

Success Story 5.

Improved Business Income, Tharaka Nithi County

Domenica Igoji George

Mrs. Domenica Igoji George hails from Mukothima ward, Thiiti location of Tharaka North sub County, Tharaka Nithi County. She is a small scale farmer who since joining the programme (KCEP-CRAL) as “Category 1” beneficiary, has been able to embrace appropriate farming technologies and achieved good crop yields way beyond her achievements before.

Beneficiaries Profile

Mrs. Domenica Igoji George is a farmer with a household comprising 8 members (4 young females, 2 young males, 1 adult male and 1 adult female). She cultivates sorghum four acres and one acre of green grams. She began farming in 1979 and since then crop yields have been dropping steadily to an extent of achieving low or no harvest.

KCEP-CRAL Intervention

The farmer enrolled as “Category 1” beneficiary in 2016 and received inputs and training which has enabled her to improve on crop yields and income. She has been able to improve sorghum yields from 7 bags / acre to 19.5 bags / acre with KCEP-CRAL intervention.

The farmer was provided with the following inputs

ITEM	QUANTITY
Sorghum seed	4kg
Green gram seed	4kg
Fertilizer 23:23:0	2x50kg bags
Pesticide – Engeo	100 mm
Foliar fertilizer -Omex	1 litre
Tarpoline	1
Hermetic bags	10

Trainings

The farmer together with other members of Kagurini farmer group has received training on GAP, post-harvest management and financial management thereby acquiring skill and knowledge.

BEFORE PROGRAM INTERVENTION	AFTER PROGRAM INTERVENTION
-Had little knowledge on farming techniques -Believed fertilizer destroys soil	Acquired farming techniques Now uses fertilizer
-Hardly harvested enough for domestic use and sale	-Harvested 77x90kg bags of sorghum and sold for 194,040/= (19.25 bags / acre) -enough safely protected against pests and fungal infection
-Had difficulties paying school fees	-Able to pay school/ college fees -Paid water project contribution -Bought dairy goats and constructed shelter -Improved the existing residential house Constructed “VIP” pit latrine Started saving with bank and Sacco

Unique Attributes

The farmer is readily embracing appropriate farming practices. She has embraced Conservation agriculture, fertilizer use, and postharvest techniques and together as farmer group member are organizing themselves for aggregation and marketing.

Beneficiary testimony

I am very grateful to KCEP Programme for assisting me to acquire the necessary skills and attitude towards farming as a business. I have adopted GAP/CA and use of manure and storage practices. I have since managed to produce enough for family's food and financial obligations and I am looking forward to improving my family food security and income.

