

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2023



Transforming Lives Through Agribusiness

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
KT	Kilimo Trust
MT	Metric Tons
DINU	Development Initiative for Northern Uganda
R-YES	Rural Youth Employment Support
GFCs	Good Food for Cities
R4iCSA	Reduce - Re-Use - Recycle Rice Initiative for Climate Smart Agriculture
VC	Value chain
USD	United States Dollar
KM	Kilometers
FY	Financial Year
BRENU	Building Resilience to Enhance Food and Nutrition Security, Incomes and Health in Northern Uganda
Ltd	Limited
Ugx	Uganda Shillings
IPRC	Integrated Polytechnic Regional College
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



MESSAGE FROM THE **CEO**

Dear valued partners, funders, stakeholders, and friends, I am thrilled to present Kilimo Trust's Annual Report for FY2022/23. It is with great pride that we reflect upon the year's successes and the far-reaching impact of our interventions across the East African Community.

The year was marked by significant achievements, from fostering structured trade of agricultural commodities between farmers and traders worth more than USD 2.8 million, to empowering over 271,182 of smallholder farmers with skills and technologies as well as creating more than 550 jobs. Our efforts have not only directly benefited more than 45,000 farmers including 24,350 women, and indirectly impacted 225,000 individuals, but have as well directly benefited over 10,000 youth creating vibrant and sustainable farming communities across the EAC.

As we enter a new financial year, our focus remains on expanding partnerships, nurturing existing collaborations, and strengthening communities. By harnessing the power of public and private partnerships, we strive to achieve sustainable livelihoods and build a more resilient agricultural sector in East Africa.

I would like to express our deepest gratitude to our industry partners, funders, and the hardworking Kilimo Trust team for their unwavering support and dedication. Your contributions have been instrumental in driving our success and making a positive impact in communities in the region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Birungi Korutaro', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Birungi Korutaro

CEO - Kilimo Trust

FY 2022/2023



Over **7,154 MT** of food staples valued at over **USD 2.8 Million** sold through structured trade



Over **USD 99,000** of investments leveraged from private and public sector partners



Over **45,197** farmers have benefited directly and **225,985** indirectly from KT interventions



Over **551** full time jobs created through KT interventions



Over **24,350** females have benefited directly from KT interventions



Over **10176** youth have benefited directly from KT interventions

Individual Project Contribution to the Results

GFCs



1,296MT

worth of commodities traded



USD 414,720

worth of commodities traded



2,260

farmers and VC actors benefiting from KT interventions:



895
Female



504
Youth

R-YES



USD 99,000

worth of public and private sector investments leveraged by KT projects



486

Number of jobs created by KT interventions



815

Youth benefiting from KT interventions

423 of whom are female

R4iCSA



40

Jobs created by KT interventions



1,770

farmers and VC actors benefiting from KT interventions:



531
Female



354
Youth

2SCALE



3,486

farmers and VC actors benefiting from KT interventions



2,377
Female



939
Youth

Avocado Project



25

Jobs created by KT interventions



1,790

farmers and VC actors benefiting from KT interventions



481
Female



549
Youth

DINU



5,858MT

of commodities traded



55%

of farmers and VC actors adopting improved technologies and management practices



USD 2,466,218

worth of commodities traded



35,076

farmers and VC actors benefiting from KT interventions



19,643
Female



7017.2
Youth



SUCCESS STORIES



How Increased Commercialization has Increased Smallholder Farmers' Income



Okoboi Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited is a registered farmer business organization located in Okoboi village, Okoboi parish, Kapelebyong sub-county, Kapelebyong district. It started in 2017 as a farmer association called Okobo Modern Farmers' Association with a total of 30 members that operates in three parishes of Koboi and Akuluonyoo and Aturai respectively.

The main crops seasonally produced and traded are soybeans, green gram, rice, sunflower and cassava. With a membership of 137 members (male = 89 and female = 48), majority of the members were trading individually, and the cooperative was only able to collectively market 56.1 MT of produce per season with poor quality at buyer-dictated prices. Most of the produce was sold to middlemen in Kapelebyong and Soroti Districts, that cheated farmers in pricing and weight

measurements. This was mainly because of a lack of trust amongst members and incentive to work collectively. Some of the constraints included lack of linkages to structured and better input and output markets, inconsistent quality of produce due to poor postharvest handling techniques like threshing which is quite labour intensive was left to women and used of sticks to beat the grain out of pods, poor collective storage facility, poor record keeping, and conflicts

within the cooperative due to the poor governance structure and lack of trust in the leadership. Also, individual members planted local seed varieties (locally saved seeds) while a few moved over 40km to Amuria town council at times Soroti city to access improved inputs, which often delayed them from planting in time and this significantly affected their production volumes.

In 2020, Okoboi Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited enrolled into the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) as beneficiaries of "Building Resilience to Enhance Food and Nutrition Security, Incomes and Health in Northern Uganda (BRENU)" Project. The project focused on bridging the gaps and addressing the constraints faced by the cooperative, through; (i) training the members in farming as a business and contract negotiation, (ii) strengthening cooperative leadership, (iii) establishing a formal business agreement with big buyers (Lira Resort Enterprises Ltd) to provide a reliable market for their grains, (iv) providing improved postharvest technologies to improve quality of produce like 1MT/hectare motorized rice thresher, automated grain cleaner, (v) rehabilitation and equipping their collective storage facility to food-

grade level with pallets, a moisture meter and digital weighing scale.

Because of the assured market, the requirement of bulk volume by the buyer and availability of a good store, farmers became more interested in collective marketing. By the first season of 2022, the quality of produce had significantly improved, and the volumes collectively traded had tripled to 164 MTs (Ugx 216,000,000) seasonally. Farmers production has also increased because of the linkage to Acila Enterprise Limited in Soroti City, from where the cooperative collectively procured 460 kgs of improved soybean and super rice seeds in the first season of year 2022. Furthermore, the adoption of the improved rice thresher has reduced the cost of threshing paddy from 400 Ugx/kg initially to Ugx 250 per kg currently.

As a cooperative, we have seen improvement in the livelihoods of our members, with some constructing permanent and semi-permanent houses, ease in payment of school fees, and catering for medical services among others. Above all, because of the DINU - BRENU interventions in our cooperative, our membership has increased from 30 in 2020 to 137 in year 2022, all are active members. Our plan as a cooperative is to produce and market at least 3,500MTs of produce every season, expand our area of operation to all parishes in Kapelebyong sub county and Kapelebyong district to trade in bigger domestic and export markets, said Mr. Olum Francis, aged 63 years old (Chairperson - Okoboi farmers' cooperative society).

R-YES



*Minister Mukeshimana
addressing invited guests
and youth*

Minister Mukeshimana urges youth to exploit agribusiness opportunities.

The Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Gerardine Mukeshimana, urged young people to fully explore the field of agriculture as a way of transforming the local sector.

She was speaking earlier this week during the graduation ceremony at IPRC Kigali, where over 356 youth graduated in the agribusiness field.

The graduates received certificates as part of the first cohort of the Rural Youth Employment Support (R-YES) project.

Students completed experiential learning in 10 agribusiness courses. And the minister urged them not to take the skills they have acquired for granted, for they will help in

transforming the local agriculture sector.

Mukeshimana thanked them for completing the courses and encouraged them to keep pursuing agribusiness for it is essential in people's daily lives.

Students graduated in different agribusiness areas that include milk processing, meat processing, animal feeds production, fodder (hay and silage) production and marketing, vegetables production and processing,



A group photo with the minister.

poultry farming (broilers and layers), operation and maintenance of field irrigation, operation and maintenance of farm tractors and machinery, operation and maintenance of agro-processing machinery as well as refrigeration and cold chain management.

Minister Mukeshimana highlighted that the courses they took complement each other in the agribusiness value chain, marking that as important since consumers demand different products, hence the need for them to work together towards a common goal.

She also mentioned that she hopes that for the next cohort, enrolled youth

will do internships and industrial attachments in the industries the graduates who received certificates will have established.

The 356 youth who graduated through R-YES project also underwent three to four months of competency-based training at IPRC Musanze, IPRC Gishari, IPRC Kigali, Kabutare TVET School, Kavumu TVET School, College Fondation Sina Gerard, and 28 different agribusiness companies.

Led by Kilimo Trust, the project aims to contribute to sustainable employment and income-generating opportunities for 3,000 youth in agriculture-related activities in Rwanda through an integrated agribusiness hub.

According to Andrew Gashayija, Team Leader of Kilimo Trust Rwanda, so far, **85** youth who completed the courses have acquired jobs in different agribusiness companies while **52** are self-employed.

Gashayija also mentioned that around 25 of the youth have a hearing disability and have secured jobs - something he said demonstrates their capabilities and how the project is inclusive.

Sylvie Mucyo, Vice Chancellor of Rwanda Polytechnic, said the curriculum for the courses the youth took encompasses essential skills required for them to practice a particular vocation, let alone entrepreneurship skills.

She noted that such competency-based training evokes confidence among youth and compels them to

start their own businesses once they secure capital.

Jean de Dieu Niyomwungeri, one of the graduates, was trained at Masaka Creamery and later secured a job.

He said he learned how to make different products including skimmed milk, yoghurt and ghee.

Niyomwungeri, who has a hearing disability, thanked Kilimo Trust and its partners for the opportunity and urged them to keep supporting persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas.

Solange Ingabire, another youth who got trained in refrigeration and cold chain management at IPRC Kigali, said she is set to use the skills she has acquired to establish a cold room that will help farmers to store their vegetables, thus taking them to the market when they are still fresh.

R-YES project is a five-year initiative (2020 - 2024) funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



Some of the graduates interact during the ceremony at Kicukiro Stadium

GFCs

Using new technologies to improve farming practices of vegetable farmers in Rubavu District



Demo plot of collard green at COFAR

Vegetable farming in Rubavu District in the Northern province of Rwanda is a lucrative activity that takes place in the area. Most vegetables produced in this district include carrots, cabbages, onions, egg plants, cauliflower among others. These are sold on the local markets and others across the border in DR Congo.

However, there are high post-harvest losses faced by both farmers and traders of the vegetables in the district. Upon realization of this challenge, the Good Food for Cities (GFC) Project implemented by Kilimo Trust has

introduced new technologies to reduce the post-harvest handling issues and increase vegetables production.

A zero-energy cooling chamber that is eco-friendly and a cost-effective post-harvest technology that uses natural cooling system that needs no electrical or mechanical energy to function has been constructed at Bazirete market in Rubavu District. The installed charcoal cooler is going to be used to preserve vegetables and fruits traded at the market, hence reduce post-harvest losses that traders around that market have been facing.

In efforts to promote regenerative farming practices, the project has also established some compost sites at KOTIBANYA cooperative to increase the use of locally produced organic manure for increased vegetable producer's productivity as well as waste management. These composts are mostly made up of crop residues and vegetable wastes of cabbages, carrots among others.

Farmers have also been sensitized and trained to produce and cook nutritious and healthy foods to increase nutrition intake and reduce the stunting cases in

the district. A demo plot of collard green (commonly known as sukumawiki) was established at COFAR cooperative. This vegetable is known for its high content in Vitamin A & C as well as fibers which aid in digestion and lowers the cholesterol levels in the body.



Compost sites established at KOTIBANYA Cooperative



The Zero Energy Cooling Chamber at Bazirete Market

Our Key Partners

Funding Partners			
Current	Past		
 AGRA Growing Africa Agriculture	 giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH		
 USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE	 BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation		
 IFAD Investing in rural people	 Enabel		
 IFDC Transforming Agriculture From the Ground Up	 HEIFER INTERNATIONAL		
 UNDP Empowered lives. Resilient nations.	 FoodTrade East and Southern Africa Promoting regional trade and economic growth		
 IKEA Foundation	 Innovate UK		
	 GATSBY		
 rikolto VECO	 COMIC RELIEF		
	 JAK THE JAKA & KILIKUR FOUNDATION Transforming Agriculture in Kenya and Uganda		
	 TechForce Innovation		
	 UKaid		
	 idh the sustainable trade initiative		
	 Palladium MAKE IT POSSIBLE		
	 Rogers MacJohn		
	 RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Water, Land and Ecosystems		
	 FAO		
Private Sector			
Kenya	Rwanda	Tanzania	Uganda
 BABA'S	 EAX East Africa's Leading Exporting Hub, Supply Hub	 MFC Mwananchi Financial Co-operative	 m-Ogulimisa
 GAFAT FOODS Food is our business	 BABC MAIZE FLOUR COMPANY LTD	 NMB Close to you	 NEW KAKINGA KAKINGA INVESTMENT GROUP
 PMC Patterson Mwangi Company	 PANNAR	 KSR	 dfcuBANK ...with pleasure
 TECHMO TECHNOLOGY	 BRG BEST IN RWANDA GROUP LTD	 KPL	 msc THE MICROFINANCE SUPPORT CENTRE LTD
 Simlaw Seeds Transforming the Seed	 Fonchi	 RGL	 Soluti Finance East Africa
 MEAT Meat Processing & Distribution	 PANOVITA	 COB BANK The bank that listens	 Centenary Bank
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 EQUITY Bank - Your Learning, Growing Partner	 SARURA SARURA GROUP LTD		 NGETTA TROPICAL HOLDINGS
 syngenta	 KCB Kenya Commercial Bank		 MAM
	 Knowledge grows	 Knowledge grows	
Implementing partners			
Kenya	Tanzania	Rwanda	Uganda
 KALRO	 SAGCOT SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL GROWTH CORPORATION OF TANZANIA	 RAB Rwanda Agriculture Bank	 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL INDUSTRY & FISHERIES
 CIAT	 RCT Rural Market Development Initiative	 WFP	 rikolto VECO
 ACT	 TAHA TANZANIA HORTICULTURAL ADVISORY	 Soybean Innovation Lab Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research	 EUREC EUROPEAN UNION RESEARCH CENTRE
 EAGC EAST AFRICA GROWTH COUNCIL		 AGRA Growing Africa Agriculture	 Bioviversity International
 TECHNO SERVE Transforming the way we grow		 IITA International Institute of Tropical Agriculture	 CABI Centre for Agriculture Bioscience International
 CGA			 IFPRI International Food Policy Research Institute A Division of IFAD





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