

## CVS PROJECT Monthly Report

**Grantee: FCI      Report for the month of: April 2011**

April marked the onset of the short rains in the Eastern region, thus the beginning of the planting season for most of the targeted grains. The following are the main activities implemented during the month:

- To ensure that farmers get optimum harvests, they were sensitized on the need to use certified seeds which are appropriate for their production zones.
- Farmers were linked to agro dealers such as fertilizer stockists, seeds stockists; among others. Collective sourcing of inputs enabled the farmers get the inputs at discounted prices and in good time.
- Awareness campaigns were held to recruit more farmers in the CVS project.
- Bulking of grains has been facilitated in Meru - enhanced household storage facilities and commercial village storage units served as transitional stores for bulking, prior to collection by identified buyers.
- Over 800 farmers were sensitized through several field days which were carried out under the CVS project.
- In Jinja, partnerships have continued to be fostered with input suppliers, traders and organizations to provide quality inputs and marketing opportunities as well as create awareness of the project activities.
- Stores were identified, renovated and branded in the three counties (Tharaka, Imenti south, Tigania West and Tigania East.)
- Final touches are ongoing on the farmers' database, which was created to enable real time tracking of beneficiaries under the CVS project.

Specific activities per site are detailed below;

### 1. Tharaka

Activities	Activity Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of commercial village stores</li> <li>• Stores identification and negotiation</li> <li>• Stores branding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Transition store was identified in Tunyai</li> <li>• Negotiation is ongoing to establish terms of engagements with the owner.</li> <li>• 2 Household stores models set up</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement of drying/quality control equipment and hermetic cocoons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fabrication and delivery of four Metal silos (as an alternative storage facility) completed.</li> </ul>
<p>Conduct trainings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective Marketing</li> <li>• Post harvest and</li> <li>• Quality management (Marketing sub-committees, Commercial Village sub-committees and Warehouse management committees)</li> <li>• Organize workshops and training forums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In partnership with local administration facilitated training on storage models with cereal farmers</li> <li>• Trained 48 Commercial Village group representatives in Tunyai on Quality Management and collective action to further disseminate information to the groups</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link input suppliers with commercial village producers</li> <li>• Hold field days</li> <li>• Collective sourcing for inputs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 input suppliers were identified and linked to Commercial Villages</li> <li>• Farmers’ centre in Meru and Agro solutions in Nkubu (for supply of agrochemicals) and NCPB Meru depot (for supply of seeds and fertilizer)</li> <li>• Data collection is in progress to ascertain the volumes traded.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create awareness on storage infrastructure services provided by FCI and COMPETE and benefits of utilizing this infrastructures.</li> <li>• Courtesy calls [ MOA, Provincial administration/Counties, Local NGOs, Group representatives]</li> <li>• Hold community forums / barazas and focus village meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held forums with the local administration to create awareness on storage models</li> <li>• Established partnership with RIDEP Kenya(NGO) to help create awareness and reach out more farmers</li> <li>• Group representatives training carried out in Tunyai (48 farmers in attendance) to help disseminate information to the commercial producer groups</li> </ul>

## 2. Imenti South

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Activity Status</b>
Creating awareness on aflatoxin and control	The following groups were sensitized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kananjiru women group (44 women)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mama Mutethia CPG (33 women)</li> <li>• Kanana CPG (36 women)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create awareness on storage infrastructure services provided by FCI and COMPETE and benefits of using this infrastructure.</li> <li>• Courtesy calls [MOA, Provincial administration/Counties, Local NGOs, Group representatives]</li> <li>• Hold community forums / barazas and focus village meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships were formed with KENFAP, KAPPAP &amp; MOA</li> <li>• 45 CPG leaders trained on management skills such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time management</li> <li>• Delegation</li> <li>• Managing people.</li> <li>• Project planning</li> <li>• Group dynamics</li> <li>• Group cohesion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Implementation of new technologies in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held demonstration forums for Maraa CV farmers on use of metal silos to improve on their storage.</li> <li>• The metal silos demonstration reached more than 300 farmers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link input suppliers with commercial village producers</li> <li>• Hold field days</li> <li>• Collective sourcing for inputs</li> </ul>	<p>Field days and demonstrations were held at Nkachie (Abogeta location)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained 72 farmers (32 women &amp; 40 men) on proper storage practices &amp; Market linkages.</li> <li>• Mwegeki Commercial Village (which consist of 5 commercial producer groups with 350 farmers) was trained on good agronomic practices</li> </ul>
<p>Conduct trainings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective Marketing:</li> </ul>	<p>Farmer's were trained on ways to ensuring maize competitiveness through observing the East African maize standards-EAS 2:2010.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post harvest and Quality management (Marketing sub-committees Commercial Village sub-committees and Warehouse management committees)</li> <li>• Organize workshops and training forums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaikiki CPG (26 men &amp;24 women)</li> <li>• Mama Mutethia (33 women)</li> <li>• Kanana CPG(18 women)</li> <li>• Kithangene CPG (14 men &amp; 13 women)</li> <li>• Ntakani CPG (12 women &amp;8 women)</li> </ul>
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### 3. Tigania West

Activities	Activity Status		Gender
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection, bulking cleaning, sorting, drying, storage</li> <li>• Collective bulking, sorting and quality control</li> <li>• Increase sales</li> <li>• Increase grain bulking and storage</li> <li>• Enhance record</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 287 bags (90kgs) of maize have been graded and bulked in Mbeu CV transitional.</li> </ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>keeping</li> <li>• Train on village stores management</li> </ul>			
<p>Conduct trainings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective Marketing</li> <li>• Post harvest and Quality management (Marketing sub-committees, Commercial Village sub-committees and Warehouse management committees)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 CPGS have been trained on store management, record keeping, collective marketing and documentation.</li> <li>• 57 CPG leaders were trained on storage and quality control.</li> <li>• Demonstrations held on using sampling spear, weighing scales, chemical application and use of moisture meter.</li> </ul>	9 male	25 female
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection, bulking, cleaning, sorting, drying, storage</li> <li>• Collective bulking, sorting and quality control</li> <li>• Increase sales</li> <li>• Increase grain bulking and storage</li> <li>• Enhance record keeping</li> <li>• Train on village stores management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 potential buyers were identified and negotiations are underway with Mbeu CV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mikunduri Stores</li> <li>○ Mr Julias Kiambati</li> <li>○ Mrs cathrine</li> <li>○ Mrs Karimi</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	16Male	41 Female

#### 4. Tigania East

Activities	Activity Status
<p>Conduct trainings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective Marketing</li> <li>• Post harvest and Quality management (Marketing sub-committees, Commercial Village sub-committees and Warehouse management committees)</li> <li>• Organize workshops and training forums</li> </ul>	<p>a) 13 group leaders from Marega commercial village trained (8 males and 5 females drawn from 8 groups comprising of 200 farmers)</p> <p>b) Focus group discussion on quality maintenance were carried out with farmers as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mutwiri farmers - 35 farmers</li> <li>• Gachiongo mwichuiri - 60males, Females 60</li> <li>• Kanja women group - 40 farmers</li> <li>• Bwana &amp; Kathiri - 21 females, 8 males</li> <li>• Marega borehole group</li> <li>• Mutethia women group - 30 (females)</li> </ul> <p>c) Awareness creation on Aflatoxin and control as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marega commercial village 200 farmers</li> <li>• Kiriene commercial village 200 farmers</li> <li>• Mlango commercial village 200 farmers in the field day.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection, bulking, cleaning, sorting, drying, storage</li> <li>• Collective bulking, sorting and quality control</li> <li>• Increase sales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grain bulking was done by three women groups, comprising of 130 farmers.</li> <li>• 226 bags of maize were stored.</li> <li>• 1 trader was brought on board. (Miss Mikaelina Amatu)</li> <li>• Prices at the bulking time was Ksh 1800 per 90 KG bag</li> <li>• Current price (at the end of April) is Ksh 2800 per 90 KG bag</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase grain collectively bulked and stored</li> <li>• Enhance record keeping</li> <li>• Training on village stores management</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create awareness on storage infrastructure provided by FCI and COMPETE and benefits of utilizing these infrastructure.</li> <li>• Courtesy calls [MOA, Provincial administration/Counties, local NGOs, Group representatives]</li> <li>• Hold community forums- barazas and focus village meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership (to create awareness on the need for food security crops) was formed with MOA –Mikinduri extension office</li> <li>• 1 cassava seed bulking site was started at Igurune primary school.</li> <li>• 1 sweet potato vines seed bulking site was started at Igurune primary school.</li> <li>• Collaborated with MOA to issue seeds of the orphaned crops to farmers in commercial villages.</li> <li>• Marega commercial village, comprising of 160 farmers in 5 groups benefited from the program</li> <li>• Kaguata commercial village -40 farmers from Makena mwanika women group benefited</li> <li>• Marega commercial village, comprising of 200 farmers also benefited</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link input suppliers with commercial village producers</li> <li>• Hold field day</li> <li>• Collective sourcing for inputs</li> </ul>	<p>Field day to train on cereal marketing and commercial village model was held at Mlango commercial village;200 farmers were trained on good storage practices</p>

Implementation of new technology in commercial villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers were trained on the hermetic technology.</li> <li>• Leaders were trained on the use of the metal silo i.e. 13 leaders of Marega commercial village, which represents 8 groups with membership of 200 farmers.</li> </ul>
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## 5. Jinja

Activities	Activity Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of commercial village stores</li> <li>• Stores identification and negotiation</li> <li>• Stores branding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 2 Stores have been selected for renovation and branding.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Butagaya in Kiwagama village</li> <li>• Buyengo in kitumbugulu village</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Branding is on going</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EAC simplified grain standards materials for producers and traders</li> <li>• Repackage the EAC Maize standards in simple and local languages</li> <li>• TOTs for EAC maize standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Trainings held and 10 Maize standard training hand books and 21 brochures were distributed to 10 CPGs.</li> </ul>

<p>Conduct trainings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective Marketing</li> <li>• Post harvest and Quality management (Marketing sub-committees, Commercial Village sub-committees and Warehouse management committees)</li> <li>• Organize workshops and training forums</li> </ul>	<p>321 farmers have been trained on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collective marketing</li> <li>• use of certified seeds</li> <li>• agronomic practices</li> <li>• commercial village model</li> </ul> <p>The 321 farmers were drawn from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 115 in Busede</li> <li>• 106 in Butagaya</li> <li>• 100 in Buyengo</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link input suppliers with commercial village producers</li> <li>• Hold field days</li> <li>• Collective sourcing for inputs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80 farmers sourced 160 kg of maize seed from ‘Modern Farmer’-an agro dealer in Jinja town</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create awareness on storage infrastructure provided by FCI and COMPETE and benefits of using these infrastructure.</li> <li>• Courtesy calls [ MOA, Provincial administration/Counties, Local NGOs, Group reps]</li> <li>• Hold community forums /</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 321 farmers have been sensitized on the storage structures</li> <li>• 7 Barazas and village meetings have been held</li> <li>• Meeting was held with Restless Development Organization at Butagaya Sub County; 22 Youth attended the meeting. Other Organizations which attended were; SACCO, NAADS and Rural Development.</li> </ul>

barazas and focused village meetings



Winnowing Maize



Sieving maize



Moisture testing



Stacking maize