

Family farming in Kenya

KEY NUMBERS

Kenya's agriculture is predominantly based on small-scale farming. In Kenya, family farmers make up 70 percent of the rural population and they produce 73 percent of the national food. About 20 percent of family farmers in Kenya are part of formal value chains and farmers organizations. Kenyan family farmers make use of about 3.6 hectares of land and mostly produce corn, potatoes, bananas, beans, and chilies. They are estimated to be 4.5 million, including 3.5 million crop farmers, 600 000 pastoralists and 130 000 fisher folk". Therefore, the future of food security in Kenya, lies in safeguarding family farmers.



United Nations
Decade of
FAMILY FARMING
2019-2028



UNDFE in Action

Kenya has made progress in mobilizing the actors to elaborate the UNDFE National Action Plan for their country. Leading up to the UN Food System Summit, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with Nairobi County and Food Rights Alliance, organized an independent food system dialogue that centred on drafting Nairobi City County Food System Strategy seeking to contribute key elements for the proposed strategy. The dialogue focused on actions to ensure moving towards a future of food that is sustainable, equitable

and secure in urban and rural areas of Kenya. An independent dialogue was held in Kisumu to define the actions to build collaborative and effective food systems governance in Kisumu County. These dialogues aim to highlight the role of local governments, family farmers and other stakeholders play in improving food systems. They also aim to achieve a lasting collaboration on urban food systems family farmers to consider the needs of the cities as well as those of farming communities.



Contribution to sustainable food systems

With the support of the Forest and Farm Facility programme in Kenya, Forest Farm Smallholder Producers Association, assisted family farmers build a growing avocado market in Europe, which has had positive impacts on family farmers' incomes. Women make important contributions to the agricultural and rural economies. They play a vital role in growing, processing and marketing food in Kenya. This is why the Association of Women in Agriculture Kenya (AWAK) has taken action to value their role in achieving sustainable food systems. AWAK promotes women leadership for sustainable food systems, by supporting women farmers and agri-entrepreneurs with technology, finance, trainings, and legal rights, and facilitating their access to markets and infrastructure at scale.

Useful links

[FAO in Kenya](http://www.fao.org/kenya/fao-in-kenya/en/)

www.fao.org/kenya/fao-in-kenya/en/

[UNDEF](http://www.fao.org/family-farming-decade/home/en/)

www.fao.org/family-farming-decade/home/en/

[Family Farming Knowledge Platform](http://www.fao.org/family-farming/home/en/)

www.fao.org/family-farming/home/en/

[Family Farming Campaign](http://bit.ly/37zaOyi)

bit.ly/37zaOyi

[Forest and Farm Facility](http://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/en/)

www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/en/

[FFSPAK](http://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/en/)

www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/en/



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Kenya – A story on Avocado exports to Europe

“Before the FFF project, I faced many challenges in marketing the avocado produce from my farm,” says Paul Mitei, a farmer from Kiptoben Village, Nakuru County, Kenya. Paul had no idea of how the value chain of the avocado and tomatoes fruit farming worked. Furthermore, he did not know about the proper inputs that are critical to avocado cultivation or the necessary requirements to meet the market demands. To improve his knowledge and capacity on the avocado value chain, he joined the Nakuru Small Holder Fruit Producers Association (NESFPA) with the hope of higher sales of his farm produce. He now produces high value fruit, which he exports to Europe. Paul currently has 104 avocado fruit trees out of which 15 were fully mature by last year. Out of the 15 matured trees, he harvested 500 kg last year and sold at KES 120 per kg. NSAFPA distributed high-quality seedlings to farmers on a policy of 50 percent co-financing. Farmers would for example buy 10 avocado seedlings and be given another ten seedlings as a bonus. This initiative was embraced so well that in a short time, all members had increased the number of fruit trees on their farms tremendously. The matured trees have increased the volumes and quality of fruits, which has also allowed access to export markets. The NESFPA example demonstrate the transformation that can occur when farmers come together with the will and drive to take charge their lives.



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