

## Success Story 3.

### Increased Yields and Income to Small-Scale Farmers, Kakamega County

#### Mr Richard Ameta Majengo

Mr Richard Ameta Majengo is a farmer from Lugari location, Lugari ward, Lugari Sub County of Kakamega County. He is 64 years old with two wives and eight children who depend on him. His 2 roomed house sits on slightly more than one acre of land (1.4 Acres) where he plants maize and beans and rears poultry. The food consumption for his family per year is 10-12 bags of maize.

He got 27 (90 kg) bags of maize per acre from a previous 13 bags per acre. There was no space to store the harvested grain and he had to convert his sitting room into a store while he moved to the kitchen. He first heard of the programme (KCEP-CRAL) in a baraza that had been called by the chief of the area. He was sensitized on what the programme was, its modalities of operation, goals and was issued with forms that he filled. He was selected as a beneficiary and was very grateful.

#### KCEP-CRAL Intervention

The farmer was enrolled as a KCEP-CRAL beneficiary during the 2016 planting season and got the complete e- voucher package comprising of seed (10 Kg 6,218 (USD 62) maize seed and 16 Kg Rose coco bean seed), planting/basal fertilizer, top dress fertilizer, hermetic bags and a tarpaulin. He only contributed 10% of the total input package which was around Ksh 2,100 (USD 21) only. This package was arrived at after a careful and participatory approach that involved various stakeholders led by the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).

The farmer was trained on a variety of topics by

the agricultural officers e.g. good agronomic practices, climate smart agriculture, soil fertility and post-harvest management. He also got more training through field demonstrations and field days. This enabled the farmer to learn on how to best utilize his land and maximize on its productivity.

#### Before Intervention

Before joining the programme, Mr Ameta used to get 10 to 13 (90Kg) bags of maize per acre. The county average is 12 bags per acre so the farmer has been hard working but what he realized after KCEP-CRAL intervention is that the way they have been intercropping maize and beans in the past was wrong. He used to put maize and bean seed in one hole and the fertilizer applied was for both crops. This meant there was competition for the little resources by the crops.

The programme trained him on planting only one maize seed per hole and the beans were planted separately in a line in between the maize rows. Each crop was allocated a fertilizer with separate planting rates. This he realized has been the missing link all along.

#### After Intervention

After following this guidance, he was able to harvest 27 bags per acre of shelled maize which was double what he used to get.

#### Unique Attributes of Beneficiary

- He attended all trainings by the programme in person
- He followed strictly what he was taught
- He planted on time
- He used the total input package he was given



## Success Story 3 (continued).

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### Beneficiary testimony

He appreciated that the secret to success in maize/beans intercrop is the technology of planting ("The KCEP way"). He was planning to expand his maize production and build a store from the sales of his produce. He acknowledged that the good production had made him get visitors from very far (He was visited by the IFAD mission of November 2016). He said he would buy a heifer and name it KCEP.

### Challenges

- Harsh weather conditions experienced in the month of May 2016 that led to him harvesting only two bags of beans
- The fertilizer was issued late, this led to some farmers planting late and this is a cause for disease and pest infestation
- Lack of adequate storage facility



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