

# Newsletter



## BUILDING HEALTHIER, INCLUSIVE, AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS IN WESTERN KENYA

In the pursuit of creating healthier, more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient food systems, ADS Western is on a transformative journey that aims to reshape the future of agriculture in Western Kenya. Supported by the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through welthungerhilfe kenya (WHH), we are championing sustainable farming practices designed to nourish communities and empower them to thrive.

These systems have the potential to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa by 2030, positioning agriculture as the key driver in tackling hunger, poverty, and environmental challenges. Our mission is to ensure that every farmer, every family, and every community shares in a future that is equitable, food-secure, and environmentally sustainable.

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### GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Through innovative solutions and a collaborative approach, ADS Western is committed to building a legacy that will impact generations—ensuring that Western Kenya becomes a beacon of agricultural sustainability and resilience for the entire continent



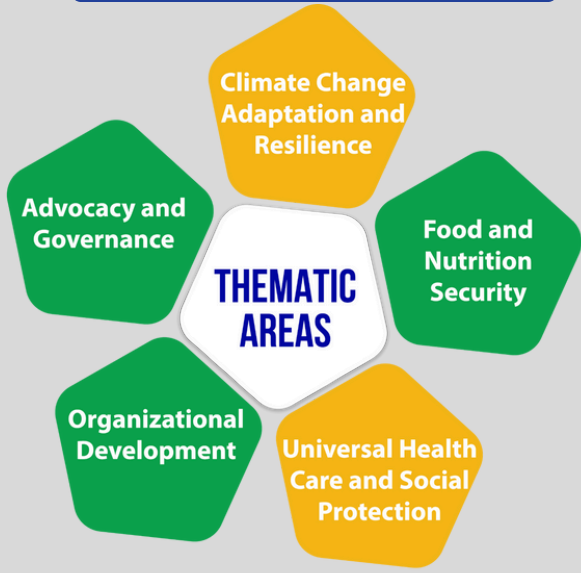
**IMPACTING LIVES SINCE 1997**



**“ ABOUT US >>>**

Anglican Development Services Western Region is a non-profit, Faith-based development organization registered on January 6th, 1997, as Anglican Church of Kenya –Western Region Christian Community Services (ACK-WRCCS). However, it was branded in 2014, giving its current name of Anglican Development Services Limited (ADS-W) in the context of a national realignment within the Anglicans Church of Kenya (ACK).

**THEMATIC AREAS**



**OVER 112,000**

LIVES IMPACTED

**OVER 41**

EXPERT TEAM

**12,000+ Farmers**

Trained on GAP in sweet potatoes value chain

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE**



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# SEE HOW FAR WE'VE COME WITH FARMERS IN SUSTAINABLE FARMING



  
ADS - WESTERN REGION  
Wholesome & dignified life



Member of Lumuli group ( in Bungoma County) attending to their demonstration plot

# 328+ LEAD FARMERS FROM SIAYA AND BUNGOMA COUNTIES TRAINED

The target group’s knowledge and application of sustainable production methods and technologies has significantly increased due to a series of targeted activities. One of the key initiatives was the training of 328 lead farmers from Siaya and Bungoma counties on agro-ecology and climate-smart farming technologies, focusing on the preparation of organic foliar, pesticides, briquettes, and bokashi.



Bungoma farmers preparing Bokashi fertilizer during the training.

These technologies have been crucial in reducing the cost of production and promoting environmentally friendly innovations, while also enabling the production of healthier organic food. The impact was extended to 23 farmer groups, enhancing crop health and reducing management costs. Additionally, high-iron bean seeds and charcoal coolers were distributed to multiple groups, supporting both food security and post-harvest preservation.

## 756 liters of vermi juice



Efforts to support farm inputs and soil and water conservation materials have resulted in impressive outcomes. For instance, 7 farmer groups adopting Black Soldier Fly (BSF) technology have reduced their production costs by 30%, especially benefiting pig and poultry farming. The integration of Azolla technology has also been impactful, with farmers harvesting up to 500 kg weekly for use in poultry, fishing, and pig farming. Vermiculture has further enhanced farm sustainability, as 756 liters of vermi juice have been produced and applied to various crops, promoting a cleaner farming environment. Follow-ups on green manure crop harvesting and distribution have bolstered organic farming practices.



# BUILDING SELF-SUSTAINABILITY FOR TOMORROW'S LEADERS THROUGH AGRICULTURE



Kevin Owino, a member of the Asali beekeeping group, holds a diploma in architecture from Eldoret National Polytechnic. Faced with a lack of employment opportunities, Kevin made the decision to venture into farming. He is now a beneficiary of the SUSTFARM project, which has provided him with valuable support and resources to kickstart his agricultural journey.

Choosing to follow in his father's footsteps, Kevin joined him in the agricultural sector. His father's success in farming, which helped fund Kevin's education, served as a motivating factor. Moreover, Kevin recognized that agriculture offers a viable livelihood option that doesn't demand significant upfront capital.

Within the Asali beekeeping group, each member is allocated a portion of land to cultivate various crops such as tomatoes, kales, bell peppers, in addition to engaging in beekeeping activities. The comprehensive training received through the SUSTFARM project has been instrumental in enhancing their agricultural practices, resulting in increased yields.

Embracing organic farming techniques has been a game-changer for the group. By minimizing the use of synthetic inputs, they've not only reduced farming costs but also witnessed a boost in their overall yields. Preferring indigenous seeds for their resilience and longevity, the group has found them to be less acidic and capable of maintaining freshness for extended periods.

## SOARING HIGH

**Despite the group's successes, Kevin faces challenges, particularly during the dry season. The high cost of fuel required to pump water, compounded by the reliance on generators due to the lack of water pumps, presents a significant financial burden. Furthermore, inadequate road infrastructure makes it difficult for tractors to access the farm, hampering efficiency.**



Kevin Owino, a member of the Asali beekeeping group

# FROM FARM TO PLATE



Charles Amolo, a member of the Ndati group in Siaya county, started sustainable agriculture back in 2019. The Ndati group, dedicated to agroforestry, vegetable cultivation, beekeeping, and sweet potato farming, found success with the inception of the Sustainable Farming (SUSTFARM) project. Implemented through Anglican Development Services Western (ADS Western) (Funded by WHH), this initiative has helped in equipping them with advanced farming techniques, consequently improving their yields and livelihoods.

Through the SUSTFARM project, Charles and his fellow farmers have been exposed to innovative methodologies, including the use of conical and vertical bags for vegetable cultivation within their kitchen gardens. Additionally, they have received training on vermicomposting and other sustainable agricultural practices. The provision of a solar-powered water pump by ADS Western has addressed their water scarcity challenges while simultaneously reducing operational costs

The adoption of vertical and conical bags has proven to be a game-changer, optimizing space utilization, enhancing yields, and boosting their revenue streams. Regular vegetable supplies to nearby schools have become a lucrative venture, yielding a minimum weekly income of KSHS 6000. Furthermore, the Ndati group has generously shared their newfound knowledge with neighboring farmers, promoting a culture of agricultural innovation within the community.

Organic farming has been widely adopted for its simplicity, accessibility of materials, and health benefits. Moreover, the provision of equipment for vermicomposting has brought



## SUCCESS STORIES

**Despite these successes, the Ndati group faces challenges such as the scarcity of potting bags for agroforestry and the rotting of beehives to damage during rainy season. Additionally, they have identified the need for centrifugal machines to streamline honey harvesting processes.**

about numerous benefits, serving as both fertilizer and supplementary feed for poultry and fish.

Beekeeping is another basis of their agricultural endeavors, with a current inventory of 10 beehives. Plans are underway to expand this operation, capitalizing on the profitable market for honey, priced at KSHS 1000 per kilogram

# PICTORIAL





**Madam Auma attending to her assorted vegetable farm in Siaya County**



**Kitchen garden set up with readily available materials in a demo farm**



**Madam Auma attending to her assorted vegetable farm in Siaya County**



**Traders at Ekeru market after support by SUSTFARM+ project with umbrellas**



**A farm of an adopting farmer from Siaya County with various crops ( showing diversification )**



**Traders at Ekeru market( selling their vegetables on wooden stands ) before support by SUSTFARM+ project**





*Kakamega Farmers preparing Organic pesticide during structural training*

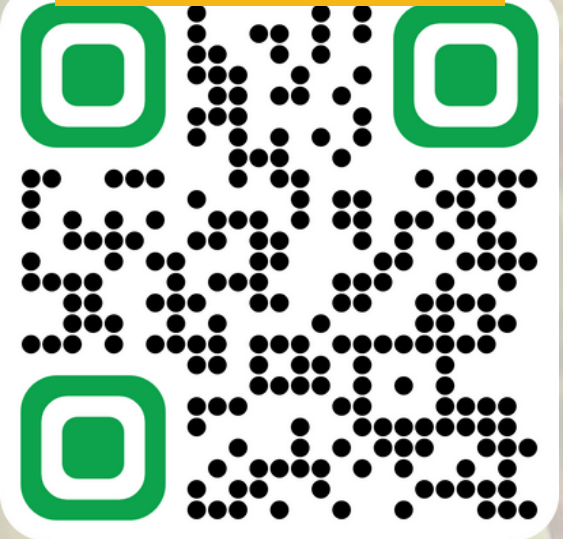


*Follow up visit to Jabali group, to check on the status of the adopting farmers and utilization of Biogas technology in Bungoma County*



*Ebwambwa primary school 4KClub members admiring their improvised kitchen garden*

**SCAN TO WATCH SUSTAINABLE FARMING VIDEO**



*Established vegetable garden*

# ADS WESTERN 2024



SCAN TO WATCH  
OUR VIDEOS



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