

# FROM THE FIELD SPRING 2019



FARM AFRICA

## WINTER APPEAL UPDATE

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated to our winter appeal last year. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters, who have raised over £133,000 to help farmers like Hailo build better, more secure futures for their families.

Hailo is just one of the amazing women who are part of our goat rearing project in South Omo, Ethiopia. The climate there is so harsh and unpredictable, it can be almost impossible to grow enough crops and keep cattle healthy. This leaves many women fighting a daily battle to feed their children.

Farm Africa believes women like Hailo should be given the chance to thrive, not just survive. And goats are the key! Goats are hardy animals that can survive in very dry conditions. That's why we are providing goats, and training in how to care for them, to women like Hailo. Rearing and selling goats will give these women a way to earn a good income, and the delicious, nutritious milk they provide will help to keep their children healthy!

Five months on from the appeal, we are very excited to update you on Hailo's progress. Having received her goats from Farm Africa, she has also completed her training in how to take care of them and cross-breed them with the improved bucks we have provided for each community.



Your support is the difference between struggling to survive and thriving for women like Hailo and their families. Thank you.



"I have got three goats, which means my children will be able to get milk. Thank you to Farm Africa!" - Hailo

Hailo is now full of hope and has already started building a new home! Soon she will breed her goats and pass on three kids to another woman in her community – creating a cascade effect that will help thousands of women to build better futures for their children.

So thank you once again to everyone who sent a gift. It's the generosity of our supporters that enables us to continue running life-changing projects like this one – giving more farmers the chance to change their lives, for the long term.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: INTRODUCING SAM AROP

Sam joined Farm Africa in September 2018, as our Programme Manager for Uganda. With a Masters degree in Development Studies and over 10 years' experience with high-profile development organisations such as Technoserve and International Rescue Committee, we are proud to have him in our team.

### Describe a typical day at work.

Providing operational support to the project teams is one of the core responsibilities of my role, so after I have responded to emails and reviewed any important documents, I schedule catch up calls with all the different teams I work with. I also visit each project once every quarter to provide support to the staff, talk about any issues and find solutions together.

### What do you enjoy most about your role?

The role is broad and I have to tackle a lot of challenges, but I enjoy working with others to come up with joint solutions. It's a very interesting role! Seeing the people I support succeeding gives me a lot of job satisfaction. My role is very interesting! When I speak to the teams and hear the success that the projects are having, and when I hear about the impact the projects are achieving, those are the kind of things that give me a lot of job satisfaction.

### What has been your proudest moment at Farm Africa?

In my first week I visited the field with our Director of Programmes. The energy that the staff had on the ground was really great. I could tell they were very committed to Farm Africa and to the farmers we are working with. I felt very proud to be working with them and I thought "This is the place to be!"

### Do you have a message for Farm Africa supporters in the UK?

The key message I would like to send is that your support is having a lot of impact on the ground. Your contributions are really making a difference to the lives of people who have been very vulnerable for a very long time. So I would like to thank you for that.



## REACHING MORE FARMERS... IN MORE COUNTRIES!

Farm Africa has a long and successful history of working with coffee farmers in eastern Africa. Most recently our work with coffee producers in western Uganda has been showcased in our 'Coffee is Life' appeal. So we are extremely proud to have been given the opportunity to extend our reach to support coffee co-operatives in the Democratic Republic of Congo – a new country for Farm Africa!

This exciting new project, launching later in the year, will allow us to share our expertise with coffee producers in North Kivu, on the borders of the Virunga National Park – home to some of the finest Arabica coffee growing land in the world.

Smallholder farmers living in the area have been growing rare, specialist varieties of coffee for generations. But with little or no access to processing facilities and no way to make links with lucrative international markets, farmers have been left struggling to earn a decent living. And the wider world has remained largely unaware of this amazing source of delicious, high-quality coffee.



Our new project will enable coffee farmers to tap into the huge potential that lies in their coffee beans, by helping them to increase the amount of high-quality coffee they grow, whilst upgrading their processing and storage facilities to help them scale up their production. We will provide training where farmers can learn how to measure and manage the quality of their coffee, so they can meet the high standards of global, specialist coffee markets. And we will provide business training and market links to enable them to negotiate fair contracts with roasters and retailers.

It has always been our strategy to extend Farm Africa's reach to more countries, and this is the perfect opportunity for us take the first step. We can't wait to take on the challenge...and we'll be sure to update you on our progress!



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.

## GROWING MORE FUTURES THAN EVER BEFORE IN KENYA!

**"The project has changed my life"** says Lucy, as she proudly shows off the neat rows of French bean plants that have transformed her family's future.

Lucy is just one of 2,000 farmers in Elgeyo Marakwet county, western Kenya, who are learning how to set up profitable horticulture businesses, with support from Farm Africa's Growing Futures project. And her family's prospects are growing as quickly as her French beans!

"Life used to be very difficult; my children used to stay at home because we couldn't afford the school fees. Before I grew green beans here, I grew a local variety of garden peas to sell to local markets. I farmed, but didn't look for a market until the crops were ready. By the time I found a buyer, the crops would have rotted. Some went unsold and we would make losses.

Farm Africa have trained me on so many things: how to budget, how to spray my crop, they even took me on an exchange visit where I was able to learn from other farmers. I decided then to do serious farming.



We have learnt from Farm Africa that you have to first find a market before you start to plant. I have learnt about book-keeping, financial literacy, leadership, good governance and marketing. I have learnt from Farm Africa how to manage my money.

I was excited about growing French beans because there was a market for them. I had children at school and I was excited to know I would be able to earn income to send them to school.

French beans have taken me somewhere. I started small but have grown bigger. I no longer have to use bursaries to educate my children. I would like all my children to go into business and be successful."

## THRIVING FISHPONDS, THRIVING COMMUNITIES

**Farm Africa has seen that aquaculture (fish farming) can lead to reliable incomes, as well as providing Kenya's growing population with an affordable and sustainable source of protein.**

That's why we are working with 1,072 fish farmers across 14 counties in Kenya, helping them seize this potential and transform their fishponds into thriving businesses.

But it isn't just the farm owners who are benefitting. Emmanuel is one of over 2,000 workers who are employed by the fish farms Farm Africa is supporting.



"We have six major fishponds ranging from 30 x 60 metres upwards. We stock mainly tilapia and catfish. Right now, pond 1 and pond 2 each has 5,000 tilapia. We have just finished harvesting in the other ponds.

Thanks to Farm Africa we have received lots of technical support and advice on which companies to get the best feeds from. This has enabled us to thrive. They support us a lot."

Farm Africa provides practical training and business support to help fish farmers improve their production and marketing of fish. And it doesn't stop there.

We are also working with suppliers to ensure fish farms can access high-quality fingerlings (baby fish), fish feed and other inputs needed for them to achieve success.

And successful farms mean more jobs and more opportunities for people like Emmanuel – giving whole communities the chance to benefit from the aquaculture industry.

**"This project is helping a lot of people here. We are supporting livelihoods. So many people have gone to school because of this farm." - Emmanuel**



This project was made possible by matched funding from the UK government, who matched donations made to our 2017 Growing Futures appeal.



A gift of £61 could help more farmers build thriving businesses and offer more opportunities to workers like Emmanuel.

## THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT



**"Knowledge is power. Because of my training, I have the awareness to change my life. I've improved my home, I've bought furniture, and I am now able to send my children to school with no problems. This is due to Farm Africa's intervention, and I hope this will continue in the future."**

**Getachew, Ethiopia**



**"It was Farm Africa who introduced me to beekeeping. Beekeeping is great because it conserves the environment and it increases my income. Before I was a beekeeper we struggled to pay school costs and my children used to miss school, but now that is behind me, I have forgotten what that feels like."**

**Lucia, Tanzania**



**"We are very grateful to Farm Africa for coming to help us. Poverty will not come and attack us again because we are now building businesses, thanks to Farm Africa. Our children will go back to school. Our families will be consuming enough food. We are very very happy. We can fight poverty together."**

**Olinga, Uganda**

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