

Name of person:  
Karemba Kahindi  
County: Kilifi  
Subcounty: Kilifi North  
Ward: Matsangoni  
Village: Sidzeni  
Contact:  
Tel:  
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# KF1 Strengthening Competitiveness of the cassava value chain in Kenya

## Karemba Kahindi

### Kilifi woman embarks on cassava seed entrepreneurship

#### Background

Ms Karemba Kahindi is one of the pioneers who have taken up cassava seed entrepreneurship in Kilifi county. In 2018 with support from the KF1 project she started by planting one acre and this year she added 3 more acres. She is looking forward to selling cuttings to farmers in her area once her crop is ready.

#### Context

Matsangoni area of Kilifi is one of the areas which is often affected by drought hence maize yield the traditional staple food is decreasing. Cassava which is a drought resistant crop does well in this area. The KF1 project is supporting helping farmers in the distribution and planting of improved cassava cuttings, together with the promotion of a range of improved farming practices.

When Ms Karemba learnt about this project, she decided to join. She attended a three day training organized by the KF1 project held at KARLO Mtwapa near Mombasa. The training focused on good agricultural practices (GAP) in cassava growing, seed multiplication, cassava farm management (weeding, disease and pest control), harvesting and market strategies.

Armed with this knowledge, Ms Karemba was ready to take on the new challenge of growing cassava to sell cuttings to other farmers. She was given four thousand one-foot cassava cuttings (4,000) from KARLO Mtwapa by the KF1 project and went ahead to plant nine thousand miniset cuttings in 2018 on her one-acre farm. The crop stand is healthy, strong, free from pests and disease. It is mature and ready for harvesting and

the seed entrepreneur has already started selling cassava cuttings to interested farmer groups and individual farmers in the local area.

In 2019, the seed entrepreneur was given twelve thousand (12,000) cassava cuttings by the KF1 project. She planted twenty-four thousand (24,000) miniset cuttings that is currently germinating. So far the seed entrepreneur has a total of three and a half (3.5) acres with cassava for seed.

Since joining the project the seed entrepreneur has been practicing what she learnt during training and on farm mentorship by the Ustadi Foundation Field Worker. She has observed good spacing of the cuttings while planting, kept the farm clean from weeds, fenced the farm to prevent rogue animals and potential theft of cuttings and tubers and has also kept an eye out for pest infestation.

“Since we no longer get as much maize yields in our farms as we used to cassava is a very good alternative since it resists drought”, says Ms Karemba.

From the first one acre she is expecting to earn at least Ksh 70,000 this year and hopes to double this with the second harvest.

The main challenge she faces right now is getting market for the cuttings. She hopes that farmers in her area will change their attitude of expecting freebies and instead buy the cuttings from her.



Karemba Kahindi seed entrepreneur explaining a point on tajirika cassava farming to Ustadi Foundation officers during a follow up visit.



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