

Scaling-up Success

FARM-Africa's new strategy for greater impact



Over the last twenty years FARM-Africa has changed the lives of thousands of African farmers and herders by improving practice in smallholder agriculture, pastoralism and community forest management. The success stories we have seen – from increased yields and improved incomes to reducing a community's dependency on food aid – have made us increasingly determined to reach even more people.

This can be achieved by sharing models of good practice with other organisations and individuals, aiming to move success far beyond the project level. By scaling-up in this way, we know that we can reach millions, rather than thousands, of farmers and herders.

Our new strategy is structured around four clear outcomes and we believe that these, combined with the development of lasting partnerships with others, will enable FARM-Africa to have a powerful impact on reducing poverty for marginalised rural communities.

In this way, we know that we can make a truly lasting difference to African families.



Outcome 1:

Developing models of good practice

FARM-Africa's models of good practice include innovation in three areas: technology, partnership and process which, when combined, transform people's lives. We ensure that these models are sustainable, adaptable, cost-effective and, importantly, do not expose local people to unreasonable risk. We know that, with appropriate support, these models can be adopted by tens of thousands of farmers and herders, spreading good practice throughout Africa.

Outcome 2: Changing policy

In some countries there are policy barriers that prevent good practices from moving beyond the project level. To achieve a supportive policy environment we use the evidence from successful work at the grassroots to influence both the development of policy and the translation of that policy into agricultural practice. Helping farmers and herders engage with influential policy makers is at the heart of our drive to create a positive policy environment in which farmers can flourish.

Learning from others

These models of good practice are developed by learning from others: from farmers and NGOs to researchers and governments. They represent the results of this shared learning and will continue to develop as other organisations adapt them to suit their own contexts.



Outcome 3:

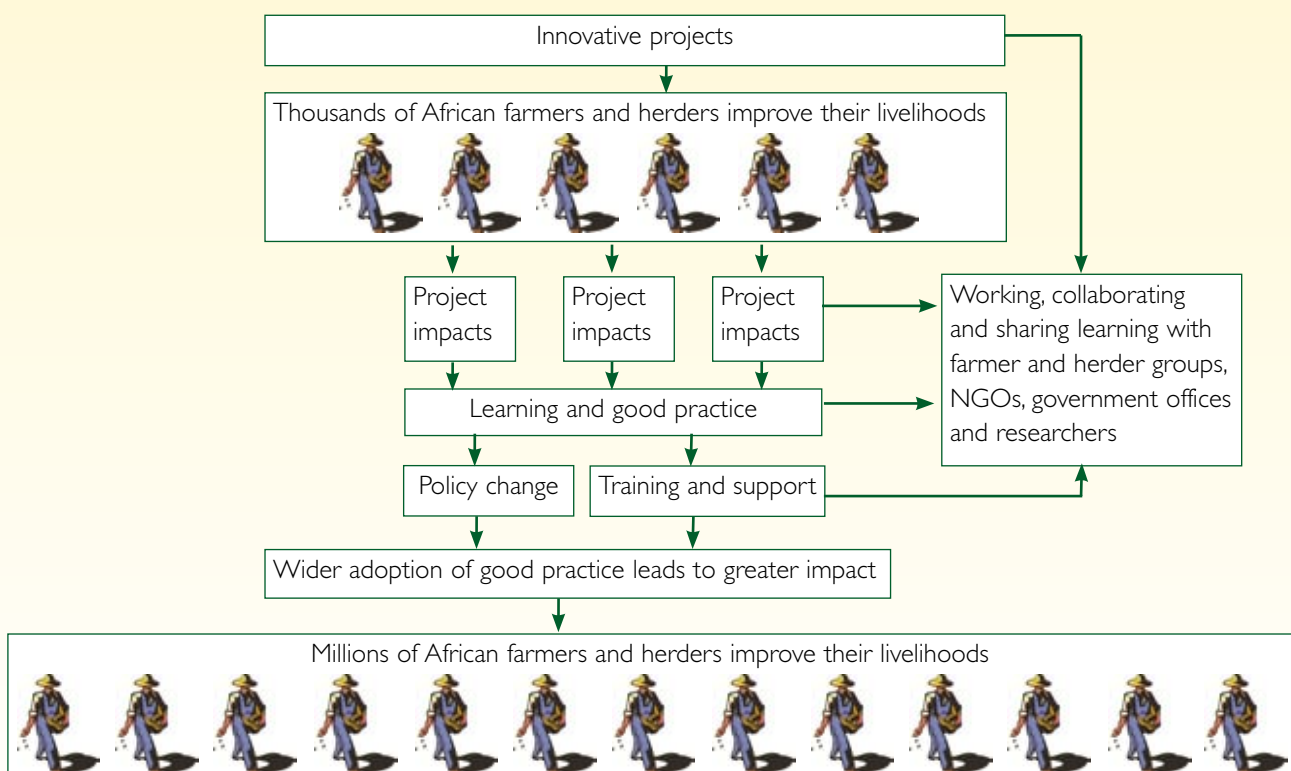
Sharing expertise to increase impact

To help other organisations adopt models of good practice, our Training and Advisory Units offer a range of training, advice and post-adoption support. Experiences are also shared through conferences, developing learning materials and establishing networks for practitioners, such as the Community Animal Health Network (CAHNET) (www.cah-net.net).

Outcome 4: Raising awareness

There is widespread belief that agriculture is an outmoded way of making a living which has led to declining public and media support of the agricultural sector. Our experience shows that vibrant smallholder agriculture is the foundation for dynamic rural economies, driving economic growth. We are committed to improving public understanding of agriculture's vital role to encourage broad public support for increased investment in agricultural development.

The FARM-Africa Strategy



Models of good practice

The Goat Model

This model has been developed and tested in four countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda – over a 20-year period. It illustrates a three-way innovation that ensures success.

Technology – Communities cross-breed hardy local goats with European Toggenburg dairy goats to get higher milk yields. Training in fodder production and animal health is conducted with all recipients of livestock.

Partnership – Farmers and the private sector collaborate – notably animal health workers, banks and veterinary stores.

Process – Farmer groups work with private and government organisations to manage all support and marketing services ensuring sustainability in the long term.

Success – In Kenya, 50,000 cross-bred dairy goats have been produced in the last 10 years and household incomes have increased ten-fold.

Scale-up – The Government of Kenya and a number of NGOs including Family Health International and Plan International have been trained and are now adopting this model.



Participatory Forest Management (PFM) Model

This model has been developed and tested in Ethiopia and Tanzania over the last 10 years, drawing from the experiences of our PFM project in Bonga, Chilimo and Borana in Ethiopia and Nou in Tanzania (co-managed by FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel Ethiopia).

Technology – Sustainable methods of forest management are established and alternative livelihoods (e.g. non timber forest products) developed.

Partnership – Communities collaborate with governments to manage and protect local forests.

Process – Participatory forestry management techniques are implemented.

Success – 40,000 hectares of natural forest are now being managed using PFM techniques, and regional and national forest policies have been modified to reflect the PFM approach.

Scale-up – The Irish, Norwegian and Netherlands Embassies are supporting the expansion of this model into the Bale Eco-region of Southern Ethiopia. In this project, FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel are networking with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the Movement for Ecological Learning and Community Action (MELCA Mahiber).



Other models

Pastoral development: Guides pastoralists to improve management of their natural resources, while helping them to be included in national and local policy. **Scale-up:** This model is being applied in projects carried out by FARM-Africa and other implementing agencies in Ethiopia and Tanzania.

Land reform support in South Africa: Improves the livelihoods of land reform beneficiaries through improved agricultural production. **Scale-up:** FARM-Africa is helping the government to implement the model in other parts of South Africa.

Agricultural education: Uses 'discovery learning' as an innovative educational approach in schools. **Scale-up:** In Tanzania, the good practice gathered from a smallholder setting has been adapted and applied to students in pastoral areas.

Models being tested: Smallholder poultry, smallholder crops, young farmers & schools, women's economic empowerment and post-conflict agricultural development. Models are also being generated through our Maendeleo Agricultural Technology Fund, a competitive fund which supports the development of innovative methods to make agricultural technologies accessible to farmers.

Training and Advisory Units

As FARM-Africa has grown in experience, we have come to recognise our knowledge and expertise as a valuable resource. To share this learning, Training and Advisory Units (TAUs) have been established in five of our country programmes (Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda). These act as the main vehicle for sharing the models of good practice, tested and developed in our grassroots project work.

By offering advice and training, the TAUs help other organisations to adapt these models so that they work for them.



Photo: Abbie Traylor-Smith 2002

Training available from the Training and Advisory Units

- Implementation of models of good practice
- Adult learning and development techniques
- Developing partnerships
- Identifying beneficiaries
- Group formation and development
- Development of goat credit
- Community animal health
- Goat husbandry
- Community-based breed improvement
- Land use planning with communities
- Financial management for community groups

The TAUs also conduct tailored training to suit clients' specific needs as well as providing important post-training follow-up support and advice.

Sharing good practice

1. In December 2006, TAU Kenya helped the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) equip animal health workers and government staff with adult training skills to implement community-based animal health training.
2. TAU Ethiopia has provided training for a number of organisations including staff from World Vision (Ethiopia) and members from Hamer and Gewane Woredas (districts), as well as working through the Pastoral Forum Ethiopia to build the capacity of pastoral communities.
3. TAU Uganda trained 27 individuals from different organisations in the Mbale district as trainers in the Goat Model.
4. TAU South Africa is currently adapting its successful Land Reform Support Model into AGRI/SITA accredited training material.
5. TAU Tanzania is in discussion with the Dongobesh Division Development Association in Mbulu District to adopt the Goat Model.

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