IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

MATANEL EDUCATION FARM PROJECT AT MISUNGWI & Sengerema-Mwanza

JULY, 2020

Organization name: Kaima Tanzania
Project full title: A Matanel Education Farm
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THE REPORT

1. Introduction

This report examines the ongoing activities of Kaima Tanzania’s pilot farm project, in the Misungwi district, and early progress of the newly established Kaima village, in Sengerema district of Mwanza Region, in Tanzania. Both are identified as Matanel Foundation Educational initiatives, implemented by Kaima Tanzania. Kaima Tanzania is a local NGO working to empower young people (ages 14-24) in rural Tanzania and encourage them to take pride in sustainable agriculture as a means towards eradicating youth unemployment and poverty. Support from the Matanel Foundation was directed to help underwrite participant stipends, initially on the farm and ultimately at the village. This report expounds on that undertaking and reviews our 2019-2020 progress and challenges, as well as forecasting future plans.

2. Summary

Established in 2018, the Matanel Educational Farm has allowed Kaima Tanzania to develop and test basic assumptions about our educational programming and operating model as a precursor to Kaima’s larger-scale educational village. Once fully functioning, the village will serve as a regional agricultural and vocational training centre where youth and small-holder farmers will be trained in sustainable agricultural practices and vocational skill-building. Indeed, experience gained from the Misungwi district pilot farm has allowed us to scale our operations in the Sengerema District ahead of schedule.

A. The farm: Throughout the reporting period, farm activities focused on youth recruitment, community outreach, partnership building, fundraising and agricultural activities. We successfully generated appreciable levels of income at our pilot demo-farm through the sale of our sunflower, papaya and tomato harvests.

B. The village: Income generated through the farm helped us purchase land for the village, which is already allowing us to expand crop diversity, provide new educational programming, and extend our reach within the region.

Youth at the newly established Kaima Village in the Sengerema District in 2020
3. Details

A. Youth recruitment: A total of 45 youth were trained both at the farm in Misungwi and the village in Sengerema. This cohort is now able to implement the project by producing and selling varieties of horticultural crops, including tomatoes, cabbage, okra, watermelons, cucumbers, and onions.

B. Establishment of Matanel Educational Village: Self-generated income through farm sales helped pay part of the costs of acquiring the land for the village, our principle achievement of the past year.

- In terms of physical development, we prepared the land by hand and are building all necessary outbuildings ourselves, using recycled burned bricks as well as those we make ourselves. We are constructing the roofing using a variety of local grasses. This is an ongoing process.

- In terms of our pedagogic activities, we are already beginning to implement a number of new activities, including skill-development, vocational training, and enrichment through sports and team building.

- In terms of agricultural income-generating activities, we have started to introduce new crops not usually cultivated in the region such as carrots and onions. In addition, we planted 1,500 additional banana plants, for which we have received income through fair-market sale of seedlings to local farmers. We also piloted a successful, small-scale African catfish ponds, an initiative we hope to scale up in 2021. We are particularly proud of our project to collect, catalogue, develop and store local/indigenous vegetable seeds with the goal of establishing a regional seed bank and facilitating a number of productive projects such as vegetable and particularly sunflower production.

C. New partnerships: In addition to our collaboration with the Matanel Foundation we have also established the Bethel-Kaima Tanzania Partnership with the local Bethel Children Support Organization dedicated to youth empowerment and strengthening families in pursuit of a brighter future. This undertaking seeks to integrate ICT (Information and Communication Technology) into agricultural and other community development activities. In time, this investment will allow us to establish an ICT hub at the village to better integrate ICTs in farming and development activities and bridge the informational gap that has contributed to the failure of many youth-led and rural projects.

D. Vocational skill-development: As part of our holistic approach, we are starting to integrate new vocational and entrepreneurial training programming, most notably through our tailoring workshop. The workshop’s long-term goal is to add to the skill-base and encourage self-employment in yet another field for youth from very poor families to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and their communities.

E. Community development: Borrowing from Israel farming sector innovation, Kaima Tanzania has started installing drip-irrigation units in private households on a small scale. In addition to helping our own community develop smart water-usage practices, this educational program is yet another income generating-activity.

4. Challenges

A. Related to COVID-19: As reported previously, our sunflower farming project, initially piloted at our prototype farm, demonstrated to both local authorities and the general public the crop’s potential as a sustainable climate change resistant product. The success of this
early undertaking motivated Misungwi governing bodies to assign Kaima Tanzania the task of developing a partnership proposal to promote further awareness of the benefits of sunflower production throughout the district. Unfortunately, for the foreseeable future, the global pandemic has forced suspension of the undertaking and our proposed collaboration with Interlock Development Ltd, an Israel based company that was to provide an oil extracting machine.

B. Agricultural challenges:

- Heavy rainfall in 2019/2020 flooded some of our crops at the farm. This led to a decision to temporarily switch to rice farming.
- Diseases and pests remain a challenge at the village
- Lack of sufficient funding to purchase and install agricultural inputs such as mechanized drip irrigation

C. Limited resources: Limited resources have impacted our ability to:

- Implement a number of planned community outreach activities and mechanization of operations at the farm
- Meeting administration costs
- Accommodate a continually increasing number of youth interested in our agricultural programming, and integrate girls in our vocational training project

5. Future plans: With the right funding, we plan to:

A. Develop and facilitate new skill-building activities. Here the focus will be on carpentry, masonry and other vocational training workshops, with particular attention paid to activities that engage girls and young women.

B. Link the two districts in which we currently operate: One idea is to prepare joint sunflower farming promotion activities in both Misungwi and Sengerema districts.

C. Facilitate the formation of youth and small-holder farmers groups: We will help young people formulate their own operating plans and register their new businesses with the authorities. In addition with our ongoing pedagogic work to prepare them for independent farming, we hope to also establish a Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) to assist them as well as encourage them to develop local and international connections to enhance their own organizational capacities.

D. Promote community awareness: We will continue to conduct community awareness activities regarding climate change and its causes, consequences, and methods for adaptation and mitigation. Focus will be placed on encouraging the community to invest in resilient crops such as sunflower, cassava, and millet and to reduce dependence on rain-fed agriculture.

E. Strengthen the Kaima Village and organizational capacity: With the pilot phase entering its final phase, more focus will now be placed on strategic functioning. This will include bolstering our organizational capacity as well as intensive site, activity, and business planning to promote sustainability and, in time, scalability.

F. Integrate ICT in farming activities: We hope to further our partnership with Bethel as we integrate stronger e-Agriculture practices into our own activities and encourage our offspring farmers to consider the benefits of collecting, storing, analyzing, and sharing electronic data. We maintain that this will help enhance the agricultural value chain and increase efficiency.
G. Mechanizes select farm operations: To enhance efficiency and effectiveness, we will have to purchase and use modern farm equipment, machinery and tools. This will allow us to build and strengthen our organizational capacity in key areas such as crop processing and fundraising. Mechanization of farming operations will help the organization to realize the goal of transforming agriculture from traditional farming practices to more productive and profitable practices.

6. The way forward

Our operating model relies on a cost-sharing formula with income-generation through farm sales and other services playing an appreciable role. In this effort, we may consider developing the village as a resource for organic foods whereby traditional and organic meals will be provided to through “organic food tours” to people who want to know more about local foods and drinks and about the value of eating ecologically-friendly foods.

We are also considering other new undertakings to engage visitors including self-harvesting as well as sales of smoked fish, herbal tea, and handmade soap and cosmetics. In time, we will further explore livestock, organic poultry farming, beekeeping, and more.

Clearly, philanthropy need continue to play a strong role in both sustaining and scaling the project. We greatly value the vital support received from the Matanel Foundation and hope to continue this collaboration into the future.

Thank you, Matanel Foundation
Teaching the value of eating ecologically-friendly foods

Israeli volunteer training mothers to make pads
Banana, papaya and other vegetable watering activities at Kaima Village

Cucumber seed preservation

Collected traditional seeds

Kaima Village
Working hard

Outside of tailoring training class room

Tailoring skill orientation Kaima Village
Kaima Village Youth Football Club

Football practice at Kaima Village