



Access to Markets

Francis Mukui is a zucchini farmer in the Mundoro area of the settlement of Kiganjo in south central Kenya. Now twenty-six years old, he has been farming for the last two years but has had trouble finding markets for his product. “Zucchini are delicate products,” he says. “Once they mature, they must get to market immediately, otherwise they are wasted.” Mr. Mukui has also struggled to grow a product of high-enough quality. Between the fragile nature and inconsistent quality of his product, he says he used to lose up to 100 kgs in a week, and so almost gave up on farming.

But then Mukui started working with a field officer from the Anglican Church of Kenya’s development services, a partner with World Renew in Kenya. The Kiganjo Youth Empowerment Project allowed him to connect with other horticultural farmers from his area. Through a Kabuteti youth group, they received horticultural training. “I realized the mistakes I was making

while producing zucchini,” says Mukui “and now I am able to produce better quality products.” As he improved his crops, his losses dwindled to half.

Then, Mr. Mukui’s horticultural group was linked to Nutrifoods, a social enterprise that helps farmers to markets by offering transport for a small fee. “The challenge before was that we all individually looked for our own markets,” says Mukui “and even transported the products individually, incurring a lot of costs.” Now, working as one group, the farmers are able to combine their products and have them picked up at a single point for ease of transport. This has greatly enhanced efficiency for the farmers and further shrunk their losses.

Mukui now reports that his profits from zucchini farming have more than doubled. “Before joining the youth horticultural group, I only had losses or very small profits,” he says. “But last season I was able to sell zucchini for a profit of 30,000 KES (292 USD). This season I have planted over 1000 pieces of zucchini and, now that I have a reliable marketer, I estimate I will earn a profit of 70,000 KES (681 USD)!”

ADS MK and Nutrifoods have also helped Mr. Mukui and his farming colleagues to better weather the price

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fluctuations common to farming through crop diversification and better market intelligence. He says “Nutrifoods and ADS MK are advising me on new horticultural products I should grow and by when I should be harvesting them for maximum profits. Right now I have planted 1000 pieces of green capsicum so that they can be ready for market by December this year and early next year, when they fetch the most in the markets.”

Nutrifoods reports that, from July to September of 2017, they have recorded an increase in farm production from less than one half-ton to over one-and-a-half tons per week, not including the 60% of farmers who are not selling through the company. With at least 150 people in the area engaged in horticultural farming right now, Nutrifoods estimates that local farmers now produce four tons per week — up from about one ton previous to their involvement. This dramatic increase injects one million Kenya shillings (9740 USD) into the local economy per month. Mr. Mukui is not the only one who is enjoying success through the training and support of World Renew and its local Kenyan partners!

Patrick Nderitu
Ng’enda Youth Farming Project
Anglican Development Services

Pray for Kenya

- Heavy rains here in Kenya have caused flooding, damage to livelihoods, and loss of life. Pray that the rains continue for crop health but are more gentle for the health of everything else.
- We praise God that Kenya is relatively secure and politically stable again and that confidence in investing here is growing.
- Pray for continued wisdom for our World Renew Kenya team that we may take hold of the right opportunities that will have the greatest impact in people’s lives.
- Praise God for the great team that is a delight to work with! We thank God for continued joy and friendship.

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Stories From
Kenya
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South Ngariama Ranching Scheme

World Renew Kenya and First Red Deer Christian Reformed Church of Canada visited St. Mary's Anglican Church in South Ngariama Scheme in east Kenya and served by World Renew partner, Anglican Development Service (ADS) Mt. Kenya East.

As in other parts of Africa during the Colonial Era, many Kenyans opted to fight the oppressive rule of the colonial government. In response, the colonial government sought military and political control by forcing the people into villages and physically separating them from freedom fighters. This started in the county of Kirinyaga in 1953 with displacement of land borrowers by the whites in Kiambu and Nyeri. By 1956, almost all the people of the county had been confined into 121 villages with freedom fighters living in the forests.

When the Mau Mau War came to an end, and the colonizers realized that the Kenya would get her independence, people started to be resettled back onto their lands. However, community structures that previously governed land issues had been disrupted and the resettlements weren't necessarily equitable or comprehensive. Many dispossessed families lost part or all their existing investment in housing and farming improvement and many simply staying in the villages to which they had been assigned during colonial rule.

In order to allow these people to grow their own food and participate in the growth of the country, the government em-

barked on their reassignment to new land so that they could grow their own food and also participate in the economic growth of the country. One area that had space for this sort of resettlement was the South Ngariama Ranching Scheme of Kirinyaga County.

Covered with good pasture for livestock and shrubs that are good for goat raising, the 28,000-acre South Ngariama Ranching Scheme was established in 1957 by nine clans of the Kirinyaga County for the grazing of livestock. These clans later formed the South Ngariama Cooperative, which managed the ranch until 1978 when the local authority took over. It was not inhabited by the people and it was mainly reserved for grazing livestock. But the high rate of landless peoples as well as high demand of land resources in Kirinyaga after colonial rule prompted the Kenyan government in conjunction with the Kirinyaga County Council to resettle people on the Ranching Scheme.

The first group of people were allotted parcels of land here in 2004 and in 2007 beneficiaries started to move into the area from other parts of Kirinyaga. Since then they have established their new homes there and developed farms, schools, and other facilities. Some residents still have to walk long distances to collect water for domestic use and the roads remain undeveloped and impassable during the rainy seasons.



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