



ROME-BASED AGENCY COLLABORATION IN KENYA

Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme – Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Window

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The Rome-based agencies in Kenya, **FAO**, **IFAD** and **WFP**, are collaborating to make positive impacts in ending drought emergencies, ensuring food security for the most vulnerable and achieving poverty reduction through the Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme – Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Window. Using their comparative advantages in whom and how they target for support the agencies are layering, sequencing and integrating their activities in the semi-arid lands of Kenya.

Collaboration under the **KCEP-CRAL** illustrates how the global Rome-based agencies' Resilience Framework can be translated into action. In strengthening community resilience for market-oriented farming, food security and nutrition, WFP is promoting livelihood diversification activities to strengthen resilience of vulnerable and food insecure households. Together with FAO's technical support and complementary inputs, the interventions are stabilizing degraded landscapes reducing the risk of future and seasonal hardships, improving regeneration of vegetation and boosting agricultural production and incomes. Where the natural resource base is restored and the community's productive capacity is improved, FAO's farmer field schools and training on good agricultural practices is further enhancing production and access to selected markets. In time, and following a value chain approach, IFAD will support the graduation of 185,000 farmers to market-based farming, addressing key constraints in production, post-harvest management, processing and marketing in commodity value chains. Complemented by agricultural risk management approaches and other innovations including agricultural risk insurance and strengthened community resilience through county climate change fund modalities, the improved adaptive and transformative capacities of communities will ensure sustainability of benefits.



The partnership
targets

100,000

smallholder
households whose
livelihoods revolve
around maize,
sorghum, millet and
associated pulses in
the targeted ASAL
countries



Farmers being trained on maize-beans technology during the KCEP-CRAL field day at Njoro Research Station. ©KCEP-CRAL.

The Rome-based agency partnership is structured around four components:

1. **WFP support for productive assets.** Through cash transfers and technical assistance provided by national and county governments, WFP is supporting smallholder farmers with livelihoods diversification and climate resilient assets, which aim to increase water storage, crop diversification, yields and pasture and browse availability – all aimed at helping farmers achieve food self-sufficiency.

2. **FAO and IFAD support for climate-resilient/ climate-smart productivity enhancement and natural resource management.** Through an e-voucher platform giving smallholder farmers access to improved agricultural inputs and technical packages, FAO and IFAD support farmers engaged in targeted cereal value chains to enhance productivity and the opportunities for commercialization. Farmers are being supported to identify and undertake appropriate, productive and climate-resilient crop enterprises suited to the arid and semi-arid lands and improve as well as stabilize agricultural

productivity through adoption of good agricultural practices incorporating

conservation agriculture and associated better water conservation practices. Targeted counties and wards are supported to plan adaptation strategies, adopt sustainable natural resource management practices and build resilience to climate change within the framework of county climate change funds.

3. **WFP and IFAD support for post-harvest management and market linkages.** Farmers are supported to capitalize on productivity gains arising from investments made earlier through the promotion of improved on-farm crop handling and management, access to storage and warehouse receipt systems, increasing smallholders’ access to markets and building their capacities to sell their produce at more favorable terms and prices.

4. **IFAD support for financial services.** IFAD is linking farmers to financial services to boost yields and income generation for re-investment

in agriculture and building the capacity of value chain stakeholders, including youth and women, to engage profitably in provision of agricultural services through improved access to financial services.

The partnership was launched with the President of Kenya and President of IFAD and strongly acknowledged by the Government to be a pillar of both the National Agricultural Development Strategy and the Ending Drought Emergencies plan. Under WFP and FAO’s engagement in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Donor Working Group and the Agriculture and Rural Development Donor Working Group a number of other donors and agencies have committed to overlay their activities with the partnership, especially around youth engagement in communities supported by WFP and provision of small grants to village associations, supported by WFP and FAO.



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The partnership covers eight arid and semi-arid counties of Kenya’s Eastern and Coast regions with a population of over

5 million

The partnership has a special focus on female-headed households and youth given the constraints they face in accessing agricultural services and inputs. It also targets county governments and communities to empower them to manage their natural resources more sustainably and consensually and build their resilience to extreme weather events

through community investments. A secondary target group are stakeholders in value chains who will facilitate smallholders’ access to enhanced agricultural services, namely agro-dealers, private extension services, buyers, processors and lead farmers providing support services to smallholders.

A Focus on Innovation



Farmers' enrolment Tharaka North sub-county, Katunga Ward. ©KCEP-CRAL



Jemimah Kathomi, proprietor of Baraka Agrovet, Katunga Ward, Tharaka North, and KCEP-CRAL beneficiary conducting a transaction through a point of sale. ©KCEP-CRAL

Governments and development partners have struggled for years to shift the focus of investments in agriculture to smallholder farmers and the rural poor.

The shift to pro-poor agricultural growth gained impetus with the 2008 World Development Report and the advent of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. The shift is demonstrated in Kenya's Agricultural Sector Development Strategy, which targets the rural poor through a focus on environmental resilience and social inclusion in value chains.

From a humanitarian and development perspective, the KCEP-CRAL partnership is innovative in finding a path for people, once targeted with food aid in the face of acute food needs, out of insecurity and poverty and into market-orientated farming with a focus on climate-resilient and good agricultural practices.

After several years of support through cash- and food-for-asset activities by WFP, half of the beneficiaries in the programme have graduated to food security; these farmers produce surpluses and engage in commercial agriculture.

The combined support of FAO and IFAD will step up this graduation of once food-insecure smallholder farmers by supporting them to tap into the economic potential of food value chains while improving their capacity to sustainably manage their natural resources and cope with climate change.

Mainstreaming of natural resource management and climate change resilience at household, community and county level is central to the partnership approach. To protect their investments, targeted smallholders are supported in identifying and adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices based on improved and more efficient water management, while county governments and communities are being empowered to sustainably and consensually manage their natural resources. The approach features an innovative scheme to allow farmers to move from subsidies to financial services for market oriented agriculture. Through an electronic payment platform set up through Equity Bank Kenya Ltd and Cooperative Bank Kenya Ltd, farmers will access climate-resilient agricultural inputs and farming technologies to enhance their productivity. This access will be linked to financial literacy and banking services. By promoting financial literacy, a culture of saving, the building of credit history and access to formal financial services, participating farmers will be empowered to sustain purchases of adapted inputs and investments beyond the

partnership support. In addition, as much of the production risk in the arid and semi-arid lands is related to climate, the partnership is piloting an annual premium of agricultural insurance as part of the e-voucher package. Furthermore, the programme will work with county governments to support community resilience building through the county climate change fund.

The partnership also has a nutrition-sensitive focus. Data from Kenya's Food Security and Outcome Monitoring indicate that cash-receiving households spend much more of their income on cereals and very little on fresh foods which are good sources of essential proteins and micronutrients. Recognizing the need to address the underlying causes of malnutrition which go beyond food intake, the partners are ensuring that the programme's food security support is also nutrition sensitive and thus contributes to the prevention of household and individual malnutrition. While the programme will support production of cereals for households' consumption and surplus for the market, WFP is promoting nutritious family diets through interactive sessions with community members (behavior change communication on nutrition). The KCEP-CRAL partnership has recently developed a recipe booklet following a recipes-for-change video documentary.¹



¹ <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/video/asset/39584506>



Some of the agro-dealers involved in KCEP-CRAL exhibiting their agricultural inputs during a field day at KALRO Research Station in Njoro sub-county in Nakuru County.

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Beneficiaries and Coverage

The Rome-based agency partnership was conceived in 2013, and the Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme – Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Window project approved by the IFAD Board in late 2014. FAO began to layer on top of long-standing WFP resilience-building activities in 2015, and in 2016 WFP transitioned 93,000 beneficiaries (15,500 farmers) from WFP cash support. FAO and IFAD support is aimed at achieving self-sufficiency.

The partnership is bringing investments of US\$267 million over a seven-year period, including US\$33 million from the European Union.

The partnership targets 100,000 smallholder farmers whose livelihoods revolve around maize, sorghum, millet and associated pulses comprising:

- 60,000 food-insecure smallholder households supported by WFP to graduate from recurring food insecurity and climate vulnerability to food security and then further to market-oriented commercial farming; and
- 40,000 smallholder households already at subsistence level who will be supported to graduate into commercial farming.



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The partnership covers eight arid and semi-arid counties of Kenya's Eastern and Coast regions with a population of over 5 million based on five criteria: (i) the agro-ecological suitability and economic potential for production of crops key to Kenya's food security – maize, sorghum and millet, and associated pulses; (ii) incident of food insecurity and poverty; (iii) vulnerability to climate change; (iv) geographical concentration to maximize impact; and (v) consideration of other ongoing development programmes of similar nature to avoid duplication and build synergies.

Lessons learned by all three agencies in Kenya over the years, point to the principle that change only happens at pace once a critical

mass of people start to adapt their farming or livestock practices, and that they will do so only if there are clear, market-driven financial incentives. The KCEP-CRAL partnership focuses on introducing those incentives to the most vulnerable, food insecure people. As such, it contributes towards bridging the humanitarian development gap in Kenya and paving the way for resilience building and livelihood transformation at scale.

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