ONE SMALL CHANGE CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT

In Ethiopia’s SNNP region, water shortages and unreliable rainfall have become regular threats to farmers’ livelihoods. But a small-scale solution is having a life-changing impact for farmers like Adamo.

Adamo lives in Hadero Tunto woreda, a region in the south-west of the country.

“My income and yields were very low. I wasn’t earning enough to feed my family so I migrated to other areas in search of work. I found a job but I still struggled to earn enough to provide for my family.”

Sadly Adamo’s situation is not uncommon. With no control over the weather, many farming families struggle when the dry seasons come. But Farm Africa’s Climate-Smart Agriculture project has introduced a solution that is making a splash in communities like Adamo’s. Effective small-scale irrigation systems can give farmers like Adamo a year-round water supply, so they’re not reliant on rainfall alone to water their crops.

Adamo joined a Farm Africa training course on irrigation, vegetable production and soil and water conservation. Equipped with new skills and access to a water pump, he started producing cabbages, tomatoes, carrots, onions and even ginger!

From just one harvest Adamo earned £262 and he plans to build on this success by investing in improved seeds and fertilisers.

Adamo no longer has to leave his family in search of work or worry about feeding them. The money he earns from his vegetable production is enough to provide them with a balanced, diverse and nutritious diet. What’s more, he has hopes to expand his business.

“Since my income has increased I will invest in irrigation… I don’t have to leave my family any more in order to find a job.”

Thanks to small-scale irrigation systems, whole communities can now produce crops year-round. They might not have beaten the weather, but they’ve beaten the dry seasons.

A gift of £41 could help farmers like Adamo build thriving farming businesses and ensure them a steady income whatever the weather.

NO KIDDING: GOATS ARE BREAKING THE POVERTY CYCLE IN ETHIOPIA

Faced with drought, disease and depleting grasslands, many pastoralists in the drylands of Ethiopia are struggling to keep their cattle alive. For these families whose livelihoods depend on their livestock, poverty and malnutrition are a harsh reality. But thanks to some goat kids, this reality is changing.

Meet Pita (right) and Shegitu (left). They are both participants of Farm Africa’s Livestock for Livelihoods project which provides goats to pastoralist women, as well as training in how best to care for them.

Tough, friendly and easy to look after, goats are resilient when extreme weather hits – unlike cows and other cattle. Successful goat rearing businesses can give women a reliable income all year round, and provide a source of nutritious milk for their children to drink.

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“The goat kids mark the start of Shegitu’s goat rearing business and the end of worrying about dry spells! She is determined to make a success of her business, earn enough for her children’s school fees and in turn help another woman when the time comes.

Once her herd has grown, each woman who receives goats from Farm Africa then gives some of the goat kids to another vulnerable woman, creating a cycle of improved prosperity.

“I am happy to pass two goat kids on to Shegitu. I know she needs them too. My message to her is to take good care of the goats as I did and then give some to another woman who is waiting. I would like to thank those who have extended hands to support us. The goats have meant food for us, they have meant money and resources as well. The fear of food shortages will not bother me anymore… I am sure the goats will make a difference in Shegitu’s life as well.” – Pita

The Livestock for Livelihoods project is funded by UK aid from the UK government.
Coastal Kenya is one of the most under-developed regions in the country with more than 62% of the population living below the poverty line. Extreme weather has caused agricultural yields here to drop, contributing to the decline of the region’s economy. But the revival of a forgotten industry is bringing a new lease of life to the area...

Kenya’s coast has a higher concentration of cashew nut trees than anywhere else in the country and many smallholder farmers along the coastline used to produce cashew nuts. But lots of the trees are now old or diseased and the industry has slowly come to a standstill, and with it, the livelihoods of thousands of farmers.

But given the high international demand for these golden nuts, Farm Africa knew that it wasn’t time to give up on them just yet. That’s why since 2018, Farm Africa has worked with 15,000 farmers on Kenya’s coastline to revive their cashew production and establish thriving businesses that supply the demands of lucrative markets.

Farm Africa is teaching farmers like Tunje that when pruned in the right way, cashew trees will rejuvenate and will be able to double, or even quadruple the number of nuts they produce!

We’re also helping farmers gain access to drought-resistant seedlings, which will flourish into healthy trees and stand a better chance of surviving when extreme weather hits.

“I’m going to prune my old trees and plant new ones. Now there’s hope for the produce. My financial strength will improve. Cashew nuts can make a very big change. They can take someone from zero to 100.” – Tunje

Not only is this cashew revival helping farmers like Tunje grow profitable businesses, it’s also replenishing coastal forests in the region – now that’s what we call smart agriculture!

A gift of £111 could boost the livelihoods of more farmers in eastern Africa, helping them tap into the potential of their crops and boost their incomes.
STAFF SPOTLIGHT: INTRODUCING FREDDY ONGUU

Freddy joined Farm Africa in 2019 as Project Coordinator of the Chilli project in Lira, northern Uganda. Since completing his Master’s Degree in Food Security and Community Nutrition, Freddy has had a flourishing career working with high profile organisations such as Mercy Corps, World Vision and Plan International. What’s more, he’s also a practising farmer himself and grows his very own chillies! We couldn’t think of anyone better to lead this project and we’re delighted to have him on board.

What attracted you to Farm Africa?
I was attracted to Farm Africa because of its approach to fighting poverty in Africa by unleashing African farmers’ abilities to grow their incomes and manage their natural resources sustainably.

What Farm Africa believes is in line with what I aspire for. I also looked at the job description to find out: ‘Am I able to learn new things?’ and ‘Will I be able to grow?’ Farm Africa offers the opportunity to really grow professionally.

What do you enjoy most in your role?
Seeing the rays of hope and smiles on the faces of the farmers we work with, because of the additional income they are receiving as a result of project activities.

This puts a smile on my face and my heart is filled with joy. It means the support our donors give and the hard work of the Farm Africa staff is making a difference - we are tackling poverty in rural farming communities in Africa.

What has been your proudest achievement at Farm Africa?
My humble contribution in reviving the lucrative chilli production and marketing industry in Lira. And seeing rural farmers, many of whom have limited resources, expand their livelihoods and build their financial resilience because of chillies.

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My humble contribution in reviving the lucrative chilli production and marketing industry in Lira. And seeing rural farmers, many of whom have limited resources, expand their livelihoods and build their financial resilience because of chillies.

To see chilli farmers grow their household incomes and see that they’re able to do more than they’ve done before is my joy. It’s so good to see them growing their farming business. Seeing three to four months down the line what the project has given these farmers makes me really happy.

Your support could be the difference between poverty and prosperity for families like Tom’s. Thank you for all that you do.
THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

“My income has increased by 50 - 60% since I’ve worked with Farm Africa. My family is doing well now. I have saved money from my fish farming and can send my son to school. I will be able to send my younger children to school too because of the fish. Now, things are good. My life has changed.”

Eric, Kenya

“I’ve benefited a lot by working with Farm Africa. I received training in sesame farming and entrepreneurial skills. I was able to access loans that enabled me to do business and I was given linkage to buyers. This has even allowed me to repair the house. I have glass windows and an iron roof now.”

Ndemulikiwa, Tanzania

“Since joining Farm Africa’s project, there are so many things I have learnt. My yields have improved and my production itself has increased. I am growing more, better quality potatoes and my income has improved as a result. My children are healthy now – they are eating good food.”

Paul, Uganda