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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Building Resilience

through Good Agricultural Practice and Conservation Agriculture

Increasing productivity and profitability of small holder farmers through promotion and up - scaling of Good Agricultural Practice & Conservation Agriculture in productive semi-arid areas of Kenya Project IPP-GAP

Key achievements

90,000

Farmers reached with extension messages in 3400 farmer groups in 8 counties

1,700

Extension workers trained on GAP, CA and agri-business including county agricultural staff, lead farmers and private sector extension workers

10,000

Farmers now practising CA/GAP

3,500

Farmers benefiting from market linkages with contracts

2.4 billion

Value of markets linkages facilitated

IPP-GAP is a joint programme that stands for "Increasing Productivity and Profitability of Small Holder Farmers through the Scaling up of Good Agricultural Practice and Conservation Agriculture. It mainly targets farmers in productive Semi-arid areas of Kenya and is supported by the European Union

The project is built around 2 main pillars:

- 1. Improving farmers productivity through conservation agriculture as the basis of Good Agricultural Practice.**
- 2. Increasing farmers' profitability by infusing an agribusiness approach to the way they farm.**

Other than Conservation Agriculture, the project emphasizes on other Good Agricultural Practices such as the use of appropriate varieties of drought tolerant crops, the use of certified seed, timely planting, correct fertiliser application and improved post-harvest storage.

What is Conservation Agriculture?

Conservation Agriculture is based on three core principals which are minimal tillage, maintenance of soil cover and crop rotation.

On the agribusiness side, the main approach has been through facilitation of linkages between farmers and end markets, while ensuring that farmers have access to financial services that make it possible for them to farm.

IPP-GAP has so far been implemented at least one year in eight ASAL counties including Makueni, Machakos, Tharaka Nithi, Kitui, Laikipia, Meru, Kilifi and Kwale. The project is contributing to improving the livelihoods of rural farming populations by increasing their incomes, making them more resilient to climate shocks and reducing their vulnerability to poverty and food deficits.

IPP-GAP in action

Semi-Arid Lands within Agricultural Climatic Zone 5 represent Kenya's next agricultural frontier and are clearly identified in the Kenya Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS) as a key priority for future development.

To this end, the Government of Kenya, the European Union (EU), IFAD and FAO developed the Kenya Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Programme (KCALP).

IPP-GAP is an integral part of a part of KACLIP which focuses on water harvesting and conservation, natural resource management, climate smart agriculture and private sector/ financial institution involvement.

The IPP-GAP is working with selected groups of productive farmers from the selected counties. By adopting a value chain approach, the project is having far reaching impacts beyond the direct beneficiaries.

Increased marketing activities and private sector participation as a result of IPP-GAP in the selected counties are have brought inputs and services closer to the farms, benefiting even non IPP-GAP farmers.

Private sector actors as a result have witnessed an increased demand for their goods and services while also enjoying the reduced transaction costs through bulked input orders and produce from the farmer groups.

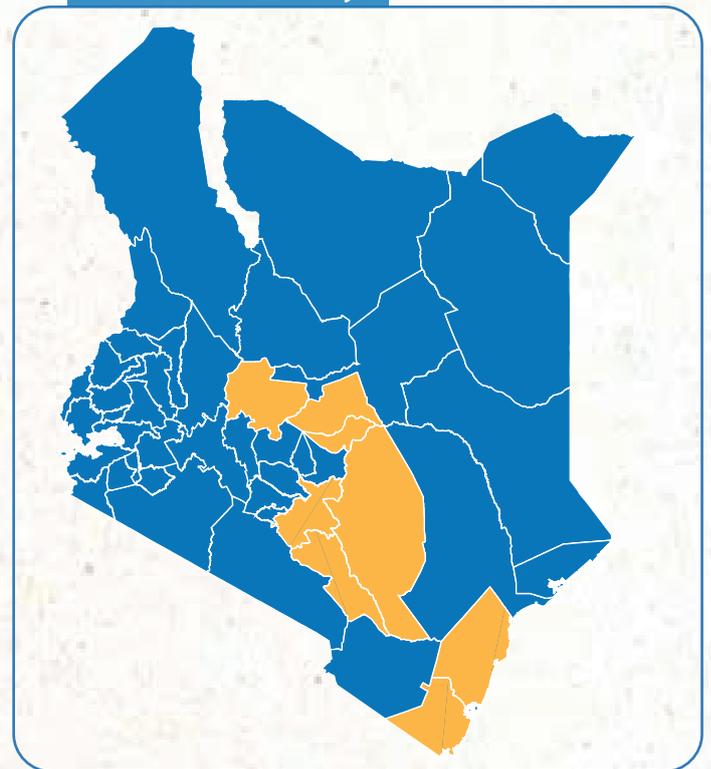
Use of media and technology in the IPP-GAP project

IPP-GAP uses the media to reach farmers and has so far used popular television programmes such as Shamba shape-up and Makutano Junction to pass important agricultural extension messages.

The project is in the process of rolling out a radio programme that will be broadcast in nationally popular radio stations covering practical farming lessons on CA and GAP.

In addition, the project will work with existing mobile-phone-technology platforms creating an easily accessible SMS channel for farmers on GAP, CA, weather information, crop calendar, market and event information, value chains, food and nutrition, alerts on Shamba Shape Up and radio programs - all of which help farmers to acquire new skills and be informed on the weather and market prices.

CA Counties in Kenya



Budget: EUROS 9 500 000

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