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 County: **Kilifi**
 Subcounty: **Malindi**
 Ward: **Kakuyuni**
 Village: **Baguo**
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KF1 **Strengthening Competitiveness of the cassava value chain in Kenya**

Remas Jaliwa

Frustrated maize farmer turns to cassava seed enterprise
 Remas Jaliwa one of the seed entrepreneurs in the KF1 project in Kilifi county turned to cassava farming after a series of maize crop failure crop failure.

Background

When Remas Jaliwa ploughed his farm in Baguo Village, Kakuyuni Ward in Malindi subcounty he was hopeful of a bumper maize harvest. Come planting time he applied fertilizer and later he added top dressing. He applied pesticide to protect his crop. Little did he know that the rain gods were not in his favor.

"I did everything to ensure I get a good harvest but all came to nothing" laments Remas

Remas is one of the thousands frustrated maize farmers in Kilifi county. The last few years, maize farmers have witnessed the effects of global warming and pest infestation affecting Kenya's main food crop maize leading to a drop in production. Like Remas, farmers are now turning to drought tolerant and disease resistant crops such as cassava.

When he heard about the KF1 project, he went flat out and decided to be a seed entrepreneur.

Implementation

The seed entrepreneur was trained on good agricultural practices on cassava growing, seed multiplication, management, harvesting and market strategies.

He was given ten thousand and five hundred (10,500) cassava

cuttings in 2018 and in 2019 he received an additional twelve thousand (12,000) cassava cuttings by the KF1 project. So far the seed entrepreneur has a total of five (5) acres with cassava for seeds.

Remas planted cassava cuttings with a spacing of 50" x 50" or 50" x 1ft and in rows of 50" or 1ft apart. The seed farm is always kept clean to avoid pests. Before selling cassava cuttings, the seed entrepreneur refers to the expense incurred during land preparations, purchase of cuttings, planting, weeding and purchase and application of fertilizer. He shares issues related with his seed farm with other seed entrepreneurs nearby on good agricultural practices in the growing of cassava for seeds.

Mr Remas appreciates the training he received from the KF1 project

on cassava growing. He is proud to put his knowledge to practice in Baguo.

The main challenge the seed entrepreneur now faces is inadequate farmers to buy cuttings from him. He has so far sold 9000 cuttings to 10 farmers and made Ksh 27,000.

To compliment his cassava seed enterprise, Remas also sells cassava to traders. This year he made Ksh 50,000 from selling cassava tubers.

Remas's hope is that soon there will be an organized market for cassava.

"Im looking forward to earning Ksh 1,000,000 from my venture and would like to be a model to other farmers in this area" says Remas

