



IMPROVING SMALLHOLDER PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITABILITY

In Kenya, significant political attention has been toward the improvement of food staples productivity, both to offset the rapidly increasing costs of food imports and to stimulate increased incomes and food security at the household level. However, many smallholder farmers, particularly in the semi-arid areas are unable to participate in the supported food staples value chains. Geographic barriers like remoteness, and poor access to natural resources such as water, limit market participation of smallholder farmers in these regions. To overcome these challenges, the Improving Smallholder Productivity and Profitability (ISPP) project is building smallholder farmers' skills in agricultural production, water management and in farming as a business in five semi-arid counties.



Domonic Mailu, a smallholder farmer in Makueni County, uses irrigation technologies he learned from a USAID training to increase his farm's productivity. Since he employed water harvesting techniques, he no longer relies on relief food to feed his family during drought.

Photo: USAID

ISPP is increasing household food security and nutrition through improved access and efficient management of water, the use of climate-resilient agricultural practices and agribusiness promotion. The project supports 80,000 households improve their farm productivity and food security.

Expanding agricultural productivity

In order to identify gaps in their knowledge about agriculture, ISPP involves farmers in a participatory needs assessment to discuss their success with various crops, demand for water and irrigation, family nutrition needs, access to markets to sell their products, and their experience with applying for credit. In the process, farmers learn innovative ways to maximize agricultural productivity, and make decisions about changing their farming practices to optimize their agricultural output. ISPP then builds on this experience by facilitating links to resources such as agricultural extension agents, water user associations, farmers associations, commercial banks, other development activities, and buyers and traders in their area.

Improving the nutritional status of women and children

The project trains farmers to grow and consume a diversity of high-value, nutritious crops. They learn the importance of maintaining vegetable gardens for home consumption and about appropriate food safety, preparation, preservation and storage practices. ISPP links farmers with health extension agents to continue the learning process and improve household health, particularly for women and children.



Transitioning from subsistence to commercial farming

There are many commercialization constraints small-scale farmers face in Kenya including a fragmented link between production and marketing, a lack of understanding and planning based on market prices, or storage practices that are not in line with commercial approaches. Many smallholder farmers need to be supported in realizing their commercial farming ambitions, particularly through more innovative collective action models that combine the strengths of the public and private sectors.

ISPP is supporting farmers to learn critical new skills in water harvesting, post-harvest handling of crops, pest management, climate resilient practices, how to develop a farm budget, a marketing strategy, and when to purchase crop insurance. Farmers are developing and honing their negotiation skills, and are capitalizing on benefits associated with collective action, to share crop storage expenses and to pool crops to negotiate higher prices with larger buyers.

www.feedthefuture.gov

BUDGET: \$7 Million

DURATION: 2016-2020

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

KEY PARTNERS

- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation
- County government of Machakos, Makueni, Kitui, Tharaka Nithi and Taita Taveta
- Kenya Integrated Water, Sanitation and Health Project
- Kenya Crops and Dairy Market Systems Activity
- United Nations World Food Program
- Accelerated Value Chains Development
- Kenya Red Cross
- Twiga Foods Ltd.
- Frigoken Ltd.
- Fresh Vegetable Exporters
- Runa Investment
- Eastern Africa Maltings Ltd

ACHIEVEMENT SNAPSHOTS

- **75,078** smallholder households trained
- **45,814** farmers applied technologies
- **41,200 Ha** under improved technologies
- **USD 3,290,778** value of incremental sales
- **USD 242,258** credit to value chain actors

USAID KENYA AND EAST AFRICA

Joseph Oyuga
Agreement Officer Representative
Office of Economic Growth and Integration
Tel: +254-20-363-2000
Email: joyuga@usaid.gov

PARTNER CONTACT

Barrack Okoba, Project Manager
UN Food and Agriculture Organization
Email: barrack.okoba@fao.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: usaidkea@usaid.gov
Website: www.usaid.gov/kenya
Facebook: USAIDKenya
Twitter: @USAIDKenya