

Growing Futures

2016-2019 | TRANS NZOIA, KENYA

Kenya is a very youthful country. In 2016, nearly 80% of Kenyans were less than 35 years old. With nearly one in every five young people of working age jobless, unemployment represents a major challenge facing the country.

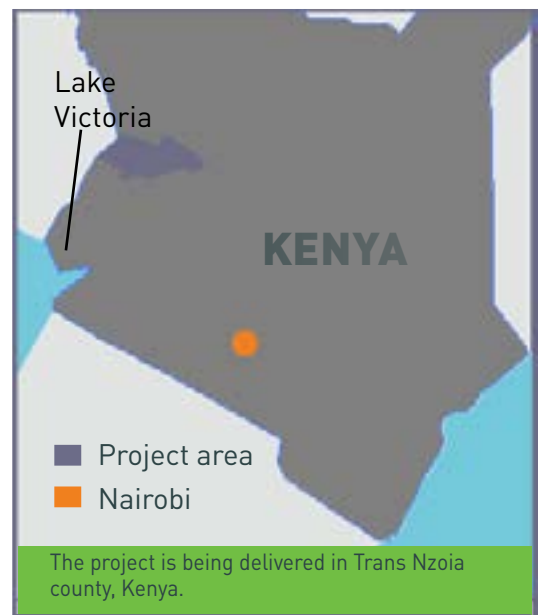
To combat unemployment and help young people look forward to prosperous futures we're working to encourage young people in Kenya to start a career in farming. Since 2011, we've supported 2,300 young men and women to set up and run their own farms, providing training in agriculture, business and marketing to help them grow high-quality crops and get the best prices for them too.

Growing futures builds on previous work by empowering 400 young people from 20 newly recruited groups (average of 20 members each) in Trans Nzoia County to develop agri-business skills through training, entrepreneurship development and structured support.

Joseph sitting in his cabbage patch

Photo: Farm Africa / Tara Carey

"I have seen a 65% increase in the volume we are producing and the profit", says young farmer Joseph Kaunda. "Now we have an increased income which we get on a regular basis it means we can pay for the school fees on time."



- Groups receive training in private sector partnerships and market linkages providing them with the skills, knowledge and ability to sell higher yields of high-quality cash crops such as French beans, sugar snaps, snow peas, chillies and cabbage.
- All participants receive practical training sessions on established demonstration plots.
- Young farmers are taught industry best practice such as using certified seeds, drip irrigation and other technical elements with an aim of meeting global GAP and Kenya GAP standards required to access export markets.





Selly standing in her green bean field

Photo: Farm Africa / Tara Carey

"I decided to join the Tugomo Farmers Group, which is getting support from Farm Africa. I saw it was important because together we can develop our livelihoods, and I can depend on the members to help me with problems at home or on the farm."

- Selly Chelangat, 28 years old



FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH

Farm Africa believes that young people can become job creators rather than job seekers, and drive economic growth for Kenya as a whole. We're helping by:

- Using demonstration plots to show farmers how to use certified seeds, drip irrigation and other techniques that will help them boost their harvests.
- Working with banks so that farmers' groups can access the finance they need to invest in technology and equipment for their farms.
- Helping farmers' groups grow high-value vegetables such as French beans, sugar snaps, snow peas (mange touts), chillies and cabbage.



BUILDING INCOMES

We've helped to broker deals between these young farmers' groups and the private sector. In Trans Nzoia, we helped a farmers' group sell chillies to Mace Food Ltd, attracting the attention of local government, who went on to promote the crop. Another farming group set up a lucrative contract selling French beans to Vegpro, a large export company. We are helping more young people to sign agreements like these and develop successful careers in commercial agriculture.

