

MAASAI CULTURE AND AGRICULTURE. ISINYA - KAJIADO.

Community development for the community by the community



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Published by the Institute of Cultural Affairs Japan
(ICA Japan-Yuka Itakura: 0750 599 860)

ICA-Isinya Project April 2010-March 2011.



This project is based in Isinya location, Enkirrigiri and Ipolosat sub-locations. The following villages have benefited from the project Naserian, Ipolosat, Embolioi, Osewan, Emamparswai, Lenchani, Lema, Olmoti, Olepolos, Olmerrui, Enkirrigiri Osewan. The objective of the project is to train the community on how to own the project by it self. This can be achieved by cost sharing from the community. The demonstration farms and the water ponds are going to be repaired and the community has promised to cost share by contributing labour.

Mr Benson Mwangi from the Ministry of Agriculture - Isinya, training farmers on crop development.

Yuka Itakura, ICA Japan; Isinya Project Coordinator

I am grateful to see that the demo-farm project has had a positive impact on people's lives in Isinya. Now many have started homestead farming with a lot of harvest. This year the villages are ready to put skills and knowledge they have acquired into the community farms so that it can also produce income for the community. We will be communicating closely with the villages to provide farm improvement and farming trainings.



We are looking forward to seeing you in the office!

A word from District Officer 1, Isinya Division, Mr. Hussein A. Hussein



Isinya division has witnessed tremendous growth in recent years and development has spread even to the rural areas. Many Stakeholders have contributed to this growth but ICA-JAPAN has been exceptionally outstanding in addressing the community problems. This has been in areas of education, agriculture, water and environmental conservation. Isinya location has received trainings through ICA-JAPAN in partnership with MOA staff

For the Masai community to change from being pastoralists and adopt crop farming a lot of trainings have to be done and exposure tours need to be conducted. The Maasai cultural values are also to be respected and appreciated at all levels.

Income generation production i.e. agribusiness was paramount as this would improve livelihoods in general and this would steer development in all areas of life. Capacity building is needed to empower the community in identifying their resources and the opportunities that exist. Social-economic issues have also been addressed and administration made easier as more economic activities have been identified.

The core problem has been low farm productivity and the most limiting resource was water and that was why ICA started by the construction of water ponds and opening the demonstration plot in the 12 villages.

We thank ICA for their tireless efforts to change the livelihoods of the Maasai community and wish to assure them every support that they may require in the execution of their projects.

Lessons from the Drought. Mr. Makhulo Anzelimo (Deputy District Agricultural Officer-Kajiado North)



The last three years have been among the worst in terms of drought in Maasai land. The apex of the drought was experienced last year within an estimated livestock loss of 70%. Some families lost entire herds and left in abject poverty with no livelihood to rely on. Apart from the loss of livestock, there was close to 100% crop failure.

This left the Maasai community very vulnerable with no food and hence fully relied on food relief supplier from the government and other agencies. Are there any lessons the community learnt from the above situation. There has been sufficient rainfall for the last six months.

What has been done to utilize this resource? Maasai land has very fertile soils in most parts. It is important that this resource is fully utilized to advantage of the community. Diversification of enterprises is very critical for the well-being of the community. Livestock keeping should be integrated with crop farming; very many types of crops can do well in this part of the country (been proved to do well-maize countable varieties), beans, green grams, Dolichos lablab(njahi), amaranthus, sunflower, fruits-papaya, avocado, tomatoes, cabbage, kales, spinach. With the production of these crops -the community will be food secure and earn more income to uplift their standard of living. There is plenty of manure from the livestock which can be used to boost the crop production.

Water harvesting should be prioritized to store sufficient water to grow the crops. The government has embarked on this and one water pan has been excavated at Naserian and another is in the process



Mr. Makhulo Anzelimo, Deputy District Agricultural Officer-Kajiado North, with farmers during food relief in Isinya location.

The following crops have



of being excavated at Olepolos.

Apart from diversifying crop production the community has an opportunity to diversify livestock production like keeping of dairy goats to produce milk, bee-keeping for honey production, rabbit keeping and local poultry keeping. This will earn the people extra income because there is sufficient demand for the products. What is important is the community to embrace livestock keeping and crop production as a business. This will ensure that livestock is not just kept for prestige but for income generation.

There is now plenty of pasture all over Maasai land. What can be done to preserve it for the future? The best that can be done now is to cut and bale the pasture for future use during the dry period before the next rainy season.

Let's learn from the past to improve on the future.

Word from Mr. John Kimani (Divisional Agricultural Extension Officer Isinya)



Maasai have a very strong culture which have given them identity and a sense of unity. The community has a special attachment to their Livestock but the changing economic resources dictates that their farming systems change from pastoralist to mixed farming that will use the resources intensively.

The community now is quickly embracing agribusiness and diversifying using modern technologies.

ICA- JAPAN has started the technology transfer by assisting in the construction of water ponds and setting up demonstration site in 12 villages. Trainings and workshops have been conducted by ICA- JAPAN in collaboration and partnership with MOA staff Isinya office.

CHALLENGES OF MAASAI FARMER

Low agricultural productivity:

This will be addressed by:

- Improving the extension services,
- Encouraging private sector and NGO such as ICA-JAPAN
- Empowering farmer organizations
- Collaboration with stake-holders.



A view of Olmerrui water pond in Enkirigiri sub- location.

Other ways were to target food security areas

- Assist in water harvesting,
- Providing tools and seeds.
- High income crops would also be targeted.
- Encourage diversification in the farming system

Grants have been given for funding projects through project proposal writing organizations and NGOs.

ICA in collaboration with MOA Isinya has implemented programs on farmers' trainings and setting of demo sites. Water harvesting ponds have been built in 12 villages targeting 480 farmers.

Promoting market access:

This is through providing market information and market development in all areas. Agribusiness through diversification and value addition will be emphasized together with international agricultural trade. Currently the ministry of agriculture is promoting the growing of sorghum and linking the farmers with EABL Company that will buy the harvest. Trainings on record keeping and marketing have been conducted. Emphasis has been on group formation and their registration to make them formal and make management of these groups easier.

Going Green Mr. John Thiong'o, Divisional Environmental Lands Development Officer



United we can do more; this is not just a saying but now a reality to us. I.C.A.J, .Enduati Women group, KNFC and MOA coming together with one purpose; To make Isinya a green, habitable and a friendly place.

In Empuyiankat village we have been able to start up a tree nursery using the gift of a dam from KALDO. On November, December rains together with Nkotila Primary School Community, we were able to plant a tree for each pupil in the school.

In the environmental day we were able to plant 300 trees Naserian Primary School which was very warmly welcomed.

In the villages, we have been able to improve to the larger community that tree can do well here. In Osewan, Naserian and Olmoti villages, this has become a living testimony.

Let's continue to work together and we will achieve the Kenyan Government target of 10% forest cover which will improve on our rainfall pattern, good Environment and a friendly Isinya.



Empuyiankat tree nursery funded by KNCF through ICA-JAPAN.

Mr. Gideon Ngeenoi (Chairman Osewan Village).



As Osewan community we are very grateful to I.C.A Isinya for their trainings in capacity building and agriculture techniques through the Ministry of Agriculture. We have also learnt that we should protect our environment through tree planting.



Mrs. Lois Gakuro from the Ministry of Agriculture-Isinya, conducting a gender and home-economics workshop in Osewan village.

Osewan village

Maasai culture and Agriculture workshop (16 June, 2010)

One-day workshop was conducted by ICA and Ministry of Agriculture in Osewan village, with 92 participants from 9 villages. The topics covered were as follows: Agro-forestry practices, Crop development, Agri-business, Home economics and gender training and Community development. The participants were very interested in these topics and gained knowledge including the types of trees suitable for agro-forestry, post-harvesting management, record keeping and the use of sorghum.

Mr. Jeremiah Ateti Chairman Noosyuian Village.

Mr. Ateti attended the capacity building with the villagers in July 2007. He was able to listen and observe people's opinion and future vision. Here is Mr. Ateti comment about the training "Time has come we need to be self sustaining. Let's give our minds and feelings to these Agricultural trainings for better future.



Mr Paul Kesu (Emamparswai Village Chairman)



We have worked with ICA-J for three years, this is the forth. Being the chairman I would like to thank ICA-J for their continuous support towards development in Emamparswai. We have had trainings on water harvesting techniques using water ponds, agriculture farming techniques facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture Isinya. Last but not least the village in general would like to thank Tokyo Union of Churches which donated a classroom to Emamparswai School through ICA-J. We have had other projects like agro-forestry supported by Toshiba through ICA-J.

Seminars with Ms Shizuyo Sato, 11th - 19th of May 2010

ICA and MoA (Ministry of Agriculture) conducted 12 seminars in Isinya villages. A total of 188 participants learned about the project goals till March 2011, the importance of Agriculture and group management (Social process triangles). It was explained to the villagers that the demo farms were community property and they should make full use of it.

Photo: Farmers from Enkirrigiri sub-location during community dynamics training at Olmerrui village.



Faraja Latia Visit, 17th May 2010



Inset: Osewan demonstration farm which has benefited from the project through fencing. The other villages are Nausai, Enkirrigiri and Emamparswai villages.

This seminar was held at Faraja Latia with a total of 55 participants from 12 villages. Group discussions were held to realize how to own the demo farms, and what the communities can contribute towards it. Participants also went through Faraja Latia's farms to get more insight about crops.

From left, Mr. Shizuyo Sato the Director of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, Japan, Mr Julius Karaga Principal Faraja Latia Agricultural College, Mr Anthonio Makholo Deputy District Agricultural Officer-Kajiado North during a visit to Faraja.

