

Securing workers' rights in a COVID-19 context in East African agriculture supply chains

Stories from beneficiaries of the project interventions in Kenya and Zimbabwe



Elizabeth Tigere

FARM WORKER, WISEROW, ZIMBABWE
RECEIVED NUTRITIONAL GARDEN SUPPORT

“During the lock down there was no access to vegetable markets due to national lock down measures implemented by the government.

Therefore, having vegetables daily is appreciated. There was no stressing as to where to find relish for dinner. This even brought harmony in the family as there was no fight over food or relish.

As vegetables were readily available, we did not need to go into the market. This gave the family more time to spend together rather than spending time trying to bargain with vendors to buy vegetables cheaply. Therefore, it helped keep the family together and mend relationships. **The free vegetables have gone a long way in ensuring pay money is channelled to other important responsibilities such as paying for school fees.**

Lastly, the project is appreciated because as tenants we do not own any pieces of land to grow the vegetables. Therefore, **this project has improved our situation as tenants and landless women.”**

“During the training, I learnt the importance of social distancing in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

I was also taught why it is important to sanitise, wear a mask and clean hands for at least 20 seconds. I taught my family what I had been taught. There were myths that the vaccine could have side effects such as infertility. Others said the vaccine is given to old people to kill them and reduce population. I learnt that the vaccine is a good control measure against COVID-19.

Before the Financial Literacy Training, I thought that you could only save if you earn a lot of money. A 100m race begins with a single step. For me to get to say 100k, I need to start saving now. I have been saving with the company Sacco. **I decided to increase my share after the financial literacy training.** I plan on joining another Sacco with a fixed deposit account, which will automatically deduct from my salary. **From these savings, I will be able to support my child's education when he joins high school.** I also learnt the importance of investing and having savings for an emergency.

Thank you Partner Africa for making us understand that there is no small or big money, and teaching us the importance of saving no matter how little we earn.”



Jacob Merete

SECURITY DEPARTMENT, AAA GROWERS, KENYA
PARTICIPATED IN THE COVID-19
AND FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING



Faith Melody Wanjiku

FARMER, CMS MUTIRA, KENYA
PARTICIPATED IN THE COVID-19 TRAINING
AND RECEIVED KITCHEN GARDEN SUPPORT

“I learnt about washing hands using running water, wearing a face mask, keeping social distance, not staying too close to one another and avoiding crowded places.

Through the training, I learnt that the virus can spread through body fluids, I didn't know this. I also learnt that cleanliness is paramount.

After being trained, **I went to train others, especially the elderly who know very little about COVID-19.** I also trained my family and my Sacco members. Now we social distance and sanitise often whenever we meet.

At first, COVID-19 patients would be avoided. Nobody wanted to be around them, not because they hated them but because no one wanted to get infected. Right now people are aware of how they can interact with Covid -19 patients. I have sanitisers in my house. My kids may go out and play and forget to wash their hands, but I ensure they sanitise their hands.

Through the Kitchen Garden, I have planted kales, spinach and onions. I no longer go to the market to buy vegetables, I simply go to the farm, harvest and cook for my family. My second plantation did well. **A kitchen garden is effective since you can use a small piece of land to plant more than one crop, you can harvest for your own use or even sell and make money.** We were privileged to receive the training and free seedlings. This is something others only wish for.”