

CARE INTERNATIONAL IN KENYA



**SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD SECURITY FOR VULNERABLE
HOUSEHOLDS IN NYANZA PROVINCE (DAK ACHANA) PROGRAMME**

**THE IMPROVED AGRICULTURE FOR SMALLHOLDERS IN NYANZA
PROVINCE (TASK) PROJECT**

**FINAL PROJECT DOCUMENTATION
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IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
1. PROJECT OVERVIEW	4
1.1. Project Objective	4
2. KEY ACTIVITIES	5
2.1. Summary Of Project Activities.....	7
3. PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS	8
4. COLLABORATION.....	12
9.CHALLENGES	12
10.LESSONS LEARNT	13
11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING	14
12.RESOURCES USE.....	14
15. COMMUNITY CONRTIBUTION.....	14

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

TASK is one of five projects in the five-year USAID funded Development Assistance Program (DAP) II referred to by CARE Kenya as Sustainable livelihood Security for Vulnerable households program in Nyanza province. The program is referred to as *Dak Achana* in local dialect, which means healthy households. Dak Achana II is a follow up of Dak Achana I which was initiated in 1998 after an extensive study revealed various livelihood problems in the region, among them, limited access to credit for agricultural development; declining farm production and unreliable produce market outlets and thus low farm based income.

The overall objective of The Improved Agriculture for Smallholders Western Kenya (TASK) project is *to improve, in a sustainable manner, food and livelihood security for 4500 vulnerable households in 7 districts in Nyanza province during FY 2004 – 2008.*

In DAP I, (October 1998-September 2003) TASK's primary focus was sustainable availability of food for the vulnerable households in Homabay, Suba and Rachuonyo districts. TASK II took a marked shift from training in technologies aimed primarily at staple food production to interventions that increase commercialization of agricultural production, such as marketing and transformation of smallholder agriculture from subsistence to market oriented production.

TASK II has scaled up activities initiated in phase I through increased diversification of on farm enterprises with improved agricultural and natural resource management skills to optimize food availability strengthen farmer organizations and develop markets to enhance increased returns from farm operations and access to food. The project continued to be implemented in Asego and Rangwe division in Homabay district, West Karachuonyo division Rachuonyo district, Mbita and Lambwe divisions in Suba district, Karungu division Migori district and Lower Nyakach and Nyando divisions in Nyando district, Maranda division in Bondo district all in Nyanza province.

1.1. PROJECT OBJECTIVE

By September 2008, 80 % of the targeted vulnerable households in seven districts of Nyanza province will have achieved new found, sustainable food security and incomes.

The above project specific objective was to be achieved by realization of the following intermediate results:-

Increased productivity of staple crops by 4500 households: This focused on formation and training of 90 Farmer associations in group dynamics, leadership, management of community institutions aimed at enhancing collective action among the members and introduction of good agricultural practices.

Increased adoption of small scale irrigated agriculture: This focused on use of water as an agricultural productivity improving input. Association members were trained in good irrigation practices for high valued crops. While most of the production is rain- fed, there were efforts to encourage use of small-scale irrigation practices with the smallholder farmers.

Smallholder irrigation adoption is evident in Nyando and Kisumu districts where paddy rice is produced on land rehabilitated through Food for Work efforts and in Homabay district where TASK has introduced production of the highly marketable basmati rice in Oluch area. Overhead irrigation was successfully introduced/demonstrated in Rusinga Island through collaboration with the UNDP funded Greening Rusinga Initiative where assorted horticultural crops are grown and feed both local and regional markets.

Tree planting was a key project activity. It was packaged as the “*Farmers’ pension scheme*” due to its long term yield. The activity targets planting of timber and fruit trees, mango being the most promoted.

Increased household revenue from marketed farm produce: This focused on production of market oriented high value crops. Individual farmers were trained to plan, produce and market collectively through their Associations to enhance economies of scale benefits. The associations were linked to Inputs / Service providers and the identified markets. Nyanza province is a net importer of almost all farm produce and so most of what is produced; especially horticultural produce is sold locally with some percentage sold through viable forward market contracts. Notable produce sold through forward contracts are:-

- Pineapple sold to Vegcare/Fresh and Juici.
- Basmati rice sold to National Cereals and Produce Board and
- Sunflower that is sold to Bidco Oil Refineries, and Arkays

Other farm produce, including green grams, were sold through global markets established in other regions in country.

A few farmers were linked to commercial Seed Companies for seed bulking and multiplication. This enabled them to achieve requisite recognition by Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) thus enhancing their potential for future seed production contracts with the private commercial seed merchants.

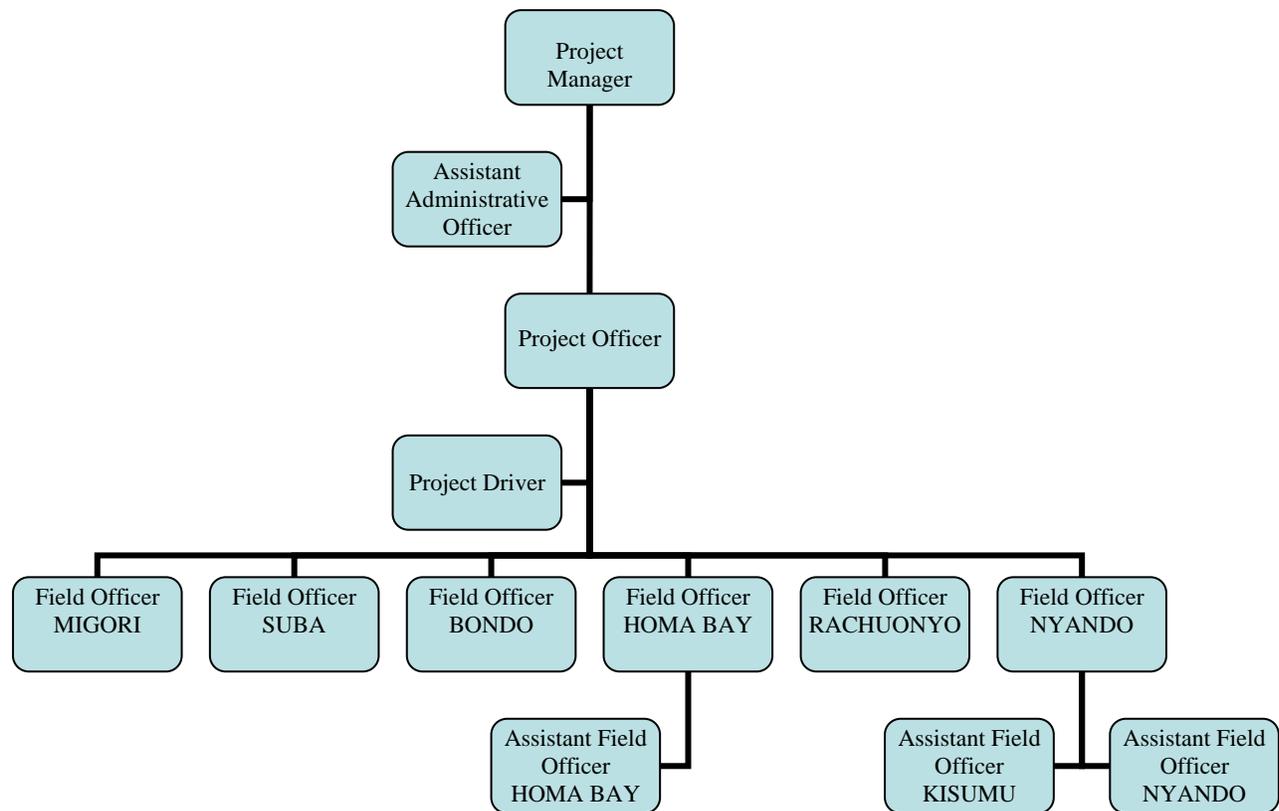
2. KEY ACTIVITIES

In the five years project life, the following key activities were undertaken towards project implementation.

I. STAFF RECRUITMENT AND TRAININGS

The project recruited staff to facilitate the implementation of the project activities. Four field officers were initially recruited to do the ground work in the initial four districts as a starting point. An additional Field officer and three Assistant Field officers were later added to the team to help accelerate delivery of services as the project expanded to other districts. The project organ gram is reflected below:

Fig 1. Project_Organogram



Staff Training

The project conducted orientation training to all her staff upon recruitment in April 2004. As a way of enhancing staff knowledge, the project offered the following training to the staff.

Table 1: Type of training and number of staff trained by the project

Area of training	No of staff	Trainer
Orientation to Programme/project activities and implementation strategies.	11	Dak Achana Programme
Eurep Gap	5	Care K Nairobi
Irrigation and Commercial Agriculture	9	TASK project
M & E	3	Program M&E Office
Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fist Aid ▪ Fleet Management ▪ Post Election Recovery Counseling 	All All All	Red Cross Care Kenya Amani Centre through Care Kenya

2.1. SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The following activities were undertaken throughout the project implementation period:

Table: Summary of Project activities

Activity	Objective	For Whom	When
Community entry process (community identification, mobilization, group identification and awareness creation meetings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To create awareness on project implementation strategy ▪ Identification of participating FAs and households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provincial Administration ▪ Community Leaders ▪ Target Participants ▪ Line ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2004
M & E activities (baseline, midterm, income proxy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To establish benchmark for future M & E activities ▪ To monitor progress ▪ To monitor income at household level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community, project, Programme, donor and stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2004 ▪ Every FY
Production/Technology Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide skills on good agricultural practices towards enhanced production and marketing ▪ To identify and promote high value crops/varieties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Farmer Associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuous
Acquisition and distribution of germplasm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To introduce certified seeds of high yielding crop varieties that were not available with the local stores ▪ To acquire assorted demo materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Farmer Associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2004 – 2008
Linkage to markets and input suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To identify sustainable market outlets for agricultural produce ▪ To link farmers to reliable input providers ▪ To create awareness on existing opportunities on markets for produce and inputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practicing FAs ▪ Market Outlets ▪ Input suppliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2004 – 2008
Group Management Trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enhance the institutional capacity of Farmer Associations to manage and sustain their activities ▪ To strengthen group cohesion and governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2004-2008
Phase out activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure sustainability of project activities beyond 2008. ▪ Initiate meetings linking FAs with potential service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FAs ▪ FAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2008
Documentation and Reporting (Quarterly, Annual Reports, CIK, Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To document project progress and achievements ▪ To track government contributions to the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Program ▪ Donor, Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2004 - 2008

Activity	Objective	For Whom	When
Studies)			

3. PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

The project used group approach to implement its activities. Farmers were organized into 116 farmers associations (FA's) which in turn translated to a total of 4720 households reached by September 2008. Training of participants was the main thrust of TASK project. Participants, through their FAs were been trained on agricultural production technologies, group organization and management, marketing and entrepreneurship skills.

In order to achieve commercialization of agriculture among smallholder farmers, the project identified and promoted production of high value crops. The FAs were in turn linked to suitable markets identified by the project. Table 3 below shows the project performance against set targets as per the IPTT.

Table3: Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT) – March 09

INDICATOR	Base Line	FY04 Targets	FY04 Actual	FY04 Deviation	FY05 Targets	FY05 Actual	FY05 Deviation	FY06 Targets	FY06 Actual	FY06 Deviation	FY07 Targets	FY07 Actual	FY07 Deviation	FY08 Targets	FY08 Actual	FY08 Deviation	LOA Target	LOA Achieved
Impact 1 % Households self sufficient in food (produced or purchased)	26%							50%						80%			80%	
Monitoring 1 Yield of Maize (Kg/Acre)	185	*1	*	*	300	369*	+69	400	438	+38	400	438	+38	400			400	
Monitoring 2 Yield of Sorghum (Kg/Acre)	188	*	*	*	250	450*	+200	300	450	+150	300	405	+105	300			300	
Monitoring 3 Yield of Beans (Kg/Acre)	71	*	*	*	90	124* ₂	+34	110	225	+115	110	230	+120	110	150	+40	110	
Monitoring 4 # Households earning at least USD 365 per year from sale of agricultural produce.	436	0	*	*	886	635	-251	1336	1508	+172	1786	1997	+211	2336	2152	-184	2336	
Monitoring 5 #FAs establishing formal links with contract growing orders.	0	10	10	0	25	18	-7	35	37	+2	65	71	+6	90	75	-15	90	
Monitoring 6 # Households adopting small-scale irrigated agriculture	0	0	32	+32	50	195	+145	300	409	+109	600	1006	+406	900	1027	+127	900	
Monitoring 7 # Households adopting at least 3 improved husbandry practices and/or varieties	2,970	*	*	*	3,375	3470	+95	3,600	3712	+112	3,825	3866	+41	3,825	3972	+147	3,825	

¹ * Targets for Fy04 same as Baseline figures.

(i) Participants Training and Adoption

The project laid emphasis on technology training to farmers on good agricultural practices (GAPS) aimed at improving yields and quality of produce to the 4720 households. The main areas of focus was on enhanced production of food crops as well as various high value crops promoted by the project towards enhanced farm incomes for participating households.

The technologies promoted included:-

1. Timeliness in farm operations
2. Integrated pest and disease management
3. Seed technology
4. Soil fertility improvement
5. Irrigation technology
6. Marketing skills and entrepreneurship
7. Natural resource management

(ii) Introduction and Promotion of Crop Enterprises

The project identified and introduced new high value crops with potential to perform well in the program area. These included:-

1. Melons
2. Butternuts
3. Sunflower
4. Basmati rice
5. Chilies
6. Green grams.

Participating farmers have since been trained and have adopted the production of these crops.

(iii) Group Management Trainings

To enhance the capacity of the groups to manage themselves, the project trained the farmer associations on:-

Leadership and management
Group governance and ethics
Concept of development and community participation
Ownership and sustainability

(iv) Promotion of small scale irrigation

The project embarked on promotion of small scale irrigated agriculture as a way of mitigating the inconsistent rainfall patterns experienced in the region. This particularly revived rice growing and increased horticultural crop acreage in the region. Adoption of irrigation helped endear smallholders to both local and regional/external markets as quality, quantity and consistency for the produce was assured. A total of 1027 households in the project area adopted small scale

irrigated agriculture, which impacted positively both on food production and incomes for households in the region.

Table 4: Numbers of households earning incomes from sale of agricultural produce by district.

<i>District</i>	<i>FA by district</i>	<i>Trained h/hold</i>	<i>Households Earning USD 365 (As at Sept 2007)</i>	<i>Households Earning USD 365 (As at March 2008)</i>	<i>Households Earning USD 365 (As at June 2008)</i>
Homabay	17	427	328	328	336
Suba	16	560	239	281	287
Rachuonyo	3	110	5	5	5
Migori	14	510	326	326	334
Nyando	17	1115	640	640	651
Kisumu	23	714	235	294	300
Bondo	17	720	224	239	239
TOTAL	107	4156	1997	2113	2152

Linkage to Markets

Farmer linkage to contracted market outlets was a remarkable achievement during the project implementation. During the implementation the farmers were gained experience in negotiation for quality, quantity and price. Farmer associations are now able to access and capture market outlets as shown in the table below:-

Market Linkages

Enterprises	No. of FAs	Market Outlet
Rice	16	National Cereals and Produce Board (Kenya)
Sunflower	41	Arkay and BIDCO
Chilies	4	MACE Food
Melons	5	Fresh & Juici
Butternuts	19	Fresh & Juici
Pineapples	4	Fresh & Juici
Green grams Seeds	3	Kenya Seed Co, E. A. Seed Co.
Okra Seed	3	East African Seed Co.
Cow Peas	2	East African Seed Co.

4. COLLABORATION

During implementation, the project partnered with various government line ministries, private companies and other development agencies towards achieving project objectives. The table below shows the main collaborators:-

S/No.	Collaborator	Area of Collaboration
1	National Irrigation Board	Availability of Basmati Rice Seed
2.	National Cereals and Produce Board	Marketing of paddy
3.	Ministry of Agriculture	Technology Training
4	Ministry of Water and Irrigation	Design of irrigation structure
5.	Provincial Administration	Community mobilization
6	Fresh & Juici	Marketing of horticultural produce
7.	Arkay & BIDCO, St. Pauls Golgotha	Marketing of sunflower
8.	MACE Foods	Marketing of Chilies & provision of seeds
9.	AGMARK	Organizing exhibitions where the project participated
10	E. A. Seed Co, Kenya Seed, Western Seed, Amiran, Seminis East Africa	Provision of Seeds East African seed company provided market for seed.
11	VIRED	Desilting for irrigation channels in rice schemes in Nyando and Kisumu districts.
12	VI Agroforestry	Joint technology trainings
13	UNDP	Funding RICH Program
14	KASDEG	Planning joint activities for stakeholders in Kadibo

9. CHALLENGES

1. The project's work with sunflower was affected inadequate availability of high quality seed. On two consecutive seasons seed supplied by the countries main seed company resulted in very low germination which interfered with sunflower production. Faith in sunflower production was however, salvaged by a shift from hybrid seed to open pollinated varieties.
2. There was rampant theft of newly introduced crops from the farms of early adopters which drastically reduced output. The theft reduced considerably as more acreage was put under the crops by new adopters. Crops affected were mainly melons and butternuts.
3. Competition from many buyers of horticultural produce made it difficulty to adhere to quality standards, especially in respect of melons and pineapples.
- 4.

5. High fuel and input costs, especially after the post election violence, impacted negatively on general agricultural production
6. Poor road networks and distance to market outlets hindered transportation of agricultural produce and often affected the quality of produce.
7. Different players in the livelihood development field used antagonistic approaches. For example some believed in issuing hand outs further entrenching the very dependency syndrome that TASK was training against.
8. Free grazing remained a threat to long term on farm interventions (trees & fruits)
9. The post election violence experienced in Kenya early in 2008 led to massive losses of agricultural produce that was ready for the markets but was not possible to move due to general insecurity and lack of transport in the country during this period.

10. LESSONS LEARNT

1. Narrowing gaps of trust between market outlets and farmers

This is one of the most important aspects in commercializing smallholder agriculture. For example, collaboration between CARE and NCPB has enhanced trust between rice farmers and the government institution allowing farmers to deliver produce and wait for payment later.

2. Adoption of new crop enterprises.

There was a more accelerated adoption of crops that serve both as food and cash crops as compared to those that are mainly cash crops such as sunflower and chilies. This was evident during the implementation process.

3. Flexibility in project Implementation.

The project had to adjust and change on some issues in order to adapt to practical field situations for effective implementation. For example cotton was the main the focus cash crop initially but was found not feasible at the project implementation stages. The project changed and employed approaches that were workable, like letting the members choose different crop enterprises. FA membership was again not fixed but made flexible for numbers unlike was planned at 50 households per FA.

4. Effect of Weak input supply systems to adoption and sustainability of projects.

The project introduced new crop enterprises and new technologies that included fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, seeds. The availability of some of these inputs in local input stores remained a great challenge in as much as farmers adopted them. In some areas there were no established input stores hence availability and access became a problem.

5. Intensification of agricultural extension approach.

The project has achieved a lot, however, this has not been easy given that interventions targeted at commercializing small holder agricultural activities are still least understood

by the target groups, hence the need for more extension services by collaborators and line ministries. There needs to be further intensive training, monitoring and identification of markets, input suppliers, and making sure that all players (the input suppliers, markets and farmers) undertake their roles in an effort to link directly with each other as TASK undertakes phase out strategies. The need for longer implementation period when dealing with agricultural extension can not be over emphasized.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING

1. For effective implementation of agricultural development programs, area covered should be proportional to staff and resources
2. Introducing new ideas/enterprises need various stages of implementation process for sustainability
3. Future similar projects should be flexible in design to accommodate new ideas depending on the situation on the ground
4. For enhanced adoption and sustainability of commercial agricultural undertaking there is need to package it with credit components.
5. Need for diversification of enterprises to cushion farmers against risk associated with erratic weather patterns

12: RESOURCES USE

TASK project was funded to the tune of US\$ 1,795,180:00 from 2004 -2008. The project had a total of 9 technical and 2 support staff over this period. The project operated with 3, 4x4 vehicles and 5 motor bikes in the seven districts in Nyanza.

15. COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

It is worth noting that smallholders injected own funds towards purchase of seeds, e.g. sunflower, irrigation pipes, motorized pumps, fuels, commodity transport and general crop protection chemicals estimated at about US\$ 18,000.