <p>?? Poultry has been started.</p>
Type 4		
Type 5		
Type 6	x	<p>?? Farmers have been encouraged to: have group meetings to discuss the different types of problems they come across - they have community studies whereby each group is to present their findings after their study. They plan their work before new projects are initiated. They do more research in using manure and pesticides. They try to use local plants for such.</p> <p>?? They create more room for further extension in their farms.</p> <p>?? Those who keep poultry have extended from local-breed to cross-breed</p>
Type 7		
Type 8		
Type 9		

### C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

#### ***C1 – Key Lessons Learned***

To achieve the above factors, farmers have been encouraged by the following procedures and linkages. The few trained farmers have tried to train others in the project area. In any case there is a problem to be solved, farmers try to consult those who know better who in turn help them. Most farmers take their working time in their farms to improve their yields.

Up to this moment there is no external way of working that is important.

***C3 – Limitations preventing spread***

- ?? Structural adjustment policies have seriously affected the project's plans since 1993. This has made it most impossible for loans to be granted to farmers.
- ?? Unstable market prices have also affected farmers as during harvest, the prices are low which forces most of them to store the produce and leads to loss due to poor storage. They mainly work on their farms in groups then move to next farm. This system has caused a problem during plating because they cannot plant at the same time.
- ?? Due to the unreliable rainfall they do not plant at once. Some plants will do better than others. Those with loans cannot repay due to the climatic conditions. Most of the farmers are doing things through ignorance. Because we have a few trained personnel, the farmers lack the correct knowledge as it does not reach them to give the farmers the little they know.
- ?? The roads leading to the farms are impassable during rainy seasons. This leads to farmers helpless in transporting their produce.
- ?? Proper research is not done because those who are trained are not properly equipped with most agricultural knowledge.
- ?? Political unrest is also another constrain to development.
- ?? In some areas, loans are not easily reached from the government. This leads to under-development in such areas. The project farmers are still appealing to any donors who can help them start other businesses to improve their income. Their proposed project is to start a small workshop where they can train their children after leaving school to reduce unemployment. After they have trained they can start small businesses. The workshop is to train in manufacture of cheap agricultural implements, ox-carts, furniture building materials like bricks, tiles and fabricated hummer mills for milling the cereals like maize, millet, sorghum which are their main food crops.

***C4 – Policy issues***

Structural adjustment policies have seriously affected the project's plans since 1993. This has made it most impossible for loans to be granted to farmers.

**D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative**

Andrew Odamna Oliyo Rural Farmers' Association Mumias Sugar Company Ltd C/o Field Workshop Private Bag Mumias Kenya
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