**£105,000 AND COUNTING…**

**FARM AFRICA SUPPORTERS ARE MAKING REAL CHANGE POSSIBLE**

We are delighted to announce that our winter appeal has so far raised £105,000. On behalf of everyone at Farm Africa, we’d like to say a big THANK YOU to all of our generous supporters.

Last year, Libby, a member of Farm Africa’s UK team, travelled from London to the Bale Eco-region of Ethiopia to see our work first hand.

It was here she met a young mother called Kaamila.

Kaamila is one of the lowland pastoralist farmers that Farm Africa supports. We are helping her find ways to provide for her family – whilst also protecting the precious Eco-region for future generations.

Every December, lack of water and grass in the lowlands forced Kaamila to travel with her children and cattle in search of highland grazing pastures.

Travelling for months at a time, this was the only way Kaamila could keep her livestock, and her livelihood, alive. She risked everything to do it: including her children’s education.

Since Kaamila joined Farm Africa’s project, these are risks she no longer needs to take.

We have helped Kaamila and other farmers form 14 Rangeland Management Cooperatives. These community groups are working hard – learning how to manage their rangeland, so they have enough water and grass to feed their livestock all year round, without travelling to the highlands.

For people like Kaamila and her family, it’s the difference between surviving and thriving.

Staying in their villages all year round means that farmers can now grow and sell crops to earn extra income, and their children can stay in school. And crucially, it means that they are no longer damaging the Eco-region by allowing their livestock to graze in the forest.

Now that’s a change worth writing about.

Joseph is 34. His age group of under-35s make up almost 80% of the country’s population. They are Kenya’s future.

Joseph works in agriculture. He’s also an aspiring businessman, but was struggling to produce the quality of crops he needed to survive in a competitive marketplace. Sales were poor and his income was low.

Farm Africa’s Growing Futures project was developed for young people exactly like Joseph. The aim is to create a new generation of agricultural entrepreneurs – helping them reach their potential by providing critical training in business and technical skills.

For Joseph, this meant learning new soil management and seed bedding techniques to boost the quality and size of his harvest. We also showed him the advantage of crop diversification. He now grows spinach and kale as well as cabbages.

Since joining the Growing Futures project, Joseph has seen a 65% increase in his profits.

When we last spoke to him, Joseph was saving his extra money to buy a new house with more land. He would also like to invest in his business by buying a truck to transport his produce to markets.

More than just a job, farming is now his legacy. It’s a gift. An enterprise that can be handed down for generations.

‘We teach our children how to farm, we show them what to do. Every weekend they come and help us... It is important for them to learn how to farm for themselves. Tomorrow they may lack a job, but with farming they will always be able to employ themselves.’

Farm Africa’s Growing Futures project has 2,300 members like Joseph. It’s a flourishing programme, and one that’s set to continue. Watch out for more news from this project later in the year.

A gift of £61 could help more young farmers like Joseph establish successful businesses, that can be handed down to future generations.
£33 could help provide another women like Aster with goats and training, giving her the chance to break the poverty cycle and build a prosperous life for her family.
What does your role involve?
I manage all aspects of Farm Africa’s Ethiopia programme, to ensure we attain the highest standards of delivery, effectiveness and value for money – so that the communities we work with get the best possible support.

Why did you choose Farm Africa?
Farm Africa works in areas that I personally love. We work on projects that make a huge difference to people’s lives and the environment. Our programmes also help to build tangible evidence that can inform policy and boost the capacity of local governments.

What is the most rewarding part of your role?
There are two things that get me excited about coming into work every day. First is the knowledge that Farm Africa plays a direct role in improving the livelihoods of the communities we support. The second is working with a great team. We are always trying to spread positive energy by looking at the way we work together. It’s a constant learning curve, and one I’m enjoying.

What has been your most memorable experience so far?
I was recently inspired by a woman from the south of Ethiopia. She was part of our ‘Climate-Smart Agriculture’ programme, and was using her new skills to sell potato cuttings at the market. She’s now saved enough money to rebuild her home and pay for her children’s education. I can’t tell you how happy it has made us all, seeing her realise her potential.

“"I feel energised and determined when I hear the story of a child, woman or man who has benefitted from our programmes.""

If you could share a message with Farm Africa supporters, what would it be?
I’d like to say thank you. Your support goes towards so many fantastic achievements that come in many forms. You all play a vital role in our success!

Cross-border sales have opened up a world of opportunity for smallholder farmers.

Every year, Tanzania and Uganda produce a surplus of staple crops. Kenya, on the other hand, is only producing enough maize to feed itself one year in every five. There’s a growing market for trade, but until recently, high tariffs made it impossible to sell across local borders.

In 2016, a much-anticipated policy change meant that the once restrictive, high trade tariffs within eastern Africa were removed. It might not have made the news, but this shift in policy means that countries like Kenya are no longer forced to rely on expensive imports from outside of Africa.

This opens up a world of opportunity for smallholder farmers in Tanzania and Uganda. Unfortunately, a lack of proper storage facilities means that surplus crops like rice, maize and beans can easily spoil. Limited market access also restricts sales, and farmers are often forced to sell their crops locally for poor prices.

To counter this, Farm Africa will work with 70,000 farmers across both countries. Together we will make the most of the new trade opportunities by improving post-harvest management and giving farmers access to moisture-controlled storage warehouses.

This will stop their crops from spoiling and ensure crops meet the standards required for sale.

We will also help to make sure farmers can sell their produce for a good price by helping them work together to sell in bulk, and linking them to new cross-border markets using innovative digital platforms.

Farming is a growing industry for many African countries, and this new focus on regional trade has the power to transform the lives of smallholder farmers.

It’s not just about profit. It’s about livelihoods. With a sustainable business, farmers across Uganda and Tanzania can lift themselves, and their whole communities, out of poverty.

Together we are helping eastern Africa move one step closer to prosperity.

A gift of £359 could give more farmers the skills and tools to maintain sustainable businesses and lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

Your support will help transform the lives of men, women and children in rural Africa, while protecting the environment for generations to come.
MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN: DOUBLING OUR IMPACT BY 2020

By 2020 Farm Africa plans to double the number of farmers we support. This will increase the number of countries we work in from four to six, and the number of people we reach from 1.8 to 3.6 million each year.

Such an ambitious statement needs a smart strategy. There is no ‘quick win’. We believe that in order to create lasting change we need to help communities create their own solutions. To do this, we are getting:

SMART ABOUT AGRICULTURE
Effective farming techniques are key to driving up agricultural production in Africa. Farm Africa will help farmers make the most of their land, whether they grow crops, keep livestock or manage fisheries. We’ll work with farmers to ensure their farming is profitable, and help them prepare for ‘climate shocks’ like flooding or drought.

SMART ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT
We’ll help farmers build reliable and environmentally friendly incomes from their land: whether they are producing honey or coffee, growing sustainable timber, or protecting forests in exchange for carbon credit payments. We’ll help communities plan the holistic management of the landscapes they live in, so that gains from rural development in one region are not cancelled out by losses in another.

SMART ABOUT BUSINESS
Farm Africa will work to strengthen every aspect of farming supply chains, from soil to supermarket. We’ll ensure farmers adapt to what buyers want. We’ll help them establish co-operatives, so they can sell in bulk. We’ll provide small businesses with training in how to become respected enterprises that can build their own relationships with lenders, social investors and buyers for the long-term.

We are confident that with the help of our supporters, we can bring our ambition to life. Together we can give communities in rural Africa the tools, resources and support they need to farm themselves out of poverty, and protect the environment for generations to come.