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| Danish organisation | Seniorer uden Grænser |
| Title of the intervention | **CBO Empowerment and Promotion of Sustainable Agroecological Farming Technologies and Climate Mitigation** |
| Partner name(s) | Oleleshwa Community Outreach Ltd |
| Amount applied for | DKK 999.594,00 |
| Country(ies) | Kenya |
| Period (# of months) | 24 |

Phase II of **“Strengthening the farming practices and advocacy capacity of members of the Shamba Farming and Ecotourism (SFE) organization in Kenya” - to include Katoloni Mission CBO; Machakos/Makueni.**

1. **Objective and relevance (the world around us)**

* What is the main purpose with the intervention, including challenges that need to be addressed?
  + If the intervention is an extension of a previous intervention, please describe: what results have been achieved so far? What are (still) the major challenges? To what extent do this intervention include new objectives, a new strategic approach or new target groups?

**Main Purpose:**

The proposed intervention aims to improve farmer knowledge on climate sustainability, biodiversity and good environmental management. This will at the same time improve household incomes and health of smallholder farmers in 2 locations in Kenya – These are Shamba Farming and Ecotourism (SFE) CBO in Nyeri county with a few member groups in Laikipia County, and Katoloni Mission CBO (KM) in Makueni County with a few groups in the poorer parts of Machakos County. This intervention will be achieved by opening of 2 Farmer Hubs to give farmers through Farmer Field Learning groups access to knowledge and information, advisory assistance and demonstration plots on improved farming technologies and ecologically sustainable farming practices. The Farmer hubs will be established with the collaboration of Kenya National Extension Services (KNES) and be owned by the 2 CBOs, who under project assistance will take responsibility for organising the outreach to members. The CBOs will increase their lobbying activities and income generating capacity with the aim to become financially self-sustainable during the course of this project.

The impacts of climate change are globally felt, rampant in the African continent and are very noticeable in Kenya. Rainy seasons do not come when expected and heavy deluges arrive when not expected. Dry seasons often extend past 6 months at a time, making rain fed agriculture a very risky business and challenge the livelihoods of small scale farmers.

The intervention will also create awareness about the health consequences for the farmers and their households, land and the environment on excessive use of chemicals in agricultural activities.

Moreover, this intervention aims to strengthen the voice of smallholders in Kenyan society represented by the 2 CBOs: Shamba Farming and Ecotourism (SFE) CBO in Nyeri County by entering into a learning partnership with a larger and more experienced CBO, Katoloni Mission, KM in Machakos County.

With the dwindling services of the National Extension Service, small scale farmers are left to get advice from the private sector which mainly consist of the suppliers of agricultural chemicals. The COVID-19 disruption has impacted large group meetings, further widening the gap between research, extension and the smallholder farmers. This is an unfortunate twist of conditions for sustainable farming, especially as farmers are largely uneducated beyond primary school and often have no idea how poisonous agricultural chemicals can be. According to KOAN (Kenya Organic Agriculture Network) 33% of all agricultural chemicals sold in Kenya have been banned in the EU, and a further 19% sold in Kenya are not even registered in Europe. Apart from that there is any amount of fake chemicals being sold as agricultural inputs as well.

The farmers through their organisations need to have a choice not only in which kind of advisory information they access, but also learn to lobby their County Assemblies and other organisations for support to their sustainable farming activities, as well as gaining a voice in the decision making processes in their areas.

**Results achieved in previous project:**

This intervention takes inspiration from the previous project “Strengthening the farming practices and advocacy capacity of members of the SFE organization in Kenya”. The relatively young organization SFE CBO of farmers in Mweiga, Nyeri County of Kenya, the CBO Board and members of Self Help Groups have struggled to modernize their farming methods and have started on the road to become more environmentally sustainable. The previous project has had some impact both in demonstrating soil and water conservation, demonstrating that organic solutions work and that household kitchen gardens improve family health and food security, but the time has been short for the efforts to be widely adapted.

Also, Livestock enterprises are becoming more successful after our sponsored training (collaborative with the local Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) livestock officer with several indigenous chicken projects starting up with additional support from County government and most recently a world bank project. The groups that were given chicks for a chicken project from the Local government and who had not received training, lost almost all the chicks, but those we managed to train in time had very few losses, and are now embarking on expansion of their poultry projects.

Over 50 rainwater collection ponds have been constructed, some sponsored by SuG, others dug by farmers themselves and all supplied with cheap greenhouse plastic for dam liners. This has extended the food growing season with several months for the pond owners, and the activity was very popular. Unfortunately real dam liners are very expensive, so may be out of reach for most farmers.

With the help of the Field officers organic farming practices have been introduced to all original groups, including compost making, plant extracts for fertilizer and to use as pesticides, demo kitchen gardens have been established with drip irrigation for year-round production of household vegetables, soil and water conservation has been demonstrated and a few farmers have requested surveys for their hilly farms to combat soil erosion. New tree nurseries have been established, and agroforestry practices have been discussed but not yet widely adapted. Farmers are reporting savings using organic farming practices and good yields.

The formation of Farmer Field Learning Groups, FFLGs, in the Self-Help Groups with our facilitated training from The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) have boosted the cooperation in the groups, common learning and introduced new initiatives. This greater cohesiveness of the groups have qualified them for further support from MoA and proposal writing for all the groups is continuing without project support as we write.

Seven new SHGs have been approved as members of SFE CBO and others are on the queue for admission. So far, a total of 28 groups are either members or affiliates. This is an indication of the positive development of the organization, which is mainly due to the advantage of having agricultural field officers associated with the project, collaboration with MoA besides SFE board's outward efforts to expand the organization. Collaboration with and exchange visits to KM CBO in Machakos has encouraged SFE CBO to become a lot more outgoing and started some small networking activities. But SFE CBO is still a young organisation that require mentorship to grow and exploit its potential as a haven to empower smallholder farmers with the better and sustainable farming methods in Nyeri County. This will contribute to sustained food security in line with the respective Sustainable Development Goals, for example, SDG 2 on Zero Hunger.

The success of the approach of Field officers giving advice about and demonstrating sustainable agricultural practices have inspired this new proposal to establish 2 Farmer Information hubs – One in Nyeri County and one in Makueni County, where the challenges are similar and KM’s Makueni member groups have so far not been supported. Such advisory support towards sustainable agricultural practices and improved health in the community creates a common purpose which will go a long way in helping to expand the farmer organizations and their spheres of influence as well as potential for partnering with other support organisations. Good advisory services draw interest from other groups, who then also wish to join the CBO, as they can easily see the benefits

Major Challenges:

* The development of the organizational capacity of SFE suffered a setback because the old SFE board did not always adhere to agreements on budget and financial management. With CISU's intervention and support, we succeeded in continuing the project with a new board. However, time was lost and the current success has been very short lived and there has not been enough time to achieve a general impact.
* The Kenya National Extension Service (KNES) previously provided by MoA was devolved to the counties, which have not been hiring replacements for retiring officers for various reasons probably mainly funding issues, as the new counties are still finding their feet, and deciding where to go. Hence, the preference, so far, is to let the private sector: i.e. input providers, chemical companies and NGOs take over this crucial role. Among the old Extension officers, now, it is rare to find someone with the will to continue their service to the community despite the fact the need has never been greater. The previous project relied, to a large extent, on hiring the services of the available EOs. But, these EOs will soon be unavailable.
* The impact of climate change on the environment in general on daily lives of smallholders requires efforts to mitigate and adapt to the new challenges, as has been obvious to smallholders and Kenyan authorities for some time. Government extension officers were not educated to take this into account, so currently there is no appropriate advisory service to help safeguard the environment and climate resilience of small scale farmers
* Furthermore, it has now been extensively documented (report from 2019 Agroecological conference) that generally the Kenya food chain from farmers including and perhaps especially small holders to market has become problematic in that agricultural chemicals are becoming way over used especially on fresh produce supplied to the market with much too high chemical residues which have negative effects on human health, animals and the environment.
* Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) has also extensively documented the decline in soil fertility all across Kenya. Farming is a lot more challenging now than 30 or 50 years ago. Only organic and sustainable farming methods which includes returning organic matter to the soil can rectify and reverse this trend.

Lessons learned

* The members of the CBO board are farmers like the rest of their group members and have generally no administrative or organisational training. The capacity building needed must start at a very basic level with practical applications in order to achieve its aim. Networking and proposal writing are also useful skills to learn for a young organisation
* It has been an eye opener to hear how widespread the current human health challenges are. No family seems unaffected. Farmers are not aware that most of these challenges can be traced back to the conventional farming practices and abuses of agricultural chemical use.
* The steady presence of available field officers seems to give a lot of impact as they have the time to attend to individual queries and help set up practical demonstrations. With a few larger events to create awareness of the problems faced, the follow up by field officers on group visits can be very effective.
* Field officers must jointly plan with the farmer groups in advance of visiting so that the timing can coincide with normal group meeting schedules. If not, attendance is poor as farmers are busy and hardworking people and do not have time for surprise visits.
* Farmers often need access to credit, which this project cannot provide, but there are indications that collaboration with credit facility banks such as Equity Bank or Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) might solve some of these problems, and in Makueni collaboration with the DANIDA projects will be investigated

New objectives:

See chapter 3.5

* Establishment of Farmer Information Hubs under CBO management. Support the CBOs to become more outgoing and connect to other stakeholders through the FHs in their areas. Focus more on health and nutrition training of groups in relation to new farming methods and outphasing artificial agricultural chemicals. Promote sound environmental practices in dialogue with the County governments and
* Start up indigenous chicken value chain to support the CBOs and their member groups financially.
* Institutional strengthening of both CBOs!

New strategic Approach:

Added outreach partner: Katoloni Mission CBO, Machakos/Makueni with at least doubling of outreach area

Added SFE Member groups to grow a more substantive outreach in Nyeri area

Administration umbrella: Oleleshwa Community Outreach (OCO), with board members from both SFE and KM CBOs to make decicions as to outreach approach in each area through the Farmer Hubs. OCO will also train at least 2 members of each CBO Board along with Organic field officers (OFOs) in financial and administrative project management

Primary and secondary schools as hosts for demonstration plots on water harvesting, drip irrigation, new crops incl agrofiorestry and tree nurseries. Farmers to be invited for field days to these demo plots.

A Farmer information hub in each project area with each 2 hired professional advisors on organic farming and environmental protection, as well as a part time coordinator to support all outreach activites and networking initiatives

The strategic investment in Farmer Information Hubs (FHs) along with salaries to dedicated Organic Field Officers (OFOs) to implement project activities, and the option of facilitating other subject matter specialists as per need, along with the general establishment of Farmer Field Learning groups (FFLG) will go a long way in assisting small scale farmers in project locations to improve their agricultural practices thereby gaining increased incomes, better health and improved environmental health. It is envisaged that the CBOs take ownership of their FHs and in collaboration with KNES, Biovision and other partners and start becoming self sustainable and continue to give service to their communities even after the project ends

The capacity building of the two (2) CBOs financial and administrative management along with better knowledge on good environmental practices will further help the CBOs to attract more support from other development actors to further improve environment, trade and local networking through the OFOs.

Advocacy activities will empower the CBOs and sensitize other players in sustainable farming methods including the county government to understand their unique roles and how the unity of purposes among them including involvement in consultative meetings help in proper planning, avoid replication of roles and activities, reach out to more farmers with fewer resources creating more impact on the lives of both the primary and secondary beneficiaries.

* Describe the context of the intervention:
  + Describe the conditions that apply in the area where the intervention will take place, and which are expected to influence the intervention (e.g. social, economic or political conditions, or other projects or activities in the area that can supplement the intervention).

Kenya farmers are a hard-working lot, but generally have not had any benefit of education apart from primary school. They farm as per tradition and farming is a fallback position for people who have no other job chances. Contact to Government services have been scant over the last 30 years, and farmers have more or less been left to their own devices and advice from agro-chemical companies. This has resulted in a general food chain in the country which is fairly poisonous due to high chemical residues. Whereas agricultural chemicals are mostly accumulative in the food chain – resulting in the current epidemic of cancer, diabetes and heart disorders – there has also been cases of direct poisoning from cooking vegetables direct from the local markets. Small holder farmers often only get advice about agrochemicals from the sales agents, who are more interested in selling chemicals than in how they are used. Semi-literate farmers often do not read the instruction script on the packages, leading to over use of chemicals and nonadherence to withdrawal intervals before marketing.

Farmers mostly organize themselves into groups, often as savings societies but sometimes also to learn together on a chosen subject.

The intervention plans to build on this social structure and introduce Farmer Field Learning Schools FFLGs for learning processes. More groups will also be encouraged to join the CBO’s so they can build a strong voice in Counties to contribute to the formulation of agricultural development plans. Already SFE CBO has been invited to join the Wambugu stakeholder forum in Nyeri. This stakeholder forum is mainly concerned about organising the yearly Farmer Field Day with demonstrations from institutions and organisations, but it will be a start for SFE to meet the other stakeholders at least.

**Economic**

With the unpredictable rainfall in both proposed project locations, food security and a decent income in the farming community is challenging to achieve even though the farmers work hard. The most vulnerable also have the smallest pieces of land or even lease land if they do not own it and take jobs when available to supplement income and food security. To lose their crops means hunger is not far away.

To add to the farming challenges, the research Institution KALRO has documented a serious fall in land productivity and fertility all over Kenya due to heavy reliance on chemical fertilizers combined with a lot of soil erosion. Promotion of organic farming in combination with soil and water conservation will in the long run mitigate such problems. It has also been documented by especially Egerton University (Kenya) that changing to good organic practices raises yields – often by more than 50%, in the process helping farmers to fight poverty and hunger and to become more climate resilient.

An improved tree cover will help attract more rain, and as has been seen in Machakos the last 10 years, livelihoods and health of farmers improve accordingly

SFE CBO has succeeded in initiating on a small scale an indigenous chicken value chain, with successful groups now marketing chicken and eggs together. This project aims to support this successful venture further by introducing a poultry incubator, so that more interested groups can be included. There is a huge market for chicken all over Kenya and the indigenous chicken value chains are priorities in both Nyeri and Makueni Counties, so can expect support from County Governments as well in due course.

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| Chicken project initial budget |  |  |  |  |  |  |

The chicks will be sold to CBO members to build up the indigenous chicken value chain with further profit to the CBOs who will act as marketing agents as well.

Indigenous chicken are more profitable than hybrid layers and broilers as they can be fed partly on homegrown farm produce. Education on chicken rations and which part can be produced locally will be part of the outreach from the Farmer Hubs. Even the poorest farmers can keep a few chicken on even the smallest lots, so this is an ideal income generating option for small scale farmers

**Political**

As mentioned earlier, Kenya's political and governance systems are devolved governments/counties where each county has its assembly (in local slang called government) to structure and decide the services to render to their population. The National Extension Service is one of the services devolved to the counties.

In the cases of Makueni and Nyeri counties this service is largely relegated to “the private sector” ie. Input providers and chemical manufacturing, processing and packaging companies. KALRO is also involved but from a research angle. There are Government farmer training centres in both counties, but they have to run on a commercial basis, so charge farmers or organisations for training courses. There are free open days for farmers at Wambugu Farmer training Centre in Nyeri, but only few farmers know about it or attend.

**Other projects and activities that may supplement the intervention**

In part of the project areas various organisations are present. SFE CBO has had contact to World Vision, International Fund for Agriculture Development IFAD as well as a World Bank project. In Makueni the donor landscape is different and not completely known at present.

Nyeri County government has also supported some groups with especially indigenous chicken projects, but plan to support potato, banana and chicken value chains. SFE CBO would be the perfect organisation to collaborate with County Government to coordinate such support through their FH.

IFAD supports water projects with part community contributions (20%). Proposals are under way.

Biovision Farmer Communication Program (BFCP) also operates Farmer Information Centres, and though not in a position to expand at the moment are keen to partner with other organisations on the same. BFCP also produce the Organic Farmer Magazine as well as weekly radio programmes.

Dakoke Communications with Director Venter Nkatha, will be a direct partner as Venter has agreed to help Coordinate the project. Venter is a communications specialist and former editor of the Organic Farmer Magazine.

Kenya National Extension Service now delegated to the counties, will be an obvious partner in any outreach to farmers and experts from that service can still be subcontracted for training purposes even though most of them have now retired.

Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) will be very valuable as advisor to the Farmer Hubs and the outreach officers with the best knowledge on climate smart crops.

All external players are more interested in dealing with a sound organisation than individual groups, so supporting the growth of the CBO will help release additional support from other organisations

* + Describe whether the intervention takes place in a stable or fragile context. If the intervention takes place in a fragile context, you can find inspiration on CISUs website about [nexus](http://www.cisu.dk/nexus).

According to CISU definitions of fragility, the intervention takes place in a partially fragile context:

Small scale farmers have no say in the County Assembly decision making process. Whereas politicians have to be seen to speak for their constituents, the only interaction is through political rallies before and during elections. The County stakeholder fora no longer invite farmer representatives to meetings where the policies and resource allocations are discussed. Empowering the CBO’s to take part in such discussions on behalf of their members is part of the aim of this intervention

Traditional farming as carried out by small scale farmers is rain-fed agriculture with no irrigation options. This makes the farming venture on which they depend for a living increasingly fragile and climate dependent. Rain has become unpredictable and unreliable due to climate change and both intervention areas experience long dry spells, during which no crops can reliably be grown. Establishing farmer hubs to promote climate resilient practices in the 2 areas will help the farmers adjust to new and better farming technologies

* Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organising to advance social justice (realisation of people’s rights, reducing inequality and fighting poverty, participation in decision-making processes, equal access to resources, and just institutions).

The intervention will support 4 of the UN sustainable development goals.

1: No Poverty. Primary and secondary beneficiaries will learn to increase incomes while embracing sustainable farming technologies

3: Good Health. By avoiding overuse of dangerous agricultural chemicals and embracing organic and sustainable agriculture, a lot of health issues of both people and the environment will be eased.

4: Quality education. Farmers with very little education will learn how to better adapt to climate change and deal with environmental issues through practical learning, and school children in selected schools will be getting a chance to learn about the environment and how to sustain it. Access to reliable agricultural information will further assist farmers improve their farming practices



17: Partnerships for the goals. Both the SFE and KM CBOs have already entered into partnerships with various development actors, and during this intervention plans are under way to further expand this partnership network to strengthen their voice in the society to improve livelihoods of their members.

To strengthen the SFE CBO they plan to partner with KM CBO in Machakos County, which has many years of good experience and more than 300 active member farmer groups. KM CBO is also supported by Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development (BV) with a resource center at Katumani Research Station (KRS), but the support is dwindling, while the need for good extension service is increasing. Therefore, also KM CBO is applying for a new resource centre (Farmer Hub) to support the groups that cannot be reached with BV – particularly in Makueni district. SuG will seek to have a working MoU with Biovision in order to properly share the services the old and new centers can provide in Machakos/Makueni districts.

Linking SFE and KM CBOs makes sense as the projects are similar – all to promote organic farming, healthy diets, improving soil fertility and increasing tree cover. As the challenges on the road to prosperity are mainly environmental, a reliable information service as can be supplied by Farmer Hubs (FH), supplemented by subject matter specialists as per need will be a sustainable way to strengthen the ability of small scale farmers to adjust to climate change and build the unity of purpose by joining the CBOs strengthen their voices, increase their bargaining power and get a better chance to influence the local politics in their favour.

SFE farmers live in mostly highland areas and grow cool season crops which are difficult to access in Machakos/Makueni, whereas the fruit from the lower altitude farmers is usually quite expensive in the highlands. The 2 CBOs discussed the possibilities of trade based on such differences between their counties

SuG focus is on strengthening the KM and SFE CBO Boards so that in future they may be strong enough to manage not only their CBOs but also the Farmer Hubs to their benefit and as a tool to increasingly also partner with other development organisations in the area.

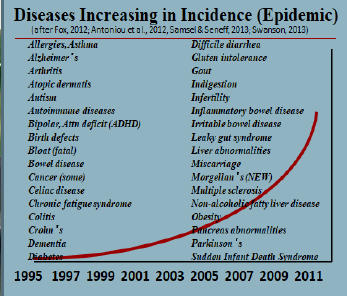
* What climate- and environmental conditions do the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to? And how have the partners responded to it? This could be in relation to the conditions of the target groups, the number of flights or the activities of the intervention, and how these affect the environment or climate in the area.

Traditional farming as carried out by small scale farmers in Kenya is rainfed agriculture with no irrigation options. This makes the farming venture on which they depend for a living very fragile and climate dependent. Establishing farmer hubs in the 2 locations will help the farmers to adapt to climate resilient practices, and adjust to new and better farming technologies.

The majority of the CBO farmer members prevail over various natural resources like rivers, springs, groundwater, natural forest, nature trails, hilltops and valleys, and wild- and birdlife. Great and important resources whose value must be well understood, protected and managed by the farmers, especially with regard to appropriate land use for their own best and sustainable benefit.

The SFE CBO member groups have been keen to learn new healthy and environmentally sound practices. There are few families that have not been affected by the current wave of health problems in rural areas. So there is a strong motivation to improve these matters. Individual farmers have started testing organic farming methods and found them effective. Hence, the interest of the new groups to learn.

The intervention will promote water harvesting, soil conservation, organic farming, agroforestry, tree planting, and the adoption of open pollinated climate smart crops from KALRO. The intervention will also create much better awareness about the risks of using agricultural chemicals indiscriminately, as is currently practiced.

The below graph shows a global trend in human health associated with chemical agriculture. The red graph has continued to rise exponentially since 2011:

Though the problem is global, the trend is rampant countrywide in Kenya, with only Kenya Organic Agriculture Network KOAN taking samples of vegetables, and publicizing reports of extreme contamination of food products across the country at times exceeding 1000 times the maximum World Health Organisation WHO allowed levels. The awareness of healthy food and food production is just not present, and the level of illiteracy or lack of education of small scale farmers producing the majority of food in Kenya is frightening, as they have no defence against the agents of agricultural chemicals. If a chemical works, they use it – without knowledge of residue levels, withdrawal periods, and general toxicity. And often not even reading or understanding the fairly incomprehensive labels on the products or indeed wearing protective clothing.

1. The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

* Describe the experiences, capacities and resources of participant partners (including the Danish organisation) as well as other actors (e.g. their experiences with the subject matter concerned, knowledge of the context in which the intervention will take place, networks and relationships).

**Seniors without Borders SuG**

Seniors without Borders (SuG) has been involved in 5 projects in Kenya since January 2008.  
The contact to Shamba Farming and Ecotourism, SFE, was established in 2008, while the group was not yet formally registered. The cooperation in this initial phase focused specifically on the formulation of common objectives and on capacity building. SuG received CISU funding for a feasibility study and later for a smaller project.

After 2012, the perspective changed. SFE was organized as Self-Help Group, SHG. Capacity building continued, but now targeted the organization's 10 groups of smallholders with a focus on food security, agricultural development and adaptation to climate change.  
The project group in SuG consists of 5 members, who all (Kjeld Holmboe, Anne Bruntse, Jørgen Due, Ole Lyse, Frans Theilby) have work experience from Kenya. Kjeld has supported SFE since inception, Ole has long experience working with Kenya Government projects incl. in rural development and environmental resource management. Jørgen worked in Kenya over 20 years, has family there and visits regularly. Anne is a dual citizen of Kenya and has worked in the Kenya agriculture sector for over 30 years, incl contracts with MoA, KALRO and Biovision. Both Anne and Frans have experiences in climate change mitigation and environmental conservation in Kenya.

SuG’s collaboration with SFE Board is characterized by mutual trust and a process that has strengthened the SFE Board’s organizational capacity, but the collaboration is still characterized by the members of SFE being ordinary smallholders without any special school education. It is a grassroot collaboration.

Experiences of the previous project - “Strengthening the farming practices and advocacy capacity of members of the SFE organisation in Kenya” 2017-2020 it is dealt with elsewhere in the application.

**Shamba Farming and Ecotourism, Community Benefit Organisation (SFE CBO)**

SFE CBO has grown during the previous SuG project (Strengthening the farming practices and advocacy capacity of members of the SFE organisation in Kenya) from 12 member groups to 28 interested groups, allthough not all have yet paid the required entry fee.

The new SFE CBO Board was elected in Nov 2018, and has shown both interest and energy to further build their young organisation to support member groups improve their farming methods and businesses as well as to become a stronger voice for their member groups. The board has received some training and has started some humble networking, resulting in additional support for some groups from both County Government (indigenous chicken project) and USAID operating in only part of their area (Support to potato growers cooperative). SFE CBO are keen to continue the successes with further SuG support.

Many individual farmers have implemented organic farming methods and soil and water conservation (ref reports from field officers). The success of these farmers is what is attracting the new member groups. The SFE Board has also made headway in network building, with a new invitation to the local agricultural Stakeholder forum. However, the Board is still finding its way and without support could easily get discouraged again.

**Katoloni Mission CBO**

KM has existed since 2004. When joining Biovision Outreach Program in 2008, they had 73 member groups. Now membership groups are over 300. Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development together with Katoloni branch of KALRO (Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation) has supported KM with a well-supplied office on the research station, 4 field officers to promote organic farming, means of transport and a reporting system. In the past 10 years KM has managed to turn around the trend of yearly food aid to the district, and has helped numerous farmers farm more sustainably. As we write, food aid to Machakos area has reduced substantially, most years with no need. KM has received substantial support from the Catholic church in the form of soft interest free loans

KM is now expanding into Makueni District, with more groups joining from there, and the funding from Biovision is insufficient for them to become as effective in that district. KM is therefore seeking support for a second resource center or Farmers Hub in Makueni. KM has in the previous project been instrumental in guiding the Board of SFE CBO in the management and outreach of their CBO

**Oleleshwa Community Outreach Ltd**

Whereas OCO is a newly registered (June 21, 2021) non profit company, the former project was managed financially through a separate account under the sister company Oleleshwa Enterprises Ltd (yearly turnover in the region of 5 M KSH all audited and compliant with Kenya Revenue Authority since 2010), which record is currently with CISU and under review. OCO is registered as an umbrella organization to facilitate the collaboration of SFE and KM CBOs.

The board of OCO has 6 members - SFE chairwoman Gladys Wambui Wachira and secretary Peter Kaniaru Wahome, KM chairwoman Regina Mwikali Muthama and associate Venter Nkatha, and two external professionals Tabitha Njeri Kinuthia and Anne Bruntse, whom SFE and KM want to include due to their extensive network and experience. The 4 OCO members from SFE and KM have the decision-making competence in OCO. The two professionals are advisors.

OCO is the leading partner where the two partners meet, and will be the communication link between SuG and the CBOs. The 4 OCO members from SFE and KM have the decision-making competence in OCO. OCO will employ a professional accountant to help keep track of finances and help train CBOs and the field officers in good financial management.

To ensure a common understanding, SFE and KM have signed an MOU that defines OCO's tasks and competencies in relation to the project document and budget.

OCO is responsible for the ongoing reporting to SuG. OCO prepares sub-budgets and reports monthly account statements and bookkeeping to SuG. The two external professionals will during the project period support and advise the four SFE and KM members of OCO.

OCO meets every two months, where reporting from Farmer Hubs and the SHGs, work plan for the next two months, budget control and upcoming sub-budgets are discussed and decided. This continued project follow up will also educate the CBOs further on project management and explore opportunities for networking ref SDG 17 on partnership building

The practical implementation of the activities lies locally with Farmers Hubs under the SFE and KM boards and working with member Self Help Groups.

If the collaboration between SFE and KM becomes so solid that they both see an advantage in continuing it beyond this project, OCO will be able to continue support, hopefully grow to be able to gather CBOs from other districts and thus be the beginning of creation of a nationwide agricultural organization managed and run by the farmers themselves. The experience and aspirations of the CBOs so far from the collaboration between SFE and KM points in that direction.

**Primary and Secondary schools (Duty holders – they agree to help spread knowledge about sustainable environmental management)**

Demonstration plots featuring water harvesting, drip irrigation, new crop varieties, and soil conservation on sloping land along with organic farming technologies will be set up in collaboration with Ministry of Education in local schools to be selected to partner in each project area in order to also start educating youth – the future farmers and leaders - about good environmental management. Parents of school children will have free access to these demo plots and other farmers will also be invited for field days

It is envisaged that SuG will partner with science teachers to start tree nurseries, and small organic kitchen gardens in each school so children can see how things grow and learn how to manage a garden and the importance of planting trees, possibly along with small scale livestock enterprises in new 4K clubs. It is the experience from elsewhere of KM that the parents of children with such opportunities become interested and want to take part as well.

Farmer Information Hubs

These hubs are not separate partners, but through Organic Field Officers (OFO) paid by the project, will be implementing activities decided by the CBOs and according to project Documents. The OFOs will also be trained in good financial practices as well as proposal writing and project management to assist CBO management in the short term and with a view to future continuation of farmer hubs. The first major job of the farmer information hubs will be to gather facts for a baseline report in all project activity areas. The monthly reports will supply a running monitoring of the project

* Describe any previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners, and how these experiences have fed constructively into the development of the proposed intervention.

In the previous project, SuG relied upon the services of KM CBO to help train the SFE CBO Board in awareness about the roles, opportunities and responsibilities of a well-functioning CBO. The advice has also been obtained from the existing Kenya National Extension Service KNES who trained groups on management of Livestock including cattle and indigenous chicken and how to establish Farmer Field Schools, FFSs, potato and onion production among other sub-topics. In the previous project Biovision Farmer Communication Programme, BFCP had provided trainers for 2 farmer training courses, and iCow services were promoted when we had a chance. These and other essential partnerships proved very beneficial to the previous project and opened new avenues for community support. The partnership umbrella can be expanded upon and developed further (ref SDG 17) as per the strategic plan for this proposed project.

Oleleshwa Community Outreach Company was registered by SuG member Anne Bruntse, dual citizen of Kenya, to support communities which have no or very little administration and accounting experience, based on the need identified by the previous project where she opened a special account to cater for project monies. This intervention can be supported at cost, as Anne has her own private and separate income.

Dakoke Communications was started by Venter Nkatha, a former employee of Biovision Farmer Communication Programme, a member of KM CBO, a very passionate and successful communicator, and former editor of The Organic Farmer Magazine. Venter has agreed to help coordinate this project on a part time basis and to be in charge of CBO training and outreach, as well as the administration of the Farmer hubs.

* Describe the contributions, roles and responsibilities of the partners and other actors. Justify substantial payroll costs, and if payroll costs are included for the Danish organisation, describe the tasks and why Danish personnel are best positioned to undertake these tasks.

**SuG**

Members of this SuG group will individually support the intervention in person. Anne lives in Kenya and is well placed to coordinate the Danish and Kenya activities. Frans has great knowledge about trees, agroforestry, nursery management etc. Kjeld has experience with other CISU projects and will help carry out evaluations and general project management, and Ole will give advice on budgets and financial matters

**Oleleshwa Community Outreach LTD**

OCO is an umbrella organisation for the SFE and KM CBOs. The non profit making company was registered in order to coordinate project activities under one umbrella and in the long term extend services to other CBOs with the same aims as well. OCO will employ a professional accountant to help keep track of finances and help train CBOs and the field officers in good financial management.

**SFE CBO**

With a young and enthusiastic Board SFE CBO is currently expanding and well on its way to become a community spokes organisation with grassroot farmer members. It will need all the support it can get to rise and become a really successful farmers organisation

**KM CBO**

KM CBO is a well-established organisation in Machakos Makueni. It has grown with the support of Biovision and is already a spokes organisation for its members. However, the Biovision support is not currently in a position to expand to the poorer Makueni County, where KM has a growing list of member groups, who are also needful of support to overcome environmental farming challenges. Thus, KM is keen to be able to support their groups in Makueni County, as well as some poorer less supported groups in Machakos

Payroll costs: In order to educate farmers, school teachers and the general community it is necessary to hire educated people with a passion for their subjects of good human health in a sound environment of healthy crops and livestock and raise awareness about good environmental practices. To keep costs down the coordinator has agreed to work part time and directors of Oleleshwa Community Outreach as well as SuG members work with only expenses paid.

* Describe how the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration between the partners.

Ties between SFE and KM CBOs through the umbrella Oleleshwa Community Outreach will be strengthened. With this support, SFE CBO will grow and become more confident to recruit more farmers groups, train on sustainable farming methods, create their space in the county conversations around development agenda on agriculture and farming activities where their voices will be too important to ignore, and pass on the mantle to lit more candles to other players in the agricultural ecosystem to continue contributing to improved human, animal, plant and environmental health sustainably.

It is further envisaged that the FHs could become essential in coordinating proposal writing with the CBOs and the various development actors in the areas, thus creating an opportunity for all groups to benefit.

This intervention will broaden the understanding of sustainable agricultural farming methods and adoption of the respective technologies, create a forum where the various actors in sustainable farming methods converge, discuss, commit to honouring existing commitments while formulating new commitments to accommodate and address the technological disruptions post COVID-19 to support already strained agricultural values chains.

SuG, CISU and our partners and stakeholders will get to know each other better

* Describe how the intervention will contribute to strengthening the partners’ relations to other actors, e.g. authorities, other local, national, and international organisations, networks, alliances, private companies or other financial support.

The County governments have plans both for agriculture support as well as funds to support such plans. But often projects are implemented with good will, but not enough consultation on needs and requirements of the farmers. SuG via the Farmer Information Hubs and collaboration with CBO board management aim to help improve such prior consultation to ensure sustainability of projects entered into.

As an example, the County Government at one-point donated day-old chicks without first training the groups on how to manage them. SuG training came in as a complimentary after the event as we did not know this donation was to take place. Several of the beneficiaries lost most of their chicks due to ignorance on how to manage them. Those who received training in time did not lose chicks or lost only a few. Such expensive mistakes could have been avoided with better communication and collaboration.

The current health challenges in the communities can also be a strong motivation for the CBOs to stick together and work for a better environment in which to live and make a living.

A Community Based Organisation (CBO) when sufficiently supported by its members can be a powerful tool for the community to claim their voice and rights with their County Government and other development players who all are more interested in dealing with a sound organisation than individual groups, so supporting the growth and capacities of the CBOs will help release additional support from other organisations.

Dakoke Communications have solid experience in and a passion for helping to build partnerships between communities and other stakeholders.

1. Target groups, objectives, strategy, and expected results (our intervention)

* Describe the composition of the target groups: specify approximate number of people in primary (the persons who will participate in the activities of the intervention) and secondary (persons who will be affected by the activities of the intervention without having participated in them) target groups disaggregated by e.g. gender, social groups or other relevant factors.

Primary Target groups

 The main target groups are small scale farmers organized into SHGs, CBOs and savings societies. These SHGs become members of the local CBOs and are encouraged to embrace sustainable farming methods and capacity built to represent the interests of member groups in negotiations with development actors in the counties where they operate.

Expanding number of target groups as more groups join the CBOs. In the case of SFE the original target was 12 groups which has now expanded to 28 interested groups. With new and better services, the upward growth trajectory is hoped to grow to at least 50 groups by the end of the project phase. For KM CBO additional group membership is also envisioned. So Expanded primary target for information service for the 2 CBOs could easily reach a total of 100 or more groups. Assuming average membership numbers of around 25 families per group (15- over 100 currently) – a total of 2500 families could be reached directly and further numbers reached through schools, radio, iCow, neighbour outreach and other Dakoke Communications advocacy initiatives.

Further primary targets of the project will be school children and science teachers in the schools where outreach/ demo centres are planned. It will be possible to start 4K clubs in schools with innovators invited at events to inspire school leavers to start small businesses in agriculture related fields. As schools are not yet selected, numbers are less certain, but if pupils in each primary school are around 300 then 3000 additional families will have been reached through 10 schools that way. All schools have mixed gender pupils. These school projects are envisaged to become 100% financially self-sustainained during project period.

Most groups have a predominance of women members, but most have male members as well. Members are full or part time farmers on either rented land, or small farms from ½ acre to probably 10-15 acres. No interested farmer will be turned away from the Farmer information Hubs, but groups will be encouraged to join the CBOs.

**Secondary targets**

Secondary targets of the project will be mainly parents of the school children taking part in the school demonstrations, neighbours to the participating farmers, and participants in the lobbying activities as well as all the people listening to the radio programmes.

Other secondary targets are KNES and local politicians and opinion leaders in the respective counties, who will be invited to selected events

* Describe how the target groups will participate in- and benefit from the intervention.

The target group members will benefit directly from having access to reliable agricultural information services and demonstration plots with local schools. The groups will further benefit from joining the CBOs as they start to collaborate with development agents in their areas. All groups will be encouraged to plant trees, and tree nurseries where not already established will be supported with tree seeds and planting materials such as planting bags. Organic farming and sound environmental management will be promoted and the benefits explained and discussed in all fora where farmers meet.

KM CBO has to date been instrumental in encouraging SFE to grow and become a farmer’s spokes organisation in Mweiga, Nyeri County along the lines of KM in Machakos. More groups will also be encouraged to join the CBO’s so they can have a bigger say in County development plans. Already SFE CBO has been invited to join the Wambugu stakeholder forum in Nyeri for the first time in 2020.

A new project will further strengthen the connection between SFE and KM as influential civil society grass root players and possibly lead to inter county trade, as the crops and climates in the 2 districts differ substantially.

Schools and their students will benefit from an organic kitchen gardens which will feed in to the daily lunch provided by all schools. The students will also learn about water harvesting, organic farming, drip irrigation, tree planting, and will from time to time be able to take home tree seedlings to plant at their homes. 4K clubs will be established in the supported schools to encourage youth to develop interest in sustainable environments and farming methods along with the newly launched GK project on 4K clubs in schools. Parents will through their children and their school benefit from a better understanding of sound environmental management

* Describe how the target groups and relevant actors have been involved in the development of the intervention as well as the partners’ legitimacy to act as champions of the target groups’ cause.

This application is written after a 3-day proposal meeting with representatives from SFE CBO, Katoloni Mission CBO and SuG to thrash out the details of the application. During writing the draft has furthermore been shared amongst the partners for their reflections. After the CISU rejection of proposal with suggestions for improvements, OCO came together to discuss how the improvements could take place. We therefore believe this application represents the wishes of the 2 CBO’s to pave a way forward for progress in their communities

During this stakeholder meeting KM CBO reported that their efforts to reach farmers and teach them above new and sustainable farming technologies had been successful and that they have many new groups in Makueni which they do not have the resources to reach.

SFE CBO also reported being impressed with the results achieved during previous project period, and were very keen to continue to grow as a CBO, and excited about the opportunities such an organization can have if pursued.

SFE and KM discussed a future partnership where the SFE board and group representatives could go to Machakos County on learning visits. During the discussions they also discovered that the highland crops grown in the Kiawara/Mweiga area are usually very expensive on the markets in Machakos/Makueni and that the fruits grown in the warmer lowland climates are very expensive in the highland areas. So, they thought there would be a possibility of supporting some young people to trade between the respective counties

* Describe the strategy of the intervention – how and with what methods will the intervention be implemented so that it leads to the objectives, including how the intervention balances between the elements of the Development Triangle.

*Capacity building and linking of the two CBOs financial, organisational and administrative management to enable them to run their Farmer Hubs, organise Farmer Field Learning Groups (FFLGs) and linking SFE and KM for future cooperation.*

SFE CBO to enter partnership with the accomplished Katoloni Mission CBO (KM) Machakos, which has been instrumental in inspiring the SFE Board to become more visionary. The inspiration from KM will continue to help build the confidence of the SFE farmers, and there is the possibility of developing inter county trade

The partnership will guide the SFE board to concentrate on the duties of the board - to discuss, decide, monitor and control the status of the organization - its objectives and direction. As experienced and respected farmers who have farmed their land for generations they will be the best at lifting a task that requires sound judgment and integrity.

The technical and administrative tasks of the 2 CBOs to manage the Farmer Hubs will be assisted by OCO initially until the CBOs are confident and capable to take the hubs forward. It is the dream of the 2 CBOs that they will be able to run their own information centres in future, and collaborate with the multiple partners present in each County

For this project it is envisaged that the CBOs use Oleleshwa Community Outreach ltd (OCO) to help financially plan, coordinate and report activities at cost, while training of at least 2 CBO members from each area to manage such activities in future. The coordinator of the project will assist the CBOs produce monthly budgets and account summaries, which will then be processed by OCO. The CBOs will have to approve all expenditures along with the coordinator, before payments are made.

*Members of all SHGs improve their health and nutrition by increased and improved organic farm production and adaption to climate change.*

Farmer Hubs established– one in Mweiga/Kiawara In Nyeri County and one in Makueni - each employing 2 Information officers with organic farming background to support and improve the dwindling extension service and as an alternative to the advisory function of the chemical companies. The MoA has offered to provide an office in either Mweiga or Kiawara.

The project will further hire a part time Coordinator, who also contributes with services from Dakoke Communications, which company specializes in all kinds of communications including how to enter into partnerships with other organisations.

FFLG (Farmer Field Learning Groups) is the approach that has been used so far with success. It will be strengthened and targeted for conversion to organic farming, and the field officers of Farmer Hubs will conduct the training that the FFLG facilitators will disseminate in Self Help Groups.

*CBOs empowered through advocacy, lobbying activities. Awareness creation about good environmental practices and human health in the general community, in schools, and among decision makers.*

Advocacy activities will empower the CBOs and sensitize other players in sustainable farming methods including the county government to understand their unique roles and how the unity of purposes among them. CBO involvement in consultative meetings to help in proper planning, avoid replication of roles and activities, reach out to more farmers with fewer resources thereby creating more impact on the lives of both the primary and secondary beneficiaries.

This will Increase access to knowledge of good environmentally sound farming practices to more member groups in each area using all modern communication options available

Awareness creation about improved farming practices and good environmental management through school gardens and tree nurseries (initial collaboration with science teachers from 6 schools per project area) to reach the next generation. Information officer visits to groups to promote sustainable agricultural practices. The initiative also plans to hold public meetings with invitations to dignitaries to discuss environmental, health and agriculture challenges and how to overcome them.

Long term sustainability of KM and SFE CBO

KM CBO is already well established, and has managed to find funding opportunities for running their own CBO, hold meetings and travel to meet well wishers, take part in workshops etc. KM CBO chairlady continues to submit proposals for her groups to possible well wishers. One long term reliable supporter is the Catholic Church in Machakos which gives soft loans to the CBO enabling them to earn interest through subloaning to member groups. This interest enables them to attend meetings and workshops when needed. Additional funding are for mostly group activites, boreholes and water harvesting in those dry areas. KM CBO is also a member of organisations such as PELUM which from time to time has funds to support activies.

The chairlady of SFE CBO has volunteered to continue helping to write proposals and obtaining microloans for all the groups in her CBO after previous project end as described earlier. 7 proposals were sent to Upper Tana Rural Development each for 900,000 KSH to support groups in various fruit growing enterprises in collaboration with MoA officer Anne Muchomba. Results still pending. Gladys has also been instrumental in securing microloans to all CBO groups from Icagi Capital Ltd plus a few more for vaious income generation or water harvesting, and general improved livelihood purposes.

In each area a CBO owned chicken hatchery will further boost their CBO financial stability

KM management has been great in encouraging SFE CBO to proceed towards greater sustainability, and the young SFE CBO board are becoming increasingly confident and excited about all the opportunities unfolding.

Oleleshwa Community Outreach (OCO)will support both CBOs with advice, financial services and training.

With the support of this project both CBOs will become financially more sustainable and cohesive also with the successes of the planned indigenous value chains in both areas. OCO will continue their support after project end as long as the communities see the need.

Sustainability of other planned activities

* Once started up and science teachers trained, the school projects are expected to become 100% self-sustainable after project end, and 4k clubs once started will not disappear
* SFE has been promised an office in the county building in either Kiawara or Mweiga, facilitating the possibility of good collaboration with county officers. Also Wambugu Farmer training center has offered land for demo plots
* In Makueni KM has been offered an office in newly built MoA offices in Kwakathoka along with land for demo plots. Such support from Ministry of Agriculture augers well for future sustainability
* In the Board meeting of the of Oleleshwa Community Outreach 17-18 July 2021, it was decided to partly address the long term sustainability, by replacing a couple of activities planned in the previous application, with start-up of a value chain initiative on indigenous chicken. The indigenous chicken are priority value chains in both counties, so there is a very good chance the initiative can be further supported by County Governments. If not the CBOs can still proceed and grow, a bit slower, but with plans to be able to pay CBO expenses as well as at least 1 full time paid Information officer each at end of project
* The planned chicken hatchery will support interested CBO members increase their incomes by becoming successful chicken farmers and the CBOs will act as the marketing agents as well. SFE has already very positive experience with this, and are confident the initiative will boost the incomes of both individual members as well as the CBO.
* Awareness on soil conservation and knowledge about good environmental management disseminated during the project will not disappear with the project, but live on and further spread in the time following
* Knowing where to find good agriculture information will also not disappear with the project, as farmers will be educated on the opportunities and not loose that valuable knowledge just because a project is no longer there.
* There are many as yet unexplored opportunities for networking with different organisations in each area. OCO and the coordinator will assist the CBOs to take advantage of the opportunities on offer.
* Describe the objectives, activities, expected results and indicators (or similar ways of formulating criteria of success) of the intervention.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Objective 1.** Capacity building and linking of the two CBOs financial, organisational and administrative management to enable them to run their Farmer Hubs, organise Farmer Field Learning Groups (FFLGs) and linking SFE and KM for future cooperation. | | | |
| Act  no | Outputs | Activities | Indicators |
| 1.1.1 | Capacity building of the two (2) CBO’s financial and administrative management | A three-days induction workshop for SFE and KM boards discuss how to effectively implement the MoU. Project Action Plans for both CBOs, Farmer Hubs and OFOs worked out  Financial management practices agreed upon. Interviewing OFO candidates. | MoU  Action plan for CBO collaboration  Work plan for OFOs and project coordinator 1st year  Monthly reports |
| 1.1.2. | CBOs establish Farmer Hubs, Organic field officers and project coordinator are hired, office facilities, transportation in place | Offices equipped, Daily routines established, Work relationships between CBOs and their OFOs defined | Farmer Hubs are functioning according to agreements and plans  Monthly reports |
| 1.1.3. | CBO management has improved administrative capacity | CBO Boards have bimonthly meetings with Coordinator and OFOs to establish work plans and approve budgets | Good transparent record keeping  Ongoing communication with SuG |
| 1.1.4. | SFE and KM boards actively participate in advocacy engagement, action planning and implementation of actions for improved environmental conservation and stewardship. | SFE and KM boards contact national and international organizations for long term support to independent farmers` organization that are developing organic farming | MOUs with other organisations signed  Additional support documented |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Objective 2.** Members of all SHGs improve their health and nutrition by increased and improved organic farm production and adaption to climate change. | | | |
|  | Outputs | Activities | Indicator |
| 1.2.1 | FFLGs are established in each member group  (Farmers in Self Help Groups exchange experiences and receive advice from each other when they meet. The group facilitator organizes the meetings and invites external experts.) | Organic Fields Officers, OFOs, from SFE and from KM go for training to be able to teach SHGs FFLG in organic farming technologies marketing and value addition | OFOs have made development plans together with each of SHGs  Monthly reports |
| 1.2.2. | Elected Group facilitators have taken their group through at least 1 learning cycle | All member groups are organized as FFLG, FFLG facilitators trained to organize FFLG activities | All groups have trained FFLG facilitator members  Training certificates |
| 1.2.3 | Increased member awareness about sustainable environmental care and organic farming practices | Organic field officers (OFO) induction training on Health and nutrition, establishment of kitchen gardens and drip irrigation, contacts to experts and other supplementary local expertise. where to find reliable agricultural information. How to facilitate chicken value chain | yearly impact survey  Awareness about alternatives to chemical farming created |
| 1.2.4 | Climate change mitigation by introducing new crops varieties | Seed purchase for 2x30 field demo plots on improved crops in group environment . New climate smart crops and varieties introduced including agroforestry | Germination and harvest reports from SHG  By end of yr. 2 at least 30% of farmers that have started using new technologies at their own farm  Record of new crops and trees introduced |
| 1.2.5. | Individual households of each SHG have become more food self sufficient  Kitchen gardens established – drip irrigation cancelled to make room for start up indigenous chicken value chain. Most needy members will have established kitchen gardens | Demonstration Kitchen gardens to be established in each SHG, including vertical gardens for most needy members. Most needy members receive assistance to start kitchen gardens and vertical gardens | By end of yr.1 at least 30%...of members of Self Help Group members that have established organic kitchen gardens.  No of kitchen gardens established  Awareness about alternatives to chemical farming created |
| 1.2.6. | Climate adaptation by soil conservation, water harvesting, drip irrigation, new climate resilient crops and organic farming methods demonstrated in 6x2 local schools | 5 demo plots in each project area is established in local schools  Field days organized in demo plots for nearby groups | No of demo plots established  No of field days organised  Awareness about alternatives to chemical farming created |
| 1.2.7.1.  1.2.7.2 | Established at least one business youth group in each project area  Exchange visits to explore markets have taken place | Youth groups are identified who are able and interested in establishing trade Trained in basic business management and record keeping  Market exploration visits between youth groups in the 2 districts | Training reports  Exchange inter county visit reports  Trade has started |
| 1.2.8. | Groups engage in new enterprises | Subject matter specialists  hired to complement OFO training of groups wanting to engage in new enterprises. Hiring local experts on soil conservation and enterprise development | Training reports  List of new enterprises started |
| 1.2.9. | Start up chicken value chain with CBO owned poultry incubator, to help future financial sustainability | Installing solar powered egg incubator in rented premises, to supply member groups with quality indigenous chicken | No of chicks supplied to members |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Objective 3.**  CBOs empowered through advocacy, lobbying activities. Awareness creation about good environmental practices and human health in the general community, in schools, and among decision makers. | | | |
|  | Outputs | Activities | Indicator |
| 1.3.1 | Environmentally sensitive resources and land areas identified across affected SHGs, over time with brief profiles analyzing resources and hazards, especially water and forests, their sensitivity, effects of use, who affected, limitations, protection, Recommendations for use and protection shared. | Environmental resources protection, Water res. mgmt. and Agric. Climate adaptation – In 5 clusters of SHGs (each participate with 2 pax) 2x p/year in each project area hold a thematic day on facilitated by county and external experts | Monthly reports and Newsletters  Reports of events,  At least 10 brief environmental profiles have been produced by yr. 2  Reports presented during annual environmental meetings |
|  | As Duty holders in Outreach to the communities, teachers and students at partner schools cultivate school gardens under collaboration with OFOs, and host field days for parents | OFOs at SFE and KM help set up tree nurseries and school gardens at local primary and secondary schools. OFOs assist and supervise teachers and students | Agreements with at least 5 schools per project area  Awareness about alternatives to chemical farming created |
| 1.3.2 | Awareness of organic farming and sustainable environment management among leaders and community | Leaders and politicians invited to yearly 1 day conferences which has presentations and discussions on relevant farming and environmental topics | Leaders promote organic farming in their communities  Awareness about alternatives to chemical farming created |
| 1.3.3 | Improved farming society cohesiveness | Yearly AGM support incl learning session about human and environmental health and nutrition | Reports  Membership increase |
| 1.3.4 | Increased County awareness about sustainable farm and environmental management via local language radio programs | Contract local radio stations to produce 2 radio programs per month per project area in year 1 to increase awareness about project and CBO recruitment. | Airing of radio programs carried out as per reports |

* Describe how the intervention contributes to establishing sustainable and lasting improvements for poor, marginalised and vulnerable target groups and strengthening the partners’ capacities after the intervention period.
  + If the intervention is an extension of a previous intervention, there needs to be an additional description of how relations with other actors, advocacy, and long-term sustainability will be strengthened.

This intervention aims primarily to strengthen the Shamba Farming and Ecotourism SFE CBO and Katoloni Mission KM CBO to expand their excellent network of grassroot farmer membership. SFE CBO if supported has the capacity to grow and become a farmer spokes organization in its member areas. SFE has already begun taking contact to the County, Women organizations and other potential supporters. They have also been invited to join the Wambugu agricultural stakeholder forum. Though this mainly aims towards organizing the yearly partner demonstration of farming technologies at the training centre, it is a start to get to know the other players. Opening Organic Farmer hubs under the control of the CBOs along with the FFLG training and demo plots in local schools will strengthen the sustainable farming practices in the areas, and visibility of the CBOs will be further strengthened via the yearly meetings with relevant stakeholders, and form a good platform from which to engage other partners. Long term sustainability of the CBOs can only be obtained with increased grassroot membership willing to pay membership fees as well as collaboration with all the support organizations in their areas

* Describe possible conditions (risks) that can hinder or delay fulfilment of the objectives and what possible solutions are available to mitigate these risks.

Risks:

* CBO boards losing interest. In the case of KM this is not much of a risk as the CBO is already well established and to a certain extent supported and self-sustained. However, SFE have not yet gained the confidence or grasped their full potential in developing their communities, so need support. Initial support in the form of facilitation of bimonthly meetings will go a long way to maintain their interest until the CBO gains both financial strength and social support from other players
* Lack of compliance to financial rules of project management. This is a very real threat as donor funds are still widely seen as something members can dig their fingers into. However, the previous project experiences have taught the current SFE CBO board some procedures, and shown them the benefits of learning new sustainable practices. For this project CBOs will use Oleleshwa Community Outreach ltd (OCO) to financially plan, coordinate and report activities at cost.
* The only active agriculture officer in Mweiga is retiring in 1 year. As she has a passion for the communities, SuG hopes to engage her for consultative activities and training. This will create continuity to services in the county. Currently the status of National extension service in Makueni is not fully known, but the project will endeavor to make contact and explore avenues of collaboration.
* Interaction with other branches of County Governments and agriculture sectors could be tricky, but efforts will be made towards good relations with all relevant Departments.
* Covid 19 could delay the arrangements of public meetings
* Discontinuation of funding might be a threat to the growth of the CBOs, but awareness will in any case have been created around health, environment and sustainable farming practices. Such awareness does not disappear with lack of funding
* Describe the plans to monitor, collect and use experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention. If an external evaluation has been planned (obligatory for interventions above DKK 2 million), this should be described.

Plans to collect and use experiences along the way, will be done by hiring a part time coordinator ( Venter from Dakoke) who can help Danish SuG member Anne assess the monthly reports from OFOs (organic field officers) and help document challenges and their possible solutions as well as publish quarterly newsletters. Impact surveys will be conducted yearly by OFOs.

Farmer’s use of the farmer hubs will be registered on a daily basis, as will all field visits to groups on monthly basis and be part of the monthly field reports. Quarterly newsletters will be produced, and the school demos will attract farmers for field days as well as officials from various County departments.

Monitoring will be done by Oleleshwa Community Outreach Ltd on a quarterly basis at cost to help iron out any challenges and discuss work plans etc, and by the Danish SuG team visiting to introduce the project and do end-term evaluation.

Covid19 could also become a factor in monitoring and initiating the project, though Kenya has no restrictions on visitors provided they can supply up to date negative test results. The Danish situation might lighten as vaccinations become more widespread.