IMPLEMENTATION REPORT
MATANEL EDUCATION FARM PROJECT AT SENDEREMA-MWANZA
JULY, 2021

Organization: Kaima Tanzania
Project: A Matanel Education Farm
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THE REPORT

1. Introduction

This report examines the ongoing activities of the Kaima Tanzania pilot farm, in the Misungwi district, and early progress of the newly established Kaima Village, in the Sengerema district, in the Mwanza region. 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 pride in sustainable agriculture and other vocational endeavor as a means towards eradicating youth unemployment and poverty. Support from the Matanel Foundation has helped underwrite participant stipends on the farm and at the village. This report (our third of three) reviews our 2020-2021 progress and highlights select future plans.

2. Summary

Established in 2018, the Matanel Educational Farm (The Farm) has allowed Kaima Tanzania to develop and test basic assumptions about our pedagogic programming and operating model as a precursor to our larger-scale Kaima Educational Village (The Village). Once fully functioning, the latter will serve as a regional agricultural and vocational training centre where a steady rotation of youth and small-holder farmers will be trained in sustainable agricultural practices and vocational skill-building in sectors in which there is a high demand for work.

3. The Farm

A. Youth participation: During this reporting period 51 youth (35 boys and 16 girls, ages 16 to 25) were trained in agricultural work and are now ready, with the right continuing support, to produce and sell a variety of crops on their own.

B. Agricultural activities: Throughout the reporting period, we introduced and/or expanded a number of crops. Currently, profits generated by selling our harvest and seedlings sustain 40% of our annual budget. Details on our agricultural output and the introduction of new methodology follows:

- **Bananas:** We will soon scale our banana crop from 1,500 plants to 2,500 plants. While it takes nearly 12 months for each plant to yield fruit, the crop is considered sustainable given its capacity to generate its own seedlings (banana suckers), which can be utilized by local smallholder farmers. (Smallholdings are farms that support a single family or small community with a mixture of cash crops and subsistence farming.)

- **Papaya:** We continue to grow papaya, a crop in high demand with excellent market opportunities in Mwanza. In addition to expanding our own yield, this past year we helped youth start their own offsite small-scale papaya farms and assisted other established farmers to scale existing crops.

- **Other crops:** We also introduced onions and garlic, the former having done considerably well. Additionally we grew and marketed other vegetables more common in the west, such as sweet corn, butternut squash, radishes, beetroots, green beans, and zucchini to appeal to expats now living in Mwanza. On a smaller scale, we also began growing vegetables that appeal to the local Chinese community.
- **Korean Natural Farming (KNF):** The KNF model utilizes natural microorganisms to produce fertile soil without the use of herbicides or pesticides. KNF training was facilitated by a visiting Glocal intern from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The practice is ideal for our curricula as it compliments other self-reliant, regenerative agricultural practices, such as permaculture and no-till farming.

4. **The Village**

The Village is essentially a living laboratory where young people learn and practice agricultural and non-agricultural skills in pursuit of economic independence. Many activities are income-generating, the profits of which help expand our crops; purchase masonry and carpentry tools as well as additional sewing machines; increase the number of huts we have been able to build; and purchase livestock, such as chickens, goats, sheep, and cows. Further aided by the Matanel Foundation and other supporters, we made much progress this past year. Below is a survey of some of our activities:

- **Vocational skill development:** We recognize the need to expand our educational offerings beyond the agricultural sector. While our successful tailoring program is described below, our carpentry and masonry skill development programming has also yielded impressive results, both within The Village and offsite. Under the supervision of local consultants, youth are building housing and furnishings including beds, shelving and tables for our own use. Some of the students are also being subcontracted to make windows and doors for local families. This is exactly the kind of organic ripple effect we projected would happen.

- **Special programming for girls and young women:** Unfortunately, many local girls leave school by the age of 14; most who do so, struggle to find meaningful employment and are highly vulnerable to sexual and/or workplace exploitation. To address this, we actively promote our vocational training unit as central to Kaima Village as a “place of hope and opportunity for youth.” Word about The Village spread rapidly, yielding more applications than we can currently accommodate. Even with limited resources, we have started to scale operations to train more unemployed girls and young women, particularly in the field of tailoring where there is a growing demand for skilled workers. We began 2020 with two sewing machines; income generated from the farm recently helped us purchase another eight.

- **Computer skill training:** At the request of our youth, we initiated a pilot program to teach basic computer literacy. Despite having only one laptop and without access to electricity, the program was very successful. With the right funding, we hope to expand the program by buying additional laptops, building a small classroom, and installing solar paneling to generate power.

- **Microfinance project:** Individual donations and income generated through our vocational training unit have helped us create a micro-finance project to support Kaima participants in establishing their own income-generating activities. Currently, we utilize the global Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model, a platform which facilitates the creation of communal, self-managed, self-capitalized savings groups funded in part through member contributions. Kaima’s Lenga Mbali VSLA youth lending program (Swahili for “the focus is always ahead”) is already being utilized by a number of our youth as they prepare to launch their own clothing business. Each Saturday, Kaima youth sell their clothing at local markets. To motivate the sewing student and connect concepts of learning and earning, 10% of the price of each garment sold is retained by the creator to help buy shares in the VSLA, which they can access as needed.
• **New product development**: We were privileged to have an intern from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Glocal MA Program work with us for four months to help with new product development. Among the many workshops she taught was one on making organic soap. Our youth are continuing to perfect the first product prototype. Once it is ready for market, and with the right funding in place, we will approach the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) for recognition and certification.

5. **Other partnerships**

A. **Bethel-Kaima Tanzania**: Our ongoing partnership with the local chapter of the Bethel Children Support Organization is advancing to the next phase as the organization will soon help us integrate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into our agricultural and other community development activities through a new pilot program at The Village.

B. **Able SIL**: This is a local organization that promotes youth employment, especially for young women, also focused on promoting ICT programming into The Village.

C. **Kanova dairy farm**: This past year we established a new partnership with Kanova Dairy Farm, whose professionals are teaching our youth to make dairy products, including cheese and preserved milk. Two youth participated in the pilot training and will now teach the methodology to other Kaima participants. In time, once production begins, we will add such items to the Kaima product line for sale to the public.

D. **Friends of Kaima**: Through our Friends of Kaima Tanzania initiative, we have mobilized other supporters, including an Israeli family helping to support our microfinance project.

E. **Community development**: To address some of the root causes of local youth marginalization, we have initiated a number of grassroots community empowerment programs. For example, we are facilitating a goat-keeping project to enable local women to pay for their children’s school fees and uniforms. In another effort, we are helping young artists record music and prepare them for local radio interviews. Though our microfinance project, we are supporting older adults, particularly grandparents responsible for raising grandchildren, to produce and sell banana seedlings.
6. Challenges

A. New government: Tanzania is undergoing great change. The country’s 5th president, John Pombe Magufuli, passed away in March 2021. Vice President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, immediately assumed the presidency. As with all regime changes, there is a restructuring of government leaders, even at the local level. This is, at least temporarily, interrupting ongoing discussions regarding our scaling issues.

B. COVID-19: President Samia Suluhu’s decision to introduce a COVID vaccine marks a positive change in Tanzania’s previous reluctance to recognize and fight the pandemic. With grave consequences, community readiness to take part in a vaccination program is lagging due to fear about potential side effects on fertility. This mindset has had a dangerous impact in the Mwanza region where cases are increasing at an alarming rate. Indeed, beginning in June, members of the Kaima team have experienced a number of deaths of family members and friends. In addition, horticultural purchases are down. The pandemic is continuing to affect program development and management owing to grief over the loss of loved ones; fear about economic stability; limits imposed by restrictions of movement; and more.

C. Agricultural challenges:

- **Delivery:** Without a vehicle to bring our products to market, we are currently using bicycles and wheelbarrows. Given that most of our crops are perishable, this is a tremendous burden.

- **Housing:** Accommodations are needed for participants in the tailoring program (particularly women) to remain onsite.

- **Storage:** Safe storage is needed for our growing inventory of sewing machines, carpentry tool boxes, and products we hope to soon create, including sweaters, hand bags, etc.

- **Drought:** The farm’s expanding size means that pumping water is not practical. Without a drip irrigation system in place, we must undertake flood watering, which is a laborious system and not sustainable in the long term.

- **Environmental:** Disease and pests challenge us on a daily basis.

D. Financial: Limited resources have continued to impact our ability to:

- Accommodate a continually increasing number of youth interested in our agricultural and vocational programming.
• Install a solar energy system to implement our computer skill training programming and mechanize operations by introducing drip-irrigation.
• Expand our nascent literacy program. Some of the youth, especially girls, cannot read or write, and struggle with measurements when making clothing.
• Produce new training materials for our tailoring project.
• Meet administration costs.

7. The way forward

With the right funding, we plan to:

A. Scale our future interventions in the Sengerema district: Reinforced by our past success, we hope to expand in this district.

B. Develop and facilitate new skill-building activities: Here our priority will be to engage more girls and women.

C. Pilot new agricultural programming: Our first priority is to establish a beekeeping project.

D. Facilitate the formation of youth and small-holder farmer groups: We seek to help young people formulate their own operating plans, register their new businesses with the authorities, and further prepare them for independent farming. In such effort, we will expand our micro-finance activities through the proposed Kaima Village Savings and Loan Association (KVSLA) and will encourage the development of local and international collaboration.

E. Promote community awareness: Within the limitations presented by COVID-19, we hope to find a safe way to expand our community awareness activities regarding the causes and consequences of climate change and methods for adaptation and mitigation.

F. Strengthen the Kaima Village and organizational capacity: This will require intensive site building, expanding our own sustainable crops, and developing an initial business plan to promote agro-tourism in the farm.

G. Integrate ICT in farming activities: We shall continue looking for funding to strengthen our partnerships with Bethel and Able SIL to provide Kaima youth with essential computer skills.

H. Expand our product line: We are working with a young generation of people eager to tap into their entrepreneurial inclinations. To that end, and to raise additional resources, we hope to expand sales of organic-fed poultry, smoked fish, herbal tea, and handmade soap and cosmetics.

I. Facilitate our “organic food tour” program for local and international visitors: This initiative—geared toward people who want to know more about local food and the value of ecologically-friendly consumption—was implemented in limited form this past year owing to the pandemic. We hope to launch this at a more appreciable level in the coming year.

J. Mechanize select farm operations: It is now essential that we operate with a sustainable irrigation system. Our first priority is to build a wind-powered sustainable irrigation system which will impact both the quality and quantity of our yield.

Even as we are beginning to generate funds help sustain our activities, philanthropy continues to play a strong role in both sustaining and scaling the project. We greatly value the vital support received from the Matanel Foundation (as well as encouragement in difficult times) and hope to continue this collaboration into the future.

Thank you, Matanel Foundation for everything!