



Photo: Farm Africa / Maurice Goga

From the Field

Spring / Summer 2025

Staff spotlight: Charles Kahihia

Charles, one of Farm Africa's drivers working in Nairobi, has been with the organisation since 2011. As we take a look back on our work over the past 40 years, we asked Charles to talk about his time at Farm Africa and his hopes for the future.



How long have you worked for Farm Africa?

I have worked for Farm Africa for 13 years now.

What do you like most about working for Farm Africa?

The best thing about working for Farm Africa is that I have space to grow in terms of my career.

How has Farm Africa changed in the years since you joined the organisation?

So many big projects have been realised, which means many beneficiaries have been reached by Farm Africa's work.

What's your proudest moment at Farm Africa?

When I see a family that were once struggling start to realise their dream.

What would a typical day at work look like?

When I arrive at work I check with my colleagues to see where we need to go to that day. I drive our staff to see the many projects Farm Africa is working on in the field. I'm lucky that I also get to meet the farmers we work with and see the benefits of our work first hand.

What are your hopes for Farm Africa in its 40th year?

I hope that the much-needed support can double so that more beneficiaries can boost their yields, and their income.

Do you have a message you'd like to share with our supporters in the UK?

Let the supporters be assured that every donation counts and is very safe with Farm Africa. It will be put into the purpose intended.



Farm Africa's 40 years of impact

Throughout 2025 we'll be sharing the stories of some of the people we have worked with since Farm Africa was founded in 1985.

Teresia is one of them, joining Farm Africa's sesame marketing project in Tanzania in 2010. The project helped farmers increase their incomes by learning how to produce and sell high-quality sesame.

"Before I joined the Farm Africa sesame project, my life was very tough. I had four young children, and it was very hard to pay for them all to go to school. Farm Africa gave us training in good agricultural practices, particularly about sesame production.

"As I continued with the training, I started planting sesame to sell with my group. Later, I was selected to learn how to multiply high-quality seeds. After the training I continued to plant sesame, and I also started producing seeds that I then sold to members of my farmers' group.

"During that time my goal was to build a better house for my family. After two or three years, I managed to build that house. It was bigger and made of bricks.

"Since then, I have built another house, and I bought a milling machine. I haven't stopped cultivating sesame, and I also grow pigeon peas and sunflowers. When I joined the project I only had two acres of land, but now I have ten acres.

"My children are grown up and have their own lives now. They all grow sesame and one of them is a member of our farmers' group. When they were growing up, they saw me doing my sesame farming and they thought 'this is a good way to earn a living!' Sesame prices are high, so they could see it could be profitable. I think I inspired them. They are very proud of me.

"I plan to use some of the money I earn from my farm to build another house so I can rent it out to people. I am getting older, so I need to find ways I can continue to earn money, like a pension."

"The biggest change I have seen since I started working with Farm Africa is my lifestyle. Now I am sure I can eat and I am sure I can sleep in a good place. I am sure about everything. I have security."

Teresia Wilbrod
Sesame farmer in Tanzania



Photo: Farm Africa/
Michael Goima

Fish farming is changing lives in western Kenya

Farm Africa has partnered with the Mastercard Foundation to establish a thriving and dynamic fish farming industry in Kenya. The Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture project (YISA) aims to create 150,000 sustainable and dignified jobs over the next five years, with a particular focus on young women and men, people with disabilities and internally displaced individuals.

A life-changing opportunity

The Chakol and Amase groups first formed in 2013 to help people with disabilities improve their futures. Over the years, the group has tried many income generating activities, but has struggled to make them profitable in the long term due to harsh economic conditions.

But group members are optimistic that things are about to change. As part of the YISA project, the groups are growing soybeans. High in protein and lipids, soybeans are vital for the production of high-quality fish feeds that will be needed in large supply as fish farming businesses supported by the project expand.



“We were connected with Farm Africa, who provided us with comprehensive training on soybean farming.

This marked the beginning of our journey into soybean cultivation,” Agnes Auma, chairperson for the Chakol group recounts.

With support from Farm Africa, both groups now have their first crop underway. “We were not only provided with land but also

supported with soybean seeds and pesticides, which we are currently using to protect our crops,” explains Amase group chairperson Everlyne Namu. “Our soybean is doing well, and I believe that by next year, our lives will be transformed.”

Turning waste into opportunities

Black soldier fly (BSF) larvae production also gained significant attention as a promising opportunity to earn money and recycle waste. This technique uses fly larvae to rapidly convert organic waste into high-value ingredients for fertilisers, fish pellets and animal feeds.

Samuel Odhiambo, another member of the YISA project, held a casual job in construction until it came to an abrupt halt during the COVID-19 pandemic. He saw BSF farming as an opportunity to increase his income.

Samuel found it difficult to manage his own BSF enterprise without the right training, but his venture took a significant turn when he joined the YISA project in April 2024. Through the project he has learnt ways to improve his BSF production and expand his business. He now employs three young people.

“There are so many opportunities in BSF farming. Anyone willing to start should not hesitate to reach out to me and learn how it is done!” He takes pride in the sustainability of turning waste into money. His desire is to see more young people engaged in BSF farming, creating a ripple effect that will boost local economies and promote environmental conservation.



“Many young people turn to casual labour, where they are sure of getting money by the end of the day. I always advise them to venture into BSF farming as a way of earning a reliable income.”

Samuel Odhiambo
Black soldier fly larvae producer



Win big with Farm Africa's Weekly Lottery

We're making it even easier for you to support farmers in eastern Africa by playing the Farm Africa Weekly Lottery.

For as little as £1 you could be in with a chance of winning £25,000 every week, but not only that, you'll also be helping farmers to change their lives.

We know that you understand our vision of a resilient rural Africa, where both people and the environment thrive. Every time you play the lottery your support will mean that more farmers receive the training they need to continue building their resilience for generations to come.

Simply follow the URL or scan the QR code to start playing today! For more information and to read the terms and conditions please visit

farmafrica.affinitylottery.org.uk



Farm Africa wins award at COP29

Farm Africa was announced as one of the winners of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) grants at the COP29 climate conference in November 2024.

The funding will enable Farm Africa to run an initiative titled Valuing Resilience, supporting rural communities to adopt nature-based, regenerative approaches to sustainable agriculture, and help to build their links to markets and develop their business skills.

Access to financial services such as micro-loans will give farmers the opportunity to buy inputs such as drought-tolerant seeds, and support women to build sustainable businesses. And access to insurance will mean rural communities are protected from the risk of losing everything when extreme weather conditions strike.

The initiative will create market incentives for rural communities not just to develop resilient livelihoods, but also restore healthy, functioning ecosystems.

“Climate change is a significant threat to the lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in eastern Africa. However, they are receiving very little support to adapt to a climate crisis they did not create. With support from the GEF, we’ll unlock access to climate finance so they can invest in sustainable, regenerative agricultural practices that protect not just their livelihoods but the also the landscapes they live in. It’s a win-win for smallholder farmers and the health of the planet.”

Dan Collison
Chief Executive, Farm Africa



We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued support.

Over the past 40 years we've helped millions of farmers to

- ◆ Build their resilience to the effects of climate change
- ◆ Gain access to markets
- ◆ Enhance their operations for growth and sustainability
- ◆ Improve their access to finance

Together we are making real change to the lives of farming families in rural Africa.

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Where your money's going



In every £1 we spend:

- ◆ 87p on charitable activities
- ◆ 8p on support costs
- ◆ 5p on fundraising

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