

ANNUAL REVIEW 2021



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Farm Africa supports rural communities across eastern Africa to build their resilience by:

- Increasing agricultural productivity
- Improving smallholder farmers' access to markets
- Sustainably managing the environment

This Annual Review focuses on five of our projects doing just that in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and DR Congo. It is work that is more urgent than ever. The communities we serve faced many challenges in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to disrupt access to agricultural inputs, training and markets, increasing poverty and hunger for farming families. Conflict in northern Ethiopia and severe drought have exacerbated these challenges.

With your support we have reached more than one million people across eastern Africa, helping them to tackle these challenges head on and make a decent living from agriculture, while sustainably managing the natural resources around them.

As I write this in May 2022, the challenges for rural communities continue to escalate as the conflict in Ukraine has caused a shortage of agricultural inputs such as fertilisers.

Countries in eastern Africa are particularly dependent on the import of food security

foods: Kenya sources more than 40% of its wheat from the Russian Federation and Ukraine, while in Uganda the figure is more than 50% and in Tanzania it is over 60%.

These statistics highlight how urgent it is to invest in boosting sustainable food production in eastern Africa in order to safeguard the region's food security. With your continued support we can continue to work to unlock the potential of small-scale farmers in eastern Africa. Some of our income streams, such as fundraising events, were affected by the challenging environment in 2021. Overall, our income increased to £12.4 million in 2021 compared to £10.4 million in 2020. However, in spite of this good performance on income, the conflict in Ethiopia, and the continuing constraints on fundraising as a result of the pandemic put pressure on our finances. Farm Africa's reserves helped to even this out, and we are now focused on returning our reserves to pre-COVID levels.

We are grateful to the many individuals, companies, institutions and foundations who supported Farm Africa in 2021. On behalf of the trustees, I also extend my thanks to the staff who work so hard on behalf of rural families across eastern Africa.



John Reizenstein
Chair



Abdurahman Kule

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

"In our area, no one cuts down a single tree without getting permission." These are the words of Abdurahman Kule (pictured above), chair of a forest management cooperative supported by Farm Africa in the Bale Eco-region of Ethiopia. These words are cause for celebration. A 58% reduction in deforestation in Bale brings environmental benefits of worldwide significance by conserving the unique flora and fauna found in the forest, as well as reducing carbon emissions.

The conservation of the forest has been made possible by Farm Africa's work with partners and local government to develop financial incentives for local communities to stop felling trees. Previously, local people used to fell trees to make way for agriculture, as Abdurahman explains:

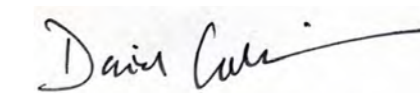
"The normal practice in our community used to be clearing the forests to grow maize and plant coffee seedlings. We used to believe we needed to expand our agriculture to earn more."

With support from Farm Africa, Abdurahman stopped cutting down trees. Today he makes a living by exporting wild forest coffee to the international speciality coffee market. On average, household incomes of people taking part in this project have more than doubled over the last five years. On top of this, the cooperatives

receive money from the sale of carbon credits earned by reducing deforestation. Abdurahman's story is one of hundreds of thousands of how we helped farmers to build nature-positive livelihoods in 2021.

In November, we showcased lessons from our work at the COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow. We highlighted how projects such as the one Abdurahman took part in (featured on page 6), and our regenerative agriculture project in Embu, Kenya (featured on page 8) are delivering real results in both enabling rural communities to adapt to climate change and reduce carbon emissions.

Our work is only possible due to the generosity of our supporters. In 2021 we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Food for Good network in the UK, which has raised more than £2 million for Farm Africa to date. I extend my thanks to all the food and farming companies involved, as well as to everyone else who has supported our work in 2021. I hope you enjoy reading more about the impact of this vital support.



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 2021, WE REACHED MORE THAN ONE MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS EASTERN AFRICA.



FARM AFRICA'S PROJECT LOCATIONS IN 2021:

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
- 13. Gender transformative approaches in conservation and livelihoods
- 14. Strengthening economic development and livelihoods
- 15. Urban agriculture

KENYA

- 16. Market-led aquaculture
- 17. Growing futures
- 18. Waitrose & Partners Foundation
- 19. Regenerative agriculture

TANZANIA

- 20. Boosting sorghum production in a changing climate
- 21. Developing business acumen in horticultural enterprises
- 22. Empowering women through sunflowers
- 23. Protecting poultry and their farmers
- 24. Flourishing futures
- 25. Leveraging investment for community development in West Kilimanjaro

UGANDA

- 25. Investing in Uganda's young and female coffee farmers
- 26. Commercialising chilli production
- 27. Gender in the coffee value chain
- 28. Increasing market-orientated production of Arabica coffee together (IMPACT)

DR CONGO

- 29. Coffee production in Virunga National Park

REGIONAL

- 30. Livestock for Livelihoods
- 31. Cultivate
- 32. Price risk management (training delivered online to cooperatives across DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda)



"The income I earned from vegetable production helped me meet the needs of my family members and compensated the crop I lost."

Sheikh Gibril, Bale Eco-region, Ethiopia

RURAL WOMEN CHAMPION FOREST CONSERVATION

DEFORESTATION AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN ETHIOPIA'S BALE ECO-REGION ARE DOWN. HOUSEHOLD INCOMES ARE UP. AND THE COMMUNITY HAS TAKEN SIGNIFICANT STRIDES TOWARDS ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY, WITH SUPPORT FROM OUR REDD+ FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAMME.

Since 2012, Farm Africa has been working in partnership with the NGO SOS Sahel Ethiopia, with funding from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ethiopia, to deliver a project that lowers greenhouse gas emissions by reducing deforestation in the Bale Eco-region, while also boosting the livelihoods of local communities living in poverty.

The project has helped more than 34,000 members of 64 forest cooperatives increase their incomes from the sale of forest-friendly products as well as carbon credits sold on the voluntary carbon market, both of which created an economic incentive to preserve the natural forest and biodiversity.

The project achieved impressive results, both for people and the planet.

Over the period 2012-2020, deforestation in the Bale Eco-region was 58% lower than it was projected to be in the absence of the project. This avoided deforestation resulted in more than 25,000 hectares of forest being saved and emissions being reduced by 10.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. Meanwhile, the average annual household incomes of forest-dependent communities in the eco-region rose by 143% from an average 17,000 Ethiopian Birr per household per year at the start of the second phase project in 2016 to 43,000 Birr in 2021.

The Bale Eco-region hosts the largest Afro-alpine ecosystem in Africa and is one of the two major biodiversity rich rainforest blocks in Ethiopia. By conserving forests, the project contributed significantly to the conservation of flora and habitats of wild animals not found anywhere else in the world.

What is REDD+?

REDD stands for "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation". The plus sign refers to the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

FUEL-EFFICIENT STOVES

In Bale, responsibility for feeding the family falls on women and girls. Most meals are cooked on open fires. Food preparation and firewood collection dominate women's time. To reduce pressure on both women and the forest, Farm Africa and partners distributed a total of 5,961 fuel-efficient stoves. Unlike traditional fires, the fuel-efficient stoves have capacity for two pots at a time, enabling two dishes to be prepared simultaneously. On average, households' annual consumption of fuelwood fell from 12.84m³ to 9.25m³ over the last four years, enabling the project to reduce forest degradation by saving a total volume of 34,500m³ of fuel wood that would otherwise have been collected from the natural forest. The stoves have also brought improvements to women and children by reducing the smoke they inhale. The time saved from firewood collection and cooking is time that women are now able to invest in other activities, including income-generating work.

FOREST-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

Both men and women were offered opportunities to develop income streams from forest-friendly businesses selling products such as coffee, honey and bamboo. The work to support forest coffee production was particularly successful, with cooperatives achieving an increase in the grade of their coffee from grade 6 to specialty coffee (grade 1 or 2) as measured by the Coffee Exchange standards. This enabled the sale of more than 67 metric tonnes to the international specialty coffee market in the season running from October 2020 to July 2021, at average prices of between US \$4.34 to US \$5.45 per kg.

The by-laws of the community-based cooperatives producing and marketing non-timber forest products were changed to stipulate either the Chair or Deputy Chair had to be female, leading to 61 of the 64 organisations having a woman in one of the two highest positions in 2021, up from 10 in 2016. This in turn encouraged more women to join the cooperatives.

CARBON CREDITS

The project is the first of its kind in Ethiopia to secure income from REDD+ carbon credits. Income from carbon credit sales, which is additional to the average increases in household incomes mentioned above, is enabling forest management cooperatives to invest in community development initiatives. Female representation in leadership positions has helped ensure the cooperatives' investment plans will deliver tangible benefits to women, such as a new local flour mill, which will relieve women of the need to undertake arduous, unsafe journeys on horseback to the nearest grain milling facilities.

The project's success has paved the way for more REDD+ initiatives in Ethiopia. The communities supported by Farm Africa and SOS Sahel Ethiopia in Bale are now taking part in the jurisdictional Oromia Forested Land Programme (OFLP) REDD+ scheme, which seeks to reduce deforestation across the whole of the Oromia Regional State. It's a great example of how Farm Africa's work can influence government policy to replicate our programmes and produce results at scale.

FEMALE FOREST GUARDIANS

Female leadership has been vital in efforts to monitor breaches to rules outlawing the cutting down of trees. As well as reducing the amount of firewood they use, the 25 members of the all-female Biftu Beri Women's Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) Kumbi kebele, set up in 2015 with the support of Farm Africa, patrol the Harena forest at the same time as searching for dead branches to use for firewood.



"With the traditional open smoky stove, I had to use more than 200kg of firewood to bake 800 injera. Now, with the fuel-saving one, I only need 100kg firewood for the same amount."

Etagegegnehu Mulushewa makes a living by selling the Ethiopian staple food, home-baked injera.



RESTORING SOIL HEALTH IN KENYA

FARM AFRICA SUPPORTED SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN SEMI-ARID AREAS OF EMBU COUNTY, KENYA TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY THROUGH REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE.

The majority of the population in Embu County, Kenya, earn a living through crop production and livestock keeping. However, livelihoods from farming are far from secure. Agricultural production and food security are increasingly under threat in Kenya's highlands, burdened by risks such as climate change as well as soil degradation caused by overgrazing, over-cropping and poor farming practices.

Regenerative agriculture involves farming practices that rejuvenate soil fertility and reduce carbon emissions. Funded by the IKEA Foundation through the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Farm Africa worked with 10,239 farmers (including 6,760 women) in Embu to adopt regenerative agricultural technologies and practices to grow maize and pulses. Running from July 2020 to October 2021, the project aimed to increase food security as well as the resilience of local farmers to climate change through the promotion of regenerative agriculture practices.

The project directly reached 50 farmer groups who are now more resilient to climate change, have assured food security and improved incomes.

BRIDGING AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

In Kenya, agricultural expertise is shared with farmers via a network of extension workers. Unfortunately, this system is overstretched, with the ratio of extension workers to farmers being 1:200. To help overcome this shortfall, Farm Africa utilised the Village Based Advisors (VBA) model. Regenerative agriculture was taught at the community level by 137 VBAs: a network of private sector local farmers who supply information services and high-quality agricultural inputs such as certified seeds to other farmers. Of these 137 VBAs, 89 were female.

A technical curriculum in good agricultural practices for regenerative agriculture was developed, promoting an inter-cropping system of maize and high yielding, nitrogen fixing bush beans alongside agroforestry crops to improve soil fertility and provide staking material for the bush beans. Training was delivered to the VBAs and to 45 government agricultural officers.

“Thanks to the Regenerative Agriculture project, I now have access to agricultural, market and weather information,” says Perpetuah Munyi, a Village Based Advisor (VBA) in Kithegi village, Embu County.



Mercy Karimi at her maize farm

“My production has improved since I started using regenerative agriculture. I used to harvest five bags on five acres of land but last season I harvested 20 bags,” Jackline Atieno (right).



IMPROVING BUSINESS

As well as providing advice on agronomy, the VBAs played a critical role in enabling farmers to boost their incomes by developing links to markets where they could sell their produce. A total of 20 aggregation centres were established to enable farmers to sell their produce together in bulk. Farm Africa offered training to 10 aggregators, developing marketing strategies and production plans that provide direction on markets and prices, as well as available quantities of produce. This was to ensure the sustainability of the aggregation centres. The VBAs helped connect farmers' groups to financial services providers to gain access to credit to invest in their businesses.

VBAs were also contracted directly by traders to recruit farmers, which helped to increase the acceptance of the VBA model in the farming community. By developing links to markets and advising on which crops to grow, for example soya beans, the VBAs helped farmers grow crops that were high in demand.

Through the VBAs, Farm Africa introduced digital platforms to help with both farming and marketing. These included AGRI-BOT (an online digital extension platform managed by Microsoft through AGRA) and AGRIVIEW, a digital marketing platform.

IMPROVED REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

A score card survey evaluating the uptake rate of regenerative practices found that 97% of 412 farmers surveyed are now applying organic manure to their farms. Prior to the project's start, only 59% were using manure on their maize and pulse crops. Of that 97%, the majority highlighted an increased crop yield as a major benefit of using manure.

The majority of farmers (77%) have practised mulching since the project's inception, a 44% growth compared to before the project. The benefits of mulching include higher water retention by soils and a reduced need for weeding. The number of farmers practising minimum tillage almost doubled, from 46% to 84%. As a result, farmers saw an improvement in soil fertility and texture and a reduction in instances of soil erosion.

In addition to farmers' productivity increasing, analysis of soil samples revealed that soil health had improved, with higher pH levels recorded, as well as improved levels of nutrients such as zinc and phosphorous on some farms.

Farm Africa and AGRA are now planning a new project to scale up the uptake of regenerative agriculture in Embu as well as in a second county, Tharaka-Nithi, between 2022 and 2025.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

OVER ONE MILLION PEOPLE REACHED



404.4 TONNES OF COFFEE WERE EXPORTED FROM VIRUNGA in the 2020-2021 season



468,370 HECTARES OF FOREST LAND UNDER SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT BY PFM cooperatives in Bale, Ethiopia



Household incomes of forest-dependent communities in Bale, Ethiopia INCREASED BY 143% between 2016 and 2021

A TOTAL OF 2,744,810 TREES planted in Ethiopia in 2021



£7,504 WAS RAISED AT OUR VIRTUAL CAROL CONCERT, featuring Michael Palin



We received £811,000 from supporters who remembered us in their will, INCLUDING ONE LEGACY OF £632,000

3,459 AMAZING SUPPORTERS donated almost £379,000 as regular gifts

23 CORPORATE PARTNERS gave a total of £1,203,853



3,500 GENEROUS SUPPORTERS donated a total of £420,181 as one-off gifts



97% OF FARMERS in the Regenerative Agriculture project in Embu, Kenya now use organic manure to boost yields.



3,000 farmers helped to grow and sell African bird's eye dried chillies in Uganda



19,200 BALES OF ANIMAL FEED distributed to 1,400 households in Ethiopia as drought relief



Implemented a poultry vaccine trial study in 150 VILLAGES IN TANZANIA



Intrepid Fairburn's Eggs staff trekked more than 66,000 STEPS OVER THE THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE



413 PEOPLE ATTENDED OR TOOK PART IN OUR FUNDRAISING EVENTS, raising over £191,450

There was a 154% increase in household income for 2,000 farmers involved in our Growing Futures project, Kenya between 2018 and 2021

EMPOWERING FEMALE SUNFLOWER FARMERS

FARM AFRICA IS WORKING IN NORTHERN AND CENTRAL TANZANIA TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SUNFLOWER VALUE CHAIN, INCREASING FEMALE FARMERS' PRODUCTIVITY AND LINKING THEM TO LUCRATIVE MARKETS.

Tanzania is seeing a growing demand for sunflower oil and the government is committed to boosting the edible oils sector and reducing imports, meaning there are exciting prospects for sunflower growers. But not everybody can reap these opportunities. Poor production practices, lack of access to quality agricultural inputs like seeds and fertilisers, and lack of access to markets and cooperatives hold many farmers back - particularly women. These barriers stop female farmers from enjoying the full benefits of their labour, and stop many women from participating in the sunflower sector altogether.

Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) are a way for farmers to collectively organise. AMCOS allow farmers to pool resources and collectively market their yields to buyers. However, women only represent 17% of members in AMCOS. Many female farmers practise subsistence farming and are unaware of or are excluded from the potential of collective marketing.

Our Flourishing Futures project, which started in 2017 with the support of The Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT), supported more than 15,500 farmers (45% of whom are female) to establish or develop sunflower businesses. The project engaged relevant market actors (eg input suppliers, agro-dealers and processors) and service providers (eg financial institutions, government and private extension services providers and mechanisation and technology companies) to promote drought-tolerant varieties of seeds, invest in purchasing and offering bundled services, and deliver training in good agricultural practices, climate-smart agriculture, organisation management and market-oriented production and sales.

In January 2021, Farm Africa started a new sunflower project in Tanzania, building on the lessons learnt from Flourishing Futures. Funded by UN Women, the project works to counter gender inequalities by increasing women's participation in the sunflower value chain, increasing their productivity and linking them to markets to maximise profits.

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

A key objective of the project is to increase female farmers' yields through the application of good agricultural practices such as timely and appropriate land preparation; adequate spacing between and within rows of plants, and good weeding techniques.

A total of 303 smallholder farmers (217 being female) have been trained in good agricultural practices and climate-smart agriculture. As a result, 76% of smallholder farmers adopted most of the good practices and have seen their sunflower yields increase. Of the 303 farmers supported, 61% have increased their sunflower productivity so far. The average productivity of yields increased from 240 kg/acre to 524 kg/acre. The female farmers recorded a higher level of productivity than the men, with a productivity level of 536 kg/acre compared to 467 kg/acre. A total of 123,664 kg of sunflowers was harvested by the farmers involved in the project over the course of 2021.

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change threatens farmers' livelihoods as well as local food security in Tanzania. More frequent occurrences of droughts and flooding are making it difficult for smallholder farmers to plan for the future. By promoting conservation agriculture and climate-smart agricultural techniques, we help farmers to improve the quality and quantity of their yields despite Tanzania's extreme climatic conditions. Farm Africa helps the communities gain access to improved seeds, which are drought tolerant, offering a reliable yield and a stable source of income even in harsh climatic conditions.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Following Farm Africa's interventions, smallholder farmers have seen a 97% increase in income from sunflower products compared to before the project's inception.

Poor storage and aggregation used to hinder farmers' access to markets and ability to meet quality requirement specifications. To counter these issues, as well as reduce food loss, a new warehouse was constructed in Mngang'ana Village in the Singida Region. Following its opening in April 2022, the warehouse is now being used to store crops for collective marketing, as well as offering a space for sunflower farmers to meet with buyers and attend training sessions to continually improve their farming and business practices.

Farm Africa supports the farmers to develop market-oriented business plans that will attract market actors like processors, off-takers, financial institutions, input suppliers and other relevant service providers to engage in business with smallholder farmers. We also helps farmers develop business skills such as record keeping, financial management, contract development, negotiations, aggregation and marketing.



Smallholder farmers saw a 97% increase in income from sunflower products

SPICING UP UGANDA'S CHILLI SECTOR

FARM AFRICA AND THE NORTH EAST CHILLI PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (NECPA) HELPED 3,000 SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN LIRA IN NORTHERN UGANDA SUCCESSFULLY GROW AND SELL AFRICAN BIRD'S EYE DRIED CHILLIES.



Farm Africa and NECPA worked together from 2018 to 2021 to create a more competitive and profitable chilli value chain in Aromo, Barr and Amach sub-counties in Lira. The project helped 120 groups of smallholder farmers, each with 25 members, to increase their household incomes.

GROWING QUALITY CHILLIES

Farm Africa supported NECPA to deliver training in organic farming systems, good agricultural practices and post-harvest handling to enable the farmers to produce export-quality chillies. The organisations strengthened farmers' access to high-quality agricultural inputs such as improved seeds, organic pesticides and solar dryers, which offer a cost-effective and sustainable means of preserving chillies. A warehouse was built to safely store the dried chillies.

The amount of land the 3,000 farmers dedicated to chilli production increased from 241 to 2,500 acres over the course of the project. A 50% increase in the volume of chillies sold, coupled with higher prices made possible by selling high quality organic produce to premium markets, enabled NECPA's profit to increase by 177% by the end of the project, while farmers' incomes increased by 208%. Farmers were able to build their asset bases, for example by buying cows or more land. The establishment of village savings and loan associations offered farmers the opportunity to save together and take loans to invest in small businesses.

JOB CREATION

Sustainable jobs were created providing services to chilli farmers. Fifty-one community members, including 20 women, were trained to produce quality chilli seeds, ensuring 98% of the farmers had easy access to improved seed. A further 23 people were trained to produce organic pesticides, of whom 13 people set up businesses selling pesticides. Twenty-one people were trained as field agents, who buy dried chillies from farmers and sell seeds to them. Thirty young people, including three women, were given training in the production and sale of solar dryers. In response to feedback from farmers, the design of the solar dryers was adapted over the course of the project to make them more portable and affordable through the use of local construction materials. Other jobs created included mill operators and chilli sorters.

EXPORT MARKETS

Farm Africa helped the farmers to gain certification for their chillies, to assure traders the chillies met stringent quality standards. By engaging with the National Ministry of Agriculture, the project supported NECPA to acquire an export licence, and gain access to a global online trading system so they could secure sales from lucrative export markets. In December 2021, Lira chilli farmers celebrated their first major export, after selling five metric tonnes of dried chillies in bulk to buyers in Germany.

GENDER EQUALITY

The project worked hard to engage both men and women: 58% of farmers reached were female. Women's participation in decision making around household expenditure and income management has improved. Community feedback has shown that the involvement of men, women and young people in chilli production has helped to increase chilli volumes.

THE FUTURE

Part of the project's success is attributed to its engagement with local government structures to support activity delivery and ensure sustainable interventions. The project developed a strong working relationship with district and sub county local government structures, including the national line ministry.

The future is looking bright for Lira's chilli sector. After working with Farm Africa to develop an investment plan that allowed them to secure finance from banks, NECPA is now in a strong position to further develop the chilli export business without more support. The project's success has inspired farmers in neighbouring sub-regions to engage in chilli production with seeds bought from NECPA.

The chilli sector could benefit further from investment in irrigation and water conservation, which could help farmers produce a year-round supply of chillies for the export market, as well as sustain their plants for longer. Despite chilli plants being semi-perennial, droughts in the region have made it difficult for farmers to harvest from their chilli plants for more than one year.



"I have learnt how to manage the chilli properly. I have learnt about recommended spacing and how to use local available resources to make organic pesticides from chilli itself to prevent pests and diseases." **Tom Ogwal, a farmer from Lira, Uganda.**

Farm Africa's chilli project was funded by aBi Development Ltd and Ajahma Charitable Trust. Photo: Farm Africa / Jjumba Martin

COFFEE PRODUCTION ALONGSIDE VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK

FARM AFRICA IS WORKING IN NORTH KIVU IN DR CONGO TO BOOST COFFEE PRODUCTION AND LINK GROWERS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.



Farmers in eastern DR Congo work in extremely difficult circumstances. Continuing armed conflict makes the area highly insecure. Climate change and human activity in Virunga National Park threaten the ecosystem on which many communities depend. COVID-19 exacerbated pre-existing problems, making it even more challenging for farmers to grow and export coffee.

Despite these challenges, farmers in North Kivu are now producing some of eastern Africa's finest Arabica coffee. In partnership with Virunga National Park and with funding from the European Union, Farm Africa is supporting coffee growers living on the borders of the Park to increase the quality and quantity of their coffee, obtain certifications and access international markets.

Farm Africa partnered with two cooperatives, Coopade and Kawa Kanzururu. Combined, these two cooperatives have 6,366 members and process their coffee in 40 micro washing stations across North Kivu. The washing stations provide high quality processing of the coffee cherries close to the cooperative members' farms and are key in ensuring the overall quality of the final coffee beans. This infrastructure has improved and extended over the course of the project.

PRODUCING QUALITY COFFEE AND OBTAINING SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATIONS

Farm Africa works with the cooperatives to refine each step of the coffee production process, increasing both the quality and quantity of the coffee produced. We train the farmers in good agricultural practices, harvesting and processing techniques. Two coffee quality labs were built with support from an ÉLAN project and coffee cuppers were trained. This is enabling farmers for the first time to understand and evaluate their own coffees, and to better understand buyers' requirements.

Over the course of the project, 68,500 coffee seedlings have been distributed to farmers at Coopade and Kawa Kanzururu cooperatives, accompanied by training in planting and nurturing. A visual manual on good agricultural practices has been developed, specifically geared to the growing conditions and farming calendar of North Kivu.

This year Farm Africa supported the two cooperatives to become FLO Fairtrade certified to add to their organic certification. As well as attracting certification premiums, these certifications are very important for market access.

ACCESS TO FINANCE AND LINKS TO MARKETS

Farm Africa is supporting the cooperatives with business planning, financial reviews and gaining access to working capital. Two international ethical lenders and a local bank are now providing crop finance.

We trained the co-operatives in contract negotiation and worked with them to promote their coffees in international markets, where coffee from DR Congo is still relatively unknown. As a result of Farm Africa's work to identify buyers and support the building of commercial partnerships, the cooperatives are now selling their coffee for premium prices in countries including Japan, Germany, France, Belgium, the USA and the UK. With Farm Africa's support, 404.4 tonnes of coffee were exported in the 2020-2021 season, valued at \$1.35 million. After making losses in 2018-2019, each cooperative has operated profitably in each subsequent year, paying back their harvest finance borrowings in full.

INCENTIVISING SUSTAINABILITY

Lack of market channels and technical assistance over many years meant that farmers neglected coffee as a potential source of income. Unsupported, low-income farmers were often left with few options to earn a livelihood. This led to pressure to encroach on Virunga National Park, for instance by cutting down trees for charcoal production. Such activities damage the biodiversity of the precious landscape, including the habitat of endangered mountain gorillas. The project addressed these problems by introducing sustainable farming practices and renewing the coffee trees, thereby incentivising a sustainable method of farming.

SUPPORTING WOMEN

Women play key roles in the success of the two coffee cooperatives. Women's associations run several of the cooperatives' coffee washing stations. For the first time, it is now possible to buy coffees grown and processed by female coffee farmers in North Kivu.



Farmers taking part in the project exported 404.4 tonnes of coffee in 2020-2021, valued at \$1.35 million.

“Coffees we’ve tasted from the Virunga National Park project in North Kivu have impressed us greatly, to say the least. Not only do they have the potential to stand with the best Arabicas produced in the DRC, but also some of the best produced in East Africa.”



Kyle Tush, Counter Culture Coffee.

THANK YOU

5th Season, aBi Development Ltd, ABP UK, Agricultural Markets Development Trust, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Albert Bartlett, Aldi, Barfoots, Berry Gardens, Booker, The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust, The Compleat Food Group, Cranswick, DAI, The David & Lucile Packard Foundation, Dovecote Park, Eden Search & Select, European Union, Forests of the World, GIZ, Honeywell Biscuit Co, The IKEA Foundation, Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, Kettle Produce, LJ Fairburn & Sons, The Mitsubishi Corporation

Fund for Europe and Africa, Norad, Open Society Foundations, Oscar Mayer, Oxford Policy Management, Pilgrim's UK, Pilot House Philanthropy, RH Amar, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Sainsbury's, Sida, The Sulney Fields Charitable Trust, UGACOF, UK aid from the UK government, United Nations Office for Project Services, UN Women, US Agency for International Development, Virunga Foundation, Vitacress, Vitol Foundation, Waitrose & Partners Foundation, W&R Barnett, William Reed Business Media, World Food Programme.



We are also grateful for the vital and instrumental support we received from many trusts, foundations and individuals. A big thank you to everyone who donated, left a gift in their will, ran, hiked, cycled, sang, baked or flower arranged for Farm Africa in 2021.

OUR THANKS TO FARM AFRICA'S FOOD FOR GOOD MEMBERS IN 2021:



FINANCIAL SUMMARY



- Programme grants: £10.0 million
- Donations and legacies: £2.1 million
- Trading and other: £0.2 million

INCOME

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 2021 increased to £12.4 million (2020: £10.4 million). This is mainly due to an increase in the value of programme grants received from donors, due to the timing of receipts according to the terms of the grants in progress, but also reflects an increase in grants awarded as we come out of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

Programme grants remained the largest funding stream at £10 million (2020: £8.4 million). This included income on three new projects. Donations and legacies increased to £2.1 million (2020: £1.8 million), with several significant legacies offsetting the loss of income due to the cancellation of in-person fundraising events.



- Programmes: £9.9 million
- Support costs: £1.1 million
- Fundraising: £0.7 million

EXPENDITURE

Farm Africa's expenditure falls into three main categories:

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

Programme spend decreased by £1.1 million to £9.9 million (2020: £11 million) with underspends in significant projects in Ethiopia due to disruption and security issues caused by conflict. In 2021, 21% of Farm Africa's programme expenditure was shared with local/national partners (2020: 28%). Support costs increased by £0.2 million to £1.1 million (2020: £0.9 million). Fundraising costs increased slightly to £0.7 million (2020: £0.6 million).

RESERVES

Farm Africa reported a surplus of £0.7 million for 2021 (2020: deficit £2.2 million). This is made up of a £0.4 million deficit on unrestricted funds (2020: break even position) and a surplus on restricted funds of £1.1 million (2020: deficit £2.2 million). Unrestricted reserves on 31 December 2021 were £1.0 million, which is below Farm Africa's minimum target for unrestricted reserves of £1.3 million. Farm Africa is now working to build unrestricted reserves back up to the levels they were before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patron: Sir Michael Palin CBE
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 Colin Brereton
 Serena Brown
 Ken Caldwell (appointed 8 February 2021)
 Laketch Mikael
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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.



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“Farm Africa has supported me to diversify off season activities like establishing home gardens so that I can generate my income.”

Christina John Sendeu, Dodoma, Tanzania (pictured on front cover)

Photo: Michael Goima / Farm Africa