

‘TAKE A COW – GIVE A CALF’: REPLICATIVE DAIRY PROJECT IN KENYA



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Project site: Bungoma, Kenya



PHOTO: KABISI COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

A demonstration plot at Mitua market centre.

Background

Kabisi Cooperative Farmers Society is a member of the Kenya National Federation of Cooperatives. Today's membership is over 3,500 in five locations of the Bungoma District, Western Province. The new membership drive focuses on youth and women at individual level and as groups affiliated to the society. In Bungoma six out of ten small-scale farmers are poor; many are youth and women. The growing poverty in Bungoma has seen women and youth households unable to provide for their basic needs, such as food and clothing. The cooperative aims to alleviate poverty in North Bungoma through a sustainable income increase from community driven dairy cow milk production.

Project Summary

Through a carefully crafted selection process, the project will help 100 impoverished households to become self-sufficient through provision of livestock (heifers), related services and training in basic entrepreneurial skills. An initial 100 heifers are expected to form a core foundation for the growth of community assets. Each family will give their first three born calves back to the cooperative, which will then be handed over

to other members. The farmers will have to set aside at least 0.25 acres of pasture for their heifers.

This initiative will play a large role in transforming the lives of those directly/indirectly involved by helping them sustain a satisfactory and acceptable standard of living. Women and youth (at individual level and as groups affiliated to the society) will be able to earn a sustainable income from increased milk production, and be involved in productive and secure work. With increased income they will enjoy new levels of security, away from marginalization and exploitation.

Contributions to the Decent Work Country Programme's priorities (DWCP):

- Increase youth empowerment, youth employment and eliminate child labour;
- Gender equality and empowerment of women.

Partners

- Naitiri and Matili Youth Polytechnics will be used as training and continuous development centres by the project beneficiaries, and the cooperative management;
- The Kenya National Federation of Cooperatives will oversee the project;
- Women groups will help with leadership by addressing gender issues.

Beneficiaries

The first beneficiaries are the 100 households receiving the heifers and their families by generating increased income and improved nutrition. The community will also benefit from the milk production. We will have a cooperative democratically governed and owned not just by men but youths and women. Within a period of 5 years, due to passing down of calves, the total number of beneficiaries should reach 600 households. Also, 8 affiliated youth groups will benefit by learning entrepreneurial skills through practical experience, which will help them in today's competitive economic environments.

Expected achievements

The project will stimulate milk production and contribute to a vibrant local dairy industry. Project related activities including identification of beneficiaries, managing the day to day milk collection, field extension and regular members meetings to improve cooperative's governance, performance and efficiency, and promoting patronage to its members. Jobs will be created and income increased, leading to the reduction of extreme poverty. Modest improvements to the local infrastructure will take place as the cooperative's resources grow. We see this initiative ultimately reigniting a sense of community and renewing decent social life.

By the end of the project, we expect the following:

- Vulnerable households (youth and women) will earn higher levels of income and gain control of their lives;
- Increase in community assets in the form of livestock;
- Improved social interaction and community progress.

Project duration and budget

Project duration: 2 years, June 2009 – May 2011

Total budget: USD 60,586.50

Contribution from COOP^{AFRICA}: USD 53,587

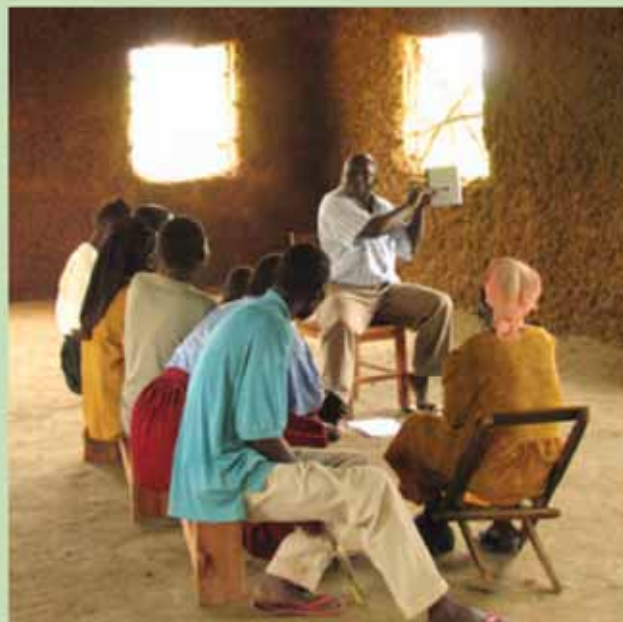


PHOTO: KABISI COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

Training for an affiliate CBO in management of community projects

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