

KILIMO TRUST **ANNUAL REPORT**

July 2023 – June 2024



Transforming Lives Through Agribusiness

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AYE	Agri-Youth Employment
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
FY	Financial Year
GATE II	Grow A Tree Everywhere
GFCs	Good Food for Cities
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IPRC	Integrated Polytechnic Regional College
KaREAMS	Karamoja Regenerative Agriculture and Market System
KM	Kilometers
KT	Kilimo Trust
Ltd	Limited
MaTPP	Maize Technologies Promotion Project
MT	Metric Tons
R4iCSA	Reduce - Re-Use - Recycle Rice Initiative for Climate Smart Agriculture
R-YES	Rural Youth Employment Support
Ugx	Uganda Shillings
USD	United States Dollar
VC	Value chain
WEEP	Women And Youth Economic Empowerment In Fisheries Through Inclusive Market Access



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

To Our Esteemed Partners, Collaborators, Friends, and the Entire Kilimo Trust Family,

It is my honor to present Kilimo Trust's Annual Report for the fiscal year 2023/24. This past year has been marked by numerous milestones, each a testament to our organization's steadfast commitment to improving the lives and livelihoods of communities across East Africa.

As a values-driven organization, Kilimo Trust remains dedicated to sustainable development, environmental conservation, and food security, which are increasingly pressing global concerns amidst climate change.

The Reduce Reuse Recycle Rice Initiative for Climate-Smart Agriculture (R4iCSA – II), generously funded by the IKEA Foundation, exemplifies our drive to promote sustainable agriculture. Within only two years, we are proud to report that over 51% of farmers in target regions of Kenya and Uganda have embraced Sustainable Rice Practices (SRPs), resulting in a remarkable 49% increase in rice yields within pilot areas.

This report highlights our ongoing commitment to fostering structured trade within the region. This year alone, we facilitated the trade of over **6,000 Metric Tons** of commodities valued at over **USD 1.5 Million**. Our mandate to create sustainable livelihoods and better communities continues to be at the forefront of our work, with over **324,000 smallholder farmers (54,027 directly)** impacted by our interventions during this period.

We strive to ensure that our initiatives are inclusive and empowering for all, particularly women and youth, who play critical roles in the agribusiness sector across the East African Community. During this period, over **20,000 young people** were engaged in our programs, resulting in the creation of more than **3,000 new jobs**. This outcome not only aligns with our values but also contributes to the broader social and economic development of the region.

As we look forward to the new year, we are energized by the prospect of expanding our impact into more East African countries, including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Ethiopia. In our efforts to create sustainable livelihoods and thriving communities, we recognize that collaboration is key, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to cultivating partnerships that will help us achieve our shared vision.

On behalf of Kilimo Trust, I want to express our sincere gratitude to our current and past partners for their unwavering support and faith in our work. Your partnership is what enables us to deliver meaningful change in the communities we serve. To our Board, Management and Staff, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your relentless dedication, exceptional performance, and unwavering commitment to our purpose. It is through your tireless efforts and passionate engagement that we are able to make such remarkable progress. Together, we will continue to drive positive change in the region.

Dr. Birungi Korutaro

CEO - Kilimo Trust

SUMMARY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-2024



Over **6,136 MT** of food staples valued at over **USD 1,799,641** sold through structured trade



Over **USD 4,785,626** of investments leveraged from private and public sector partners



Over **54,027** have benefited directly and **270,000** indirectly from KT interventions



Over **20,304** youth have been engaged and benefited in KT interventions



Over **3,110** full time jobs created directly through KT interventions



51% of farmers adopting Sustainable Rice Practices (SRPs)



49% increase in Rice yield for Rice farmers in Kenya and Uganda.

SUMMARY ACHIEVEMENTS 2005-2024



Over **835,655 MT** of food staples valued at over **USD 316,539,944** sold through structured trade



Over **712,789** have benefited directly and **3.5 Millions** indirectly from KT interventions



Over **8,818** full time jobs created directly through KT interventions



USD 63 Millions accessed by farmers and other actors through KT intervention



Over **USD 68,785,626** of investments leveraged from private and public sector partners



51% of farmers adopting Sustainable Rice Practices (SRPs)

Individual Project Contribution to the Results

2023/2024 Achievements

Rural Youth Employment Support (R-YES)



USD 87,678.50

Value of public and private sector investments leveraged by KT projects



2,260

Youth benefiting from KT interventions



USD 260,996

worth of commodities traded



3,071

Jobs created by KT interventions

Agri-Youth Employment(AYE)



USD 4,697,947

worth of public and private sector investments leveraged by KT projects



USD 690,988

worth of commodities traded



209

Farmers and VC actors benefiting from KT interventions disaggregated by age and gender



137

Farmers and VC actors benefiting from KT interventions disaggregated by age and gender

Individual Project Contribution to the Results

2023/2024 Achievements

Good Food for Cities (GFC)



5,305 MT

of commodities traded



USD 592,955

worth of commodities traded



USD 35,000

Value of agricultural finance accessed by farmers and VC actors



2,260

Farmers and VC actors benefiting from KT interventions disaggregated by age and gender



549
Youth



7

Jobs created by KT interventions

Agripath



2,260

Farmers and VC actors benefiting from KT interventions disaggregated by age and gender



2

Jobs created by KT interventions

Maize Technologies Promotion Project (MaTPP)



26,609

Farmers and VC actors
benefiting from KT
interventions disaggregated
by age and gender



14,887
Youth



25

Jobs created by KT
interventions

Reduce-Re-Use-Recycle Rice Initiative for Climate Smart Agriculture (R4iCSA)



817 MT

of commodities traded



USD 253,333

worth of commodities
traded



51%

Proportion of farmers
and VC actors adopting
improved technologies and
management practices



17,714

Farmers and VC actors
benefiting from KT
interventions disaggregated
by age and gender



4,601
Youth



49%

Change in yields

Grow A Tree Everywhere (GATE II)



1,902

Farmers and VC actors
benefiting from KT
interventions disaggregated
by age and gender



5

Jobs created by KT
interventions

Karamoja Regenerative Agriculture and Market System (KaREAMS)



14 MT

of commodities traded



USD 1369

worth of commodities traded



17,714

Farmers and VC actors benefiting from KT interventions disaggregated by age and gender

Women And Youth Economic Empowerment In Fisheries Through Inclusive Market Access (WEEP)



209

Farmers and VC actors benefiting from KT interventions disaggregated by age and gender



SUCCESS STORIES »

KT launches new strategy in a colorful event in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



On Tuesday 05th September 2023, Kilimo Trust, a not-for-profit organization working on agriculture for development in East Africa launched its new five-year strategic plan (2023 – 2028) in a colorful ceremony at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The launch event was graced by dignitaries from the Ministry of Agriculture of Tanzania, Agricultural Research Institutions from the region, funding partners such as The IKEA Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), MasterCard Foundation, Kilimo Trust Board of Trustees, and management. Kilimo

Trust's new strategic plan is aimed at achieving sustainable livelihoods and better communities in the region. The strategy will prioritize agricultural transformation and resilience, effective and efficient project implementation, resource mobilization, sustainability, and operational efficiency.

According to Kilimo Trust's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr. Birungi Korutaro, the organization will continue to work with a vast network of stakeholders including small and medium farmers, women, People with Disabilities, youth, farmer institutions and other value chain actors.

Dr. Korutaro added that the new strategy is well aligned with the seven Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are: No poverty, Zero Hunger, Good health and wellbeing, Gender equality, Decent work and economic growth and Industry, innovation and infrastructure, and Climate action.

In the new strategy, Kilimo Trust will build on lessons learnt in sustainable agricultural practices and continue equipping actors in the sector with timely information and cutting-edge innovations in mitigating the emerging effects of climate change.

In the next five years, Kilimo Trust's work will focus on contributing towards enhanced food systems and nutritional security, food quality and access to high value markets, among others.

The organization aims to impact almost a million and a half farmers, create over 10,000 meaningful jobs, support over 1,000 small and medium enterprises and work to establish more than 5,000 business linkages. It is expected that over 100 million US Dollars will be accessed by farmers and other value chain actors through this work.

During the launch, stakeholders appreciated the new strategy and what the organization plans to achieve. The IKEA Foundation representative Nico Janssen expressed support for the Trust's efforts.

"That connection from farmers to markets is essential. But it is also a strong network with local governments to influence policy. And even more important is its strong roots in several leading African universities, to work with the next generation of knowledge leaders to see where to go with Africa, that is for us really a driving factor why we like working with Kilimo Trust," he said.

Prof. Ruth Oniang'o, one of the Board Members of Kilimo Trust urged funding partners to build partnerships for knowledge sharing; "We have different things going on in the different countries, and the idea is to share. And we have just come from a bad patch, where we did not have funding. And we would just like one of you to provide those funds to go and find those best practices. To hear from the mouths of the beneficiaries. We need to document that, so that we can all borrow."

In the last five years, Kilimo Trust achieved considerable milestones that contributed to the SDGs such as creating jobs for over 5,000 farmers and other value chain actors while over 200,000 households accessed 3 meals per day through its interventions, and close to a million households accessed nutritious and safe food and over 15,000 women in agriculture were empowered through tailored capacity building and mentorship programs.

Kilimo Trust's interventions further reached over 500 small and medium enterprises who were supported to access business development services and over 3,000 business linkages were created.

Disability is not Inability

Youth living with disability are often seen as unable to work and this has created a huge gap in their employment.

Kilimo Trust through the R-YES project locally known as Menya Wigire, with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), BMZ and Visa Foundation, we are changing the narrative by empowering youth with hearing impairment to be employable.

Through partnership with the Integrated Polytechnic Regional College (IPRC) Musanze and Masaka Creamery Limited, youth are identified from communities and offered special training in milk handling and processing and are all later employed by the creamery.

Since the collaboration, a total of seventy nine (79) youth have been trained and retained at the creamery as full-time employees.

The video below showcases the testimonies of youth and their parents that have been impacted by the project.

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83DDCj6UCHY>





Farmers adopt climate-smart rice technologies in Eastern Kenya

Upland rice cultivation is gaining momentum in the Eastern Kenyan counties of Meru, Embu and Tharaka Nithi.

This surge is driven by a collaborative effort between Kilimo Trust, the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation and Egerton University.

The varieties, also known as dry rice, are grown in drier areas or in regions with well-drained soils, similar to where maize or wheat are planted.

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Simon Mbatia, a farmer in the Nkui area of Meru county, said these new varieties have been a game-changer.

“Since I switched from maize to rice farming, my income has nearly doubled,” he said.

Read More: <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/2024-06-13-farmers-adopt-climate-smart-rice-technologies-in-eastern-kenya>

Enhancing nutrition through school kitchen gardens in Rwanda

The Good Food for Cities (GFCs) project is making a significant impact by providing young students in schools in Rwanda with essential knowledge about food production through established kitchen gardens.

Through hands-on learning, students are introduced to the principles of a balanced diet and sustainable practices. They learn the importance of incorporating a variety of fruits and vegetables into their meals to ensure nutritional diversity.

This knowledge extends beyond the classroom as students share nutrition insights learned through the project with their families, promoting increased household production and healthier diets. This initiative not only supplies fresh vegetables for school meals but also cultivates a generation of informed and proactive young people who understand the significance of sustainable food systems.

Kitchen gardens foster a sense of community and environmental stewardship among students. By growing plants and observing their growth cycles,



students develop a deeper connection to the natural world and gain valuable skills in environmental conservation. They learn firsthand about the importance of soil health, water conservation, and biodiversity, contributing to a more sustainable future for their community.

The project encourages innovation and creativity in agriculture as students experiment with different gardening techniques and explore new ways to maximize yields in limited spaces. These experiences not only build practical skills but also inspire entrepreneurial thinking among the youth, empowering them to envision sustainable solutions to food security challenges.



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