



SUCCESS STORY

Donor Partnership Helps Kenyan Smallholder Farmers



A local Masaai from the village of Romosha greets the Transmara District Commissioner, welcoming him to the Mode Satellite Store (MoSS).

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COMPETE

Low volumes, poor physical access to markets, and lack of proper storage facilities keep many smallholder farmers in a persistent cycle of subsistence farming. To address this problem, farmers from the Kenyan villages of Keiyan, Romosha and Angatta Barrikoi have overcome bottlenecks and gained access to regional markets by banding together to form smallholder farmer associations (SHAs) with support from a partnership between USAID, the Cereal Growers Association (CGA), the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and the World Food Programme's (WFP) Purchase for Progress (P4P) program.

In July of 2009, CGA, with AGRA support, identified and began training smallholder farmers associations (SHAs) on topics such as group dynamics, post-harvest handling, savings and credit. USAID is supporting CGA's efforts with a \$248,000 grant for equipment and technical assistance. P4P agreed to purchase grain from the SHAs and contribute assistance that included improvement of the dirt roads leading to small bulking stations. The combined assistance received from USAID, AGRA and P4P has allowed the SHAs to save money and time by processing their food locally.

What are the results so far? In less than a year, three satellite stores have been established and nine smallholder association groups have been awarded the tenders to supply 1,019 MT of maize to WFP. All bulking can now be done in their village, where maize is sorted, checked for moisture content, and properly bagged. For the 485 households that comprise the 17 smallholder farmer groups, the result is a 30% increase in their grain business earnings.

USAID and the WFP P4P program won't be the final solution for Transmara SHAs, but it is currently the best incentive for farmers to build their capacity, refine best practices, and learn how to access agricultural markets at competitive prices. The District Commissioner of the Transmara region, Mr. Mbogo Mathioya, expressed the village's appreciation, "We are very grateful for the assistance from USAID in helping to equip and train the farmers in Transmara so they are better able to trade in the main commercial markets."