

Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector

Promotion of Sweetpotato and Dairy Value Chain in Western Kenya and Nyandarua County

Overall project objective:

- Income and productivity of at least 100,000 dairy and sweetpotato farmers will be increase by 30%
- 2000 jobs to be created especially for women and youths in the up- and downstream industries of the two value chains
- To improve regional supply of food
- Women and youth to profit from project support activities.

Background

The Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector (GIAE) in Kenya is part of the global initiative ONE WORLD - No Hunger which is implemented in 16 countries in Africa, India and Vietnam. The overall objective of the global program is to increase income and productivity of farmers through innovations in the agricultural sector, to promote employment generation in rural areas and to increase regional supply of foods with a special focus on supporting young people and women.

GIAE Kenya supports the development of the sweetpotato and the dairy value chains in the counties of Siaya, Homa Bay, Bungoma and Kakamega in Western Kenya and Nyandarua in Central Kenya.

The project aims at increasing productivity and income of 85,000 smallholder farmers in the sweetpotato and dairy value chain by at least 30% and creating more than 2000 employment opportunities in the up- and downstream enterprises of the two value chains.

Our approach

The main political partners of the Green Innovation

Centre in Kenya are the County Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives which are directly involved in planning and steering the project activities.

Major areas of intervention of the project are:

Strengthening producer and marketing groups of dairy and sweetpotato farmers through training on organizational development (OD) thus improving their access to markets, crucial services and inputs required for increasing their production.

Development of state-of-the-art training manuals and materials for sweetpotato production and dairy farming in cooperation with national and international research organizations and training of farmers in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to increase their productivity. The farmer trainings are based on the national Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) approach.

Supporting up- and downstream enterprises of both value chains, such as commercial vine multiplication of clean planting materials for white, yellow and orange - fleshed sweetpotato varieties; commercial fodder production to overcome limited availability of high quality fodder particularly in the dry season; value addition of milk and sweetpotatoes through local cottage industries.

Promotion of market-oriented agricultural production through supporting agripreneurship and financial inclusion. Farmers are trained in financial literacy, enterprise development and linked to financial organizations.

Using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based instruments and different media channels to increase outreach on all levels of the value chain. Kenya has favourable frame conditions in the ICT sector and more than 90% of the target group own at least simple mobile phones. Through means of ICT and radio many farmers can be reached by extension messages, receiving for instance weather and market information.



Improving frame conditions of farmers and up- and downstream enterprises in the counties through strengthening lobbying of producer groups and supporting public-private dialogue between producer and enterprises along the value chain and County Governments. Supporting the County governments in domestication of dairy and root and tuber policies and strategies Development of a national curricula for sweetpotato production based on the ATVET-approach

Close to 1200 members of the dairy cooperatives were trained in financial literacy and linked to financial organizations to enable financial inclusion of dairy farmers. Promotion of agripreneurship and financial inclusion supports the transformation of subsistence-based farmers towards a market oriented agricultural production.

Project name	Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector
Commissioned by	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Political partner	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives
Implementing partners	Anglican Development Service (ADS), national and international research institutions such as International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenyan Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Dairy cooperatives, Bukura Agricultural College (BAC)
Project region	Bungoma, Kakamega, Siaya and Homabay counties in the Western Region and Nyandarua County in the Central Region
Duration	November 2014 – March 2023



Results in figures

More than 25,000 sweetpotato farmers are organized in 750 producer and marketing groups and trained in state-of-the-art sweetpotato production; the supported farmers have more than doubled their income and productivity by applying Good- Agronomic-Practices, planting of high yield varieties of yellow, white and orange fleshed sweetpotatoes and better marketing options.

More than 180 young farmers were trained on commercial vine multiplication of high yielding sweetpotato varieties and earn thus a lucrative income. By doing so, they ensure supply with clean and high yielding planting materials.

Over 25000 dairy farmers were trained in good animal husbandry practices. The training comprised both theoretical and practical lessons and deals amongst others with the topics: calf rearing, animal husbandry, maintaining dairy herd health, breeding, dairy forage production and dairy feed formulation.

More than 500 farmers were trained in commercial fodder production for sales to dairy farmers.

Management capacities and service orientation of dairy cooperatives in the Western Region were strengthened. Cooperatives could thus offer a wide range of services to their members, such as sale of fodder, artificial insemination, collection and cooling of milk, extensions for helping the members to increase their production.

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