



## AGRICULTURE

**PUSHING UP THE QUANTITY, QUALITY AND VALUE OF WHAT FARMERS PRODUCE, WHILST PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE.**

**FARM AFRICA HELPS FARMERS IMPROVE PRODUCTION AND MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR LAND. FROM LIVESTOCK AND FISH FARMING TO CROPS AND COFFEE PRODUCTION, WE HELP RURAL COMMUNITIES MAKE A DECENT LIVING FROM FARMING, WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR YEARS TO COME.**

In eastern Africa, the majority of people living in extreme poverty and 70% of the region's total population make a living from farming, making agricultural progress an effective means for reducing poverty and fostering economic growth.

Africa's agricultural production lags behind other regions of the world, with crop yields at only a quarter of their potential. Smallholders manage 80% of the continent's farmlands, so unlocking their agricultural potential is key to making agriculture work better.

Higher quality and yields depend on harnessing the power of technological advances, pioneering the use of climate-smart agriculture and better managing the natural resources farmers rely upon.

Combating poverty in rural Africa depends on making agriculture work better, using natural resources well, and creating stronger markets for what farmers produce. Farm Africa's strategy is built around three pillars:



**Agriculture**



**Environment**



**Business**

## TECHNOLOGY

**FARMER-DRIVEN INNOVATION THAT COMBINES ADVANCES IN SCIENCE WITH LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.**



Yields from smallholder crop production in eastern Africa are typically only 20-30% of what could be produced if the best seeds, fertilisers, pest control, agronomic and water management practices were applied. Facilitating smallholders' uptake of appropriate technologies is crucial to making African farming thrive. Farm Africa promotes innovations that allow farmers to make the most of their land and labour, enhances their capacity to adapt and design innovations, and improves supply chains so that high-quality inputs are more readily available.



### Appropriate solutions

Across the world, agriculturalists have harnessed new technologies to increase productivity. However, these innovations have not trickled down to the hands of African smallholders, in part because many of these developments are not well suited to the specific needs of African farmers.

Every rural community faces a unique set of challenges. Before introducing a technology, Farm Africa works with the local community to agree solutions that are appropriate to the local context.



### Community-led innovation

Where in the past the process of innovation was concentrated in research stations, today innovation is increasingly led by farmers themselves on their farms, with the help of

trained facilitators. We work with communities to test, improve and develop new technologies to ensure that they are effective and affordable, as well as environmentally and socially sustainable before they are brought to scale.



### Efficient supply chains

New technologies can only reliably deliver long-term benefits to farmers if they are supported by efficient market systems that supply them with inputs, such as spare parts and seeds, together with information on application and maintenance.

This may necessitate strengthening existing input and supply markets or introducing new links into the supply chain.

Strengthening supply and value chains is as much an opportunity as it is a challenge. We support agribusinesses that provide vital provisions and services to farmers, while also creating jobs within those businesses.



**"I used to farm sesame using outdated farming practices, which didn't transform my income and livelihood. I saw the gap and asked some experts on the possibilities of developing the technology. Now I am at a very good stage whereby many people have been accepting my technology."**

Constantine Martin, pictured above, a Tanzanian farmer who with Farm Africa's support invented a simple and cost-effective sesame planter.

## CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

**BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE SHOCKS WHILE MITIGATING AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.**

Few groups are hit harder by extreme weather than African smallholder farmers, making their livelihoods and food security particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Farm Africa's approach to climate-smart agriculture combines community knowledge with the power of the market to build rural communities' resilience to current climate shocks, in preparation for shifting climate patterns, all while minimising agriculture's environmental impact.



### Resilient rural communities

We draw on our longstanding experience in highly unpredictable semi-arid climates across eastern Africa to help farmers cope with and adapt to an ever-changing climate. We introduce farmers to drought-tolerant crops and increase production through environmentally friendly techniques, such as applying bio-fertilisers, intercropping and crop rotation.

Farm Africa assesses the extent to which our projects might be affected by climate shocks and long-term climate trends and identifies actions to mitigate weather risks. We use weather and climate forecasting systems to inform farm-level decision-making and help smallholders anticipate changes before they happen. We test approaches to crop, soil and water management that are better suited to changing climate patterns. We pioneer the use of market-based tools, such as insurance, to take the bite out of climate shocks.



### Cultivating carbon

While agriculture is a major driver of climate change, it also has the potential to store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Farm Africa explores, develops and implements sustainable agricultural systems that maximise productivity and profit while minimising greenhouse gas emissions.

By protecting forests and other natural carbon sinks we increase the absorption of atmospheric carbon and sell 'negative emissions' through the carbon market, to ensure rural communities are economically rewarded for their environmental services.



**"Farm Africa is supporting us through production training, seed provision and post-harvest handling training. I have now started to produce onions. Before I was producing maize and the profit was very low."**

Aregash Esayas, pictured below, a participant in Farm Africa's climate-smart agriculture project in Ethiopia.



Farm Africa / Medhanit Gebremichael



## LAND, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

### COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION THAT PROTECTS SOILS, WATER AND OTHER ESSENTIAL NATURAL RESOURCES.

One good harvest is not enough. Farm Africa equips smallholder farmers with the skills and knowledge to sustainably manage the natural resources they rely on to achieve good harvests year after year.



#### Sustainable agriculture

Farm Africa introduces and tests approaches to crop, soil and water management that better protect the land against soil erosion and salinisation. We develop local land use plans that ensure productive activities don't affect essential ecosystem services provided by rivers, wetlands and woodlands. We ensure that the potential environmental impacts associated with the introduction of new technologies are thoroughly assessed and managed.

Farm Africa takes a whole-landscape approach to sustainable agriculture, developing plans in collaboration with local communities, government agencies and businesses to address long-term environmental challenges.



#### Making conservation profitable

Land, water and environment projects can also offer direct monetary benefits to rural communities through payment for environmental services, where farmers agree to take certain actions to manage and protect watersheds, conserve biodiversity or capture carbon dioxide through replanting trees or using different agricultural techniques.



**“These lands, including the hills you see, were dry and barren with little or no vegetation on them. The situation began to change as the watershed management work intensified. Soil erosion decreased, and forest coverage and the fertility of the soil increased. Farmers started exploiting the improved situation by using irrigation to grow mostly vegetables. Gullies became farm lands.”**

Priest Gebregzibher Gebremeskel, a participant in Farm Africa's Food Security project in Tigray, Ethiopia.

Investing in smallholder farming is the number one way to combat poverty in rural Africa. Farm Africa is a leading NGO specialising in growing agriculture, protecting the environment and developing businesses in rural Africa.

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