



SUCCESS STORY

Fishermen turn to high value Horticulture to increase incomes

Nyamanga Horticultural Group, in Suba District Nyanza Province, comprises 87 members who had previously grown maize, sorghum and non-hybrid varieties of vegetables on a subsistence scale and without much success to supplement fishing. Although the area has fertile soils and readily available irrigation water from Lake Victoria, the group initially experienced constraints including pests and diseases, lack of technical know-how on proper agronomic practices, lack of market information and linkages that all contributed to low yields and returns. Additionally, fishing was more attractive to the youth, leading to a labor shortage for horticulture.

Since March 2005, USAID-KHDP partner Animal Draft Power Program (ADPP) has been working with the group, establishing a group demonstration plot where growers were provided technical assistance and training in good agricultural practices (GAPs) — use of hybrid seeds, plant nutrition, water management, pest and disease control through safe use of pesticides and integrated pest management (IPM) techniques. The group also took up African birds eye (ABE) chilli, butternut squash, watermelon, tomato and capsicum, introduced by KHDP. The group was also trained in postharvest handling, recordkeeping and marketing, after which they were linked to buyers from the nearby towns and also Nairobi for their high-quality produce. Through these interventions the growers now have better horticultural production, marketing and recordkeeping skills.

From the sales of their new crops, the group has made a gross new income of KSh 2.81 million, while total income has increased by 428 percent from the baseline value of KSh 743,400 to KSh 3.93 million in March 2007. Their net new income is KSh 2.49 million. With their increased income, growers have made investments on their own or rented irrigation and cultivation equipment, increased production area, constructed improved housing and bought bicycles. The growers are also happy with improved food security and the ability to pay their children's school fees. "Reflecting back, I am overjoyed by positive transformations we have had in our lives since USAID-KHDP started assisting the group in 2005," said Raphael Orwa, the group's chairman.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Through technical assistance from KHDP partner, ADPP, members of Nyamanga Horticultural Group have increased their yields and incomes from new crops.

“Reflecting back, I am overjoyed by positive transformations we have had in our lives since USAID-KHDP started assisting the group in 2005.”

— Raphael Orwa,
Nyamanga Horticultural Group chairman