

# Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains Enterprises in central Kenya (SAVES)

📍 Kenya

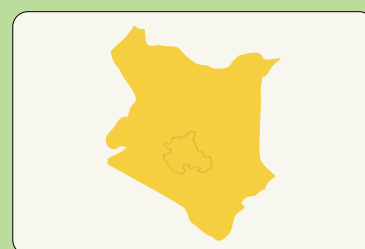
📅 2024 - 2027

## Project aim

To enhance smallholder livelihoods through sustainable farming and strengthened marketing for maize and pulses.

## Target reach

600 VBAs, 120,000 direct beneficiaries, 399,000 indirect beneficiaries in Meru, Kirinyaga and Laikipia Counties.



Kenya's agriculture struggles with arid land, low soil fertility, climate change and limited sustainable practice adoption, reducing smallholder farmers' productivity, incomes and resilience, and threatening food security and livelihoods.

Over 80% of the country's land is arid or semi-arid, with only 15–17% suitable for farming. Farmers struggle with declining soil fertility, land degradation, unreliable rainfall and the impacts of climate change, all of which have reduced productivity and incomes. Limited access to quality seeds, inadequate extension services, weak research-extension linkage and market inefficiencies further constrain smallholder farmers' ability to adopt sustainable, profitable farming practices.

The SAVES project directly addresses these challenges by promoting sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, improving seed systems and strengthening extension and market linkages.

Through the Village-Based Advisor (VBA) model, the project builds local capacity to deliver tailored agronomic training and advisory services to farmers. It enhances soil health, encourages crop diversification and expands access to high-quality, climate-resilient seeds.

By integrating research, policy advocacy and private-sector partnerships, SAVES creates a supportive environment for innovation, inclusive market participation and long-term resilience.

## In partnership with



"This project has helped me promote the sale of Nyota beans, which are rich in iron. I have also been linked to a bigger market and therefore, I sell more beans."

**Lucy**  
VBA from Meru County



## Target outcomes

The project aims to promote sustainable agriculture by empowering farmers, strengthening partnerships and enhancing resilience for improved productivity and livelihoods through:

- increased sustainable farming adoption by 50% among 80% of farmers, boosting climate resilience
- expanded farmer innovation to advance adaptive, sustainable practices
- improved public-private collaboration, producing five policy briefs on sustainable agriculture
- fostered market access and economic empowerment, raising farmers' incomes by 22%
- enhanced access to high-quality, climate-resilient seed varieties for improved productivity.



Bernard Mwangi showcasing harvested iron-rich beans from the SAVES project in Kirinyaga



## Who we're working with

The SAVES project is designed to align with Kenya's agricultural development goals by promoting sustainable farming, strengthening extension systems and improving farmers' resilience to climate change.

To achieve this, we are working collaboratively with government institutions at both national and county levels, alongside research organisations and private sector partners, including:

- The National Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, will provide policy guidance and oversight to formalise the VBA model and strengthen extension systems.
- The County Governments of Meru, Kirinyaga and Laikipia will lead joint planning, farmer training, and monitoring of VBAs to enhance adoption of sustainable practices.
- The Ministry of Agriculture (Crop Development Department) which coordinates national-county collaboration will align project activities with existing agricultural policies.
- Research institutions such as KALRO will offer technical expertise, innovation support and research-based solutions to advance sustainable farming technologies.
- The private sector partners will strengthen market linkages, improve input access and promote investment in sustainable value chains.

To learn more about this project contact the Farm Africa team in Kenya:

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