



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

ASSISTING SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION AND VALUE ADDITION IN KENYA

The agriculture sector in Kenya is critical to the national economy and has been identified as a priority area in national strategy and policies contributing to improving food security and nutrition. In line with Kenya Vision 2030, the government has launched a strategy to transform smallholder agriculture from its subsistence status into a modern, sustainable, commercially oriented and competitive sector. In support of this strategy, “The Kenya Small-scale Irrigation and Value Addition Project - KSIVAP”, aimed to enhance smallholders’ agricultural competitiveness, and improve food and nutrition security in eleven counties. The project required robust institutional, organizational and technical capacity at national and county levels to effectively deliver on its mandate and functions. Following the devolution of agriculture in 2010, however, the extension service presented critical capacity gaps in the provision of technical support for the commercialization of smallholder agriculture. A Technical Assistance (TA) project was therefore designed to provide technical support and to assist in the capacity-building and performance development of national and county coordination units in the sector.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project had three outputs. Output 1 strengthened the management and coordination skills of a cadre of trainers, mostly from the KSIVAP Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and county coordination units (CCUs). This was achieved through technical guidance, follow-up organizational advice, support during sensitization and planning workshops, consultative meetings and technical backstopping. Training supported project planning and management, and the development of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) internal system. Output 2 enhanced the technical capacities and skills of extension officers and producer organizations (POs) to support development activities. This was achieved through knowledge transfer in good agricultural practices, nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions, and the strengthening of a market-based approach to increase productivity. Using a farmer-to-farmer extension approach, frontline PO leaders, lead farmers and youth with agricultural qualifications took part in project activities as community-based facilitators or community extension volunteers. Training was provided in the use of the RuralInvest methodology and toolkit, and the Business Model Canvas tool. The project also developed an agrinutrition training manual and a National Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems Programming (NSAFS) package. Under Output 3, the project facilitated the development and operationalization of the KSIVAP M&E system, establishing a monitoring framework and data collection tools, and delivering capacity-building and coaching to 108 participants. The output included a final meeting with 43 participants (18 female and 25 male) to present the project’s results, achievements and challenges.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 1 200 000

Duration
July 2016 – June 2022

Resource Partners
Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) through Government of Kenya

Partners
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, State Departments of Agriculture and Livestock in the county governments of 11 counties

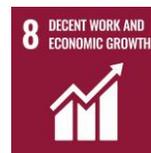
Beneficiaries
615 participants (52 percent female), including 524 government staff, producer organization (PO) and farmer leaders and 40 out-of-school youth

IMPACT

The support provided by the project is expected to be sustainable and institutionalized into national and decentralized systems. The NSAFS will serve as the principal nutrition-sensitive agriculture training package in the country. Synergies have also been established with other national programmes, including those supported by development partners who have expressed interest in the uptake of new materials promoted by the project. One of the agribusiness trainees expressed great enthusiasm about the training received in RuralInvest methodology and software. He said that he would use it in his professional work to appraise investment proposals and also for his personal development to develop business plans. He had sensitized colleagues in his office to the software, raising awareness and creating interest in learning the skill among his peers.

ACTIVITIES

- Capacity assessment made to identify capacity gaps at national and county level.
- Training, guidance and support provided in developing managerial and organizational capacity at national and county level.
- Organizational advice, guidance and support provided to KSIVAP PCU and CCUs to coordinate and implement project activities.
- Training curricula and materials produced to develop skills and capacities at county level.
- Technical staff provided with the skills needed to promote increased agricultural productivity, improved household nutrition, agribusiness and market development.
- PCU M&E team supported in planning, monitoring and evaluating key project results in project areas.
- Monitoring of KSIVAP capacity-building activities supported and technical backstopping provided at county level.
- Stakeholders' review meeting conducted for 43 participants.
- Twelve progress reports prepared and submitted.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Title
 Technical Assistance for Kenya Small-scale Irrigation and Value Addition Project (TA-KSIVAP)

Project Code
 FAO: UTF/KEN/083/KEN

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