

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020



FARM AFRICA

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to Farm Africa's 2020 Annual Review, where we reflect on some of last year's achievements in working towards our vision of a resilient rural Africa where people and the environment thrive.

We are proud to have reached more than one million people across eastern Africa in 2020 with support that is needed now more than ever. Many of the smallholder farmers and pastoralists we support across eastern Africa are living on the edge. In the face of climate change, the pandemic, civil unrest and global commodity price fluctuations, farmers and rural businesses lack the safety nets and resilience to bounce back from shocks.

The case studies in this report outline how Farm Africa has helped smallholder farmers gain access to the markets, high-quality inputs and finance needed to drive prosperity. You'll read how we've supported agro-pastoralists to secure access to adequate water, fodder and healthcare for the livestock on which they rely.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many obstacles, but our dedicated teams have worked hard to innovate and adapt so they could continue wherever possible to support rural communities to maintain or increase their incomes while sustainably managing the natural resources around them.

While it was no doubt a challenging year, 2020 also brought new opportunities and new beginnings. We were delighted to welcome Dan Collison as the organisation's new Chief Executive in May and at the end of the year to appoint Ken Caldwell as a new trustee. We were also pleased to embark on some innovative projects.

With funding from USAID's Feed the Future Partnering for Innovation programme we started working in partnership with Root Capital to help coffee cooperatives in Uganda, Rwanda and DR Congo reduce the risk that volatile prices in the global coffee market pose to smallholder farmers' income. In Kenya, funding from the Open Society Foundations enabled us to continue building a resilient and inclusive policy environment for the development of Kenya's aquaculture sector.

We are hugely grateful to the many individuals and organisations who have extended support to Farm Africa over this challenging year, without whom none of our work would be possible. Our sincerest thanks go to you all on behalf of the communities we serve.

John Reizenstein
Chair



LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Having started at Farm Africa in May 2020, this is my first Annual Review letter. Despite lockdown meaning I have not had the opportunity to meet many of you in person, I am grateful for having been able to connect virtually with many of Farm Africa's supporters, partners and staff. Many thanks to everyone who has extended such a warm welcome to me in a year that has been like no other.

I am honoured to have been appointed as Chief Executive of an organisation I have admired for many years. Each day in post has heightened my understanding of the difference Farm Africa makes by supporting sustainable livelihoods for rural communities in eastern Africa.

I have huge respect for the expertise and knowledge of our colleagues and partners across Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and DR Congo, who work so hard to ensure the communities we support have the opportunity to make a decent living today, while protecting the environment for tomorrow.

That work was more challenging than ever in 2020, disrupted by crises including the COVID-19 pandemic, swarms of desert locusts, severe floods and conflict. In the face of these challenges, the impact of our work has been all the more profound, helping to ensure that farmers can withstand shocks and still provide for their families.

Anna, a participant in our Livestock for Livelihoods programme (see pages 10-11), used to rely on her harvests to feed her family in Karamoja, Uganda. She told us: "When it is rainy or windy, the crops get destroyed and we have nothing to give the children." With Farm Africa's help, Anna will have other options in future. As well as growing crops, she now rears goats, which produce milk and meat, a source of both income and food. She is also taking part in a savings association, giving her access to credit so she can now be sure there will be money available for essentials such as school fees.

The year 2020 marked the final year of Farm Africa's previous strategy. I am proud to launch this Annual Review at the same time as launching our new 2021-2025 strategy, a summary of which can be found on pages 6-7.

The last year has demonstrated the resilience of the communities that we work with, as well as the resilience of our organisation. As we plan for the years to come, I hope we can count on your support to help transform lives for millions more people like Anna and her family.

Dan Collison
Chief Executive

WHERE WE WORK

WE HELP FARMERS TO NOT ONLY BOOST YIELDS, BUT ALSO GAIN ACCESS TO MARKETS, WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

IN 2020, WE REACHED MORE THAN ONE MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS EASTERN AFRICA.



FARM AFRICA'S PROJECT LOCATIONS IN 2020:

ETHIOPIA

- 1. Making forestry sustainable
- 2. Preserving ecosystems in Bale
- 3. Marketing Bale's wild coffee
- 4. Making forest coffee profitable
- 5. Sustainable coffee value chain development
- 6. Climate resilience for female farmers
- 7. Market-driven climate-smart agriculture
- 8. Livelihoods for refugee and host communities
- 9. Building resilience through agribusinesses
- 10. Landscape management in the Central Rift Valley
- 11. Enhancing market systems for improved sustainable livelihoods
- 12. Majang Biosphere

KENYA

- 13. Market-led aquaculture
- 14. Growing futures
- 15. Cashew nut and sesame production and marketing
- 16. Waitrose & Partners Foundation
- 17. Regenerative agriculture

TANZANIA

- 18. Boosting sorghum production in a changing climate
- 19. Developing business acumen in horticultural enterprises
- 20. Youth-led development of the moringa value chain
- 21. Sunflower production

UGANDA

- 22. Investing in Uganda's young and female coffee farmers
- 23. Commercialising chilli production
- 24. Livestock and breeding services in Karamoja
- 25. Gender in the coffee value chain

DR CONGO

- 26. Coffee production in Virunga National Park

REGIONAL

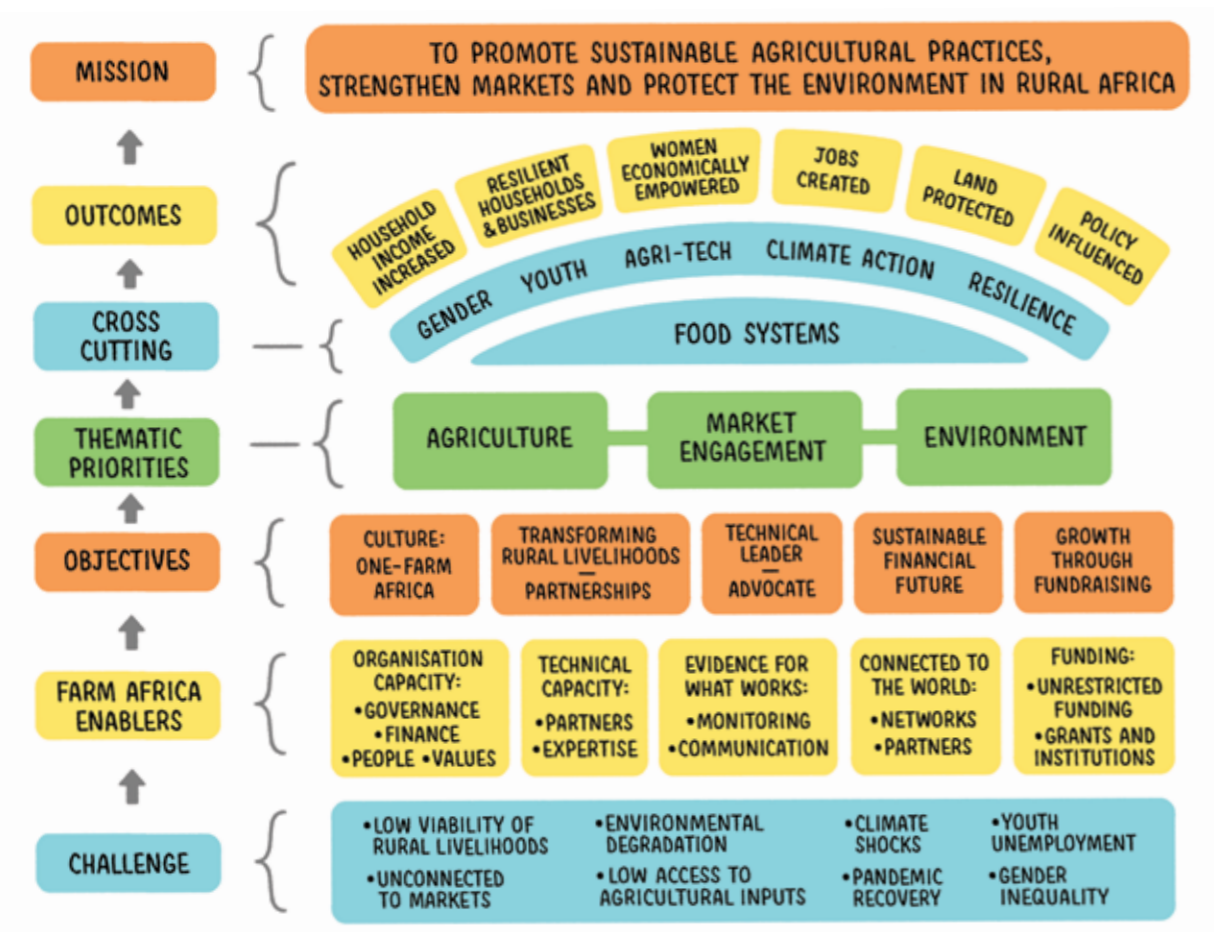
- 27. Livestock for Livelihoods
- 28. Cultivate
- 29. Price risk management (training delivered online to cooperatives across DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda)



STRATEGY 2021-25

THIS STRATEGY CHARTS A CLEAR PATH FOR FARM AFRICA FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. IT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED THROUGH A WIDE-RANGING CONSULTATION PROCESS. THERE ARE NEW AREAS FOR FARM AFRICA TO EXPLORE, AND SOME AREAS IN WHICH WE WILL DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING.

Farm Africa's mission, and the new strategy that supports it, aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing towards the global effort to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.



BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN EASTERN AFRICA

Farm Africa's approach will continue to be based on three thematic pillars:



Agriculture: By 2025, Farm Africa will support one million smallholder farmers and agro-pastoralists per year to increase their productivity, household incomes and resilience. We will boost livelihoods in a number of core value chains such as coffee, aquaculture, oilseeds and livestock, and increase farmers' participation in market systems, while applying nature-based solutions that promote responsible environmental stewardship.



Market engagement: By 2025, Farm Africa will support at least 200 farmer groups and cooperatives and small and growing businesses (SGBs) to grow sustainably, and support 12 private sector partners to transition to sustainable supply chains.



Environment: By 2025, Farm Africa will implement integrated landscape management projects in all countries of operation, supporting the sustainable management of 12 priority landscapes, including forests, rangelands and coastal ecosystems. We will expand payment for ecosystems schemes, including further REDD+ projects.

Agri-tech: We will embrace the use of technology across all stages of the value chain.

A RESPECTED TECHNICAL LEADER

We will prioritise capturing and disseminating learning in order to maximise the effectiveness of our programmes. We will track progress against a standard set of indicators measuring both the reach of our work and its impact on factors such as household revenue, number of jobs created and hectares of degraded land restored.

We will specialise in a number of core value chains, likely to include coffee, aquaculture, horticulture, oilseeds, sorghum, non-timber forest products and livestock.

We will continue to amplify our impact by working in partnership with a wide range of organisations including community-based organisations, businesses, government, NGOs and research organisations.

We will share evidence-based learning widely in order to influence the policy and practice of others.

ONE FARM AFRICA

We will develop a culture that demonstrably lives the organisation's values and that prioritises staff well-being. Our communication will be inclusive and respectful, prioritise accountability and transparency in decision making, and build trust and diversity in leadership. Our code of conduct, safeguarding policy and security measures are the building blocks of this objective.

The plan also steers Farm Africa to a sustainable financial future, which maintains strong reserve levels and delivers steady growth in restricted and unrestricted income.

The three pillars will be underpinned by five cross-cutting themes:

Climate action: We will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities to climate change.

Gender equality: We will design projects to be gender-sensitive and include meaningful outcomes for women's economic empowerment.

Youth employment: We will emphasise the creation of job opportunities for young people throughout the value chain.

Resilience: We will enhance communities' and enterprises' ability to mitigate and adapt to shocks.



THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WITH NO MEANS TO TRADE DURING ENFORCED LOCKDOWNS, FARMERS IN EASTERN AFRICA SUFFERED DAMAGING LOSSES FROM UNSOLD HARVESTS, AND WITHOUT A WAY TO ACCESS HIGH-QUALITY SEEDS AND FERTILISERS, MANY STRUGGLED TO KEEP THEIR BUSINESSES ALIVE.

In many parts of eastern Africa, the month of March is usually peak planting season. March 2020, however, saw the start of widespread disruption for farmers as the coronavirus pandemic took hold, triggering the closure of national borders, restrictions on movement within countries, curfews and reduced business hours. The pandemic limited farmers' access to labour, inputs and markets, pushed up their price of production and caused household incomes to plummet.

In June 2020 a rapid feedback survey undertaken of 419 smallholder horticultural farmers taking part in Farm Africa's Growing Futures project in Trans Nzoia County in western Kenya highlighted the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic dealt smallholder farmers in eastern Africa a major economic blow.

A total of 69% of respondents reported lower than usual sales volumes while 67% reported that the price per kilo of produce had fallen. The impact of this reduced demand on farmers' earnings was clear, with 67% of respondents reporting a significant reduction in household incomes as a direct result of the pandemic. While feeling a squeeze on income, a majority of farmers also reported experiencing rising costs of both agricultural inputs and household essentials.

It's a burden the farmers were ill equipped to bear: half of the interviewees reported that they did not have an emergency fund.

FARM AFRICA'S RESPONSE

From March onwards, curfews, restrictions on the use of cars and motorbikes and social distancing requirements made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic restricted our ability to reach communities and deliver training.

However, we continued to operate wherever possible, helping farmers to overcome the additional struggles they faced in accessing labour, inputs and markets, while implementing measures to keep our staff, partners and the communities we work with safe.

In Kenya, we adapted our approach to the Growing Futures youth horticulture project by delivering support to individual farms rather than delivering group training. We advised farmers to stagger their harvesting and grading schedules to maintain social distancing; improved hygiene standards and helped deliver agricultural inputs to farms.

Additional funding totalling £175,000 from the Waitrose & Partners Foundation helped Farm Africa support Kenyan farm workers and smallholder farmers in the Waitrose & Partners supply chain. The funds were used to develop healthcare and sanitation measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, improve workers' access to essential services such as healthcare and childcare, support workers on reduced earnings through food packages and help

smallholder farmers to restart the supply of vegetables.

Innovative adaptations to planned activities meant that in some cases we were able to reach more farmers than initially planned. In northern Uganda, in addition to securing permission from local authorities to continue our in-person training sessions on chilli production, funded by aBi Development Ltd, to smaller groups, we introduced radio training sessions that were accessible to a wider audience.

In Ethiopia, our project promoting climate-smart agriculture, funded by Sida, adapted plans to deliver training on the production of high-value crops. Instead of training farmers directly, our staff delivered training to development agents and local government staff, who in turn cascaded the training to larger groups of farmers than originally planned.

Farm Africa also worked alongside local governments in Ethiopia to protect farmers and pastoralists by distributing materials such as infrared thermometers, personal protective equipment, cleaning materials and water containers to district Health Bureaus. We also raised awareness among project participants of the importance of social distancing, regular handwashing and avoiding group meetings.

In Uganda, funding from Irish Aid enabled Farm Africa to step in and cover Community Animal Health Workers' fees to spray, deworm, treat and vaccinate goats belonging to women taking part in our Livestock for Livelihoods project (see pages 10-13), whose ability to save was disrupted by the pandemic.



“The Waitrose food package really helped me when the COVID-19 pandemic had hit the country hard since our salaries had been reduced. I managed to save funds that could have been used for food purchase and directed them to other basic needs.”

Joyce Kariuki, a farm worker from Tambuzi, Kenya, received support from Farm Africa and the Waitrose & Partners Foundation.

Farm Africa / Caroline Karuitha

LIVESTOCK FOR LIVELIHOODS

FARM AFRICA IS UNLOCKING THE POWER OF GOATS TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF PASTORALIST WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES LIVING IN THE DRYLANDS OF SOUTH OMO IN ETHIOPIA AND KARAMOJA IN UGANDA.

These are two of the poorest areas in eastern Africa – with a harsh, unpredictable climate that can make it impossible to grow crops or keep cattle healthy. In both locations, many pastoral households rear goats, predominantly for meat, but productivity is constrained by poor access to veterinary and breeding services, and a shortage of fodder and water.

Set up in 2018, our Livestock for Livelihoods project is helping more than 10,000 women in South Omo and Karamoja increase their incomes by setting up goat-rearing enterprises. We are also raising awareness about the nutritional value of goats' milk and balanced diets, and demonstrating how to build kitchen vegetable gardens that make good use of the goats' manure.

Using a revolving goat scheme, we have set up Women's Livestock Groups, each formed of 20 to 30 vulnerable women, many of whom are mothers of young children. Half or a third of the group members receive two or three does (female goats) each from Farm Africa, on the understanding they pass on two or three female goat kids to another woman in the group once the doe has reproduced.

The men in the communities involved in the project were at first resistant to see the elevation of women's status, but over time this has changed. Between the start of the project in 2018 and the end of 2020, the average number of goats in the women's herds had grown from four to 12 in Uganda and from eight to 17 in Ethiopia.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Healthy goats produce more kids, milk and meat. Farm Africa has helped women develop the goat husbandry skills they need to keep their goats in good health by delivering practical lessons on feeding, housing, breeding, disease management, fodder and rangeland management. To reduce overgrazing of the rangelands we've encouraged project participants to grow forage and indigenous fodder trees that have multiple benefits (shade, wind breaks, fodder and medicinal plants).

A household survey in Ethiopia in 2020 showed 90% of respondents had adopted better goat feeding, using fodder including hay, crop residues and fodder trees, while 70% had constructed improved goat shelters. The project has supported cooperatives to produce multi-nutrient blocks using molasses, a by-product of sugar production, and enabled access to water for the goats through solar-powered water pumps.

We have trained a network of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) who provide basic veterinary services such as vaccination and de-worming of goats, and spraying them to keep parasites at bay. In 2020, the CAHWs dewormed a total of 27,446 goats, sheep and cattle in Ethiopia and more than 500,000 goats, cows, sheep, donkeys and camels in Uganda. The women's livestock groups pay for these services: by enabling CAHWs to make a living we're helping ensure these services will continue after our project ends. In Ethiopia, the CAHWs are now purchasing drugs using their own money, showing they have achieved self-sufficiency.

ACCESS TO FINANCE

As of March 2020, a total of 7,546 women (2,686 in Uganda, 4,860 in Ethiopia) were taking part in Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) organised by Farm Africa, where members make weekly contributions into three funds:

1. The goat fund, which is used to pay for health services for the goats.
2. The welfare fund, which offers interest-free loans to cope with emergencies such as sickness of a family member.
3. The savings fund, which issues small loans for women to set up businesses, such as goat fattening businesses, which enable them to increase their incomes. The average size of loan issued in Ethiopia in 2020 was 1,724 Ethiopian birr (about £30).

According to Farm Africa's baseline report undertaken at the start of the project in 2018, 69% of women in Karamoja and 37% of women pastoralists in South Omo were living below the poverty line of US\$1.90/day. As of March 2020, household incomes had more than doubled compared to the start of the project.

IMPROVED GOAT BREEDS

Farm Africa helps communities to cross-breed local does with exotic, high-yielding breeds of buck: Toggenburg in Uganda and Boer in Ethiopia. The offspring produce more milk and meat than local goats, which tend to produce very little milk.

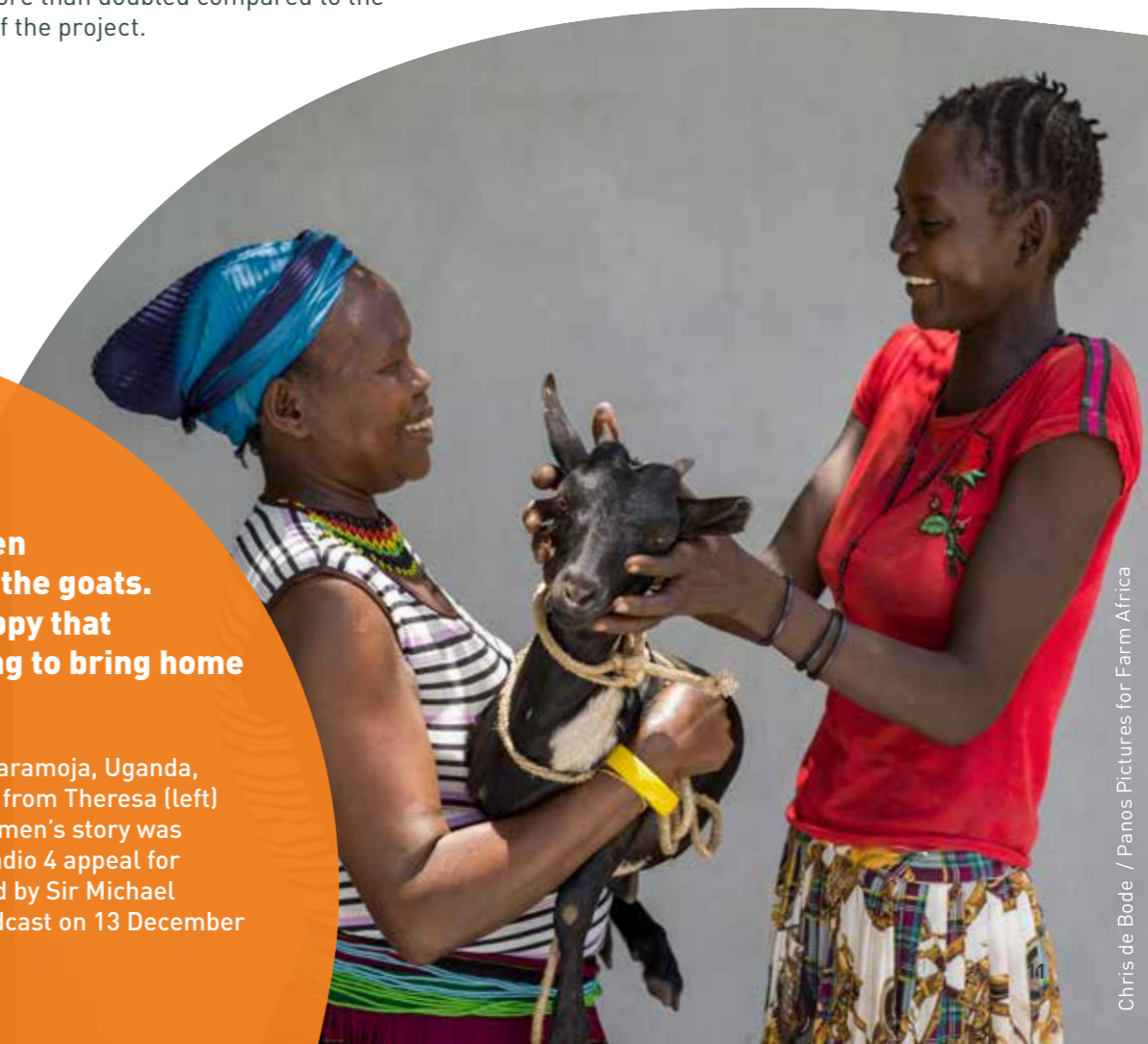
Higher yields of milk and meat mean that women are able to earn more money from their goats, as well as improve their families' diets. A household survey of project participants in Ethiopia in 2020 showed half of children under five years old were now drinking goats' milk, compared to 12% in 2018.

In Uganda, the highest average annual production of goats' milk in 2020 was seen in the Kotido District, at 73 litres per household, compared to 19 litres per household in the lowest-producing district (Nakapiripirit). In Kotido, the goats' milk proved to be valuable for families' survival due to the lack of other available food in light of flooding and insecurity, which both reduced agricultural yields.



“I told my children I am going to get the goats. They were so happy that Mummy was going to bring home goats.”

Longole (right) from Karamoja, Uganda, received two goat kids from Theresa (left) in March 2020. The women's story was featured in the BBC Radio 4 appeal for Farm Africa, presented by Sir Michael Palin, which was broadcast on 13 December 2020, raising £67,000.



GOAT POWER



Goat Power, an exhibition of photos of Farm Africa's Livestock for Livelihoods project taken by Panos Pictures photographer Chris de Bode, took place in October and November 2020 at More London Riverside. To view a video about the exhibition and a link to an online gallery of the photos published by The Guardian visit: www.farmafrica.org/goatpower

"I have a total of seven goats now. I am getting milk from two: I give all to the children. Goats mean food. They are money as well: they bring my family money that means I can pay for medical expenses or buy clothes."

Beka from Bena Tsemay, South Omo, Ethiopia.



"I am joyful to have goats. It used to be only men in my family who owned animals. I am happy that Farm Africa gave me the right to own goats myself."

Longoli from Napak, Karamoja, Uganda.



RESTORING AND PRESERVING ETHIOPIA'S BALE ECO-REGION

FARM AFRICA IS WORKING WITH NGOS AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT RIVERS, FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS; DIVERSIFY LIVELIHOODS AND REDUCE POVERTY IN THE BALE ECO-REGION.

The Bale Eco-region, a biodiversity hotspot in Ethiopia's Oromia region, is at risk from land degradation. Already home to 1.6 million people, its growing population is using the area's natural resources at an unsustainable rate. Deforestation for farmland expansion is very high, while overgrazing of livestock is leading to a shortage of pasture. Coupled with climate change, this is threatening the region's diverse landscape and endangered species of flora and fauna, and increasing the vulnerability of the communities who depend on the land and rivers for their livelihoods. More than 12 million people rely on the region's rivers for their water supply.

With funding from the European Union's Supporting Horn of Africa Resilience (SHARE) initiative and Jersey Overseas Aid, Farm Africa is leading a consortium of NGOs to help local people sustainably manage the Bale Eco-region and diversify their livelihoods to reduce reliance on unsustainable practices.

DIVERSIFYING LIVELIHOODS

In 2020, the project made a number of livelihood improvements including increasing the productivity of non-timber forest enterprises in coffee, honey, gum and resin. Overall, the project helped forest-based cooperatives produce 24,263kg of these four products, 5,059kg

over the year's target. This has not only increased farmers' incomes but has provided an economic incentive for the community to protect trees, which along with producing gum and resin, provide pollen for bees, and shade for coffee plants and beehives.

Particular success was seen in coffee production in 2020. The project trained farmers on processing and post-harvest handling, which has increased coffee quality and enabled farmers to sell their coffee at higher prices to lucrative export markets.

CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Farm Africa is working with local governments to provide access to small-scale irrigation systems and training for farmers on climate-smart agriculture (CSA) techniques to help increase productivity on existing agricultural plots and discourage the conversion of forest to farmland.

In 2020, 57% of female-headed households and 67% of male-headed households participating in the project were using at least three CSA techniques. This is a vast improvement for female farmers, as prior to the project only 10% of female-headed households were meeting this target.



WORKING WITH WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The project is helping women and young people, who are often excluded from earning money, to engage in new income-generating opportunities. Women also tend to have low access to credit and technology, making them more exposed to the negative impacts of climate extremes and the depletion of natural resources.

Farm Africa supported five new women-led enterprises in 2020. The groups rear and breed goats for milk and meat. We've helped the businesses gain access to improved goat breeds, animal health services and sustainable fodder, applying the revolving goat scheme that is also being successfully used by our Livestock for Livelihoods project (see page 10) to a new context. The businesses generated an income of 233,000 Birr (approximately £4,000) for female members, who collectively sold 205 goats in 2020, surpassing the 2019 sales figure of 90 goats.

Alongside this, the project has set up three youth-led enterprises producing and selling energy-efficient cook stoves and sustainable charcoal.

These businesses collectively sold 850 stoves in 2020, generating a revenue of 255,000 Birr (approximately £4,400). These businesses provide young people with income and also reduce the amount of wood being cut down for cooking purposes.

COVID-19

During 2020, the project team raised awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic and introduced training and equipment to prevent it spreading in the community and ensure the project could continue. The project team distributed personal protective equipment such as face masks, disposable gloves, gowns, overalls and infrared thermometers. Alongside this, sanitation materials were provided including hand sanitiser, soap, cholerox and water tanks for hand washing.



Coffee production has increased from 14,702kg in 2019 to 24,040kg in 2020, providing a revenue of approximately 1.9 million Ethiopian birr (£33,500) for coffee farmers.

Photo: Farm Africa / Ake Lindstrom

ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERING FEMALE COFFEE FARMERS

FARM AFRICA IS WORKING TO CLOSE THE GENDER GAP IN THE COFFEE INDUSTRY IN KANUNGU IN WESTERN UGANDA. WE'RE WORKING TO PROVIDE WOMEN WITH GREATER AUTONOMY AT THE HOUSEHOLD, FARM AND COOPERATIVE LEVEL.

Although women are the backbone of Kanungu's coffee industry, which fuels the local economy, it tends to be men who have control over the profits. Women undertake the majority of the work involved in growing, harvesting and drying the coffee. However, men have a near monopoly over the mechanised processing and marketing activities, meaning it is they who make the final sale and receive the payment, often excluding women from participating in financial decisions.

This is exacerbated by women's lack of access to land, coffee trees, finance and representation in coffee cooperatives, which help farmers to sell their coffee to lucrative markets, and provide supplies and services for coffee production. With matched funding from the UK government for Farm Africa's 2019 Coffee is Life UK Aid Match appeal, we are providing 2,640

women in Kanungu with the support they need to access the coffee market, participate in coffee cooperatives, take on leadership roles, and change decision-making dynamics within households so they can have more say over the profits generated from their agricultural efforts.

The project's results are significantly surpassing our expectations. In November 2020, a survey of 348 female coffee farmers taking part in the project found the women's economic empowerment in agriculture (WEEIA) score had increased to 85% from 22% in 2019. The score reflects the average percentage of women reporting that they have access to, and control over incomes; strengthened household level decision-making power; and increased access to resources and market opportunities. Our target had been to achieve a score of 40%.



Hildah Turyamusima using the GALS approach to draw a 'soulmate vision journey' diagram illustrating how she could work with her husband Francis to save towards building a family house with the money they earn from coffee sales.

Photo: Farm Africa / Jjumba Martin



After the COVID-19 pandemic struck, thanks to permission from the local government, the project was able to continue with adaptations including the provision of facemasks for participants to wear during training and meetings and the purchase of disinfectants to sanitise project materials.

ACCESS TO FINANCE

The project is helping women save and invest in their businesses by providing women with access to financial resources through the establishment of 150 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), groups where women are able to save together and share financial resources, and by linking the VSLAs to financial institutions.

PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATIVES

Farm Africa held events for women promoting the benefits of joining the cooperatives and have held awareness raising sessions on gender inclusion with cooperatives and the district government. We have supported cooperatives to amend their standard operating policies to be more gender-inclusive as well as introduce rigorous policies on disability inclusion, human resources, governance, lending, finance and accounting and have offered leadership training to women to help them fulfil positions of responsibility within cooperatives. At their recent Annual General Meeting, the Kanungu coffee growing cooperative elected its first female chairperson.

We have helped the cooperatives become more effective by linking them to input suppliers and to buyers, and by providing hulling machines that enable the farmers to add value to their coffee before they sell it. So far, the project has helped a total of 462 women to sell fair average quality (FAQ) coffee through four different coffee growing cooperatives.

LAND USE AGREEMENTS

Often daughters in Kanungu receive markedly less land than sons, or are totally excluded from land agreements.

We have held advocacy sessions promoting voluntary household land-use agreements where older generations and men give women and young people access to land on which to produce coffee.

A total of 480 model households agreed to implement voluntary land-use agreements and demonstrate the benefits to their respective communities.

GENDER ACTION LEARNING

We have used the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) approach to bring women and men together to explore the economic and social benefits of joint household planning and gender equality. So far, we have rolled out the GALS approach to 1,717 households, using a training of trainers approach, where we directly trained 320 young 'champion' trainers, who were tasked with replicating the training to other households.

The approach uses a series of visual diagramming tools to vision, analyse, plan and track actions involving each household member.



Pictured above: Three coffee farmers taking part in the project joined a team from the National Farmers Union on a Farm Africa Live webinar hosted by farmer and podcaster Will Evans in December exploring the common challenges and opportunities faced by farmers worldwide.

FOREST-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES IN ETHIOPIA'S CENTRAL RIFT VALLEY

FARM AFRICA IS WORKING WITH NGOS, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROTECT ETHIOPIA'S CENTRAL RIFT VALLEY FROM DEFORESTATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE, BOOSTING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH FOREST-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES.

The diverse wildlife, lakes and forests of Ethiopia's Central Rift Valley (CRV) are at risk from deforestation, climate change and unsustainable use of natural resources. Since 1983, the area has lost 50 per cent of its forests.

Farm Africa is addressing these problems through a multi-stakeholder, integrated landscape approach, looking at the long-term opportunities across a variety of ecosystems including forests, agricultural land and rangelands, to harmonise the needs of people and the environment, and ensure rural communities develop livelihoods that also protect, restore and sustain their local natural resources.

Since the project started in 2019, deforestation has decreased to 2.27% in the areas in which Farm Africa works. Prior to this, 4% of forests were lost annually to deforestation. This decline is due to the introduction of forest-friendly businesses, a participatory forest management approach, climate-smart agricultural techniques such as mulching,

composting, intercropping, integrated crop-livestock systems, and awareness raising within the target community, which have reduced local people's reliance on cutting down trees for their livelihoods.

FOREST-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES AND NATURE-POSITIVE PRODUCTION

Farm Africa has been working with smallholder farmers, cooperatives and community groups to build viable forest-based enterprises that give communities an economic incentive to protect the landscape.

With the support of partners and local government, Farm Africa has provided smallholder farmers with training and resources to boost their productivity of non-timber forest products such as honey and fruit, and build their links to markets so they can get a fair price for their products.

Farm Africa has supported 434 farmers to use modern beehives and beekeeping practices. This has resulted in a threefold

increase in honey production, and has contributed to an average 76% increase in household incomes.

Alongside this, the project is improving the productivity of smallholder farmers by introducing climate-smart agricultural techniques such as intercropping and use of improved varieties of crops. This is helping farmers protect ecosystems and reduce agriculture's contribution to climate change.

The project is also helping farmers to access improved seeds and nature-positive alternatives to chemical inputs through vermicomposting and integrated soil fertility management. Training is being provided on water conservation, crop rotation, agro-forestry and improved agronomic practices. These initiatives increased the productivity of the cash crops teff, maize and wheat. The average productivity of maize has risen from 23.4 quintals per hectare of land to 38.0 quintals, and wheat has increased from 26.2 to 35.0 quintals per hectare of land.

Pressure on forest resources has also been reduced by the introduction of green energy technology, such as household-level biogas systems, which turn household waste into renewable energy and reduce the communities' dependence on firewood from the forest.

Overall, these initiatives have resulted in an increase in the annual gross income of households from 25,000 Ethiopian birr (£432 GBP) in 2019 to 44,000 Ethiopian birr (£760 GBP) per household per year in 2020.

COMMUNITY-LED PARK MANAGEMENT IN SENKELLE

The project has helped communities to participate in natural park management in CRV to ensure wildlife and ecosystems are protected. This includes the Senkelle Swayne's Hartebeest Sanctuary (SSHS), an area covering 54km² that is home to one of Ethiopia's unique species, the Swayne's Hartebeest.

In 2020, the project team supported the construction of roof water harvesting facilities to supply drinking water to park animals, constructed a park gate and conducted awareness raising workshops and park management training to ensure community members can monitor and preserve the area successfully. As an incentive for this work and to create a sense of ownership over the park, community members are able to earn incomes from selling grass, responsibly harvesting it from an allotted plot of land in the park. Around 6,750 households are estimated to have earned 16 million Ethiopian birr (£275,000) from the sale of grass.

COVID-19

Faced with the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project distributed sanitation and hygienic materials such as hand sanitiser, face masks, gloves and liquid soaps to 12,500 people in the region including government staff. Farm Africa also collaborated with village health committees, peer educators and health workers to raise awareness of how to reduce the spread of coronavirus, reaching 25,000 people.



By supporting 434 farmers to use modern beehives and beekeeping practices, honey production has increased threefold and has contributed to an average 75% increase in household income.

Photo: Farm Africa / Nichole Sobecki



BOOSTING SORGHUM PRODUCTION IN TANZANIA

FARM AFRICA IS BRINGING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS TOGETHER AND EQUIPPING THEM WITH THE SKILLS AND RESOURCES TO TRANSITION FROM SUBSISTENCE TO COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE.

In Tanzania's Dodoma region, communities rely on sorghum for their food and income. Yet, despite growing demand for sorghum, climate shocks are depleting yields, and a lack of secure food storage facilities and poor handling processes see much of farmers' produce going to rot, pushing families into hunger.

Funded by Irish Aid through the World Food Programme, Farm Africa is supporting farmers to learn the best way to plant and grow improved sorghum varieties and achieve a surplus, even in drought conditions.

IMPROVING YIELDS

Farm Africa has linked farmers to suppliers from whom they can buy improved, drought-tolerant varieties of sorghum seed. The project has also established government-approved Quality Declared Seed (QDS) plots with local farmers to ensure a sustainable supply of local seed. We've provided training demonstrations on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), contract farming and post-harvest handling to 8,858 smallholder farmers, including 4,325 women. Alongside this, we have helped communities introduce climate-smart agricultural (CSA) techniques including agroforestry, conservation agriculture and crop rotation, and establish home gardens. In 2020, 13,857 smallholder farmers were applying at least one of the CSA best practices.

To promote best practice in post-harvest handling techniques, we've connected farmers to businesses that sell tarpaulins and sacks, which help keep their produce clean and dry, and we've offered training to

farmers, warehouses and cooperatives on how to process and store produce safely. Farmers working with Farm Africa in 2020 increased their yields and collectively produced 25,687 metric tonnes of sorghum per season, of which 10,274 metric tonnes were consumed by households and 10,742 metric tonnes were sold.

LINKING FARMERS TO BUYERS

Farm Africa is working to connect sorghum farmers to formal markets to ensure they are able to sell their produce for a fair price. Farmers have been trained on contract farming to ensure the sustainability of their business. In particular, the project facilitated formal linkages between 846 farmers and Tanzanian Breweries Limited, under an out-grower scheme in 2020. Tanzanian Breweries, who paid a premium of 200 Tanzanian Shillings per kilogram, provided farmers with seeds and crop insurance on credit at the start of the season to support production. Overall in 2020, 2,617 farmers sold sorghum to four contracted buyers, who collectively purchased 4,543 metric tonnes of sorghum for 2.4 billion Tanzanian Shillings.

Hilda Madeje, a 48-year-old farmer in the Dodoma region, has been able to increase her income by selling sorghum to Tanzanian Breweries Limited. She previously sold an average of 880 kilograms to local markets for 350 Tanzanian Shillings per kilogram. Now, she sells 1,000 metric tonnes of sorghum to breweries at 550 Tanzanian Shillings per kilogram.

WOMEN AND YOUTH

In the Dodoma region, women have low access to land and capital as land inheritance often goes to male family members. This means that women tend to be at a disadvantage compared to men and are more likely to have lower crop production.

In order to address this inequality and ensure female farmers have access to the capital and skills they need to grow their businesses, Farm Africa is encouraging women to join Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), where they can save together and invest in each other's enterprises. In 2020, 4,064 farmers took out loans, with each farmer on average receiving 58,900 Tanzanian Shillings from VSLAs.

Alongside this, farmers have been organised into local farmer groups. The year 2020 saw 8,257 women sign up to

farmers groups and take part in training on GAP, post-harvest handling services and nutrition, and 356 adult women and 287 young people take on leadership roles within these organisations.

To help women and young people diversify their incomes and reduce their reliance on one crop, we have established clubs promoting income-generating activities such as keeping pigs and poultry, and cultivating vegetables and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. Seventy-four women and 44 young people have received training in solar dryers (a cost-effective technology that uses solar energy to heat up and dry produce), vines, piggery and orange-fleshed sweet potato value addition skills.



“Improved seeds have increased my production, food security and income.”

Elizabeth Kang'uta from Dodoma, Tanzania.

Photo: Farm Africa / Meshack Panga

THANK YOU

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We are also grateful for the vital and instrumental support that we receive from a number of trusts and foundations.

OUR THANKS TO FARM AFRICA'S KEY CORPORATE PARTNERS IN 2020:



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME



- Programme grants: £8.4 million
- Donations and legacies: £1.8 million
- Trading and other: £0.2 million

Farm Africa receives income principally from three sources:

- Grants from governments, institutions and other major donors to fund specific projects (restricted funding)
- Corporate sponsorship income via our trading subsidiary Farm Africa Trading Limited (unrestricted funding)
- Donations, legacies, and other fundraising activities (unrestricted funding)

Total income in 2020 decreased to £10.4 million (2019: £15.5 million). This is mainly due to a fall in programme grants of £4.8 million, which can be due to the timing of receipts, but also reflects a reduction in the number of new grants as donors cautiously monitored the impacts of the pandemic.

Programme grants remain the largest funding stream at £8.4 million (2019: £13.2 million). This included income on eight new projects including the second phase of our project strengthening market systems in Ethiopia, funded by Sida; a grant from the World Food Programme to support climate-smart agriculture in Tanzania; and funding from Aldi UK for the next phase of the Growing Futures youth horticulture project in Kenya. Donations and legacies remained steady, increasing slightly to £1.8 million (2019: £1.7 million).

EXPENDITURE



- Programmes: £11.0 million
- Support costs: £0.9 million
- Fundraising: £0.6 million

Farm Africa's expenditure falls in to three main categories:

- Costs of implementing programmes in Africa
- Fundraising costs
- Support costs, including head office staff and governance

Total expenditure in 2020 fell to £12.5 million (2019: £15.0 million). Of this, £0.8 million is in relation to the Sidai social enterprise costs included in 2019 until the change in ownership last April.

Programme spend fell by £1.2 million to £11.0 million (2019: £12.2 million excluding Sidai) with underspends in significant project in Ethiopia due to procurement delays and security issues.

Support costs decreased by £0.4 million to £0.9 million (2019: £1.3 million), while fundraising costs also fell by £0.2 million to £0.6 million (2019: £0.8 million).

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GROWING FUTURES.



OUR MISSION

To promote sustainable agricultural practices, strengthen markets and protect the environment in rural Africa.

OUR VISION

A resilient rural Africa where people and the environment thrive.

DR Congo
Ethiopia
Kenya
Tanzania
Uganda
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