

FROM THE FIELD

AUTUMN 2022



FARM AFRICA

'TRIPLE C' CRISIS

Vulnerable farming communities in eastern Africa are facing a triple C crisis as conflict; Covid-19 shocks and climate change continue to cause widespread threats to lives and livelihoods.

Across eastern Africa, hunger is rising, with Ethiopia and Kenya both facing critical food insecurity. Families are struggling to grow or buy enough food to survive, and malnutrition rates are rapidly rising.

If rains continue to fail, Ethiopia and Kenya will face famine.

Kenya and Ethiopia are both struggling with mass crop failure due to an ongoing severe drought. On top of this, the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted access to agricultural markets, leading to higher prices and reduced availability of farming supplies such as fertiliser. And in Ethiopia, conflict in the northern regions is exacerbating these problems.

By the start of 2022, the price of fertiliser in Kenya was already around 30% higher than before the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, the war in Ukraine has sparked further shockwaves through the market, forcing prices to rise sharply and even triple in some places.

The majority of smallholder farmers

rely on fertilisers to grow enough crops. However, with the drought eating up both their savings and stores of food, many have no cushion to absorb the price shock. Instead, they must prioritise paying for food or healthcare over buying fertiliser.

Fertiliser increases plant growth and adaptation to weather extremes, such as heat stress and low rainfall. As farmers are forced to use less fertiliser, their vulnerability to one of the most severe droughts seen in decades will grow.

Although the triple C crisis is not something we can control, Farm Africa is helping farmers to survive these challenges by offering long-term solutions such as crop diversification, climate-smart agriculture and financial and business advice.

The work our teams deliver every day really does offer a lifeline to many communities and whilst other news continues to dominate headlines in the UK, it is now more important than ever that rural Africa is not forgotten.

PROTECTING LIVELIHOODS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE BALE ECO-REGION

Most of the 1.6 million people whom live in Ethiopia's Bale Eco-region rely on the forests to earn a living. But as the population in the region grows and climate change takes its toll, demand for natural resources is putting the region's wildlife, forests and water supplies at risk, creating a cycle of poverty and food insecurity.

That's why, with support from the European Union, Farm Africa has been working closely with communities in Bale to help families thrive while protecting their precious natural resources.

"I have been working with many groups and individuals for years in my professional service as a forestry expert and I have never seen such a successful community nursery site. The Magariisaa Community Nursery Group have achieved impressive results within a short period of time."

These are the words of Abdulkerim Hussien, a Farm Africa Community Development Facilitator. The Magariisaa Group has been active in the region for two years. With support from Farm Africa, they are giving local communities the chance to increase their incomes by producing seedlings that can be grown in the surrounding deforested areas.

Group members work together on their 0.25 hectares of land, to produce a range of seedlings, including coffee shrubs, eucalyptus trees, grevillea and juniper trees.

In just two planting seasons, the group have produced 73,320



seedlings and sold them to farmers in the surrounding neighbourhoods. Demand for the seedlings has increased and the group's income is rocketing.

"They are determined! They are there day and night taking care of the nurseries. Their sense of responsibility is high." - Abdulkerim Hussien

Preserving the Bale Eco-region is estimated to benefit the lives of more than 12 million people who live in and around the region, that's why the work of groups like Magariisaa is so crucial. Together, they are protecting all of our futures!



A gift of £36 could make all the difference to a farmer facing drought for the fourth season. Will you help Farm Africa reach more farmers this year so that we can give them the tools to survive a crisis?

A gift of £72 could help more communities to increase their incomes while protecting the environment.

GOING FOR GROWTH: TANZANIAN AGRIBUSINESSES CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In Tanzania, youth unemployment is escalating; every year 800,000 Tanzanians enter the job market to compete for fewer than 100,000 new jobs. But the country's horticulture sector has been growing rapidly during recent years and has the potential to create new job opportunities...

The growing demand for processed fruit and vegetable products should be helping to reduce unemployment rates, but Tanzania's horticulture sector is dominated by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) who are struggling to expand their production. Many MSMEs don't have the management skills and financial records they need to effectively run their business and be eligible for bank loans, which would help them grow.

Since 2019, Farm Africa has been working with 30 MSMEs to provide the support they need to evolve into profitable, growing businesses.

From a ketchup manufacturer to a green bean exporter, we have worked with a huge range of businesses.

Luseklo Mbwaga is the manager of Beula Seed Company;

"Business planning has been one of our big challenges, as we were not able to create a functional business plan but this project has guided us



With funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

to get a good business plan that has simplified the process of getting international loans. Now we have gotten a loan from a bank with which we bought a tractor, a disk plough, and a disk harrow."

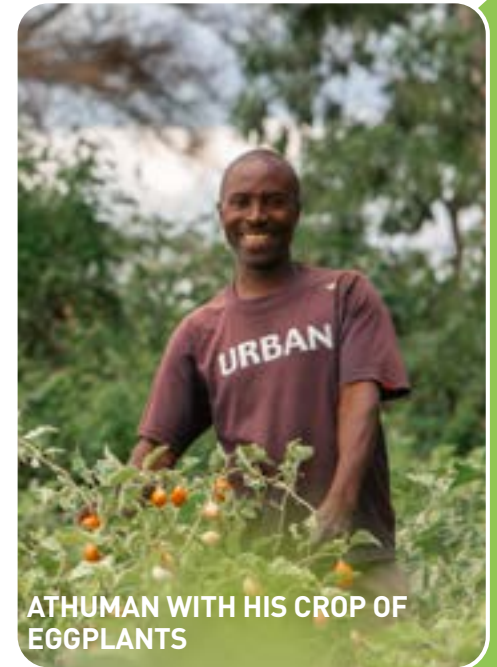
But Farm Africa's support isn't just limited to financial advice. We are also helping small enterprises improve their agricultural techniques and improve their yields.

"This project has helped us train local farmers who produce seeds here in Tanzania. We call them outgrowers. Through the project, these farmers have received training that has assisted their production." - Luseklo

Athuman is a contracted outgrower working for Beula. He told us:

"I farm aubergines, tomatoes, pigweeds and pepper. We've been farming these crops for about ten years now. I see many advantages personally and in society. I didn't have a house, I have now built my own house. My children are in school. All through the income I get by farming with this company. Even my community have benefited from this place because dayworkers also get opportunities here."

As the demand for spices, fruits and vegetables continues to spike in Tanzania, Farm Africa is pleased to announce that we will be working with an additional 15 MSMEs to grow even more opportunities!



ATHUMAN WITH HIS CROP OF EGGPLANTS



A gift from you could mean more farmers like Athuman become part of thriving horticultural businesses, as well as improving their agricultural techniques.

ADD HOPE TO YOUR LEGACY

As a Farm Africa supporter, we know you share our vision of a resilient rural Africa, where people and the environment thrive. But as climate, economic and political uncertainty continue to grow in eastern Africa, we rely on the kindness of our donors to help fulfil this vision and bring hope to vulnerable communities.



In 2021, Farm Africa received more than £800,000 from kind supporters who remembered us in their Wills. This generosity provides a safety net for the future and ensures that no matter what challenges farmers in eastern Africa face next, they will not be alone in facing them.

Large or small, gifts in Wills go a long way in helping farmers like Lepi to shape brighter futures for themselves and their children.

Lepi's family live in northern Uganda where extreme weather, such as floods and droughts, occur up to six months of the year. In these conditions, Lepi was struggling to grow enough to pay for his children's school fees.

"I feel embarrassed that I can't send my children to school. I compare my children to those who've been to school and I see that my children could have a better future if they had more education..." - Lepi

As climate challenges increase, more and more people like Lepi have to sacrifice their children's education so they can prioritise food and healthcare for their family. But this is not a compromise they should have to make and that's why Farm Africa supported 3,000 farmers in northern Uganda to grow African bird's eye chillies; they can be grown in dry conditions and they fetch high prices on international markets.

Thanks to chillies, Lepi is feeling optimistic about the future; "I was given a sachet of high-quality chilli seeds. I have planted those seeds and I can tell they are going to have a good yield... I'm so sure that chillies will solve most of our problems, like sending the children to school"

By including Farm Africa in your Will, you can bring hope to the lives of families like Lepi's. If you have any questions about leaving a gift to Farm Africa in your Will, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our team who will be happy to help.

DREAMING OF CHANGE: YOUNG ETHIOPIAN FARMER TAKES ACTION AGAINST DROUGHT

Abdulkadir is ambitious and determined but, like many young farmers, he didn't have access to decent land or good farming tools. And despite all his efforts, his hard work wasn't paying off.

The 33-year-old has been farming crops and vegetables in the Bale zone of Ethiopia for many years. But the one hectare of land he owned was barren and Abdulkadir struggled to provide for his wife and two children. Whenever his income from crop production was too low, he had to take on work as a casual labourer.

Determined to see him succeed, Farm Africa, with support from the European Union, helped Abdulkadir to gain access to fertile land by a river. We also supplied him with a water pump generator and soon Abdulkadir was growing a large variety of vegetables!

"The project helped me get farming inputs and above all it supported me to get farming land. This is a great help to enhance my productivity".

Before joining Farm Africa's project Abdulkadir only grew teff and sesame, earning less than £164 a

year. "But now, since I am growing vegetables through irrigation, I am able to earn nearly £388. In the first production season, I grew 200kg of onion and maize. I produced tomatoes as well."

Although Abdulkadir is seeing his fortunes improve, big challenges lie ahead: the drought affecting eastern Africa combined with high inflation rates pose significant risks to his livelihood.

But Abdulkadir wants to be part of the solution. He is playing an active role in water conservation and planting fruit trees; including mango and avocado.

He has a dream to see his surrounding area covered in forest and to never endure a drought season again. With more and more young people following in his footsteps, we hope that one day Abdulkadir's dream can come true!



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www.farmafrica.org/remember for more information.

2021 IN NUMBERS

WE REACHED
OVER
ONE MILLION
PEOPLE ACROSS
EASTERN AFRICA

404.4 TONNES
OF COFFEE WERE
EXPORTED FROM
VIRUNGA, DRC
in the 2020-2021
season

3,500
GENEROUS
SUPPORTERS
donated a total
of £420,181



A TOTAL OF
2,744,810
TREES
planted in Ethiopia in
2021

3,000

farmers helped to
grow and sell African
bird's eye dried
chillies in Uganda



We received
£811,000
from supporters who
remembered us in their
will, **INCLUDING ONE**
LEGACY OF £632,000

19,200 BALES
OF ANIMAL FEED
distributed to
1,400 households
in Ethiopia as
drought relief



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

DISCOVER MORE AT
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 **FARM AFRICA**

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