

EC Partners

University of Nairobi,
College of Agriculture
and Veterinary
Sciences

Technical Centre for
Agricultural and Rural
Cooperation ACP-EU

Kenya Agricultural
Research Institute &
Forum for Agricultural
Research in Africa

Stockholm
Environment Institute

UNITAR

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution:
€ 51,000
- Duration: 2007-2008
- Geographical area:
Kibwezi and Kajiado
districts (Kenia)



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Food security

Strengthening the adaptive capacity of rural poor to water scarcity in drylands, Kenya

Advancing Capacity to Support Climate Change
Adaptation (ACCCA)

"Despite the difficult political situation in the country prior to and especially after the elections, the project activities have picked up well, and we achieved what we set out to do. The success of the project can mainly be attributed to its relevance for the community."

Dr Agnes Mwang'ombe, College of
Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences,
University of Nairobi



Context

Water is the most limiting factor in crop and livestock production in arid and semi-arid lands of Sub-Saharan Africa. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the capacity of dryland communities to cope with the impacts of climate change, improve food production and ultimately livelihoods.

Objective

- Work with communities to analyse the impact of water harvesting practices on their livelihoods
- Identify mechanisms of effective rainwater harvesting as a tool against frequent droughts
- Define effective water harvesting methods and build the capacity of stakeholders

Impact

- Farmers have developed mechanisms to cope with the dry conditions (34% have constructed dams for rainwater harvesting as a coping strategy)
- Agro-pastoralists perform early or dry planting, planting drought tolerant and early maturing crops, water harvesting using micro-catchments, terracing, planting trees and reducing water use
- For livestock, agro-pastoralists use rainwater harvesting using roof catchment, sinking boreholes and digging shallow wells in dry river beds

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The way forward for dryland areas in southeastern Kenya, as seen by a farming lady in Shamba

The effects of climate change can already be experienced by the farmers and especially those in drylands and other fragile ecosystems. There is a need to upscale the technologies of rain water harvesting to alleviate the water scarcity problem.

Since most of the farmers are resource poor, there is a need to inject capital to help the farmers construct reservoirs for rain water harvesting.

Training is needed to equip the farmers with other inexpensive, locally tested ways of run-off harvesting which is already used by some farmers.

Reforestation programmes are needed, and drought tolerant tree seedlings should be made available to the farmers.



Reseeded land using indigenous grass seeds but combined with micro water catchments