

# Annual Review 2024







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## Letter from the Chair

As I step down as Chair of Trustees, I reflect on the extraordinary journey we've shared since I joined as a trustee ten years ago.

I joined Farm Africa due to my belief that agriculture is the sector with the most potential to transform the lives of people living in Africa. Ten years on, I remain convinced of this. Today, our mission is all the more important due to the escalating challenges facing rural communities including climate change, migration and geopolitical instability.

In 2024, Farm Africa reached 770,000 people, an increase of more than 150,000 people from 2023. As you'll read in this report, our support varies from helping displaced refugees to become self-sufficient, supporting smallholder farmers to adopt climate-resilient practices, and working with mothers to improve their children's nutrition.

Core to all our work is a focus on increasing incomes, improving access to markets, conserving the environment and boosting communities' resilience to shocks, taking care to ensure that our support reaches those who need it most.

Whether you've donated, fundraised or partnered with us, you've made our work possible. Fundraising highlights in 2024 included a Farm Africa promotion on the sale of green beans by the retailer Sainsbury's, a new partnership with the restaurant chain Farmer J, and the GROW for Good challenge, which saw 12 women leaders from the UK

food industry camp, cycle and work on regenerative agriculture farms in Kenya to raise funds for our work.

We also celebrated launches of our Giving Circle, with Sabrina Dhowre Elba as patron, and our engaging new website, which was subsequently nominated for a prestigious Webby award.

My thanks go to my fellow trustees, including Serena Brown who stepped down this year and Laketch Mikael who is also retiring from the board. I am delighted that longstanding trustee Jan Bonde Nielsen, who also stepped down this year, agreed to become President of Farm Africa. On a sadder note, we mourned the loss of our Tanzania Country Director Tuntime Kyando and former board chair Michael Collinson, who both died this year.

I end with thanks to Farm Africa's staff, whose expertise, commitment and passion underpin the organisation's impact. Serving alongside you has been a true honour. I will remain a champion of Farm Africa and the communities we serve. I welcome Amar Inamdar to the board. He is ably qualified to be the next Chair of Farm Africa.

John Reizenstein  
Chair of Trustees, Farm Africa



In October 2024, the GROW for Good challenge saw 12 women leaders from the UK food industry camp, cycle and work on regenerative agriculture farms in Kenya to raise funds and awareness for Farm Africa.



## Letter from the Chief Executive

As I write this letter in the spring of 2025, Farm Africa celebrates our 40th anniversary. Back in 1985, the charity's founders held the firm belief that developing small-scale agriculture was the key to reducing rural poverty.

Today, Farm Africa remains true to our roots, and would still be very recognisable to the founders and earliest project participants, staff and supporters. But we're also proud of our growth and development.

As you'll read on page 10, our largest ever project is now underway, working with the Mastercard Foundation to unlock work opportunities for 150,000 young entrepreneurs in the fish farming sector in Kenya. On page 18 you can find out how we help smallholder farmers earn money not just from selling crops, but also from carbon credits earned by planting trees. On page 20 you can read how we are supporting forest communities in Ethiopia to sell coffee to a large Japanese food company.

At the COP 29 climate change conference in December 2024, we were proud to be awarded a grant by the Global Environment Facility to scale up efforts to ensure finance for climate adaptation reaches those who need it most: smallholder farmers. This year we amplified the voices of those we serve on an international stage including at

the Oxford Farming Conference, New York Climate Week and the UK Parliament.

We achieve the most impact when practices that deliver results are replicated by others. This year, we were pleased to see the Embu and Tharaka Nithi county governments in Kenya start to use private sector Village-based Advisors to promote regenerative agriculture practices, an approach key to our work with AGRA there.

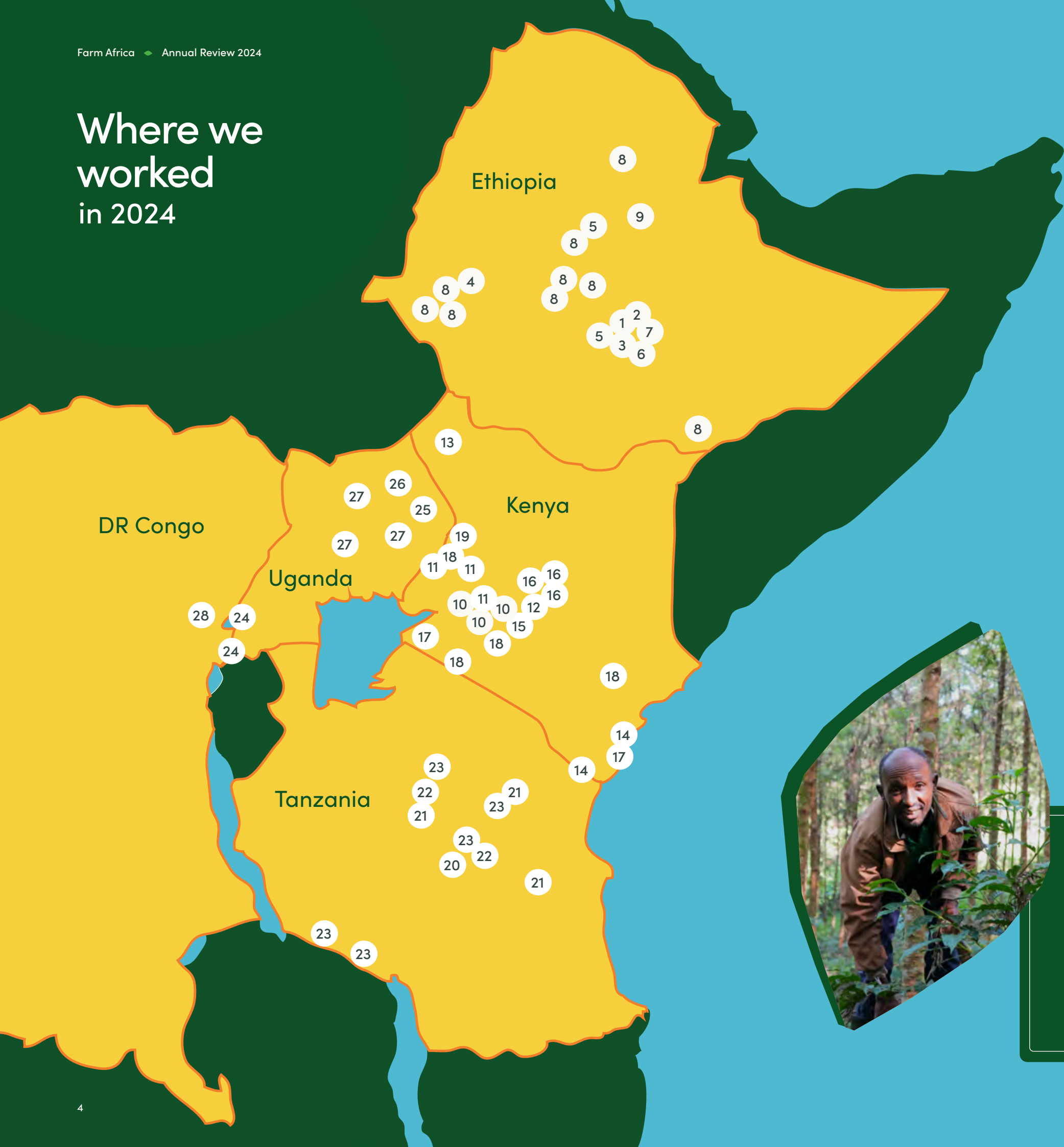
I thank our outgoing Chair of Trustees, John Reizenstein, for guiding Farm Africa through a period of growth and resilience. I look forward to working with our new Chair Amar Inamdar as we enter the organisation's fifth decade.

To all our supporters: thank you. Together, we are enabling farmers in eastern Africa to grow more, sell more and sell for more, while protecting the environment for generations to come.

Dan Collison  
Chief Executive, Farm Africa



# Where we worked in 2024



## PROJECT LOCATIONS:

- ETHIOPIA**
- 1 Forests for sustainable development
  - 2 Preserving ecosystems in Bale
  - 3 Enhancing viability of participatory forest management
  - 4 Making forest coffee profitable
  - 5 Improving wheat production in Oromia regional state
  - 6 Gender transformative approaches in conservation and livelihoods
  - 7 Pastoral community resilience building
  - 8 Nature-based solutions for sustainable and inclusive development
  - 9 Gender transformations in Afar and Oromia
- KENYA**
- 10 Waitrose Foundation
  - 11 Waitrose climate resilience
  - 12 Regenerative agriculture
  - 13 Strengthening refugee-led small-scale enterprises
  - 14 Inclusive carbon sequestration
  - 15 Sustainable agroforestry for carbon removal
  - 16 Sustainable agricultural enterprises
  - 17 Youth in sustainable aquaculture
  - 18 Farmer organisation incubation
  - 19 Growing Futures
- TANZANIA**
- 20 Boosting sorghum production in a changing climate
  - 21 Farm to Market Alliance
  - 22 Youth and women in agribusiness
  - 23 NOURISH
- UGANDA**
- 24 Tackling youth unemployment
  - 25 Climate innovations for resilience in Karamoja (CLIRK)
  - 26 Catalyzing strengthened policy action for healthy diets and resilience (CASCADE)
  - 27 Farmer organisation incubation
- DR CONGO**
- 28 Equipping coffee cooperatives to comply with the EU Deforestation Regulation



“Before, our village was very much degraded, but now you can find so many woodlots growing here and there.”

### Solomon

Woodlot owner and member of Salewongus forest management cooperative, Ilu Ababor Zone, Ethiopia



# Forty years of impact: meet Anna

As Farm Africa celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2025, we reflect on the millions of people we've empowered to build brighter futures. For themselves. For their families. For their communities.

People like Anna from Tanzania, who took part in a Farm Africa revolving goat scheme in 1996 and is still breeding Toggenburg goats today.

"Before I joined the project in 1996, I was a normal farmer. I worked on my land and I had some local breed goats. My biggest challenge at that time was lack of money. I reared goats but I didn't realise it was possible to do this in a commercial way.

"When Farm Africa came to Babati, they chose eight livestock keepers to join the project and I was one of them."

Anna received five Toggenburg goats, known for high yields of milk, along with training on profitable goat rearing. In exchange, as her herd grew, she agreed to pass on eight young goats to other local women in need, creating a cycle of opportunity.



Anna still breeds Toggenburg goats today.

Photo: Farm Africa / Michael Goima

"After I took part in training I realised that I could make a lot of money from the goats. I learnt to plan how many goats I would breed, how many I would sell and I learnt about record keeping. I realised I would not have needed to struggle for money if I had known this before.

"I also learnt how keeping goats could benefit my farming, for example by using manure to improve the soil.

"Through the Farm Africa project, I was lucky enough to travel to Kenya and Uganda to meet other livestock keepers. They shared their knowledge with me. I saw what they were doing and I copied it here at home.

"My life has changed massively thanks to Farm Africa. My farm is the same size as it was back then, but my soil is much more fertile now and I am able to grow much more.

"I also used to have a small house. In 1998 I sold ten goats and used the money to build my new home. When I sold more goats, I used the money to build a toilet to replace my pit latrine."

Then Anna heard about biogas, which can be produced from goat manure. "I used more money from my goats to have the biogas system installed in my house. I've had gas for 12 years now.

"Thanks to goat rearing, both my sons have been able to finish their education. One graduated from university and the other did vocational training and now runs a business.

"Before I started working with Farm Africa, I didn't have any confidence. I didn't think I could do anything. But now I know I can do anything I want to do. I have the confidence to share my knowledge with others. I have taught a lot of people! They call me 'professor'!

"In 2019, I was recognised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock for my work as a Trainer of Trainers. They gave me the opportunity to share my knowledge at an exhibition in Nairobi. I met other farmers and livestock keepers from all over eastern Africa – South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. It was the first time I had ever been on a plane!"

"If I hadn't been part of the Farm Africa project, I would have just been here with no purpose. Today I am a happy woman."



Read more stories of impact

[www.farmafrica.org/40years](http://www.farmafrica.org/40years)



"Now I know I can do anything I want to do."

Anna Moshi

Mother, farmer, homeowner, livestock breeder, Trainer of Trainers

Photo: Farm Africa / Michael Goima



# Growing together

In southeastern Ethiopia, nature-based solutions are bringing communities together in pursuit of a better future.

In 2024, Madina changed her life story from one of displaced refugee to self-reliant farmer. Her achievements demonstrate the transformative power of inclusive, nature-based solutions.

“I am a refugee woman. I fled from civil war in Somalia in 2010 and transferred to Melkadida refugee camp. Life was difficult, and the humanitarian assistance provided, such as wheat and oil, was not enough,” she recalls of the life she and her children led there for 13 years.

A door opened when Farm Africa invited Madina and 39 other refugees to take part in a sustainable farming initiative. Accepting the offer, Madina and her children left the refugee camp and started a new life in Kalmasago, a rural community that had agreed to host the project.

Together with 40 residents of Kalmasago, the group formed a farming cooperative working towards inclusivity and shared prosperity for those living in this remote and arid landscape.



Madina, formerly a resident of Melkadida refugee camp, now leads the farming cooperative in Kalmasago.

“It was a good new day for my family when we joined the Farm Africa farming programme. The community welcomed us warmly.”

## From aid to earning

The 80 members of the cooperative are just a few of the 65,000 people reached by Farm Africa’s Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (NSSID) programme in 2024. The four-year programme, which is

funded by the Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia, is working across Ethiopia to reduce poverty, build communities’ resilience to climate change and protect the environment, with an aim to benefit more than 87,000 households.

In Kalmasago, Farm Africa provided training and start-up resources to help the cooperative members overcome the dry conditions with nature-friendly techniques such as small-scale irrigation, minimum tillage, mulching and use of drought-tolerant crop varieties. With that support, the farmers achieved two high-yield growing cycles in a row. By the end of 2024, they were covering their costs independently, relying on Farm Africa only for technical guidance.

“In this third season, we are self-sustaining,” says Madina proudly.

For Madina and her fellow cooperative members, the shift is a major milestone. With the income she

has earned from the harvest, Madina has been able to improve her family’s living conditions, move into a larger home, enrol her children in school and ensure they receive adequate healthcare.

She’s also purchased poultry and 15 goats. “I sell some goats’ milk and eggs for daily income while keeping some for my children,” she explains.

Madina’s experience is shared by many. In 2024, the NSSID programme helped 11,646 people improve their food security.

## From earning to providing

The members have named their cooperative Himilo, meaning ‘vision’. They aim to scale up their operations and export their produce, increasing their own income and providing livelihood opportunities for others.

“Our plan is to become a large cooperative of crop producers and export our yields. This will enable me to support my refugee brothers,” says Madina determinedly.

With Farm Africa well-placed to support with market linkages, it’s an achievable dream.

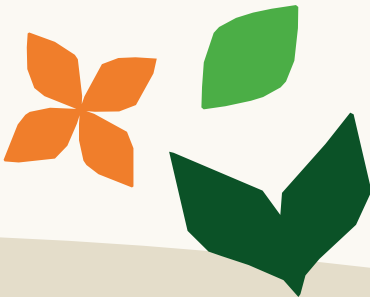
# Growing better, together

Through inclusive, nature-based solutions like those used by the Himilo Cooperative, the NSSID programme is sowing the seeds of a future where refugees and host communities thrive together, even in challenging landscapes. Our approach combines immediate livelihood support with long-term strategies for sustainable livelihood development, ensuring gender equality in economic opportunities.

The success of this approach is evident in the thriving cooperative Madina now leads. As their elected chairperson, she represents 80 farmers from both refugee and host communities.

“Through the project, I have enjoyed good integration, synergy and peaceful coexistence with my fellow cooperative members,” she says.

When communities come together to cultivate not just crops but also trust, the harvest is a brighter future for all.



65,000 people benefitted from the NSSID programme in 2024

24,903 NSSID participants supported to improve farm productivity through climate-smart agriculture in 2024



Himilo farming cooperative was founded as a joint venture between refugees and host community members.





# Creating waves for young people

Farm Africa and partners are inspiring thousands of young women and men in Kenya to develop thriving careers in the fish farming sector.

Demand for fish in Kenya is increasing rapidly. The fish farming sector has huge potential to boost youth employment and food security, but is often overlooked by young job hunters. In late 2023, the Mastercard Foundation joined forces with Farm Africa and partners to launch the Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture (YISA) programme, which is redefining what opportunity looks like in rural areas where youth unemployment is stubbornly high.

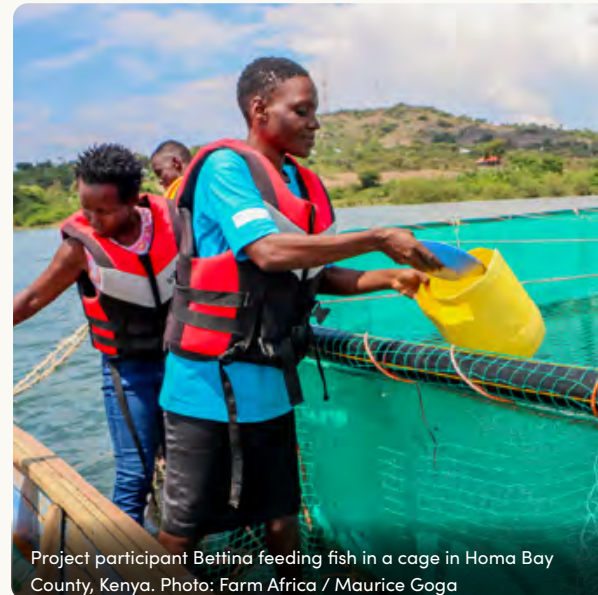
YISA is no small undertaking. Implemented with our partners Echo Network Africa, Lattice, Aquarech, Ramogi Institute of Advanced Technology (RIAT), Hydro Victoria and Livingwood Consultants, the five-year programme aims to create 150,000 dignified and sustainable jobs in aquaculture across six counties in Kenya by November 2028. But it's not just about the numbers — it's about who's being reached.

## Opportunities for women

In 2024 alone, over 10,000 YISA participants secured employment in the fish farming value chain. Notably, women made up more than 70% of programme participants. In a traditionally male-dominated industry, that's revolutionary.

"Through the programme's revolving loan fund, our group was able to acquire a motorised fishing boat," says Bettina, chair of a women's group in Homa Bay County. "This has allowed us to access fish independently without relying on exploitative arrangements with male fishermen."

She's referring to Jaboya, a transactional practice at Lake Victoria's fisheries where women are coerced into exchanging sex for access to fish. YISA tackles this exploitation head-on by empowering women to manage their own supply chains and become financially independent.



Project participant Bettina feeding fish in a cage in Homa Bay County, Kenya. Photo: Farm Africa / Maurice Goga

Economic empowerment is central to the YISA model. Over 5,400 young people, 83% of them women, have accessed catalytic funds to launch or expand their aquaculture enterprises. This capital has made successes possible such as 215 young women setting up 12 large fish cages stocked with over 420,000 fingerlings (young fish), anticipated to yield over 130 metric tonnes of fish in just seven months.

## Black Soldier Fly farming

For others, innovation has come through unconventional but promising avenues, like farming maggots. Specifically, Black Soldier Fly (BSF) larvae, which are rich in protein and now in high demand as fish feed. Once viewed as dirty and unhygienic, BSF farming is being rebranded as a low-cost, high-yield solution that supports circular agriculture and reduces dependency on commercial fish feeds. It's cost-efficient, sustainable — and now, thanks to YISA, a business venture for 670 enterprises owned by young women and men.

## An inclusive approach

For persons with disabilities, the project has been just as transformative. In Alupe in western Kenya, the Chakol and Amase Persons with Disabilities (PWD) groups are now active players in the aquaculture sector. With support from YISA and Kenya's agricultural research institutes, they've both planted 30 acres of soya beans, an ingredient in fish feed.

"Our group has 45 members, most of whom are unable to secure employment due to their disability status," said Agnes Auma, chairperson of Chakol. "Following our partnership with Farm Africa, we have received comprehensive training that has enabled us to take up the journey of successful soya bean cultivation."

## Business training

The programme's training modules cover topics including financial literacy, business planning and practical techniques in fish feed production and farming. The training, which has been praised by participants for its interactive and hands-on design, is helping young people build not just businesses, but confidence.

"The process was seamless, and the expertise provided was invaluable. The business development curriculum in YISA is a game-changer, you see your business plan on paper and then implement it step by step," said Frank Thoya, one young entrepreneur.

As a digital platform prepares to link entrepreneurs across the aquaculture value chain, YISA's vision is clear: sustainable fish farming isn't just about food. It's about addressing youth unemployment, gender inequality and exclusion.

Right: Santa recording the pond water quality (pH, temperature and salinity) during mariculture technical training in Kilifi county, Kenya. Photo: Farm Africa / Maurice Goga.

10,274

young people in work in the aquaculture value chain in 2024

5,265

young people received US\$ 966,041 investment from the revolving fund

6,725

young people producing soya beans for fish feed in 2024





# Our year in numbers

# 771,221 people reached in 2024

up 26% from 2023.



## 340,158

Total number of people supported to improve their resilience to the effects of climate change

“Farm Africa taught us about regenerative agriculture. I learnt about intercropping: you plant two crops at one plot, if the rain fails, you harvest the other.”

Benjamin, Tharaka Nithi, Kenya



## 8,427

Total number of enterprises supported to enhance their operations for growth and sustainability

“The support has enabled us to increase our capacity. For instance, they helped me gain knowledge about nursery management and the latest farming technologies that have helped increase the quality of my coffee.”

Girma, Ilu Ababor Zone, Ethiopia



## 188,915

Total number of people supported to improve access to agri-technologies, inputs and services per year

“Through the links provided by Farm Africa, we have managed to buy a combine harvester that we use to harvest wheat and sometimes sunflowers. This is very handy! It saves a lot of time.”

Elizabeth, Manyara, Tanzania



## 46,579

Total number of people and enterprises supported to improve their access to financial services

“Through the programme’s revolving loan fund, our group was able to acquire a motorised fishing boat, empowering us to access fish independently.”

Bettina, Homa Bay, Kenya



## 265,929

Total number of people supported to enhance their production practices per year

“I received hands-on training on improving yield through climate-smart agriculture practices like proper seed spacing and applying the right amount of fertiliser.”

Neema, Songwe, Tanzania



## \$3,365,921

Total amount of financing extended to individuals and businesses/enterprises

Bekelu from Ilu Ababor, Ethiopia secured a loan of ETB 14,500 to purchase a heifer. Shortly after, the heifer gave birth. Bekelu is confident she can repay her loan solely through the sale of the calf.



# Improving nutrition for rural families



“Today, I have the opportunity to share knowledge with this group of farmers through a demonstration plot, hoping for positive results.”

**Neema**  
Lead farmer, Songwe, Tanzania

Photo: SNV / Moshi Lukindo

## Climate-smart farming practices and access to markets are boosting incomes and nutrition in Tanzania.

The soil is dry and cracked, the sun relentless. Farmers in rural Tanzania face an ongoing battle against nature, planting seeds in fields that yield too little, waiting for rains that come too late or not at all. Malnutrition is a major challenge. In central-northern Tanzania, more than 40% of the population face food insecurity. In the Southern Highlands, approximately 500,000 children under five years old suffer from stunted growth. But a quiet transformation is underway.

After learning about climate-smart agriculture practices like proper seed spacing and applying the right amount of fertiliser, Damaris Machite, a farmer from the Dodoma Region, now stands a better chance of producing a good yield of nutritious food crops, whatever the weather. Best of all, as a lead farmer she’s sharing this knowledge with the other farmers in her village.

Damaris is a participant in our NOURISH project, which works to equip smallholder farmers across

Tanzania with the tools and knowledge to escape poverty and food insecurity. Launched in 2024, the project, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and implemented in partnership with SNV, aims to reach 123,000 households by 2028.

## Addressing systemic challenges

The problem facing Tanzanian farmers isn’t just unpredictable weather. It’s also markets that work against them.

Farmers struggle to obtain high-quality seeds, leaving them with low yields. Without proper soil testing, they often overuse or underuse fertiliser. And when they do produce a surplus, access to buyers remains a challenge – many are forced to sell their crops to middlemen at rock-bottom prices.

Female farmers face additional barriers. Many do not own the land they farm, and without land titles, securing loans for better equipment or seeds is nearly impossible.

NOURISH is training farmers in agriculture techniques that boost productivity and resilience to climate change, such as agroforestry, crop rotation, crop diversification, use of soil cover, soil and water management, nutrient management and integrated pest management.

These techniques help to improve soil fertility and protect land from degradation. NOURISH is also strengthening market connections, ensuring that farmers can buy drought-tolerant seeds and sell their produce at fair prices.

The project encourages farmers to grow common beans, sunflowers, sorghum and vegetables, all selected for their nutritional benefits, climate resilience and strong market demand.

## Improving nutrition

In the Manyara region, small-scale farmer Loseku Saning’o’s family’s diet never used to include fresh produce. But after attending a NOURISH nutrition training session, he planted vegetables in a kitchen garden.

“As a Maasai, we never valued vegetables,” recounted Loseku. “After receiving nutrition education, my family and I started incorporating vegetables into our meals. I also changed the snacks I give my children. Instead of bringing

home bottled juice or soda, I now bring fresh fruits.”

Saning’o’s experience highlights one of the project’s key goals: improving nutrition. Many farming families in Tanzania lack dietary diversity, leading to widespread malnutrition. By encouraging farmers to grow and consume a variety of vegetables, NOURISH helps communities fight hidden hunger.

## Signs of progress

Early results demonstrate NOURISH’s scalable impact. By the end of 2024, a total of 477 lead farmers and 206 agricultural extension officers had been trained in climate-smart farming techniques. And 106 of these lead farmers had shared their learning with 817 smallholder farmers, creating a knowledge network that will grow and grow. More than 290 demonstration plots had been set up to showcase best practices. Nearly 10,000 tree seedlings had been planted in nurseries to combat soil infertility and erosion.

Access to agricultural inputs is also improving. Through supply chains supported by the project, farmers purchased over 23 metric tons of quality sorghum seed and nearly 23 kg of vegetable seeds.

Women are at the forefront of this shift. They are receiving agricultural training, gaining access to financing and adopting farming methods that increase their productivity. They are stepping into leadership roles. NOURISH is showing that change is possible through investment in skills, knowledge and access to resources.

477

lead farmers trained in climate-smart agricultural practices.

10,000

trees planted to combat soil erosion and improve soil health.

“Before acquiring the planter, sowing on our farm was time-consuming. However, now we can plant the same acreage with the new machine in just three days.”



Damaris bought a subsidised seed sowing planter with support from NOURISH



# A female focus from farm to fork

In eastern Uganda we've worked with CARE to support female farmers to grow, sell, prepare and consume healthy foods.

In the remote drylands of eastern Uganda's Karamoja sub-region, two thirds of people live in poverty. Rural communities' heavy reliance on natural resources means their incomes are sensitive to ever more frequent climate extremes, such as droughts, heavy rains and high winds.

Caring for children largely falls on women in Karamoja, yet many of these women lack ownership of property and do not earn income. When extreme weather events devastate their crops, mothers are left with minimal access to both nutrition and money, and face significant challenges in providing food for their children.

Low awareness about the importance of eating a balanced diet, coupled with lack of access to nutritious foods, mean most families eat a limited diet of cereal grains and wild leaves. Chronic malnutrition is prevalent, particularly amongst women and children.

## CASCADE

With funding from the Dutch Government, last year Farm Africa worked in partnership with CARE's CATalyzing Strengthened policy aCtion for heAlthy Diets and resiliencE (CASCADE) programme to put women in Karamoja in the driving seat of improving the diets of their young children and themselves, even in the face of climate shocks.

The six-month pilot project, which launched in July 2024, helped rural women in four districts (Moroto, Napak, Abim and Kotido) to grow a range of nutritious foods, learn about healthy eating and overcome some of the cultural barriers holding them back.

**Christine, from Kotido in Karamoja, now farms orange-fleshed sweet potatoes and maize rich in vitamin A. At home she grows a variety of vegetables including cowpeas, tomatoes, okra and aubergines. She's also planted fruit trees and started to rear chickens.**



Photos: Farm Africa

## Climate-smart farming

Using an approach called Farmer Field and Business Schools, we helped a total of 12,388 farmers, 75% of whom were women, to learn about the production, consumption and marketing of foods that are both climate-resilient and nutritious. The participants, who were organised into 546 groups, attended demonstrations at 174 learning sites to find out more about producing crops such as vegetables, iron-rich beans and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes using affordable technologies, such as crop rotation and watering of crops from nearby water points.



Community-based facilitators also visited the farmers in their own fields to recap the lessons learnt at the learning sites and encourage adoption of the practices. Lessons covered not just growing, but also how to safely harvest, dry and store crops to preserve their freshness.

12,388

farmers trained in climate-smart agricultural practices.

## Access to seeds

High-quality seeds are essential for healthy harvests, but remain scarce in rural Uganda. We put the farmers' groups in touch with two private sector dealers selling quality seeds. We also helped eight of the farmers' groups to establish businesses producing and selling Quality Declared Seeds for iron-rich beans and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, helping ensure the other groups benefited from easier access to high-quality, reliable and affordable seeds.

## Healthy eating

From holding food and cooking demonstrations to working with Village Health Teams to taking part in radio talk shows, we worked to spread the word far and wide about the benefits of healthy, nutritious diets for children, mothers, adolescents and babies. Emphasis was put on making use of locally available foods to create meals including carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals. Sources of carbohydrate included millet flour, maize flour, rice and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. Protein could come from beef, silver fish, groundnuts, beans and eggs, while fruits and green vegetables are a good source of vitamins and minerals.

We also engaged men and boys in discussions on the need to challenge the social norms, beliefs and practices that restrict women and children's access to nutritious foods. This has led to more husbands sharing household duties with their wives and involving them in decision making.

56

cooking demonstrations conducted, reaching 2,387 people.



# Growing green

By planting trees on their farms and entering carbon markets, farmers in central Kenya are growing a greener future for us all.

In Embu and Tharaka Nithi counties, farmers once struggling with declining harvests are improving productivity, creating job opportunities and protecting the local environment, all while mitigating climate change.

The catalyst for the change has come through Farm Africa’s agroforestry project, an extension of the regenerative agriculture project, which we’ve been running in partnership with AGRA since 2020.

## Agroforestry for security and sustainability

Through the project, farmers have been supported to adopt agroforestry across 14,175 hectares of land. Agroforestry is a technique that integrates trees into traditional farming systems to enhance soil health, conserve water, increase biodiversity and improve crop productivity. At the same time, the trees yield high-value crops like fruit and nuts to diversify diets and income.

Farmers adopting the method have improved soil water retention by 30-50%, a crucial factor in this drought-prone area. Seeing a 30-50% boost in soil organic matter, they’ve also been able to reduce their use of fertiliser by 20-40%. “My family is financially and food secure, based on the number of fruit trees that I have planted alongside the cash crops”, says seasoned farmer Peter Kabuthe, who has planted over 100 trees.

24,945

tonnes of carbon captured to reduce global carbon emissions.

## Capturing carbon, growing livelihoods

Although the improved productivity has been welcomed by farmers, the real game-changer came in 2023, when the project integrated with carbon markets, enabling 21,000 farmers to earn extra income through Rabobank’s Acorn programme for the tree seedlings they planted.

How does it work? Trees capture carbon, and the Acorn programme provides a system for farmers to quantify the carbon they are capturing as Carbon Removal Units (CRUs), with each unit representing one tonne of carbon removed. Acorn then provides a market platform for selling the CRUs to corporations for emission offsetting, returning 80% of the revenue generated to the farmers.

So far, the farmers in Tharaka Nithi and Embu have reduced carbon emissions by a total of 24,945 tonnes of carbon dioxide and earned

“In the next five years, I see myself employing close to 100 people.”

Simon

Owner, Vuma Tree Nurseries

income through the sale of an equivalent number of CRUs.

As an experienced local farmer who doubles as a community advisor for the regenerative agriculture programme, Rosebeth has personally educated more than 1,000 farmers on the importance of planting trees alongside other crops. This move has seen the majority of farmers from her region earn income from carbon credits. She relates the impact for her family and her community:

“When I was paid the first amount, I paid school fees for my child – now she cannot stay out of school! My other child was joining campus when another payment was made. I used all that money to purchase a laptop for her. The other money that will come in soon will be used to pay school fees for my children who are in primary school.

“I have received success stories from many farmers who were paid carbon credits and managed to pay school fees for their children.

“This has motivated them to plant more trees and has also inspired those who were not recruited into the programme to seek recruitment.”

## Creating jobs while fighting climate change

The opportunity presented through carbon credits has been strong enough to prompt Simon, a computer scientist from Embu, to pursue his long-standing passion for climate action and establish a nursery. Still in its first year, the nursery already hosts 46 varieties of trees, with more than 160,000 seedlings in production, and demand is high.

“In the next five years, I see myself employing close to 100 people with tree nurseries spread across five sub-counties,” he predicts.

## The future is green

As Peter, Rosebeth and Simon continue to nurture their trees and reap the rewards of their efforts, they feel optimistic about the future. Peter aspires to motivate more young people in the region to plant trees, and Rosebeth has observed “that the farmers themselves go round telling others about the benefits of trees and not cutting them down.”

As for Simon, he is following his passion. “I’m sure I am playing a big role in the fight against climate change, and feel very motivated when people purchase tree seedlings from me. I am convinced that they have the desire to make the county greener and better.”

21,000

farmers enabled to earn extra income from their tree plantings through carbon markets.



Find out more about this exciting programme in our report Growing Green at [www.farmafrica.org/growinggreen](http://www.farmafrica.org/growinggreen)



# Change is brewing

A landmark partnership is opening international markets for forest coffee cooperatives protecting Ethiopia's Harena Forest.

Last year, we reported on the impressive progress of forest management cooperatives in Ethiopia's Harena Forest, where we are working with local communities to protect trees and biodiversity while creating economic opportunities. This year, we celebrate another big step forward.

In 2024 the Garen Bale Forest Cooperative Union entered a green business partnership with Zensho Trading Co Ltd, a move that facilitated the export of 19,200kg of specialty grade organic forest coffee and lays the groundwork for consistent, high-volume exports in the years ahead.

## Local impact

How did Harena Forest's coffee farmers benefit? The Union represents 40 forest management cooperatives operating in the Bale Eco-region: a robust network established with support from Farm Africa. The coffee sold was supplied by three of the member cooperatives who are working closely with Farm Africa and Forests of the World on a project aiming to improve forest conservation by improving the profitability of forest-friendly coffee farming.

It is the second international export sale for these three cooperatives and the first time the farmers have negotiated directly with the buyer,

who agreed to pay a premium price if the coffee could obtain Japanese Agricultural Standard certification.

The 55 farmers who supplied coffee for the three cooperatives to sell have earned a net average of ETB 544,624 (£3,208) each.

The three cooperatives have also each earned a net average of ETB 600,682 (£3,538) in commission, which will be invested in local livelihood development and conservation.

One of the benefitting farmers is Abdurahman Kul, a founding member of Gutiti cooperative. He supplied 4,000 kg of coffee for the sale.

"We formed the forest management cooperative to grow together. The cooperative is for all: the poor as well as the rich", he says, encapsulating in 21 words the vision that's driven over a decade of collaborative effort to reach this milestone.

## On course for sustainability

Earlier Farm Africa initiatives laid the groundwork. With support from the European Union and the Norwegian Embassy in Addis Ababa, we've strengthened coffee cooperatives and established a robust network of Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives, who now protect the forest and promote forest-friendly enterprise within their designated zones.



"We formed the forest management cooperative to grow together. The cooperative is for all: the poor as well as the rich."

Abdurahman Kul

Founding member, Gutiti Participatory Forest Management Cooperative

Building on those foundations, in partnership with the local government agricultural office, Farm Africa has been working closely with selected cooperatives on a targeted project to improve the quality and quantity of Bale's forest coffee. Once graded at levels four and five, the coffee is now being recognised at grades one and two - internationally sought-after standards.

The transformation was made possible through extensive training, access to post-harvest materials, the determined commitment of coop members and ongoing support from Forests of the World, funded by Danida.

"The training opened my eyes", says Abdurahman. "Because of it, I've learnt to produce high-quality coffee and improve my post-harvest handling. With the money I've earned, I plan to buy furniture and send my children to school. The more training I receive, the more changes I can make to my life."

Establishing the green export partnership with Zensho, a Japanese-based company, called for a different type of collaboration. Farm Africa helped navigate the complex certification

processes by supporting the three cooperatives to obtain Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) certification for organic coffee. We also facilitated the acquisition of an export licence for the Garen Bale Forest Cooperative Union, enabling smooth transactions and long-term market engagement.

## Global reach

The financial success of these coffee farmers has implications beyond individual prosperity. It strengthens the local economy, provides resources to improve local education and infrastructure, and incentivises conservation efforts. By proving that sustainable practices can lead to significant economic gains, the project is setting a precedent for ethical and environmentally friendly coffee farming worldwide.

As partnerships grow and appreciation of their specialty forest coffee spreads, the future holds even greater promise for the farmers of Bale. For now, they can take pride in knowing that their dedication and hard work have placed their coffee on the global stage.

£3,208

average net income earned per farmer contributing to the sale.

£3,538

average commission earned by each cooperative for local livelihood and conservation development.



Amani Kadir, a member of Badatu Kumbi PFMC, attends to the drying process for harvested forest coffee. Scrupulous attention to post-harvest handling has transformed the quality of forest coffee. Photo: Farm Africa.



# Thank you

ABP UK, Agriculture Business Initiative Trust, Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF), A&O Shearman, AGRA, Asante Foundation, Barfoots, CARE International, Danida, Driscoll's, Eurofins Foundation, European Union, Farm to Market Alliance, Farmer J, Forests of the World, Dr Regan Greenwood, Harris Spice, IF Social Impact, Mastercard Foundation, Medicor Foundation, The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa, Norad, Rabobank Foundation, RH Amar, Royal Norwegian Embassy Addis Ababa, S'ABLE Labs, Sainsbury's, Sida, Sisters of St Joseph of Orange, John Thompson & Sons, UK aid from the UK government, Vi Agroforestry, Vitol Foundation, W&R Barnett, Waitrose Foundation, William Reed, World Food Programme, World University Service of Canada

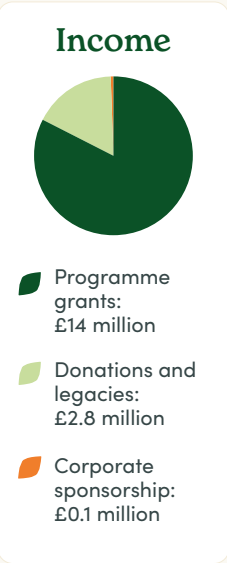


We are also grateful for the vital and instrumental support we received from many trusts, foundations and individuals.

## Our thanks to Farm Africa's Food for Good members in 2024:



# Financial summary



Farm Africa receives income principally from three sources:

- Programme grants from governments, institutions and other major donors to fund specific projects (restricted funding)
- Donations, legacies and other fundraising activities (unrestricted funding)
- Corporate sponsorship income via our trading subsidiary Farm Africa Trading Limited (unrestricted funding)

Total income in 2024 was £16.9m (2023: £11.0m). The rise was due mainly to an increase in the value of programme grants received from donors and the timing of receipts according to the terms of new grants. This also reflects an increase in legacy income.

Programme grants remained the largest funding stream at £14.0m (2023: £9.0m). This included income on large programmes including the Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture (YISA) programme in Kenya, funded by the Mastercard Foundation; the Forests for Sustainable Development programme in Ethiopia, funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Ethiopia; and the Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable and Inclusive Development programme in Ethiopia, funded by Sida.



Farm Africa's expenditure falls into three main categories:

- Direct costs of implementing programmes in eastern Africa
- Support costs, including head office staff and governance
- Fundraising costs

Total expenditure in 2024 increased to £16.5m (2023: £14.3m). Programme spend increased by £1.9m to £14.4m (2023: £12.5m) with the launch of the YISA programme in Kenya and the development of projects in Ethiopia. There has also been an increase in programme expenditure in Tanzania and Uganda.

Support costs increased by £0.12m to £1.23m (2023: £1.11m). This was due to inflation and investment in capacity required to manage the growing project portfolio.

## Reserves

Farm Africa's unrestricted reserves on 31 December 2024 were £1.4m (2023: £1.4m) and its closing restricted reserves were £2.34m (2023: £1.8m). The unrestricted reserves of Farm Africa of £1.4m compares to our target of £2.5m. Farm Africa's unrestricted reserves have risen from £1m in 2021 to their current level of £1.4m. It has not been possible to build reserves in 2024, however steps have been taken in 2024 to reduce Farm Africa's cost base with a view to achieving this goal.

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“Farm Africa trained us on the benefits of planting fruit trees and other crops on the same piece of land. With this, I know that if tea does not give me enough money, then macadamia and avocado will do so.”

**Peter**

Embu County, Kenya

Photo: Farm Africa / Bertha Lutome



**Front cover:**

Participants practise planting techniques during a NOURISH training session in Tanzania. The programme aims to achieve resilient food security for smallholder households in key regions of Tanzania.

Photo: SNV / Moshy Lukindo

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[www.farmafrica.org](http://www.farmafrica.org)

[info@farmafrica.org](mailto:info@farmafrica.org)

+44 (0)20 7430 0440



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