



AGRA

Sustainably Growing
Africa's Food Systems

Building resilience of
smallholder farmers by
strengthening market
systems and enabling
policy environment in

Kenya



Kenya Strategic Plan:
2023 – 2027

Country Context



Kenya's Vision 2030 is supported by four pillars with a focus on the economic, social and political change needed in the country as well as enablers of macroeconomic stability.

The Ministry of Agriculture and livestock development (MoALD) is guided by the Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2018–2028 and quite recently by the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). The ASTGS prioritizes 9 flagships that aim to catalyze agricultural transformation in Kenya. The BETA approach aims at making food available and including disadvantaged communities to participate in economic development.



The government has since finalized the fourth mid-term plan, which runs from 2023–2027. This plan focuses on transforming the agricultural sector to be modern, commercial, and competitive while aligning with various regional and international commitments. The plan also recognizes the importance of collaboration with County Governments and various stakeholders.



AGRA's 2023–2027 strategy will build on previous models, successes and impact developed over the past decade to strengthen market systems and build small holder farmer resilience to support Kenya enhance food security and resilience.

The Bottoms Up – BETA approach – has also been included in Kenya's fourth midterm plan. The plan recognizes that agriculture is a devolved function and as such, the National Government seeks to continue to embrace collaboration and partnerships with County Governments, development partners, private sector, and farmer organizations to improve the wellbeing of farmers, fisher folk and pastoralists. Further, the private sector is expected to act as a catalyst for renewed growth in agriculture. This will safeguard real farm incomes and ensure availability and access to quality food.

Some of the policies earmarked for finalization include Agricultural mechanization policy; Agricultural soil management policy; Organic agriculture policy; Kenya Leather Development Policy; Veterinary Laboratory Policy; and the Kenya Livestock Master Plan. The programmes mainly focus on agricultural sector productivity improvement; food and nutrition security; value chain development; market access and trade; climate change; agricultural inputs; youth, women and vulnerable groups and co-operatives; institutional capacity development; and policy and legal framework.

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Achievements in Kenya 2017 - 2021

AGRA partnered with development organizations, private sector business member organizations, national and county governments, civil society and local Community Based Organizations to pilot test and scale solutions for Kenyan agriculture.

These partnerships complemented debt and grant financing provided to the agriculture sector by the World Bank, European Union, International Fund for Agricultural Development, African Development Bank, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, USAID and Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office among others.

In our last strategy 2017-2021, we had some significant achievements that include:

- AGRA has worked with the Government of Kenya to develop and launch the Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy 2018-2028, which is guiding government interventions to drive agricultural transformation.
- AGRA also supported the development of the digital agriculture strategy, an institutional capacity assessment, and worked with the Ministry of Agriculture to develop or review various policies, bills, or regulations related to the sector.
- AGRA has supported the Ministry of Agriculture in designing the National Value Chain Support and E-Voucher programme to provide subsidized inputs to maize, potato, rice and coffee farmers.

The programme has registered close to

1 million

smallholder farmers, of whom

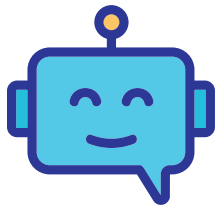
130,000

have received subsidies in the last three planting seasons.



We have also identified and trained

2,196



Village Based Advisers and developed an Agrichat bot to enhance engagement with farmers during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Over

40,000

smallholder farmers have engaged with the application, while 14,404 have already started adopting regenerative agriculture practices.



Achievements in Kenya 2017 - 2021

- 65,809 farmers sold over 101,036 Metric Tonnes (MT) of crops valued at \$60,865,719 through strengthened trading mechanisms. AGRA also supported 26 youth-owned enterprises, helped 1,186 SMEs access credit worth \$39,084,537, and enabled smallholder farmers to access \$231,400,388 in credit, creating 232 new jobs.

- AGRA produced



8,069MT

of improved seed varieties through supported enterprises and participated in the African Seed Access index assessment for Kenya. We are also helping review the national seed policy.

- We worked with private sector partners to strengthen investment frame works and to unlock policies. We also donated 13,000 MT of fertilizer and 400 MT of seed, and unlocked

\$17,601,993

in new investment in agriculture. Additionally, the Value4her platform was launched, which supported three women owned SMEs, and the sustainable Land Management Programme resulted in the planting of



300,000

trees in Kakamega forest.

- AGRA's regenerative agriculture projects in Kakamega, Nandi and Vihiga counties of Kenya have seen about 4,451 hectares being put under sustainable land management practices, including conservation agriculture, agroforestry, soil and water conservation and integrated soil fertility management.

AGRA's Approach in Kenya 2023 - 2027

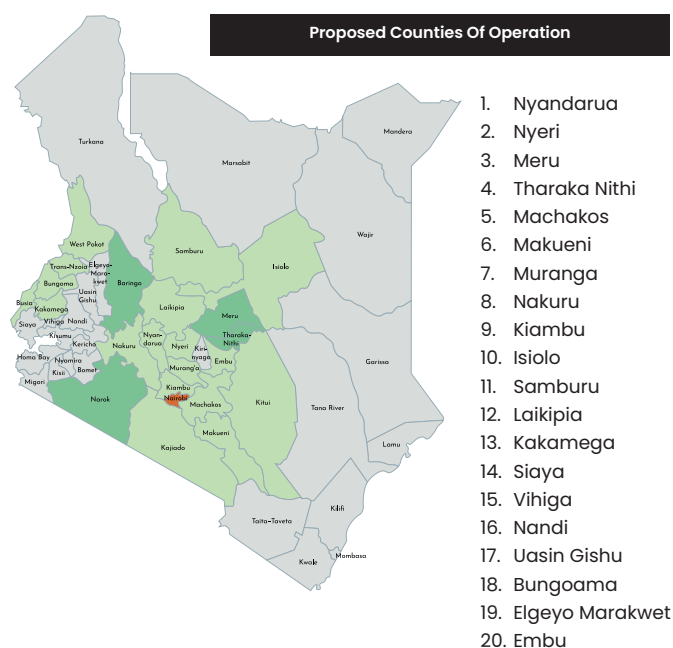
AGRA's Kenya Country Strategy aims to support the country's efforts to enhance food security and build the resilience of smallholder farmers by strengthening food systems.

Our strategic objectives in Kenya are to ensure:

- a) Strengthened and inclusive agriculture market systems and trade (domestic and export markets)
- b) Increased adoption of sustainable farming practices, including emphasis on diverse, nutritious and climate smart varieties
- c) Improving the enabling environment for agriculture transformation through strengthening seed regulatory frameworks, enhancing policy predictability and state capability to sustain agricultural transformation.

Proposed counties of operation

We propose to scale-up work in 20 counties in Kenya



We expect to meet our objectives through our four business lines:

a) Sustainable Farming



Sustainable farming practices ensure farmers can sustain and improve their yields – resulting in greater profitability. AGRA aims to target farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices that build livelihoods today and protect the environment for tomorrow.

- AGRA will seek to implement activities that build resilient production systems that enhance access to input and strengthen output markets for selected cereals.
- In Kenya AGRA shall invest in both Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) and high agricultural potential areas.

- For ASAL regions, AGRA will promote increased awareness and adoption of drought tolerant varieties.
- AGRA shall promote rainwater management practices that will entail storing and efficiently utilizing rain and surface water.
- AGRA will promote improved agronomic practices for higher water efficiency and productivity including smallholder level irrigation initiatives.
- Landscape level restoration of trees will also be promoted.

b) Seed System



In the past decade, AGRA focused on improving Kenya seed systems by supporting training of a new generation of crop breeders in Kenya's national research systems, who in turn have been able to breed and officially release new improved resilient crop varieties for different agroecologies.

This strategy aims to support Kenya through:

- Sustaining efforts aimed at facilitating seed companies to access resources including public land for seed production and licensing agreements with research institutions.
- Facilitating establishment/ strengthening of seed distribution associations for dialogue and advocacy for favorable seed business distribution environment
- Ensuring design and implementation of subsidy initiatives that avoid seed market distortions, promote private sector participation and support seed quality for farmers.
- Supporting the revision of the National Seed Policy and promote the growing of modern varieties with better traits to replace old ones

c) Inclusive Markets & Trade



AGRA aims to invest to enhance market competitiveness for farmers, while bringing nutritious food to consumers.

How this will be achieved:

- Support willing financial institutions to develop innovative financial products as well as facilitate access to risk share facilities from government and other entities.
- Improve cross-border trade and regional trade through policy and institutional support

d) Policy & State Capability



Through this business line, AGRA will support Kenya to develop strategies and investment plans for food system transformation pathways that create an environment where farming businesses thrive.

They will achieve this by:

- Supporting the Ministry and County Governments to Implement the Institutional Capacity Strengthening Plan:
- Supporting policy reviews, reforms of outdated policies, and Policy formulation for new and/or emerging areas.
- Strengthening Institutional and Organizational Capacities, including governance, leadership and financial management. This will include targeted capacity to support umbrella organizations – youth, women, private sector and farmers.
- Supporting both the National and County governments in the development, adoption and implementation of relevant policies, legislation, strategies and investment program by providing grants and technical assistance for agricultural policy development.

e) Inclusion



In Kenya, the median age is 20.1 years. This is low compared to the average age of a farmer, that is 60 years as per Ministry of Agriculture records. This is a clear need to transition farming to the youth and women in Kenya to feed themselves in the coming decades.

- AGRA will focus on women and youth with the aim to provide supported access to finance through the Rural Kenya Financial Facility that AGRA will be implementing with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Ministry of finance.
- Women and youth will also be included in decision making fora to support the development of friendly policies.
- Promote the implementation of youth and Women friendly policies to increase participation of youth and women in agriculture.
- Build capacity of women and youth led enterprises to ensure access to finance and markets
- Support women and the youth to better access and adopt sustainable farming practices

AGRA will also promote:

- Inclusivity to enable women and youth to contribute to agriculture for their economic empowerment.
- Climate change adaptation by equipping farmers and strengthening food systems to absorb and recover from shocks.
- Nutrition by improving nutrition outcomes by diversifying crops and ensuring food availability.

Delivery Model

Our partners are central to our approach to driving change. We are but one in a wide ecosystem of partners driving an inclusive agricultural transformation in Kenya and Africa. Our approach is to identify areas where we could have catalytic impact on the sector, and form partnerships that enable this systemic change. We will adopt different tools – including grants, funding, technical assistance, and convenings – depending on the needs of the country, our partners and the support required on the ground.

We will have bespoke delivery models in Kenya, depending on the areas of investment and our partners' strengths and capabilities. We will evolve our Kenya country delivery model to consider where we need to deliver ourselves, and where it is possible to influence and work with others in the eco system to deliver.

Also, at the core of how we deliver is inclusivity and environmental sustainability. AGRA will promote inclusivity by creating opportunities for women and youth to, not only participate, but also derive economic benefits from the agricultural sector. By fostering the inclusion of women and youth, we will empower them to become agents of change and catalysts for sustainable development.

Climate change adaptation, and nutrition in the agricultural sector is another key consideration across AGRA's work to ensure sustainable economic empowerment and resilient food systems.

About AGRA

Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, AGRA is an African institution supporting inclusive agricultural transformation and sustainable food systems. AGRA empowers smallholder farmers in Africa by convening and catalyzing the building of functional and inclusive agricultural food systems.

By rigorously testing and validating scalable models, we tailor our approaches to meet the specific needs and goals of each country and ensure that our approach is fully aligned with the national development priorities of our

focus countries. Furthermore, AGRA fosters partnerships, and networks essential for driving inclusive agricultural transformation. With an extensive network of over 5,000 partners spanning across our presence countries, we cultivate an inclusive environment that promotes local and global innovations. These strategic partnerships and networks enable us to leverage the expertise and resources of a diverse range of stakeholders, facilitating a more effective response to the challenges faced by smallholder farmers and propelling sustainable agricultural transformation across Africa.

Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa (PIATA)



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



implemented by



Our partners in Kenya:

1. African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI)
2. Agriculture Society of Kenya
3. AMTECH
4. ASNET
5. Cereal Growers Association
6. County Governments
7. East Africa Grain Council (EAGC)
8. East Africa Market Associates
9. Farm Africa
10. Farm Concern
11. Harvest Plus
12. ICRISAT
13. IFDC
14. IKEA Foundation
15. Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)
16. Kenya Fertilizer Association (KFA)
17. KEPSA
18. Local Development Research Institute (LDRI)
19. Ministry of Agriculture (Policy issues)
20. National Potato Council of Kenya
21. One CGIAR
22. Seed Trade Association of Kenya (STAK)
23. SNV