

Annual Review 2025





2	Letter from the Chair	14	Empowering women farmers
3	Letter from the Chief Executive	16	Managing rangelands collaboratively
4	Where we worked in 2025	18	Green energy powers progress
6	Farm Africa's 40 th anniversary	20	Meet Mercy
8	Regenerating land and futures	22	Thank you
10	Restoring soil, restoring livelihoods	23	Financial summary
12	Our year in numbers		

Letter from the Chair

This is my first Annual Review letter, having been elected as Chair of Farm Africa in July 2025. I extend huge thanks to my predecessor, John Reizenstein, who served as Chair for six years and played a significant role in strengthening the organisation over a period of rapid change.

I feel privileged to have joined this impressive organisation. Coming from East Africa, I've known about Farm Africa for most of its 40 years and have always deeply admired its work unlocking the entrepreneurial spirit of smallholder farmers.

The need for that work is ever more stark. The mounting pressures of climate change, inflation, soil degradation and inadequate access to finance and markets make it increasingly difficult for rural people to provide for their families.

Farm Africa works hand in hand with farmers, offering the tools and resources they need to adapt to climate change and build profitable enterprises so they can earn a decent and dignified living while sustainably stewarding the land they depend on.

In this report you will read inspiring examples of how our innovative programmes are empowering women, improving soil health, tapping into green energy and conserving grazing lands.

Together, we are learning lessons that can help create a sustainable global food system that feeds the world without destroying it.

Events at which we shared those lessons last year included London Climate Action Week in June and the Second Africa Climate Summit in Addis Ababa in September.

Fundraising highlights included 12 runners taking on the London Marathon, a BBC Radio 4 appeal, our third year as the official charity partner of the London Coffee Festival, an on-pack promotion on green beans sold by Sainsbury's and a successful Big Give Christmas Challenge matched giving campaign. We are grateful to the AKO Foundation for their investment in scaling up our climate resilience programming.

We were proud to welcome the chef Tom Booton as a new ambassador and David Ojwang Juma as our new Country Director in Tanzania.

I express heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports Farm Africa and makes our vital work possible. My thanks go to all our staff and partners whose expertise, dedication and hard work bring us closer to achieving our vision of a resilient, rural Africa where people and the environment thrive.

Amar Inamdar

Amar Inamdar
16 June 2026



Faith Ngari (centre) on her maize farm in Embu, Kenya. The maize on the right-hand side, grown using regenerative agriculture approaches, is taller and more vigorous than the control planting on the left-hand side.



Photo: Farm Africa / Amie Gardner

Letter from the Chief Executive

The year 2025 was a moment of real pride for Farm Africa. More than just an opportunity to reflect on 40 years of impact, it was also a powerful reminder of the continuing relevance of Farm Africa's work supporting smallholder farmers and small businesses to build more resilient livelihoods.

Farm Africa's teams operate in a rapidly changing world, one where long-held models of international development are being tested, and where aid budgets are in rapid decline. However, with the formidable support of our donors, including thousands of individuals, companies, trusts and foundations, we are proud to have reached an incredible 767,155 people with impactful solutions in 2025.

Evidence this year showed us how deep that impact can be – transforming livelihoods and landscapes through an approach that combines deep seated community engagement and high-quality technical experience.

We worked a lot on the crucial issue of soil health, and I was excited to see independent scientific data confirming the impact of regenerative agriculture in restoring and improving soil health. From sequestering carbon, to retaining soil moisture and organic matter, to improving farm yields – soil health is the building block of sustainable and profitable farming.

I saw this for myself when visiting the farm of Faith Ngari, a Village-Based Advisor working in Kenya. The maize she grew using traditional farming methods was thin, wasted and dried out. But right next to it, the maize grown using regenerative methods was tall, vigorous and putting out a bumper crop. You can read more about the data behind this on page 8.

I was so interested to see the advances in green energy, from solar irrigation to e-charging. Our work in Tanzania to use solar, biogas and wind energy to power electric scooters and trucks was a real breakthrough in sustainability. As fuel and fertiliser prices rocket, the ability of farmers to reduce their dependence on diesel for transport and irrigation helps to reduce emissions, lower costs and improve farm profits. Read more on page 18.

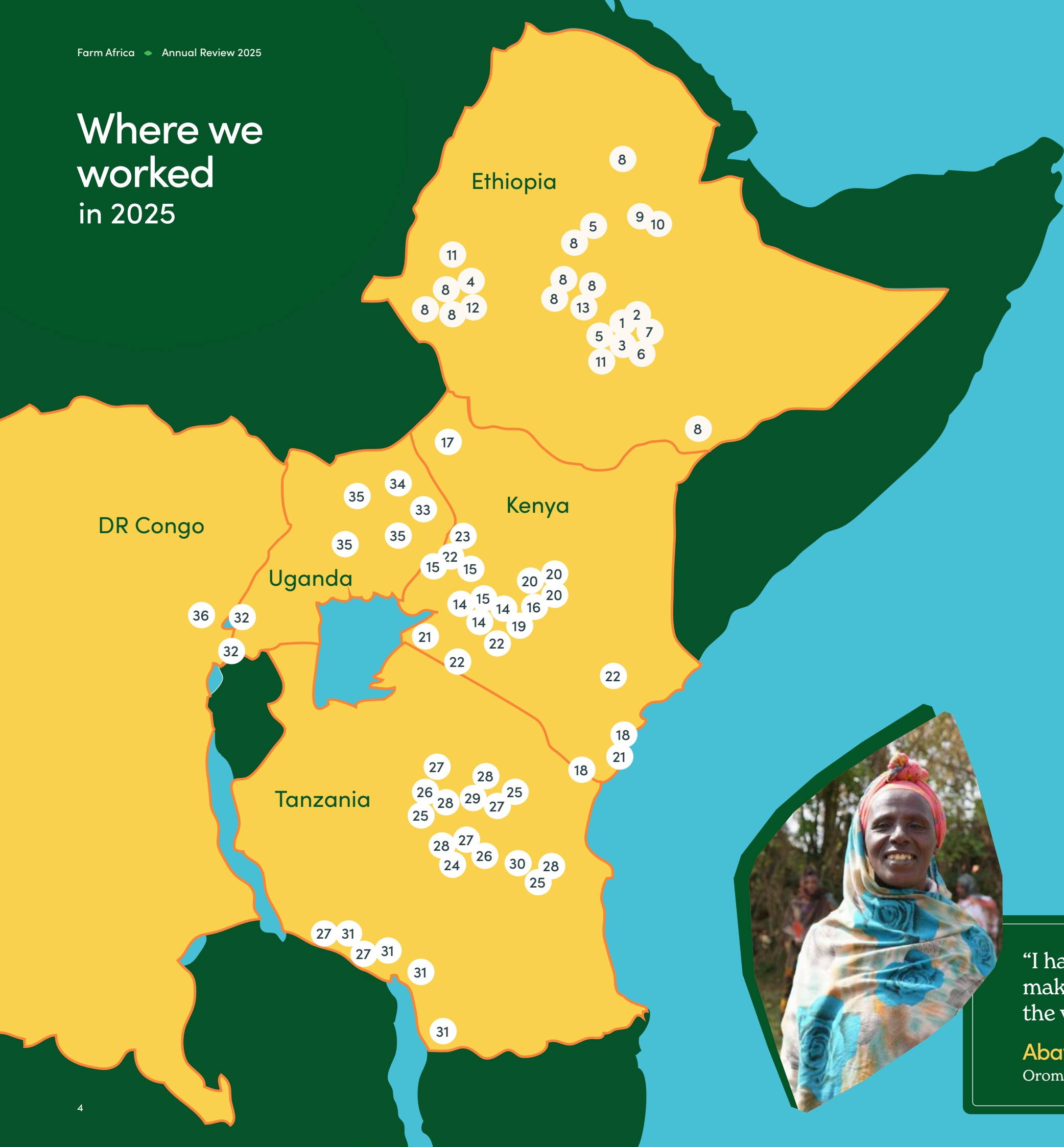
Stories such as these illustrate the power of farming in harmony with nature. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to champion methods of farming that don't cost the Earth.

Dan Collison

Dan Collison, Chief Executive
16 June 2026



Where we worked in 2025



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
 - 10 Women-led climate resilience
 - 11 Supporting cooperatives' coffee sales
 - 12 Forest-friendly livelihoods for the sustainability of the Sheka Biosphere Reserve
 - 13 Scaling intelligence, resilience, innovative farming (IRIF)
- KENYA**
- 14 Waitrose Foundation
 - 15 Waitrose climate resilience
 - 16 Regenerative agriculture
 - 17 Strengthening refugee-led small-scale enterprises
 - 18 Inclusive carbon sequestration
 - 19 Sustainable agroforestry for carbon removal
 - 20 Sustainable agricultural enterprises
 - 21 Youth in sustainable aquaculture
 - 22 Farmer organisation incubation
 - 23 Growing Futures
- TANZANIA**
- 24 Boosting sorghum production in a changing climate
 - 25 Farm to Market Alliance
 - 26 Youth and women in agribusiness
 - 27 NOURISH
 - 28 Scaling climate-smart chilli production
 - 29 Climate-smart agriculture and income diversification
 - 30 Powerfarm
 - 31 Securing food through loss reduction and climate action
- UGANDA**
- 32 Tackling youth unemployment
 - 33 Climate innovations for resilience in Karamoja (CLIRK)
 - 34 Catalyzing strengthened policy action for healthy diets and resilience (CASCADE)
 - 35 Farmer organisation incubation
- DR CONGO**
- 36 Equipping coffee cooperatives to comply with the EU Deforestation Regulation



“I have four sheep and three goats from making a small weekly contribution to the village savings and loan association.”

Abay Teshoma
Oromia, Ethiopia

Farm Africa's 40th anniversary

In 2025, Farm Africa proudly marked our 40th anniversary, celebrating four decades of impact in eastern Africa.

Our roots stretch back to 2 August 1985, when we were first registered as a charity. Since then, Farm Africa has been at the forefront of working with rural communities in eastern Africa to reduce poverty by farming in harmony with nature.

Farm Africa was founded by Sir Michael Wood and David Campbell OBE in response to the famine in Ethiopia with the firm belief that developing small-scale agriculture was the key to reducing rural poverty.

To start with, Farm Africa supported camel herding pastoralist communities in northern Kenya, then added a dairy goat project in Ethiopia, using an approach still used today of cross-breeding local goats kept for meat with milk goats such as Toggenburgs and Anglo Nubians.

Expansion to Tanzania followed in 1990, and to South Africa in 1991 and southern Sudan in 2005. As Farm Africa grew, we expanded into other areas including forestry. The core aim of our work has remained the same: to support rural communities to increase their incomes while protecting the natural resources they rely on.

Today, Farm Africa has programmes in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, supporting a wide range of rural communities from fish farmers to coffee growers to herders.

Last year offered a moment for reflection and celebration, honouring the millions of farmers and rural entrepreneurs whose determination drives our mission forward, and the supporters and partners who have walked with us since 1985.



BBC Radio 4 appeal

In April 2025, farmer, crossbench peer and Farm Africa ambassador Minette Batters presented an appeal for Farm Africa on BBC Radio 4. She told the story of Juliet Muthoni, a smallholder farmer she met in Embu in Kenya, where extreme weather and soil degradation have made it difficult for farmers to grow enough to feed their families, let alone sell.

After receiving training in regenerative agriculture from Farm Africa, Juliet has been able to turn around fortunes not just on her own farm, but on the farms of hundreds of her neighbours, mainly other women.

The appeal raised an amazing £62,000 to help more farmers in eastern Africa learn about environmentally friendly, climate-resilient ways to farm.

Read more about Farm Africa's regenerative agriculture projects overleaf.



Juliet Muthoni (r) and Minette Batters (l), pictured on Juliet's farm in Embu, Kenya.

Photo: Farm Africa / Arete

A night to remember in London

In London, a 40th anniversary reception brought supporters and staff together on a vibrant summer evening. We were joined by our patron, Sir Michael Palin, whose connection to Farm Africa spans back to our earliest days. Speaking warmly, he reflected on the organisation's beginnings and enduring impact:

"I became involved at the very beginning of Farm Africa during an appeal for BBC, and since then I've visited Africa on their behalf. I've absolutely admired the work they're doing. There's real life ahead for Farm Africa for another 40 years I hope."

Guests enjoyed delicious canapés prepared by chef and Farm Africa ambassador Tom Booton, and took part in launching the 40th Anniversary Appeal to continue our support for farming families across eastern Africa.



Photo (l-r): Farm Africa Chief Executive Dan Collison, ambassador Lady Sabrina Dhowre Elba, Ethiopia Country Director Shewit Emmanuel, patron Sir Michael Palin and supporter Adam Bedford at Farm Africa's 40th anniversary summer reception.

Photo: Laura Hinski Photography

Honouring a shared journey in Nairobi

In November, the celebrations continued at a 40th anniversary reception in Nairobi, which brought together partners, donors, board members, government representatives and project participants from across Kenya.

Farm Africa's Kenya Country Director, Mary Nyale, delivered an address that reflected on the organisation's evolution and lasting purpose, opening with a powerful reminder of how far the organisation has come:

"Forty years ago, a visionary idea took root: an idea that smallholder farmers in Africa could move from subsistence to prosperity through knowledge, technology and sustainable markets."

Her words set the tone for an event that celebrated innovation, partnership and resilience: from pioneering dryland farming in the 1980s to today's work in climate-smart agriculture, regenerative practices and inclusive market systems.

"As we celebrate this milestone, may we be reminded that Farm Africa's strength lies not just in the projects we deliver, but also in the partnerships we nurture and the lives we touch."



Jane Ngige
Kenya board chair

Regenerating land and futures

Thriving farms, landscapes and livelihoods all depend on healthy soil. Farm Africa’s regenerative farming programmes help farmers to boost their productivity, build their resilience and restore ecosystems.

Farmers in eastern Africa are confronting increasingly erratic rainfall, degraded soils and rising costs of production, which put their livelihoods at risk. Farm Africa is responding by promoting regenerative agriculture approaches that use organic matter to rebuild the health of soil and farming businesses alike.

Regenerative farming methods we promote include using mulch, manure and compost alongside micro-doses of chemical fertilisers; rotating crops to stop soil becoming depleted; growing two or more crops on the same land at the same time (intercropping); and planting trees on farms (agroforestry).

With our support, tens of thousands of farmers have now adopted regenerative practices that are delivering measurable economic and environmental gains at scale.

Higher yields, healthier soils

This transformation is strikingly evident in Farm Africa and AGRA’s Strengthening Regenerative Agriculture in Kenya (STRAK) project. Between May 2022 and November 2025, the project supported 54,754 farmers in Embu and Tharaka Nithi counties to adopt regenerative practices.

Adoption rates surpassed expectations, with nearly 90% of farmers we reached in both counties using regenerative methods. The benefits have been substantial: farmers reported up to 81% higher yields per acre, 92% better water retention, and a major reduction in erosion and crop failure. During dry spells, crops protected by mulch remained healthier and stayed green for longer because the soil retained moisture.

Scientific analysis backs this up. Research by the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR–ICRAF) on more than 2,000 soil samples found that mulching increased water infiltration by 19 to 38%, while soil biodiversity flourished, including a 200% rise in beneficial nematodes and a 63% increase in Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi, essential for soil fertility.

Analysis by Downforce Technologies using advanced satellite and AI technology (see more details overleaf) have evidenced an increase in Soil Organic Carbon, showing a 30–50% increase in soil organic matter.

The increases in soil fertility and yields have translated into increases of up to 54% in farmers’ incomes, bringing multiple benefits, as Farm Africa project coordinator Patrick Nyaga explains: “With the additional income, farmers have been able to pay school fees on time, improve their houses and start saving regularly. Some have also invested in livestock and farm inputs, which were previously difficult to afford.”

The power of the VBA model

A defining feature of this success has been a network of 320 Village-Based Advisors (VBAs) – locally rooted extension agents trained by Farm Africa, who cascade their learning about regenerative agriculture to farmers.

VBAs operate as independent businesses. They earn income by supplying inputs such as seeds to farmers, aggregating farmers’ produce and earning a commission from crops sold in bulk. This model creates strong incentives for VBAs to support farmers to boost their yields, and to continue that support after the Farm Africa project ends.

Inspired by this success, VBAs have become central to county agricultural systems. Several county governments in Kenya are now using VBAs, recognising the power of a private sector model to overcome staffing shortages and reach farmers in remote locations.

Building climate resilience

In Ethiopia, Farm Africa’s regenerative and climate-smart agriculture programmes are conserving the environment while improving households’ resilience.

Through our projects, communities have restored degraded landscapes using agroforestry, terracing, reforestation, and soil and water conservation structures. These practices have improved biodiversity, stabilised soils and increased farmers’ productivity.

Uptake of regenerative and climate-smart techniques has been strong. By 2025, 83% of households in areas supported by our Nature-based Solutions project, funded by Sida, were adopting practices such as composting, agroforestry and use of drought-tolerant crops. Vermicomposting, which uses worms to create nutrient-rich fertiliser, has expanded rapidly, reaching hundreds of non-project farmers after being formally adopted by local government plans.

Yields have responded accordingly. Maize harvests more than doubled between 2023 and 2025 in some areas – from 1,850 to 4,050 kg per hectare per year – while productivity of haricot beans increased from 1,500 to 2,150 kg per hectare per year over the same period.

Youth and innovation

In Farm Africa and the Mastercard Foundation’s Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture (YISA) programme in Kenya, VBAs are promoting regenerative agriculture practices to young farmers growing soybeans, a high-protein ingredient used to produce feed for fish and poultry. By attending practical training sessions at demonstration plots, farmers have learnt the benefits of regenerative farming methods, such as replacing chemical fertilisers with rhizobium, a bacterium found in soil that helps fix nitrogen in leguminous plants.



Erick, a VBA from Siaya County, Kenya, sorting soybeans.

17,000

farmers taking part in the YISA programme together achieved 174% increase in soybean productivity



“I planted more than 700 heads of this papaya variety on a half hectare of land. It was productive and I earned a good profit in the first-round harvest.”

Ahimed Adem
Bale Eco-region, Ethiopia

Photo: Farm Africa / Medhanit Gebrmichael

Restoring soil, restoring livelihoods

Professor Jacqueline McGlade, Chief Scientific Officer at Downforce Technologies, writes about her company’s work with Farm Africa in Embu County, Kenya, assessing evidence of the impact of adopting regenerative agriculture practices on improving soil health.

Healthy soil is the foundation of resilient farming systems, productive landscapes and secure livelihoods. Yet across eastern Africa, decades of continuous cultivation, soil erosion and over-reliance on chemical inputs have steadily degraded soil health, undermining farmers’ resilience to climate change and threatening food security. In Kenya’s Embu County, a partnership between Farm Africa and Downforce Technologies is showing how combining regenerative agriculture with robust, scalable soil measurement can reverse this trend – and provide credible evidence of impact for farmers, funders and partners alike.

How soil health can be measured

Soil is much more than a growing medium. Healthy soils store carbon, retain water, recycle nutrients, support biodiversity and underpin crop productivity. Central to these functions is soil organic carbon (SOC) – the carbon-rich organic matter derived from plant residues, roots and soil organisms. Higher SOC levels are associated with improved soil structure, greater water holding capacity, increased nutrient availability and more active soil biology.

Historically, measuring SOC and soil health at scale has been difficult. Field sampling is costly, time-consuming and often impractical across tens of thousands of smallholder farmers’ plots.

As a result, many regenerative agriculture programmes have struggled to generate the credible, landscape-level evidence needed to demonstrate long-term environmental and economic benefits.

What Downforce Technologies does

Downforce Technologies specialises in generating robust, scalable evidence of land-use outcomes. By integrating satellite remote sensing, ground data and AI-powered analytics, Downforce can measure and report annual changes in SOC across large and complex smallholder landscapes.

In Kenya, this approach enabled SOC to be tracked annually from 2017 onwards without the need for extensive new soil sampling. The resulting datasets provide:

- Consistent, repeatable SOC measurements over time
- Comparisons between programme participants and non-supported farms
- Landscape-level insights that support carbon accounting, programme evaluation and climate reporting

Crucially, this allows regenerative agriculture outcomes to be quantified credibly – at the scale required by institutional funders, corporate partners and emerging carbon finance mechanisms.

Working together in Kenya

In Kenya, one of Farm Africa’s flagship initiatives is the Strengthening Regenerative Agriculture in Kenya (STRAK) project, funded by the IKEA Foundation through AGRA. Through STRAK, Farm Africa has supported more than 50,000 farmers in Embu and Tharaka Nithi counties to adopt regenerative practices such as agroforestry, intercropping, crop rotation, mulching and the use of organic manure.

To strengthen the evidence base for this work, Farm Africa partnered with Downforce to measure, monitor and verify changes in SOC across participating farms. The shared objective was clear: to demonstrate, with credible data, that regenerative agriculture is restoring soil health while delivering tangible economic and environmental returns for farmers.

Rising soil organic carbon

The results are compelling. Analysis of SOC trends across Embu and Tharaka Nithi counties revealed a consistent upward trajectory in SOC levels on farms supported by Farm Africa, compared to non-supported farms and county-wide averages.

Analysis shows a clear shift towards higher SOC concentrations during the life of the project, indicating that soil carbon stocks are steadily increasing under regenerative management.

These SOC gains sit alongside a separate body of soil health evidence from the same landscapes. Analysis of over 2,000 soil samples showed:

- Improved water infiltration from mulching-based practices
- Increased soil organic matter through biomass transfer
- Early gains in soil biology, including large increases in nematode populations and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi

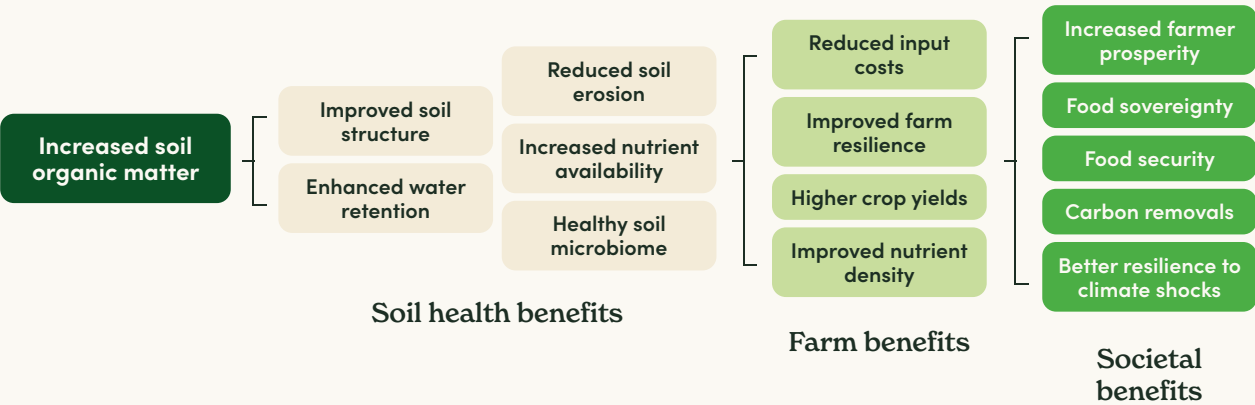
Together, these indicators paint a coherent picture of soils that are becoming healthier, more resilient and more productive over time.

Lessons for scale-up

The partnership between Farm Africa and Downforce demonstrates that regenerative agriculture can deliver measurable, verifiable improvements in soil health at scale – even across highly fragmented smallholder systems. Three wider lessons stand out:

1. **Evidence unlocks investment** – Credible SOC data strengthens programme evaluation, fundraising and access to carbon finance initiatives such as agroforestry-based schemes.
2. **Farmer-led practices work** – Adoption of locally appropriate regenerative practices drives both environmental and economic gains.
3. **Scalable measurement is essential** – Remote sensing and AI make it feasible to monitor outcomes consistently across regions and over time.

As Farm Africa looks to scale regenerative approaches across eastern Africa and the Kenyan government looks to roll out a new national agroecology strategy we are optimistic that strong agronomy underpinned by strong evidence will lead to meaningful lasting change.



Perpetua Pius holding vegetables grown on her farm using regenerative farming methods in Embu County, Kenya. Photo: Farm Africa / Bertha Lutome

Our year in numbers

767,155 people reached in 2025



353,987

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

“From Farm Africa, I learnt about planting in rows and using ridges. When I used to broadcast seeds, I found that water evaporated very quickly. Now I plant on ridges, which helps the soil retain moisture so it reaches the crops more slowly and prevents them from drying out.”

Florence, Karamoja, Uganda



237,847

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

“Since using the improved seeds, I get higher yields, and they are not easily attacked by pests. The added advantage from Farm Africa is through contract farming: I get the seeds and pay for them once the harvest is ready.”

Teluvina, Dodoma, Tanzania



349,931

Total number of people supported to enhance their production practices

“Before the NOURISH project, we were just scattering seeds, not planting in lines, and not waiting for the rain. Now, we remove all the unwanted material, then we plough, then wait for the rain. After the rain, we start planting, and we put manure on it. It made a big difference.”

Suzana, Dodoma, Tanzania



17,354

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

“Farm Africa’s support has been vital; they provided me with training and close follow-up. I have a plan to scale up more into other business types.”

Baleynesh, a member of Tokuma Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), Bale, Ethiopia



32,016

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

“I take loans from the VSLA [Village Savings and Loan Association], mainly at cultivation time. I get a loan for 500 Ugandan Shillings to cultivate three acres. Some I use for seeds. Before, sometimes I would harvest just one bag, now a good harvest can be 30 bags.”

Sylvia, Karamoja, Uganda



\$3,672,253

Total amount of financing extended to individuals and businesses/enterprises

“I developed my business plan, which was fortunately approved by the Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture programme partners. I received close to USD 9,000 to expand my fingerling [young fish] production business.”

Joseph, Siaya, Kenya

Empowering women farmers

“I have a selling station here. Other farmers, after harvesting their sorghum, bring it here so I can sell it for them. I negotiate the price for everyone and share the money.”

Damaris (right)
Dodoma, Tanzania

Photo: Farm Africa / Bertha Lutome



Empowering rural women to become economically active brings benefits to whole families, communities and economies.

In rural eastern Africa, women face considerable barriers to making a decent living. Few own farmland and renting it erodes already slim profits. Household and childcare responsibilities, inadequate education and poor transport links limit access to formal employment.

Without assets, proof of income or even a bank account, women can't access finance to start their own businesses.

Farm Africa champions women in all we do, and 2025 was no exception.

Empowering female enterprise

By the end of 2025, through the Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture (YISA) programme, Farm Africa and the Mastercard Foundation had worked

with 29,229 young women in Kenya to secure work in the aquaculture and mariculture industries, 71% of the total 41,167 of project participants now in employment.

Why so many women? With its low land requirements and wide range of entrepreneurial opportunities - from fish farming to fish food production, fish mongering to fish frying - the aquaculture industry offers a wealth of accessible opportunities for women. Damaris Mukuhi and Mary Wambui from Kilifi County are two examples.

Eyeing a local market gap, they founded The Daily Catch Farm, a farm-to-table enterprise promoting sustainable aquaculture.

Through YISA, they received a Smart Kiosk: an attractively branded 6x20 ft fabricated container equipped with freezers, cooking equipment, weighing scales and a modern clean energy frying unit. Powered entirely by solar panels with battery back-up, the system enables continuity of power through frequent power cuts.

They also received training on business planning, budgeting, financial projections and value addition.

“That inspired us to establish a fish snacks kiosk: one of the first of its kind in Kilifi County”, explains Damaris. “We produce and sell affordable fish-based snacks such as fish balls, fish fingers and fish kebabs, creating an additional income stream.”

“Before setting up the Smart Kiosk, our business generated an average monthly revenue of about Kenyan Shillings (KES) 30,000. Following the establishment of the Smart Kiosk, revenues have increased tremendously to KES 156,000 per month.”

The new working from home

In 2025, the NOURISH programme, led by SNV in partnership with Farm Africa, continued supporting women in Tanzania's drought-prone Dodoma region to access opportunities in sorghum production while also introducing another new income stream from vegetable growing.

Farm Africa first introduced sorghum to the area in 2019 as a drought-resilient, high-value crop. Damaris Charles Matchite and her husband Frenkie Chimeni were early adopters. Both work the farm, but with a two-hour round-trip on foot and two school-age children to care for, Damaris is also developing a home-based enterprise.

A key achievement of Farm Africa's early sorghum work was securing a bulk-buying agreement with Tanzania Breweries Ltd, including purchasing through village selling stations. Damaris has become the negotiator for her village.

“I have a selling station here. Other farmers, after harvesting their sorghum, bring it here so I can sell it for them. I negotiate the price for everyone and share the money.”

In the 2024/2025 growing season, she negotiated on behalf of almost 400 farmers, selling around 500 metric tonnes in total.

And in 2025, following NOURISH's drought-resilient kitchen garden approach, she successfully grew nutritious vegetables in this dry climate for the first time.

The new income streams have been transformational for their family.

“Selling vegetables from the kitchen garden and the aggregation of sorghum are the most profitable activities that I do”, says Damaris.

“I have managed to build a new house. And this year, by selling the extra vegetables, I was able to buy the door. The children are now going to school or getting technical knowledge in industry. They've managed to get there because of the money I'm earning. It's made a big change to our lives.”

In 2025, the NOURISH programme reached 28,991 rural women with training on topics including nutrition education, climate-smart agriculture productivity and value addition.

Access to finance

Recognising the financial barriers rural women face in starting enterprises, in 2025 Farm Africa continued helping women establish Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), with lending criteria designed to work for women.

These groups give women with limited or no access to formal banking a safe place to save, borrow and build financial skills. Members make regular contributions, which are pooled and offered as loans to fellow members.

Establishing VSLAs has been an important part of Farm Africa's Forests for Sustainable Development programme in Ethiopia's Bale Eco-region.

Habiba is a member of Atota VSLA, one of the 118 VSLAs established through the programme, which was funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ethiopia. Through her membership, Habiba has taken loans to invest in farming activities. After earning £336 from her first teff harvest, Habiba was able to increase and diversify her income by investing in a threshing machine, which enabled her to make a further £865 from providing threshing services to other farmers.

By the programme's end in December 2025, more than 2,800 women had gained access to finance, with a total of 7.9 million Ethiopian Birr circulating among them as loans.



Members of the Atota VSLA in Ethiopia.
Photo: Farm Africa / Medhanit Gebrmichael

Managing rangelands collaboratively

Ahead of the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, Farm Africa continued to champion participatory rangeland management to empower pastoralist communities, restore degraded ecosystems and strengthen climate-resilient, community-driven governance.

The rangeland challenge

In eastern Africa, arid rangelands make livestock production the most viable land-use option, anchoring local food systems and rural livelihoods. These pastoral systems are vital for maintaining biodiversity and driving global climate mitigation, particularly through sequestering carbon in soil and plant roots. Consequently, local grazing decisions have profound global climate implications.

However, these fragile ecosystems face mounting pressures from rapid population growth, land fragmentation and intense resource competition. As traditional governance institutions weaken, the sustainable management of communal lands is deeply compromised. This breakdown in collective action accelerates environmental degradation and fuels resource-based conflicts among land users, ultimately threatening regional resilience and ecosystem health.

Participatory rangeland management

Farm Africa champions participatory rangeland management (PRM) to drive systemic change. We define it as a comprehensive governance framework designed to ensure the sustainable, equitable and economically viable management of communal resources by pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities.

We follow these steps:

1. Understanding and bringing people together

We start by identifying the land and involving everyone who uses it. Communities and stakeholders assess the situation to spot key challenges and opportunities.

2. Planning together

We then create a shared management plan, strengthen local organisations, and agree on how decisions will be made, building on both local traditions and government rules.

3. Taking action and learning

Finally, communities and local government put the plans into practice, test new ideas and adapt based on what works best.

It's a collaborative, practical approach that helps communities take ownership and improve their land over time.

Interventions that restore, protect and enhance the productivity of rangelands include:

- Closing areas of rangeland to livestock in rotation, to allow the pasture to regenerate naturally.
- Cutting and carrying fodder to livestock kept in enclosures.
- Clearing bushes.
- Improving fire management.
- Over-seeding degraded rangelands with new grass varieties.
- Developing water points.
- Introducing breeds of cattle with higher productivity of milk and meat, so herd sizes can be reduced.
- Improving animal health services.
- Promoting income-generating activities dependent on healthy rangelands.

Evidence from the field

Farm Africa's rangeland programmes in Ethiopia apply PRM to confront accelerating land degradation, growing resource-based tensions and climate driven livelihood losses. Across the Wabi-Shebele and Genale-Dawa, Omo-Gibe and Baro-Akobo, and Rift Valley and Awash basins, rangelands are under intense strain. Overgrazing, soil erosion, biodiversity decline and diminishing water sources are all being fuelled by unregulated development, entrenched poverty and the pressures of a changing climate. The Central Rift Valley reflects similar patterns as years of uncontrolled grazing, deforestation, land conversion and weak enforcement left areas like Abijatta Shalla National Park severely degraded, threatening local livelihoods alongside unique bird and aquatic ecosystems. Recurrent droughts worsened livestock losses and food insecurity, while conflict between communities and park authorities persisted for decades.

Farm Africa's PRM model directly responds to these pressures by positioning communities as custodians of their rangelands. This involves establishing legally recognised cooperatives such as the Mansa Participatory Rangeland Management Cooperative who co-developed bylaws and adopted practices such as rotational grazing, paddocking and "mental enclosure," which relies on shared responsibility rather than fencing.

"That barren land, which had been neglected for many years, has now become productive and earns us income."

Ade Rameto

Member of Mansa Participatory Rangeland Management Cooperative

The results have been striking. In Mansa, through the Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (NSSID) programme, degraded land was restored from 68% bare ground in 2022 to 96% grassland within a year, revitalising biodiversity, improving water-land linkages and supporting the return of fish and migratory birds. Economic gains from fodder and livestock enterprises, alongside improved community cohesion, demonstrate how community led stewardship can drive landscape level restoration and long term climate resilience.

Championing pastoralists in 2026 and beyond

Our PRM approach provides an evidence-based framework to strengthen inclusive governance, legitimise resource rules and support adaptive monitoring. Leveraging these successes, we are scaling PRM geographically and intensifying policy advocacy. Using robust field data, we urge governments to institutionalise PRM, secure pastoralist land tenure and direct climate finance toward dryland restoration. The ecological stability of eastern Africa's drylands relies on healthy rangelands and empowered pastoralist communities, who are the ultimate custodians of these ecosystems, supported by secure tenure and science.

More information will be available in Farm Africa's forthcoming publication *Participatory rangeland management: lessons from Farm Africa's experience in co-managing rangelands in Ethiopia*.

Green energy powers progress

With abundant sunlight for solar power and a steady supply of farm waste for biogas, rural communities in eastern Africa are well placed to embrace clean, renewable energy solutions. In 2025, Farm Africa helped farmers' groups unlock this potential.

For many communities in eastern Africa, energy scarcity is a persistent reality. In rural areas, grid electricity and fossil fuels are often costly, unreliable or unavailable, as well as bad for the planet. Without reliable access to affordable energy, farmers can't efficiently grow, process and transport their crops, quashing their chances of making a decent living.

Yet these same communities are rich in the resources needed to produce their own clean energy: sunlight, wind and farm waste for biogas. In 2025, Farm Africa helped farmers' groups turn this potential into concrete, climate-smart innovations.

From using solar-powered irrigation to improve nutrition in Uganda, to using fuel-efficient cooking stoves to protect forests in Ethiopia, to building a multi-renewable e-mobility charging station in Tanzania, it's been a transformative year.

Solar-powered nutrition

In Lotisan sub-county in Karamoja, Uganda, long treks to fetch water drain time and energy, and harvests often fail when water sources dry up.

"These people have no nearby market to access food, especially nutritious food. Mothers should be able to access food within the local community," explains Farm Africa community-based facilitator Peter Aguma.

Through Farm Africa and CARE International's CASCADE programme, Peter advises mothers on nutrition and trains groups on how to grow vegetables for a balanced diet. However, in Lotisan, the unreliable water sources were undermining the group's efforts.

"We were fetching water from a pond. But when the pond dried up, farmers lost morale," he says.

To overcome the problem, Farm Africa facilitated the installation of a solar-powered irrigation system. Now the farmers can grow vegetables all

year round, improving their diets and generating income from the surplus produce.

Ben Lokut, one of the farmers supported by Peter, commented: "Having fresh vegetables has contributed to nutrition in the home. My family does not lack food at times. Secondly, we get money out of it. Thirdly, since we got water we're going to grow throughout the year."



The farmers' group in Lotisan sub-county in Karamoja, Uganda, pictured with vegetables grown using solar-powered irrigation.

Cooking for conservation

In Ethiopia, a switch to cleaner cooking methods is protecting forests. Traditional cooking methods rely on burning firewood sourced from forests, driving forest degradation, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and filling homes with smoke.

Fuel-efficient stoves offer a low-tech solution. They reduce firewood consumption, ease pressure on forests, cut emissions, save time spent collecting firewood and improve indoor air quality.

The promotion of fuel-efficient stoves featured prominently in Farm Africa's Forests for Sustainable

Development (FSD) programme in the Bale Eco-region of Ethiopia, funded by the Norwegian Embassy in Ethiopia, which completed in 2025.

Talile Dabele, who has now switched to a fuel-efficient chimney stove, explains the difference: "The stove has saved me fuelwood by 50%. A donkey load of fuelwood lasts a month and sometimes more. It releases little heat into the kitchen and produces almost zero indoor smoke. The neighbours are asking where to get this user-friendly technology."

In total, the FSD programme facilitated the establishment of five fuel-efficient stove producing enterprises, providing income opportunity for 77 women and young people. Nearly 10,000 households are now using fuel-efficient stoves, reducing firewood consumption by an estimated 4,358 tonnes annually, compared to traditional cookstoves.

The new power generation

In Kilosa District, Tanzania, the HIMANA Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society provides post-harvest processing, storage and transport services for over 500 rice and sunflower farmers. However, unreliable electricity used to severely disrupt their operations.

"Electricity cut-offs here can happen three times per day," says Godfrey Ngololo. "That stops all activities, there's no processing, no business being done."

Rising fuel costs were driving up transport costs too, eroding profits further.



An e-guta electric vehicle powered by renewable energy at the Powerfarm in Tanzania.

In 2025, Farm Africa nominated HIMANA cooperative as the host of the Powerfarm project. Led by Aegis Energy with funding from Innovate UK and the British High Commission in Tanzania, and delivered in partnership with Farm Africa, EcoNomad, WAGA and KOC Bridges to Peace, the 12-month pilot initiative demonstrated a renewable energy system that integrates solar, wind and biogas technology to provide reliable, clean energy for off-grid communities.

The first phase of the build saw solar panels and small wind turbines installed, along with the purchase of two electric vehicles. The renewable energy being generated has proved sufficient to charge the vehicles, enabling the cooperative to provide transport services at a greatly reduced cost.

Construction of a system that converts manure and crop residues into biogas also got underway in 2025, becoming operational in March 2026. By integrating the three renewable sources to form a unified energy system, the cooperative is now also able to maintain power to processing machines through grid interruptions, reducing their electricity costs by about 25% at the same time.

Photos: Farm Africa / Bertha Lutome



The Powerfarm project in Tanzania, where renewable energy is generated from wind turbines, solar panels and a biodigester.

Meet Mercy

In Karamoja, Uganda, Farm Africa is helping 28-year-old Mercy Lomokol and fellow farmers grow nutritious crops, boost their incomes and build resilience to extreme weather.

In the dry, rugged landscape of Karamoja, where families battle unpredictable weather, limited diets and fragile incomes, Farm Africa through the CASCADE programme¹ is helping women farmers build healthier, more secure futures for their families. Among them is Mercy, a member of the Torubak Farmers' Group and mother of three, soon to be four.

Better diets for mums and kids

Farm Africa's agronomists support mums like Mercy to understand not just how to grow food, but how to nourish their families better. Farm Africa project officer Betty Napeyok explains how we've supported farmers to switch to growing biofortified crops packed with essential nutrients:

"We train farmers on good practices of climate-smart agriculture and nutrition. The main purpose is to fight malnutrition. There are three crops we promote: orange vitamin A maize, iron-rich beans and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes."

Since switching to growing the new crops last year after previously growing sorghum and regular white maize, Mercy has noticed a difference in her family's health. They all find the new food much tastier too. She told us:

"This orange maize is the sweetest of all. It is sweeter than the white one. Then the children enjoy eating the iron-rich beans so much. They are good because they add blood. Even for the children, they can add blood to their bodies. Their skin is smooth and mine is too."

For Mercy, eating well had been difficult during her previous pregnancies. But the new crops mean she can now eat a nutritious diet as she prepares for her new arrival. "In the other days, I would not even eat beans two times when I was pregnant. Now, I've been eating them since I started this pregnancy."

Betty has seen the impact of improved nutrition at district level, commenting:

"For me, the biggest impact of Farm Africa's work is malnutrition in kids is reduced. It changes when you eat enough vegetables like iron-rich beans and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. Even more parishes I am working in are no longer enrolling for the supplementary feeding programmes that feed malnourished kids."

"By growing vegetables as well as crops we know we'll have some food if the floods come. We are planting orange-fleshed sweet potatoes."

Mercy
Karamoja, Uganda

Bigger harvests, brighter prospects

Farm Africa's training has given the Torubak group practical knowledge to boost their yields. The results speak for themselves. Mercy told us:

"The yields of our group now are the best because we've learnt how to grow in rows instead of broadcasting the seeds. Now I've harvested two sacks. Before, I used to harvest less than one sack."

As well as feeding her family better, improved production means Mercy can now afford to send her children to school. "Now, we harvest more now. My first child is now in school, P2. This very planting paid for her to go to school. It is important for my children to go to school and get a good education so that they grow up and get good jobs."

With Farm Africa's support, the Torubak group has also started to produce quality seeds for iron-rich beans to sell. As well as increasing their income further, this will help other local farmers' groups to thrive by improving the availability of quality seeds.



Photos: Farm Africa / Bertha Lutome

Facing floods and drought with resilience

In Karamoja, climate extremes can wipe out months of work in a single day. Mercy remembers 2024 vividly: "The floods swept everything away. It destroyed the first harvest and even the second season. To lose the whole harvest was a big loss."

Then, 2025 brought extreme heat: "We have already lost some crops because of the sunshine: the sun dried them."

But now she has learnt techniques to protect crops from both drought and floods:

"Farm Africa taught us to dig around the garden for the flood water to bypass the crops. They taught us to plant on ridges to help with both drought and floods. The ridges help retain water, but they help protect from floods as well because the water stays in the channels between the ridges."

Diversification also protects Mercy's food security, as she explains: "By growing vegetables as well as crops we know we'll have some food if the floods come. We are planting orange-fleshed sweet potatoes."

Looking ahead

As they look to the future, Mercy and the Torubak Farmers' Group has ambitious but achievable dreams, as Mercy outlines:

"If we earn more money, as a group we want to buy an ox plough. We also want to use some of the money for school fees and for saving in our village savings and loan association. The group members want each person to have a goat for milking plus chickens for the eggs."

¹ Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and implemented by CARE Netherlands, CARE USA and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), the CASCADE project works to improve food security and reduce malnutrition among women of reproductive age and children across Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda.



Mercy tending to tomato plants growing on ridges.

Mercy holding handfuls of iron-rich beans and orange vitamin A maize.

Thank you

3Keel, ABP UK, Aegis Energy, Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF), AGRA, AKO Foundation, A&O Shearman, Barfoots, Beatrice Laing Trust, CARE International, Cullisse, Driscoll's, European Union, Evan Cornish Foundation, Farm to Market Alliance, Farmer J, FIPS Africa, Forests of the World, GIZ, Harris Spice, The Hastings Family Charitable Trust, Chris Hicks, Innovate UK, Kiboko Coffee, Mastercard Foundation, Medicor Foundation, Norad, Palmstead Nurseries, RH Amar, Royal Norwegian Embassy Addis Ababa, S'ABLE Labs, Sainsbury's, Sida, The Sulney Fields Charitable Trust, Twig, UBS Optimus Foundation, The UK and British High Commission Tanzania, Vi Agroforestry, Waitrose Foundation, The Welland Charitable Trust, William Reed, World Food Programme, W&R Barnett



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

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 2025 was £18.2m (2024: £16.9m). The rise was due mainly to an increase in the value of programme grants received from donors and the timing of receipts. Programme grants remained the largest funding stream at £15.4m (2024: £14.0m). Our three largest programmes were the Forests for Sustainable Development and Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable and Inclusive Development programmes, both in Ethiopia, and the Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture programme in Kenya. Donations and legacies totalled £2.6m (2024: £2.8m), including a new three-year funding partnership with the AKO Foundation on climate resilience.



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 2025 was £15.2m (2024: £16.5m). Programme spend reduced by £1m to £13.5m (2024: £14.4m) with the maturation of projects in Kenya and Ethiopia. There has also been an increase in expenditure in Uganda as the programme there grew.

Reserves

Farm Africa's unrestricted reserves on 31 December 2025 were £1.7m and its closing restricted reserves were £4.9m. Our target for unrestricted reserves is £2.2m. Management and trustees have agreed a transition plan for 2025-7 with the goal of moving to a business model that generates a surplus from 2027, enabling the organisation to build reserves to £2.2m and restore financial resilience.



A team from Barfoots took on the Tough Mudder Challenge to raise funds for Farm Africa in September 2025.

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“Having fresh vegetables has contributed to nutrition in the home. It has removed hunger. My family does not lack food.”

Ben Lokut

Karamoja, Uganda

Photo: Farm Africa / Bertha Lutome



Front cover:

Damaris, a smallholder farmer working with Farm Africa in the Dodoma region of Tanzania.

Photo: Farm Africa / Bertha Lutome

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