Executive summary

This report evaluates the implementation of the Matanel Educational Farm, a pilot project in Misungwi district in Mwanza region funded with the seed funding provided by the Matanel Foundation. The report, which covers the period between November 2018 and June 2019, evaluates progress toward meeting projected goals related to youth recruitment, training, marketing and crop and livestock production/sales, as well as community development outreach activities.

Despite various challenges faced during the reporting period, we have made impressive achievements in relation to set activities and expected results. Mobilization and recruitment of youth was fully achieved as more youth wanted to join the program than the organization was able to accommodate. Participant training was also successful, though limited owing to 1) limited resources, and 2) our decision to create an environment in which participants to slowly adjust to the transition from traditional farming practices to modern, more sustainable agricultural practices.

Through proceeds from crop sales and other funds, we were able to secure 15 acres of land along the shore of Lake Victoria in Sengerema District where future activities will be implemented as part of the Kaima Tanzania Village Farm, per our strategic plan. Additionally, our sunflower pilot farm in Misungwi for youth and the community at large was exceptionally successful, having drawn positive attention by the government which is now ready to promote additional local sunflower farming projects to commence during the 2019/2020 farming season.

Project description

The Matanel educational farm project is a pilot project which seeks to lay the foundation for Kaima village that will serve as an agricultural training centre where youth and small-holder farmers will be trained in the best practices in sustainable agriculture. The project is being implemented in Misungwi District in Mwanza Region but will subsequently be expanded into other areas of the region starting with Sengerema District as the next operation area. The major goals and objectives of the project included mobilization and sensitization of youth and community members on the importance effective participation in sustainable agricultural practices; awareness creation on the impacts of climate changes on agriculture and rural livelihoods in general and the need for and communities to adapt to climate changes; establishment of the Kaima village as an agricultural training center as well as designing and implementation youth and small-farmer capacity building programs. To achieve these goals and objectives, several activities were planned and implemented.

Planned activities, expected results and success factors

1. Planned activities:
A. Youth recruitment and integration
   - To recruit 10 youth (ages 18-24 years and involving both genders) by June 2019
   - To provide 10 young farmers with microfinance and supporting their start and management of their own farms.

B. Training and empowerment activities
   - To train 10 young farmers to cascade the knowledge to their fellow young farmers
   - To teach young farmers improved agricultural methods that will help shift the narrative and practices around agriculture, providing their communities with opportunities and technologies to transition from subsistence farming to sustainable agribusiness, thus creating income and maintaining food security.

C. Purchasing of land for the Kaima Tanzania Village Farm
   - To identify and purchase of land to be used to establish the Kaima Tanzania Village Farm to serve as a more sophisticated platform for youth empowerment through agricultural training.

D. Partnerships and network building
   - To establish partnership and networks to enhance Kaima Tanzania’s organizational capacities and contribute to effective project implementation.

E. Community development outreach activities
   - To design and implement community development outreach activities that will enhance our goal of promoting holistic community development.

2. Expected results:
   A. To empower young farmers to help shift the narrative and practices around agriculture, providing their communities with opportunities and technologies to transition from subsistence farming to sustainable agribusiness, thus creating income and maintaining food security.
   B. To improve access to increased agricultural knowledge and encourage adoption of agricultural innovations to enhance agricultural productivity, sustainable agriculture and reduce unemployment and poverty among youth.
   C. To increase participation of youth and small-holder farmers in sustainable agriculture.
   D. To improve agricultural production, productivity and profitability as a result of adoption of best agricultural practices.
   E. To reduce youth unemployment and poverty in general.

3. Success factors:
   A. Availability of resources required to implement the project
   B. Timely provision of resources including financial resource
   C. Support from the community and local government authorities
   D. Adequate youth and community awareness of the vision and mission of Kaima Tanzania as well as its goals and objectives
Evaluation

To evaluate the success of the project, the organization developed a monitoring and evaluation tool. The tool addressed issues including recruitment, participant behavior and attitudinal change after project engagement; increased income from participants’ agricultural projects; and skill acquisition based agronomist technical advice. Simultaneously we also gathered important information on market dynamics; disease and pest control; price per crop based in the particular season; water management; and more. Highlights follow below:

1. **Youth recruitment and integration:** Seed funding provided by the Matanel Foundation enabled Kaima Tanzania to recruit and engage 10 individuals (6 male and 4 female) in the cultivation of various vegetable crops and papaya trees. Many went on to establish their own farms and catering operations. We successfully worked with 30 additional youth who participated on the farm during planting season when the demand for extra labor increases. The main challenge in relation to this aspect was limited resources to accommodate the large number of youth and other community members who showed interest.

2. **Training activities:** Through both on- and off-farm training activities, participants demonstrated high levels of the ability to apply the improved agricultural practices such as identifying what was there before cultivating, crop rotation, land preparation, application of the organic fertilizer and effective crop spacing as learned at the Kaima farm. One group of 4 youth has established their own onion farm in Sawenge village and Masawe village and are using this newly created network to work together and support each other so as to reduce costs. The major challenges faced related to our limited training capacities as well as lack of modern farming facilities and technologies at the farm so as to enhance the trainees’ awareness of modern farming technologies and practices.

3. **Purchasing of land for the Kaima Tanzania Village Farm:** Utilizing revenue realized from farm sales, we were able to make an upfront payment for 15 acres of a land in Sengerema district that will serve as the permanent headquarters of the organization. This was a great achievement since permanent land for the organization means that there is a place where the youth will be meeting to learn agricultural skills. It also means that volunteers, and other people (local and international) interested in the organization can easily come and stay at the village for the purposes of learning, conducting research, or even doing voluntary services related to youth and community empowerment. With this achievement the organization is planning to construct a building where youth will start staying and learn about cow, goat, and sheep rearing; fish pond management; and local seed preservation. The great challenge with regard to this activity was, and still is, how to mobilize adequate resources to enable the establishment of the Kaima Tanzania Village Farm.

4. **Partnerships and network building:** Seed funding in the form of a three-year commitment from the Matanel Foundation has been key to our capacity to sustain ourselves and provide youth education during the start-up phase. The evaluation found that this support has also been instrumental in enhancing the visibility and recognition that Kaima Tanzania has gained within a very short period of time. Consequently, others have joined our network, including Netafim, an Israeli manufacturer of irrigation equipments. Of course, we receive significant assistance through our collaboration with Matanel-supported Kaima Beit Zayit, which has agreed to donate irrigation kits to better position us toward realizing our goal of mechanizing agricultural practices.

Also as part of the growing organizational visibility and recognition, InterLoc Development an Israel development company has agreed to enter into contract with Kaima to buy and install a sunflower machine (to be purchased in August 2019). This was made possible after demonstrating
the positive results of our sunflower pilot farm. With this partnership in process, the objective of promoting the Israel-Tanzania grassroots collaboration to further local development is almost becoming a reality.

Recognition and support from the government authorities have been vital throughout the period of the project implementation, enabling us to start to integrate youth and small-holder farmers into the efforts to promote commercial sunflower production in the district. The organization will also be provided with sunflower seeds to be used for demonstration purposes.

Currently, we are exploring partnership and collaboration opportunities with Kamilongo farm and TAITA farm, two commercial farming companies with experience in commercial farming. The evaluation found that such opportunities will enhance the organization's plans to expand its crop base as well as improve its economies of scale. At the moment Kaima Tanzania and the two companies are exploring the possibility of integrating the youth into wheat and sunflower production in the Manyara region of Tanzania. For the year 2019, 100 acres of wheat was cultivated.

5. Community outreach activities: As part of its community outreach activities, the organization planned and implemented some community mobilization and sensitization activities so as to enhance both the youth and community awareness of the adverse effects of climate changes and of the need for them to adapt to climate resilient agriculture. The main challenges with this endeavour included limited human resources to carry out the planned community outreach activities as well as limited financial resources to fund the implementation.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Conclusions: This report analyzed the activities implemented at the Matanel Educational Farm in Misungwi District in Mwanza region as well as the challenges faced during the initial implementation period. Generally, we achieved most of the set goals, thanks to support received from the Matanel Foundation. These achievements aside, we still must address the very real challenges related to securing the necessary financial and human resources required for project scalability and sustainability, particularly given our plans to transition from a pilot farm into a more sophisticated Kaima Tanzania Farm Village.

2. Recommendations: Given the above, we recommend that the seed funding program be extended into project expansion support so as to ensure continuity of the project. This should also be integrated with other capacity building initiatives such as staff training, participant training, and partnership and networking capacity building, to mention just a few.