

THUNGURURU INTERGRATED FOOD SECURITY AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (FARMING GOD'S WAY)

(A digest from the May to August reports)

May

The month of May has generally been a very favourable month to the farming community. The crops in the field have been doing well so far although the rains seem to have ceased towards the end of the month. It is hoped that the rains will resume since the crops now need more rains to help them grow to maturity. Pest invasion has been a great challenge to the farmers but the field officer, Julius Kimondo, in conjunction with the area government agricultural officer, has worked closely with the farmers to find solutions to these problems.

Actions and outcomes:

40 farmers trained on importance of water pans - 4 farmers dug water pans.

21 farmers joined savings group for water tanks.

30 farmers trained in pest control and effectively controlled crop pests in their fields.

3 groups(46 farmers) trained on kitchen gardening. 28 farmers established kitchen gardens of kale, spinach, black nightshade, onions and amaranth. (African nightshade has nutritional and medicinal properties. Aramanth is a spinach-like vegetable with high vitamin and mineral content)

46 farmers trained on sun-drying vegetables. 13 farmers started sun drying vegetables for consumption in the dry spell.



Kale and indigenous vegetables on Mr William Kavoi's farm in Kariara



Learning vegetable drying on Mrs Chadi's farm



Mrs Florence Chadi's FGW farm

June

The month of June has been a harvesting month particularly for beans and cow peas. However, a large number of people have very little to harvest, especially those who didn't practice Farming God's Way (FGW). As training is still ongoing, more and more community members are expected to join in.

Actions and outcomes:

Followed up importance of water pans with trained farmers.

20 farmers continue to dig water pans.

Created awareness on water harvesting with 100 farmers. 20

farmers joined the savings group for water tanks.

Trained 20 farmers and set a demonstration on Farming God's Way. 10 farmers went and started gathering mulch.

Trained 100 farmers on post harvesting (timely harvesting, drying, storage). 100 farmers effectively stored harvested crop.

Trained 27 farmers on planting onions, and vegetable pests and diseases. 9 farmers planted onions in Kariara B village.



Mama Susan in her onion seed bed after training



Mrs Sabina Wanjiru Wanyoike in her FGW farm



July

The month of July has been a harvesting month in the project area. Although the rains were not adequate in the area, the Farming God's Way farmers have smiles from the harvest they had. It is expected that because of the remarkable difference between the harvests in the farms that used FGW and those that planted the conventional way, more farmers will join in the Farming God's Way practice in the next planting season.

Due to the drought that affected income many farmers have dropped their water tanks savings contributions. Work was affected by tension in election campaigns.

Actions and outcomes:

Trained 30 farmers on kitchen gardening. 30 farmers established multi-storey and container gardens. Trained 30 farmers on composting and set a demonstration. 10 farmers implemented composting.



Mugumo B Farmers during training on composting



Mugumo A Farmers training on multi-storey gardens

August

In August harvesting continued with emphasis on post harvest handling and kitchen gardening since, with the expected dry period, the kitchen gardens will help boost the families' nutritional requirements.

Actions and outcomes:

30 trained farmers followed up on importance of water pans. 14 farmers continue to dig water pans.

4 groups trained on kitchen gardens. 25 farmers established portable kitchen gardens.

18 farmers (Silanga group) trained on post harvesting (timely harvesting, drying and storage). 13 have safely stored harvested crop.

40 farmers trained on indigenous seed selection. 35 farmers selected seeds of green grams, indigenous beans, lab lab, and pigeon peas.



Mrs Naomi Njoki Kimari cleaning her maize harvest before storage



Mr Kivoi and Mrs Beth Kioko at their sack gardens



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