

# STRENGTHENING COMPETITIVENESS OF THE CASSAVA VALUE CHAIN IN KENYA

## Tusaidiane Women Group



Name of group: **Tusaidiane Women Group**  
County: **Kilifi**  
Subcounty: **Kilifi North**  
Ward: **Tezo**  
Village: **Mikingirini**  
Number of Members: **28**  
Male: **0**  
Female: **28**  
Contact:  
Tel:  
**September 2019**

## Kilifi Women's group embraces modern cassava growing methods

Tusaidiane Women Group based in Mikingirini, Tezo Ward in Kilifi North is one of the women groups supported by the KF1 project that has taken on cassava farming in Kilifi county with a view to improving food security and economic well being of their families.

### Background

Women are an integral part of agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa, representing up to 52% of the total population within the sector and responsible for approximately 50% of the agricultural labour on farms. In some African countries, women spend approximately 60% of their time on agricultural activities and contribute to the production of between 60% to 80% of the continent's food. Women in Kilifi are part of this statics.

Despite their dominance in the agricultural sector, women in Kilifi experience major constraints in seeking access to productive resources – far more than their male counterparts, which demonstrates a clear “gender gap” that ultimately undermines the counties productivity, inhibits women's equitable and profitable participation in agricultural trade, as well as in national, regional and global agricultural value chains.

# 28

The group currently has 28 members.

All are women



### Context

With the effects of global warming and pest infestation affecting Kenya's main food crop maize leading to a drop in production by 4.2m bags in 2017, farmers are now turning to drought tolerant and disease resistant crops such as cassava varieties in a bid to

boost food production and improve food security in the county. Inadequate rainfall experience in the last few years in Kilifi county has made people return to cassava which was part of the traditional foods among the Mijikenda inhabitants.

### Implementation

Tusaidiane Women Group was trained on good agricultural practices (GAP) on cassava farming, cassava farm management (weeding, pest and disease control, intercropping), cassava harvesting and market strategies by the KF1 project. The group was also trained on group dynamics; how to handle group conflicts, group activities, elections, group rules and regulations among other things. Two selected gender champions from the group were trained on gender and are empowered to train their group participants.