



Forty years of impact

Since 1985, Farm Africa has been at the forefront of working with rural communities in eastern Africa to reduce poverty by farming in harmony with nature.

Here we share a glimpse into some of the lives transformed.





Thirty years ago, Anna Moshi was living in challenging financial circumstances. Then, in 1996, she took part in a Farm Africa revolving goat scheme and everything changed.

"Before I joined the project, 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."

Through the scheme, Anna received five high-yielding Toggenburg goats along with training on profitable goat rearing. In exchange, as her herd grew, she would pass on eight young goats to other local women in need, creating a cycle of improved prosperity.

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

I felt nervous – I didn't know if I would be able to learn what they taught me.

"I learnt to plan how many goats I would breed, how many I would sell and I learnt about record keeping.

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

"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.

"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."

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

Anna Moshi

📍 Tanzania



Farm Africa / Michael Goima

Forest-friendly coffee



The forests of Ethiopia are one of the last places on Earth where Arabica coffee still grows in the wild. Over the past 20 years, Farm Africa and the small-scale farmers who harvest it have been working together to transform the profitability and sustainability of their exclusive product.

Early efforts established a network of farmer cooperatives to protect the forest. Working with these coops over the years, Farm Africa has helped forest coffee farmers improve the quality and quantity of their coffee and gain access to lucrative national and international markets.

In 2012, Mulugeta Tafesse became one of 52 founding members of Abdi Bori Cooperative. Now chairman, he reflects on the journey:

"Our dedicated members ensured the cooperative's success by safeguarding the forest, striving for high-quality coffee

production and building a coffee store using our cooperative's own resources. We now have 234 members, including 88 women."

With business mentorship from Farm Africa, the cooperative has gone from strength to strength, selling impressive volumes of top-quality coffee. In 2023, they secured organic certification, enabling them to earn a premium for their coffee.

The cooperative has been operating independently since March 2024 and continues to thrive. "More than 80% of my income is linked to Abdi Bori Cooperative, where I continuously supply quality coffee and receive good prices and better income", says Mulugeta.

"We have gained control over the pricing by selling our coffee in the central market."

Abde Musa
member, Abdi Bori Cooperative

📍 Ethiopia



Members of Abdi Bori Cooperative gather with Chairman Mulugeta Tafesse (front left) to welcome visitors.

Sharing success



“In the past, when the rains were delayed, you could find that the entire area didn’t have food. Now, we are more prepared.”

Modesto Kiuitu

Farm Africa’s story began in 1985, during a famine in Ethiopia. Founders Sir Michael Wood and David Campbell held the firm belief that food insecurity could be overcome by working closely with small-scale farmers to find solutions, then sharing the knowledge with others. That approach has stood the test of time.

Forty years on, Kenyan farmer and Farm Africa Village-based Advisor Modesto Kibuitu relates his experience:

“The biggest change I have seen since working with Farm Africa is my yields. Lack of rain is a major challenge for farmers in this area. In the past, my wife and I used to have big problems because, with the yield that I got, after paying school fees we were left with

almost nothing. That’s how I ended up selling everything I owned.

“Farm Africa has helped me source drought-tolerant seeds and taught me techniques like mulching and tree planting that help protect my farm.

“Now I harvest five bags of sorghum instead of three. We can pay school fees and still have enough money to use at home. I now get better seeds and the family have healthier food.

“I decided to train as a Village-based Advisor because I wanted to help my neighbours improve their farms too. I teach around 50 farmers and they are all local.”

📍 **Kenya**

Finance matters

Financial services provide an important buffer for farming families. With them, they can ease cash flow through the growing season, start new enterprises to diversify income and withstand failed harvests without selling assets. However, in rural eastern Africa, finance options are limited, especially for women.

Over the years, Farm Africa has helped thousands of women establish Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), enabling them to pool savings and make funds available to each other as needed.

VSLA membership has been life changing for Selina Kalipa, who took part in one of Farm Africa’s goat rearing projects. Along with the other women in her village, Selina uses funds from the savings group to pay for veterinary services to keep the goats they received from Farm Africa in good health.

“This is the first time in my life I have had a business. My husband is congratulating me for being a change agent.”

Selina Kalipa

📍 **Uganda**

She’s also taken out a loan to start her own business:

“Through the VSLA, I have taken a loan and opened a small restaurant in the town centre. It is doing well, especially on market days.

“Ladies here never had their own property. Farm Africa has given us our first chance to have assets. And I can now train other VSLA members. This is the only organisation that has given us so much knowledge.

“Look at us, we are now smartly dressed. We women have knowledge. We are happy.”



Chris de Bode / Panos Pictures for Farm Africa



📍 Tanzania

Weaving a better future

"My name is Martina. I have always been a weaver. My parents taught me how to weave. It's a traditional craft in this area. One of my daughters weaves like I do."

Over the years Farm Africa has helped hundreds of forest-reliant communities like Martina's develop forest-friendly enterprises that improve livelihoods while promoting forest conservation.

Martina explains:

"Before joining the Farm Africa project, our weaving group sold the things we made at the local market, but the prices we got were very low. At that time, I couldn't afford to send my children to school. When they were young, I used to think 'please don't do well, because even if you do well at primary school, I can't afford to send you to secondary school.'

"When we joined the project in 2005 we learnt how to market our raffia products. Farm Africa advised us how to get registered and how to get our business licence. We learnt how to make ourselves known. At the end of the project, we were connected to buyers.

"We started going to different markets and exhibitions. We began getting advance orders. This meant we earned more money - it became easy for me to send my children to school!

"Now we have buyers from all around."

"This business has been very important in our lives. Traditionally in our community, women do not work or earn money. It was difficult for the men to accept what we wanted to do. But now, they can see that this is something that brings in money and helps our families, and they encourage us to continue."

Supporting aqua-preneurs

Our Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture Programme, launched in Kenya in 2023 in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, is Farm Africa's latest - and largest ever - sustainable fish farming programme. It aims to create 150,000 sustainable, dignified jobs for young women and men, persons with disabilities and internally displaced persons. Here's how it's going so far.*

"Through the programme's revolving loan fund, our group has acquired a motorised fishing boat. By renting out our boat, women can access fish independently without relying on exploitative arrangements with fishermen."



Bettina Adhiambo
Chairperson
Rusinga Nile Perch Women Group

53,505
young people recruited

1,147
persons with disabilities recruited

35,505
young people trained

7,770
work opportunities for young women

3,355
work opportunities for young men

288
work opportunities for persons with disabilities

"I truly appreciate the inclusive nature of this programme, as it has brought persons with disabilities on board, something that most projects overlook."



Agnes Auma
Chairperson
Chakol Persons with Disabilities Group

📍 Kenya



Farm Africa Kenya Country Director Mary Nyale on Lake Victoria with the Rusinga Nile Perch Women Group.

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