

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Kenya

Project/Initiative Title: MUMIAS EDUCATION FOR EMPOWERMENT
1998

Scale: Many communities Nos. farmers: 2069 Hectares: 217 ha

Agro-Ecological Zone: III

Improvement types

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

Success	Limits
3c,6a	7

A. Key Impacts

A1 – Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Beans	300 kg/ha	600 kg/ha	100
Groundnut	300 kg/ha	600 kg/ha	100

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

- ?? Soil fertility increased by leguminous crops and green manure
- ?? Soil erosion minimised by crop cover

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

It has enhanced farmers cohesion and ability to generate income. It has significantly contributed toward building community social capital base.

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

In the project area malnutrition is estimated to affect 24% of the population therefore this intervention has contributed significantly to the nutritional status of children as it is rich in proteins. It has regenerated confidence and ability among the community.

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

- ?? The food produced Stays longer without destruction by pests
- ?? *Changes in input use:* Most of the project in-puts are cheap or locally available and also less harmful to the soil hence most farmers changing from use of chemicals .
- ?? *Change in local/ regional food security:* The food security period at household level increased from 1 – 3 months to 3 – 6 months
- ?? Improved farm management
- ?? Increased protein food and income at household level
- ?? Regeneration of dignity among the poor households practising

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	?? Raised beds
Type 2	x	
Type 3	x	?? Cover crops ?? Green manure ?? Integrated pest management
Type 4		
Type 5	x	REFLECT process is being used. -This is a structured participatory learning process that facilitates the socially and economically disadvantaged people to critically analyse their environment
Type 6	x	The key in-put is education for empowerment
Type 7		
Type 8		
Type 9		

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C1 – Key Lessons Learned

Sustainable agriculture practices are easily adopted by poor community members and practised due to it being less expensive and can show results.

C2 – Aspects of local/national context contributing to success

The aspect of poverty that manifest itself through malnutrition, inadequate food availability, high infant mortality rates and illiteracy. There is also consistent collaboration with partners within the locality.

C3 – Limitations preventing spread

There is still limited knowledge on sustainable agriculture to both the community and field facilitators.

C4 – Policy issues

- ?? Lack of economic ability
- ?? Inadequate capacity

C5 – Scaling-up

Needed:

- ?? Increased knowledge/skills on sustainable agriculture to project staff [staff capacity]
- ?? Limited personnel to reach out many farmers
- ?? Minimal financial support

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

FRANCISCA MATE
P. O. BOX 213,
MUMIAS
TEL:0333-41476
E-mail: Mefe@africaonline.co.ke or Mate@maf.or.ke

E. Project Narrative

The MEFE project works with some 2070 households in Kakamega, and area of western Kenya characterised by high rates of rural malnutrition, infant mortality and non-literacy. Severe food insecurity affected 1 in 4 people before the project, with many households only food secure for 1-3 months per year.

The project uses a structured learning process (REFLECT) to encourage all groups to analyse critically their own environment and to seek new solutions based on locally-available resources. The project uses a range of integrated pest management methods together with legumes, cover crops and green manures for soil fertility improvement. Raised beds have been incorporated on farms to increase vegetable production. As a result, beans and groundnut yields have doubled from 300 to 600 kg/ha. The project reports that the food security period has improved to 36 months for a typical household. The increased consumption of protein particularly benefits child health.

Source: Francisca Mate, James Atema