

FOCUS ON FOOD

 FARM AFRICA



FOOD SECURITY IN EASTERN AFRICA: A MESSAGE FROM NICO

We have all seen the news. Africa is facing a catastrophic food shortage. And with the population set to reach 2.4 billion by 2050, Africa's farmers are facing a huge balancing act. How can they feed a rapidly growing number of people while protecting the environment they rely on?

The stakes have never been so high. To meet the needs of its people, Africa's agricultural production needs to rise by 70%. And the continent needs a clear plan for how to make this happen.

Farm Africa doesn't believe in handouts. Instead, our work is designed to give people a hand up. We do this by examining the problem as a whole – helping communities create local solutions that will meet their needs long into the future.

From fields in Ethiopia to urban farms in Kenya, we help farmers to develop their skills and gain access to the inputs they need to grow more produce of a higher quality. We also help farmers choose crops that are in high demand and will thrive in their local soil.



Nicolas Mounard, CEO, Farm Africa

Looking forward, we make sure the farmers we work with also have clear links to markets.

By setting up efficient supply chains, we help farmers sell their produce for the very best price. This helps them grow a reliable source of income, as well as a sustainable food supply.

Beneath all of this lies a commitment to protecting the environment. With the right support, farmers can keep Africa's land fit for farming while preserving its precious resources.

So much of the fight for food security can seem an uphill struggle. But as you can read in this collection of stories, together we can bring about long-lasting change.

COMING TOGETHER FOR LONG-TERM CHANGE

Ethiopia has come a long way since the newsreels of the 1980s. But another year of failed rains has put the country back on edge. Unable to rely on the weather, Farm Africa is helping a team of local pastoralists fight back. Together.

Going by the name of 'Nashimeko' – meaning love – a group of 14 pastoralists in Ethiopia's Hamer district came together to form a new fruit and vegetable enterprise.

Livestock struggle to survive in dry conditions, and with the Hamer district hit hard by drought, the group wanted to diversify their sources of income.

So the past four months have seen Farm Africa give this entrepreneurial team a helping hand to start growing crops.

First Farm Africa showed the Nashimeko group members how to prepare and maintain their land. We also showed them planting, spacing and irrigation techniques. Ready to go, we provided the equipment and seeds they would need to launch their enterprise and grow a wide range of crops.

It took four months of hard work. But it was worth it.

The determined group even sourced a new supply of groundwater, which Farm Africa helped them store, meaning they will be able to farm all year round.

No longer bound by drought, their fields are now bursting with an impressive array of tomatoes, onions, peppers and cabbages. A bountiful supply of fruit and veg that has improved the team's diet.

What's more, the group sells their surplus produce in a small shop. Not only does this allow the farmers to earn an additional income, it's also made nutritious produce available in their town.

Energised and inspired, they are even looking to pool their profits and grow their business further.



Your support helps farmers grow secure incomes as well as sustainable food supplies. Thank you.

GROWING A SWEET FUTURE WITH POTATO FARMERS IN TANZANIA AND UGANDA



Vitamin A deficiency is a major health problem in Uganda and Tanzania. Affecting more than a third of women and children, it is the leading cause of childhood blindness. There's a solution that grows just beneath the top layer of soil. Peel back the skin of the humble sweet potato and you'll discover a bounty of orange flesh bursting with Vitamin A. Delve further, and you'll find a treasure trove of Vitamins B, C, E, fibre, potassium, iron and zinc. It is a gold mine that's ripe for the taking.

Just 125g of orange-fleshed sweet potato can give a pre-school child their recommended daily intake of Vitamin A. That's why Farm Africa is working with farmers in Uganda and Tanzania to make the most of this superfood. Introduce it as a regular part of a child's diet and you will boost their immune system - protecting them from a myriad of health complications.

TANZANIA

The Tanzanian government is running a major campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes.

More than just a health fix, it also makes sense for farmers. In the Morogoro region of the country, sweet potatoes are resilient to local pests. This makes them a great vegetable to capitalise on.

As awareness grows, so does the demand for orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. To meet this need, Farm Africa has worked to establish demonstration plots across the Morogoro region, where farmers can learn all about this wonder crop.

The project has given 3,000 local farmers the chance to gain practical, hands-on experience in sweet potato farming. Farm Africa has also helped them to set up a new farming cooperative. Armed with information on local markets, co-op members can now sell their produce in bulk for a better price.

UGANDA

Uganda is Africa's leading producer of sweet potatoes. The Teso sub-region in particular boasts a climate and soil particularly suited to this important crop. The problem, however, is that the supply chain is inefficient.

Most farmers plant and harvest at the same time - saturating markets and pushing prices down. Traditional harvesting methods also mean that their produce soon perishes. On average, just one third of the orange-fleshed sweet potatoes harvested make it to market.

To maximise the potential of Uganda's orange-fleshed sweet potato farms, Farm Africa is helping local communities improve their processing techniques to build a stronger supply chain. As part of this, Teso's farmers will use a brand new production centre to dry and chip their potatoes. This means they can be stored for up to three months, and sold throughout the year when prices are higher.

For the farmers of Morogoro and Teso, new systems provide a regular, secure and efficient supply of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. It is a crop and an income to be relied on. It is also a life-giving supply of vitamins and nutrients. A win-win situation for farmers and communities alike.



A gift of £250 could help more farmers grow the food, and incomes, their families need to thrive.



REVITALISING THE ETHIOPIAN LANDSCAPE

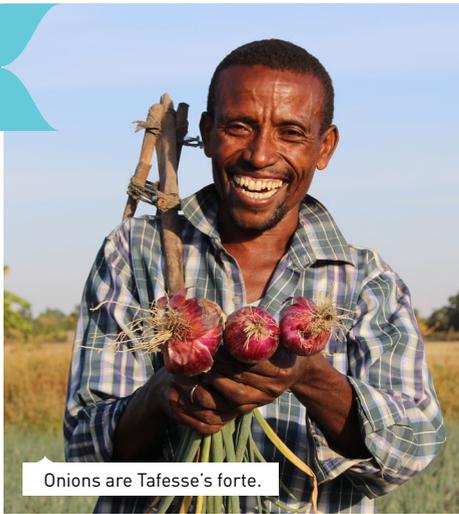
In Africa 874 million hectares of land are suitable for agriculture. But extreme weather and poor management mean that 83% of it is currently not fertile enough for farming.

In southern Ethiopia, changeable weather, crop diseases and outbreaks of pests make farming extremely difficult. Last year, unpredictable rains pushed harvests back by two months.

For farmers like Tafesse, these delays meant their families had to go without. With success riding on just two crops, Tafesse could not grow the food his family needed to eat or sell.

Farm Africa's climate-smart agriculture project is a lifeline working to improve the food security of 7,000 families across southern Ethiopia – including Tafesse's. He is one of 1,295 farmers recently trained in 'climate-smart' practices.

As part of this, we gave him high-quality seeds and showed him techniques to revitalise his land and boost his harvest.



Onions are now Tafesse's forte. They are a rare find in his village, and this means he can sell them for a good price.

A year after joining Farm Africa's project, Tafesse has doubled his earnings and his onions have given him a reliable second source of income.

"We had never done this before. My fellow farmers and myself are seen as pioneers. Other villagers have been encouraged to grow vegetables as a result." Tafesse

And it doesn't stop there. Thanks to healthy eating training from Farm Africa, Tafesse and his family now have a more nutritious diet, eating a variety of vegetables with every meal.



A gift of £75 could help more farmers like Tafesse learn new techniques to revitalise their harvests.

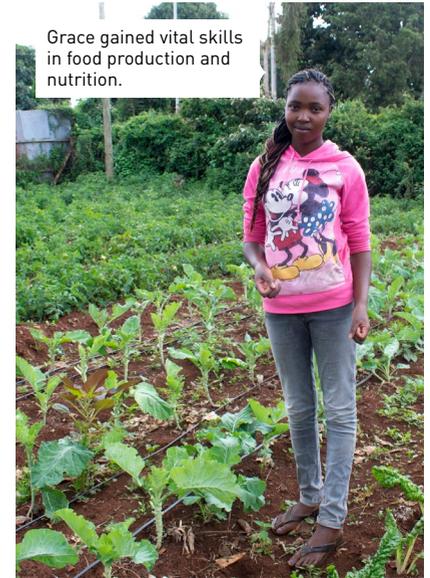
FUELLING THE FUTURE: KENYA'S URBAN FARMS

Grace is 18 years old. She has her whole future ahead of her, and Farm Africa is proud to have given her the fuel to start this exciting journey.

Growing up in the Dagoretti district of Nairobi is not easy. It's one of the most overcrowded parts of the city – and the population is expanding. Rapidly. Resources are stretched to the limit. This brings chronic food shortages, and with them the risk of malnutrition and other poverty-related health problems. It's a hard reality that young people like Grace face daily.

Across the district a network of 15 urban farms set up by Farm Africa are providing a much-needed break from Dagoretti life. Local school and community groups each received a donation of livestock, together with training in organic farming practices. Dagoretti's new urban farmers were soon growing the food they needed to support their local community. We even helped them sell their surplus crops by linking them with a new micro-enterprise scheme.

For young people like Grace, these urban farms are a chance to gain vital skills in food production and nutrition. Her new-found knowledge means that she can live her life knowing that she will always be able to grow a balanced diet for herself and her family.



"The spinach and kale we grow are a great source of vitamins. We now get a fresh supply of vegetables right from the farm. Before, we would have vegetables in our diet only occasionally, but nowadays it's regular." Grace

Farm Africa's work here might have finished, but thanks to people like Grace, Dagoretti's urban farms will continue to grow. They are a foundation for life, and fuel for the future.



£15 could give more young farmers the skills they need to grow prosperous, healthy futures.

FARM AFRICA'S THREE POINT PLAN FOR LONG-TERM FOOD SECURITY



AGRICULTURE

Effective farming techniques and high-quality inputs are key to driving up agricultural production.

MARKETS

Strong links with buyers mean farmers can make a healthy profit from what they grow.



ENVIRONMENT

Holistic management of natural resources means they will be protected for future generations.



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