



KENYA STARLIGHT PROGRAM

Starlight Farmers' Co-operative Society LTD

JUNE 2019 PROGRESS REPORT



Presented by

LAUREEN MWIKALI NJUGUNA

Starlight farmers focused on enhancing peace & sustainable development

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

June was a busy month in the farms. The crops in the farms are growing well though we are experiencing rain shortage. The weather is chilly, which means that crop care has to be escalated to prevent the crops from being damaged by frost.

Potato seeds farming:

Potato seeds in the farm have started flowering. The growth has been good and the crop is healthy. The peas in the farm planted for seeds are also doing well.

During the month, the main activity at the farm was crop protection. The potato seeds and the peas are being sprayed after every 7 days to prevent frost due to the chilly weather.

Shangilia self-help group also planted 2 acres of potato seeds under starlight.

Milk Collection and Marketing:

During the month, milk production increased from 5887 litres in May to 6,369 litres in June. The number of farmers increased from 82 to 85

Due to the rains leading to availability of dairy feeds, milk quantities have increased.

Summary of milk sales from January 2019 are as below;

Month	Farmers served	Litres supplied	Total sales (Kshs)	Amount paid to farmers (Kshs)	Commission to the society (Kshs)
January	482	52,558.2	1,634,560.02	1,629,304.2	5,255.82
February	468	37,826.7	1,127,237.66	1,127,237.66	0
March	308	20,843.8	649,091.00	646,172.87	2,918.13
April	119	9,339.36	354,174.00	353,240.64	9,339.36
May	82	5,887.00	236,362.00	230,475.00	5,887.00
June	85	6369.50	257,234.00	250,864.50	6,369.50
TOTAL	1,544	132,824.56	4,258,65.68	4,237,294.87	29,769.81

Animal health and artificial insemination services provision:

Animal health and artificial insemination services were provided as summarized in the table below:

Month	No. of cows served with Artificial insemination	No. of cows treated	Diseases treated	Note
January	4	8	Calcium injection, udder wounds, ECF, deworming, multi vitamin, pneumonia.	-
February	2	5	Mastitis, Intra-irrigation, Pneumonia.	-
March	3	3	Mastitis, Pneumonia, Diarrhoea	There was low number of artificial inseminations due to drought.
April	1	1	Scours	There was low number of artificial inseminations due to drought.
May	4	0	None	-
June	3	2	Mastitis and postmortem	One of our farmers' dairy cow died hence a postmortem was conducted. The cow had died due to blorting
Total	17	19		

Field day:

Starlight participated in a field day organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries at the sub-county. Starlight office clerk and Animal Health Expert were in charge of the field day. The farmers visiting Starlight display were trained on potato seeds farming and dairy farming.

Collaboration:

June was a month of collaboration meetings and visits. Starlight representatives were involved in the following meetings;

1. Nakuru County Dairy Farmers Union

Co-operatives representatives, Sub-county and County Co-operative Officers and Livestock officers met during the month. The objective of the meeting was to strategize on how to mobilize the co-operatives to join the union and development of the union by-laws went on.

The County Co-operative Officer took the team through the requirements for formation of the union and the union registration process.

2. Nakuru Dairy Sector Stakeholder Forum

Starlight representatives participated in a dairy sector stakeholders' forum organized by the Nakuru County Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. The forum brought together all stakeholders in the dairy sector which include farmers who are producer, processors, retailers of raw milk, milk transporters, Dairy board of Kenya Nakuru Branch, Ministry of livestock, veterinary sector and feeds suppliers.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the progress in the sector, challenges facing the sector and ways in which the stakeholders in the sector can enhance collaboration.

3. Build Africa

Build Africa is an NGO in Kenya who have been potato seeds buyers of Starlight. During the month, they invited Starlight to a training on poultry feeds formulation. The objective of the training was to empower starlight to have the knowledge on how to produce the feeds for sale to Starlight farmers.

All Starlight farmers practise poultry farming at small scale hence this will be a plus to them. The main focus is to have dairy feeds and poultry feeds certified under Starlight, hence stocking own feeds in the input store.

4. Economic Project Transformation Facility (EPTF):

Through support from EPTF, plans for establishing the input store are going on well. The room identified is currently under renovation.

After renovation, stocking will take place. The input store will be operated from the office whereby the farmers will be placing their orders and checking out of the orders made will be done by the office clerk. This is because the funds given are not sufficient for employing a full time worker, hence this strategy will be used until the store is able to generate income for employing an extension officer. The main focus is ensuring that the store can sustainably run on its own.

Financial resources are also needed for ensuring that the store is well stocked and for certification of the dairy and poultry feeds.

5. Egerton University

Starlight has been collaborating with Egerton University which is a University based in Nakuru offering various trainings in Agriculture. Starlight received Apical cuttings potato seeds samples from the university for demonstration. This month, Professor Anthony Kibe (Associate Professor of Agronomy) together with a team of his students visited Starlight office to learn more on how Starlight has been doing potato seeds farming.

The University and Starlight are committed to partnering together to enhance potato seeds farming through learning from each other.

PRAYER ITEMS AND THANKS GIVING:

1. Thank God with us for provision of rains and pray with us that the rains will be sufficient and for the crops planted by farmers that the farms will be productive.
2. Thank God with us for provision of funds for establishment of the input store. Pray with us as we work on establishment of the input store that the leaders will make the right decisions and for God's provision for additional capital.
3. Thank God with us for the continued growth and the transformation in farmers' lives.
4. Pray for Starlight team that as we serve the farmers, we will always work diligently to the Glory of God.
5. Continue praying with us for God's provision of electricity at the cooler house.

PHOTO GALLERY:



Figure 1: Shangilia Self-help group potato seeds farm



Figure 2: Starlight Animal Health Expert Francis (in black jacket) training farmers during the field day



Figure 3: Poultry feeds production training



Figure 4: Egerton University team and Starlight team during Egerton's visit



Figure 5: Input store room renovation on-progress