

## **Kobciye project updates:**

### **Outcome 1 - Smallholder farmer producer groups are developed.**

The Kobciye Project has made significant strides in fostering the development of smallholder farmer producer groups, a key component of this outcome. Through the establishment of four cooperatives and the provision of capacity-building trainings, such as market linkages, cooperative governance, post-harvest loss management, GAP trainings, and digital and financial literacy trainings, the project has empowered farmers and enhanced their collective capabilities towards sustainability.



Our emphasis on community mobilization and consultations highlights the project's commitment to engaging beneficiaries in decision-making processes and ensuring their active participation. By forming project committees and organizing cooperative groups, the project has facilitated the creation of self-governing and demand-driven community-based organizations, promoting sustainability and inclusivity.

Furthermore, initiatives like the reclamation of wasteland and the allocation of plots for production has not only contributed to agricultural productivity but also signify the tangible impact of the project, exceeding targets, with a remarkable achievement rate of 156% i.e. a total of 140 Hectares of and across all sites. This showcases the strong dedication of the community towards Kobciye's

success. Through these comprehensive efforts, the Kobciye Project is effectively cultivating a supportive environment for smallholder farmers, enabling them to thrive and contribute to the broader goals of food security and resilience.

### **Outcome 2– Small-holder farmer producer groups expand production capacity.**

The expansion of production capacity among smallholder farmer producer groups is evident through the adoption of new initiatives and climate-friendly technologies aimed at enhancing productivity. Before the beginning of the Kobciye Project, farmers owned and cultivated very small plots of land, limiting their overall sustainability and ability to meet market demand. However, beneficiaries received extensive theoretical and practical trainings on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), had access to quality seeds, and climate-friendly technology to aid in land reclamation and transformation across all four sites. This comprehensive approach has significantly increased production, with a total of 140 hectares now under cultivation since the project's onset.



Furthermore, SDC facilitated the handover of 4 tractors to each cooperative site, fenced 15 sites, erected 15 water tanks, distributed 4 spraying machines, and constructed 4 post-harvest storage rooms. These climate-friendly initiatives have greatly boosted the quality and quantity of production witnessed across all sites. The number of watermelon and sweet melons have especially improved thanks to the elaborate drip irrigation systems installed. Previously, farmers relied on fuel-pumped water that was economically straining to their revenues, but now the availability of solar systems has increased the farm's access to water for irrigation and is more economic as farmers have received training on how to maintain the equipment.



The Kobciye Project, formulated under the food systems lens, focuses on asset creation and maintenance of climate-friendly technologies to further increase the quality of production. Notably, the installation of drip irrigation systems, greenhouses, solar systems, and construction of post-harvest storage rooms have been completed successfully across all targeted sites. For instance, the completion of 42 drip irrigation systems installation reached a progress rate of 100%, demonstrating substantial advancements in efficient water management and crop irrigation practices. Similarly, the construction of 10 greenhouses and 28 solar system installations achieved a commendable 100% progress status, indicating the successful integration of innovative technologies into agricultural operations.



These initiatives empower smallholder farmers to upscale their production capabilities and adopt sustainable agricultural practices. By providing access to modern irrigation methods, protected cultivation environments, and reliable energy sources, the project enables farmers to optimize their yields while minimizing resource usage and environmental impact. Ultimately, these efforts have contributed to enhanced food security and resilience to climate change, ensuring the long-term viability and prosperity of smallholder farming communities.

### **Outcome 3 - Smallholder farmers have increased quality production.**

The Kobciye Project has been instrumental in facilitating increased quality production among smallholder farmers through the adoption of climate-friendly technologies and capacity-building initiatives. The successful implementation of drip irrigation systems, greenhouses, and solar systems has enabled farmers to optimize water usage, regulate environmental conditions, and improve overall crop yields.

Additionally, training sessions on cooperative governance, digital and financial literacy, climate-smart production, market linkage, and post-harvest loss management have equipped farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance agricultural practices.



These efforts have resulted in significant achievements and milestones, with all training activities completed at a rate of 100%, ensuring that farmers have the necessary resources and expertise to improve the quality of their produce moving forward.

<b>Types of seed</b>	<b>Distributed seed inKG</b>	<b>Planted Amount in kg</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Harvested Amount in Kg</b>
<b>Onions seeds (500 grams)</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>83.85%</b>	<b>221440</b>
<b>Tomato seeds (100 grams)</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>48.72%</b>	<b>91148</b>
<b>Sweet pepper seeds (100 grams)</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>56.41%</b>	<b>88630</b>
<b>Hot pepper seeds (100 grams)</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>61.54%</b>	<b>107011</b>
<b>Carrot seeds (100 grams)</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>42.86%</b>	<b>47225</b>
<b>Water melon seeds (100 grams)</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>55.26%</b>	<b>25886</b>
<b>Sweet melon seeds (100 grams)</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35.44%</b>	<b>14882</b>
<b>Okra (100 grams)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53.85%</b>	<b>9515</b>
<b>Spinach (100 grams)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>72.73%</b>	<b>71337</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>408.5</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>61.93%</b>	<b>677074</b>

#### **Outcome 4 - Small-holder farmers have improved income security through diversified livelihoods.**

The Kobciye Project has successfully promoted social behavioral change and communication strategies to improve income security among smallholder farmers. Through activities such as project launching events, TV and radio messages, social media promotion, and showcasing success stories, the project has enhanced public awareness and engagement in agricultural practices. Moreover, the establishment of village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) and community-based participatory planning (CBPP) exercises has provided farmers with opportunities for financial inclusion and empowerment. These initiatives, coupled with capacity-building programs on cooperative governance, market linkage, and post-harvest loss management, contribute to diversified livelihoods and increased income security among smallholder farmers.



Previously, the selected community consisted of pastoralists, but after the introduction of this project, they have started to adapt to agricultural sustainability practices. The Kobciye Project has been instrumental in facilitating increased quality production among smallholder farmers through the adoption of climate-friendly technologies and capacity-building initiatives. From pastoralists to innovative farmers and now retailers and budding entrepreneurs in the competitive market, they offer their expertise thanks to the extensive trainings provided.

The income they receive is reinvested back into farm management, and the rest is used to sustain their households. Some success stories have seen farmers building homes for themselves and loved ones, as they can now sell their produce directly to consumers through mobile marketing initiatives that do not limit their income streams, receiving and saving in cash and avoiding unnecessary middleman issues and debt. These transformations underscore the profound impact of the Kobciye Project in enhancing income security and livelihood diversification among smallholder farmers.

### **Outcome 5 -Improved sustainable rainwater harvesting.**

The Kobciye Project, while not explicitly focusing on rainwater harvesting initiatives, indirectly contributes to the improvement of sustainable rainwater harvesting practices through its emphasis on climate-friendly technologies and agricultural methods. By advocating for the adoption of drip irrigation systems and the construction of water tanks, the project optimizes water usage and addresses the challenges posed by water scarcity in agricultural production.

Furthermore, capacity-building activities in climate-smart production and post-harvest loss management empower farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage water resources effectively, thereby enhancing resilience to climate change. Despite not being the primary focus, these efforts align with the broader goal of enhancing sustainable rainwater harvesting as part of the project's resilience-building objectives.

Moreover, the implementation of sustainable rainwater harvesting practices by Kobciye beneficiaries, particularly through the construction of canals, marks a significant advancement in agricultural sustainability and resilience. These canals act as crucial

infrastructure for capturing and utilizing rainfall efficiently, thereby mitigating the adverse effects of water scarcity and drought on smallholder farms. By harnessing rainwater, farmers can supplement irrigation needs and ensure consistent water availability for crop cultivation year-round, leading to improved crop yields and enhanced food security.

Additionally, sustainable rainwater harvesting aids in soil conservation and erosion prevention, thereby promoting long-term agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability. Therefore, the construction of canals for rainwater harvesting is providing smallholder farmers with a reliable and sustainable water source, empowering them to adapt to climate variability and strengthen resilience in their farming practices.

