

STIPA ANNUAL REPORT

2024



Support for Tropical Initiatives in Poverty Alleviation (STIPA)

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ACRONYMS

AHL	: Affordable Housing Levy
BMC	: Business Model Canvas
CBO	: Community Based Organisation
CDIP	: Community Donkey Insurance for Protection
EUR	: Euros
KALRO	: Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organisation
KBL	: Kenya Breweries Limited
KES	: Kenya Shillings
KGS	: Kilograms
KIIC	: KALRO Improved Indigenous Chicken
KRA	: Kenya Revenue Authority
KSPCA	: Kenya Society for the Protection & Care of Animals
NITA	: National Industrial Training Authority
NSSF	: National Social Security Fund
PAYE	: Pay As You Earn
PELUM	: Participatory Ecological Lands Use Management
PWD	: People With Disability
SHIF	: Social Health Insurance Funds
STIPA	: Support for Tropical Initiatives in Poverty Alleviation
TOTs	: Training of Trainers
TV	: Television
USD	: United States Dollars

LETTER FROM THE TEAM LEADER



In the year 2024, we continued with the community actions in the three counties of Kisumu, Siaya and Homabay in Western Kenya. We have implemented a diverse range of projects that reflect the achievements our communities are proud of. The animal welfare, specifically donkey welfare gained traction and soil health became a central pillar in the agriculture interventions we undertook. Our action has been on climate smart agriculture with sorghum, beans and improved indigenous chicken, circular economy using agricultural waste to make cooking fuel and business modelling. We believe in building the capacities of our communities for sustainable community initiatives. We have built trust and long-lasting relationship with them, culminating in a deep understanding of the kind of change they desire.

Our emphasis has remained on strengthening the programmatic focus and accountability while ensuring compliance of our governance and operational standards continue to be upheld. Events like the National Donkey Day, World Animal Day, World Rabies Day and World Food Day were opportunities where we showcased our work to the delight of our beneficiaries.

During the year we also focused on developing a four-year Strategic Plan for the period 2025 – 2028. This document unveils our new direction that brings to the limelight our interventions in climate change, and adoption of innovation and technology. This is in the spirit of our renewed vision of *Healthy and Prosperous Communities* by empowering them for sustainable development through capacity building, advocacy, innovation and entrepreneurship.

There is much more where our beneficiaries in Western Kenya still require support. Nevertheless, I am proud to be part of our progress. I would like to thank everyone who supported us in our journey as this motivates us to continue moving forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamella Opiyo".

PAMELLA OPIYO
TEAM LEADER

1. VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

VISION

Healthy and prosperous communities

MISSION

To empower communities for sustainable development through capacity building, advocacy, innovation and entrepreneurship.

CORE VALUES

- Accountability** : Taking ownership of responsibilities, decisions made and their outcomes.
- Equity and Justice** : Ensure fair, impartial and ethical treatment of all individuals.
- Fairness** : Treating people equally or in a way that is right or reasonable.
- Integrity** : Uphold honesty, uprightness and reliability at all times.
- Mutual Respect** : Treating everyone with dignity, fairness, and empathy.
- Professionalism** : Apply the highest standards of service delivery

2. PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

	Project Name: Safeguarding Donkeys, Safeguarding Livelihoods (<i>Kutunza Punda ni Kutunza Jamii</i>)	Funding Partner: Brooke East Africa	Project Duration: 2 years April 2023 to March 2025	Project Budget: KES. 16,500,000.00 USD: 127,679.33
	Project Area: Kisumu County (Nyakach Sub County) and Siaya County (Bondo and Rarieda Sub Counties)	Project Reach:	500 households with at least 1,000 donkeys supported; 200 households subscribing to CDIP with at least 500 donkeys supported with treatment services.	
<p>Project Objective: The project will have contributed to improved donkey welfare in Kisumu and Siaya Counties. The donkey owning communities in the two counties will have (1) adopted sustainable livelihood practices; (2) adopted diverse livelihood activities to support their donkeys, The County Governments will have (3) developed policies and legislation on donkey welfare; (4) enhanced advocacy against donkey slaughter and donkey theft across borders. (5) The donkey owning communities and media influences will have been mobilized and unified for establishment of working action oriented movement for change on donkey welfare.</p>				

Project Name: Disseminating New White Sorghum Variety Kamani for Food and with High Malting Quality in Kisumu, Homa Bay and Siaya Counties (<i>Sorghum Value Chain</i>)	Funding Partner: Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organisation	Project Duration: 2 years February 2022 to February 2024	Project Budget: EUR: 67,950.30 USD: 77,164.36	
Project Area: Kisumu, Homa Bay and Siaya Counties	Project Reach:	2,500 smallholder farmers		
<p>Project Objective: To increase the adoption and production of improved white Sorghum varieties (Kamani) among smallholder farmers in order to improve food security, employment and incomes in Western Kenya.</p>				

	Project Name: Upscaling KALRO Improved Indigenous Chicken in Kisumu and Siaya Counties (<i>Kuku Bora Project</i>)	Funding Partner: Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organisation	Project Duration: 2 years February 2022 to February 2024	Project Budget: EUR: 66,570.30 USD: 75,597.23
Project Area: Kisumu and Siaya Counties	Project Reach:	3,500 smallholder farmers		
<p>Project Objective: To increase the adoption and production of KALRO improved Indigenous Chicken (KIIC) among small holder farmers in order to improve food security, employment and incomes in Western Kenya.</p>				

	Project Name: Nature Positive Solutions Project			
Funding Partner:	International Water Management Institute through PELUM Kenya	Project Duration:	Oct 2023 to April 2024	
Project Budget:	KES. 559,228.00 USD. 6,695.26			
Project Area:	Kisumu County (Seme Sub County)		Project Reach:	Pamoja Caregivers Group (95 farmers and 20 Training of Trainers [ToTs])
Project Objective:		The project aims at capacity-building on compost manure making, Black Soldier Fly rearing, and the development of Business Model Canvas (BMC) designs.		

3. OUR 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 Safeguarding Donkeys Safeguarding Livelihoods Project

Funding Partner:

Brooke East Africa

Project Duration:

April 2023 – March 2025

Budget:

KES. 16,500,000.00

Context:

- ✚ *Promotion of adoption of appropriate husbandry practices that promote donkey welfare.*
- ✚ *Upscaling Community Donkey Health Insurance for Protection (CDIP).*
- ✚ *Facilitation of Equine centric livelihood alternatives for improved household resilience.*
- ✚ *Increasing awareness and adoption of Reporting Framework for reporting missing donkeys.*

STIPA, in partnership with Brooke East Africa has been implementing a Donkey advocacy project since 2019. The current project; “*Kutunza Punda ni Kutunza Jamii*” christened in Kiswahili language is a two year project that commenced in April 2023 and will end in March 2025 with possible extension for two more years.

The project was designed within Brooke East Africa’s Strategic Plan 2022-25 that focuses on transforming equid welfare in communities, helping them to thrive and become more resilient; influencing the visibility and inclusion of equid needs in policy and practices at all levels including disaster and emergency preparedness; developing sustainable animal health systems that meet the immediate and future needs of working horses, donkeys and mules; and building a movement of change and developing an organization fit for the future.

STIPA aims at achieving its vision of “healthy and prosperous communities” by transforming the lives of donkeys and donkey owning communities through actions to relieve them of their immediate suffering and creating a lasting change. This is achieved by

promotion of adoption of appropriate husbandry practices with focus to the

five animal welfare domains of Nutrition, Health, Environment, Behaviour and Mental status; Promoting the adoption of Community Donkey Insurance for Protection (CDIP), which is a unique concept being piloted by STIPA to improve accessibility to veterinary services; promote engagement on diverse livelihood options that support donkey welfare and improve household resilience and heighten war against DHT by increasing awareness and adoption of Reporting framework for missing donkeys.

During this year, the project implemented in Kisumu and Siaya Counties, realized the following achievements:

1. Formation and strengthening of 6 donkey owning groups with a total membership of 193 (Male-78 Female-115) with 553 donkeys.
2. Roll out of Community Donkey Insurance for Protection (CDIP) Plan in three groups with 95 members registering 213 donkeys.
3. Adoption of appropriate husbandry practices such as use of appropriate ropes for tethering and harnesses; routine control of ecto and endo parasites thus reduced morbidity and mortality rates for donkeys.
4. Fodder (Rhodes Grass) production by 6 donkey owning groups cultivated on a total of 12 acres of land which is expected to produce 15,000 kgs for hay as supplementary feeds for animals during drought.
5. Rehoming of 50 Donkeys in collaboration with Kenya Society for Care and Protection of Animals (KSPCA) and BEA.
6. Increased visibility of through engagement with local radio and TV stations(Radio Nam Lolwe, Mayienga Radio and Kala TV) and other social media platforms.
7. Improved partnership with relevant County and Sub County departments (Department of Agriculture and Veterinary Services, Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Ministry of Education).

3.2 Sorghum Value Chain Project



This year marked the end of the project duration where the overall objective was to increase the adoption and production of improved white sorghum variety KM32-1, from KALRO among smallholder farmer. The outcomes aimed at promoting adoption of technologies to improve productivity in identified value chains; promoting agribusiness along the identified value chains; promoting value addition, food and nutritional security in identified value chains; and promoting job creation and increased incomes in identified value chains.

The project is designed within Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organisation (KALRO's) research development of new white sorghum variety (KM32-1) that is high yielding, drought tolerant, early maturing and of high brewing quality. The variety is also resistant to smut diseases and can grow in hot semi-arid regions. The Project ended on 6th February 2024. The farmers continue to plant it.

Implementation of the project in Kisumu, Siaya and Homa Bay Counties, realized major **achievements** such as:

1. A total of 2,230 (M-823; F-1,099 and Y-308) farmers reached who adopted the sorghum value chain in the four planting seasons, being 2 long rains and 2 short rains seasons out of the targeted 2,270 farmers.
2. A total of KES. 55,593,135.00 (fifty five million, five hundred ninety three thousand, one hundred thirty five Kenya Shillings only) earned from the sale of 55,593 Kgs of sorghum.
3. A total of 1,942 farmers realized improved nutrition from a total of 892,459 Kgs of sorghum produced in the project period. Total produce of 336,528 Kgs was set aside for home consumption and animal nutrition.
4. An acre employed between 32 to 45 people from production to marketing activities depending on one's financial capability, soil type and technology adopted.

The major challenge experienced is the adoption of commercial farming as majority of farmers own small land parcels. This resulted in the gap in marketing plans with Kenya Breweries (KBL) due to inadequate surplus gains. Secondly, the effect of El-nino heavy downpour caused crop failure. The farmers have however continued to plant the crop in subsequent seasons.

3.3 Kuku Bora Project

Funding Partner:

Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organisation (KALRO)

Project Duration:

February 2022 – February 2024

Budget:

EUR 66,570.30

Context:

- ↳ Adoption of new KALRO improved indigenous chicken.
- ↳ Technology Development by KALRO.
- ↳ Technology Transfer Model.
- ↳ Value Chain Commercialization Model

Upscaling KALRO Improved Indigenous Chicken project was a two year project whose objective was to increase the adoption and production of KALRO Improved Indigenous Chicken (KIIC) among small holder farmers to improve food security, employment and incomes in Western Kenya. The project sought to (i) promote farmer adoption of KIIC climate-smart technologies for increased production and productivity (ii) link farmers to market and integrate them to commodity markets, (iii) facilitate farmer access to and use of production inputs, (iv) enhance farmer access to and derive services from financial institutions, and (v) build capacity of farmers and other stakeholders along the KIIC value chains. The project ended on 22nd February 2024.

The project resonated with KALRO's priority action of promoting adoption of technologies to improve productivity in identified value chain. This was done through expansion of awareness on KALRO Improved Indigenous chicken in the market.

Implementation of the project in Kisumu and Siaya Counties in Western Kenya, realized major achievements such as:

1. A total of 1,850 farmers (M-627; F:868; Y-355, PWD-0) trained on poultry management and facilitated to get 121,027 chicks through multiplier effect.
2. A total number of 2,705,088 eggs were laid during the period of which 109,463 were hatched, 1,348,746 were sold and 1,246,879 were consumed at the farmer household level.
3. Of the 121 mature birds, 8,221 cocks and 3,649 hens were sold including 13,670 Kg of organic manure.
4. The total income derived was KES. 79,614,604.00 (seventy nine million, six hundred and fourteen thousand, six hundred and four Kenya Shillings only).
5. A total of 1,850 farmers adopted the technology being the direct beneficiaries.

The major challenge was the aggregation that was not done as defined in the intervention logic because of the cost of feeds that slowed down the adoption, therefore resulting in lower volumes that were not possible to aggregate for commercialization.

3.4 Nature Positive Solutions Project

Funding Partner:

International Water Management Institute (IWMI) through PELUM Kenya.

Project Annual Year:

October 2023 – April 2024

Annual Budget:

KES. 865,228.00

Context:

- ⊕ *Scaling circular bio economy model – briquette and compost making*
- ⊕ *Co-design and implementation of circular bio-economy business model through briquette, compost making and black soldier fly.*

The Nature Positive Solutions was aimed at (i) capacity building, piloting and scaling circular bio economy model specifically, briquette making for one women group in the urban slums and compost making among the Pamoja Community Based Organisation (CBO) Caregivers in Seme Sub County of Kisumu County, and (ii) co-design and implement circular bio-economy model through compost making and black solder fly among the farmers in Kisumu County.

The project addressed the improvement of soil fertility, a component of poultry feeding through rearing of black solder fly larvae and enhancement of food production through making and using compost manure to improve farm productivity.

Training was done to a total of 30 women on briquette making, 95 farmers on compost manure making, training of TOTs on Business Model Canvas, and training of 2 staff and 8 farmers as TOTs on Black Soldier Fly Technology.

The project period having been short calls for the need to do more training to promote adoption of the technology for improved food security using circular bio-economy that is less costly and easily accessible by majority of small-scale rural farmers. Adoption of the technology is likely to increase with continuous backstopping.

The major challenge experienced was climate change phenomenon with heavy downpour that sometimes interrupted sessions that had to be postponed or cut short.

4. INSTITUTIONAL OPERATIONS

Key Achievements:

- Strengthened Board Governance through introduction of Board Annual Work Plan, Board Risk Register and functional Board Sub Committees
- Formation of 3 Board Sub Committees:
 1. Compliance and Governance
 2. Finance Audit and Risk
 3. Programmes
- Development of Strategic Plan 2024-2027
- Development of 2 new policy documents:
 1. STIPA Safeguarding 2024
 2. Risk Management 2024

Institutional Calendar Year:

January 2024 – December 2024

Annual Budget:

KES. 11,222,641.00

Total No. of Staff:

11 (M-3; F-8)

In the year 2024, good governance and accountability were key in STIPA's day to day operations in a mission to uphold good ethical standards.

There was a well-functioning board with diverse expertise in project management, human resource, strategic management, finance including monitoring and evaluation. Following the Governance training to STIPA's Board of Directors in March 2023 by Brooke East Africa, the year saw the governance system strengthened with the introduction of Board Sub Committees who meet quarterly, the development of the Board Annual Work Plan that was reviewed twice in the year and the Board Risk Register that was reviewed quarterly.

The STIPA Management with the support of staff and guidance of one Board of Director facilitated the development of the STIPA Strategic Plan for the period 2024 - 2028. Our new strategic

direction focuses on (i) enhancing capacities of communities to advocate for relevant policies and good governance, (ii) accelerating uptake of sustainable development initiatives by communities, (iii) increasing resilience to climate change effects and adoption of innovation and technology, and (iv) strengthening capacities and structures of organization systems for effective service delivery.

Institutional compliance was upheld through filing of 2023 Annual Returns to NGOs Coordination Board, corporate remittance to statutory bodies who include Kenya Revenue Authority [for Pay As You Earn (PAYE), Affordable Housing Levy (AHL), National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) Levy], National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) that is presently Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), and National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

Clear policies were in place as new policies were developed, specifically Safeguarding Policy 2024 and Risk Management Policy 2024.

Clear guidelines were in place that ensured prudent financial management practices including budgeting, auditing and financial reporting. During the year STIPA's annual budget was KES. 11,222,641.00 (eleven million, two hundred twenty two thousand, six hundred forty one Kenya Shillings of which 88% was donor grants and 12% from own contribution.

5. SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY

From Fear to Confidence

A Veterinarian's Journey into Donkey Welfare in Siaya County

My name is John Migayo, an animal health practitioner in Rarieda sub-county, Siaya County, I have long offered treatment to a wide range of domesticated animals. However, for many years, I avoided treating donkeys due to fear and uncertainty about how to handle them safely. This changed in 2023 when I attended a stakeholder meeting organized by STIPA in Bondo, which focused on animal welfare, especially donkeys. The meeting sparked my interest, and soon after, I joined a training facilitated by STIPA and Brooke East Africa, where I learned effective techniques for handling donkeys. This training gave me the confidence I needed to start treating them.



My journey progressed as STIPA involved me in special animal health days, where I provided services to donkeys within the community. It was during these outreach events that I was introduced to the concept of community donkey insurance for protection (CDIP), which allows owners to contribute funds to ensure their animals can access healthcare services.

Through this initiative, I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with KAMARA Self Help Group in Siaya County, officially becoming their designated vet for donkey healthcare, where I am able to get a monthly stipend depending on the group donkeys that I have treated during the month. This partnership not only improved donkey health services but also expanded my professional network with both community groups and fellow animal welfare stakeholders.

Recognizing my role as a private vet, it is also sustainable for me to continue offering donkey services. This support has enhanced my income, strengthened my ties with the community, and allowed me to serve animals I once feared with confidence. I am truly grateful to STIPA for helping me overcome my fears, broaden my skills, and play an active role in improving donkey welfare, an area that is often overlooked but crucial to the rural livelihoods.



From Struggle to Sustainability

Rose's Organic Farming Journey in Seme Ward

In Kori Village, Seme, Kisumu West. Rose Ambiyo used to rely on trial-and-error farming plowing without fertilizer, battling poor soils, and watching rain wash away her efforts. Food was scarce, yields were poor, and knowledge was limited.

Everything changed when STIPA in partnership with PELUM introduced her to organic composting and practical farm planning. Using simple materials cow dung, weeds, and discarded branches—Rose began making her own compost. She no longer buys vegetables or beans.



“Now, I eat from my farm all year round. Even pests don’t bother me—onions on the edge of my garden keep them away.”

She's not keeping this change to herself. *“Three of my neighbors came asking, ‘Why is your farm doing so well?’ I showed them how to make compost. Now their farms are changing too.”*

Her farm is now a model in the village, and her mornings are filled with purpose. *“This is my office. When the sun rises, I head to the farm. I collect branches, make compost, and water my plants. I don’t need to buy anything.”*

Beyond food security, her ambition is bigger. *“This farm is now my bank. I’m paying school fees with my harvests. I teach my children that the farm is our future.”*

Her message is powerful and timely:

“Let’s stop waiting for government help. Let’s come together, form farmer groups, teach each other, and grow our own food. We don’t need to depend on anyone else.”

With STIPA’s support and her own hard-earned knowledge, Rose’s farm is more than just a plot of land it’s a symbol of dignity, resilience, and local-led change.



“We were always told that farming can’t work without expensive fertilizer... but today, I feed my family and still have enough to sell—using what I have around me.” Rose



Sustainable Energy for All (The Inspiring Story of Tich en Tich Makwangla Women Group)



Final briquette product ready for sun drying.

In 2023, a group of ten women from Kisumu came together to form what is now known as **Tich en Tich Makwangla Women Group**. Back then, they called their product *makwangla* charcoal-like briquettes made from waste materials like soda ash, charcoal dust, leaves, and even old cardboard. What started as a small initiative has now become a beacon of innovation, women's empowerment, and environmental conservation.

"At first, people laughed at what we were doing. But today, we're earning from what others used to throw away."

From support by **STIPA**, the group learned how to improve the quality of their briquettes, adopt safer methods, and formalize their structure. With the provision of modern machines, training on teamwork,



and a safe, indoor drying space, the women can now produce briquettes more efficiently—rain or shine.

"Before, we made briquettes with our hands and dried them outside. Now, with machines and a drying area, we can produce more and meet the demand."

From 10 women, the group grew to 30, eventually settling at 20 dedicated members 19 women and one man who understood the power of collective effort. Through table banking, they also support each other with small loans to boost their businesses or meet urgent needs.



Today, **Makwangla briquettes** are sold widely:

- 3 pieces for 10 shillings
- 6 for 20 shillings
- A basin for 400 shillings
- A sack (5 basins) for 1,500 shillings

Monthly sales range between **KSh 10,000 and 15,000**, depending on demand. At the end of each year, profits are shared among members, with some funds reinvested to grow the group's stock.

"For me, briquettes mean my children have school fees, I have charcoal to cook, and we have a cleaner environment."

The group has not only created a steady source of income but also champion for **climate action**. By recycling market waste and avoiding tree-cutting, they are helping reduce deforestation in their community.



“Even if the government bans tree cutting, we won’t be affected—we know how to make fuel without harming the environment.”

Their vision is bold and clear: to **own their own production space** and **expand beyond Kisumu** into new markets within the next three years.

“We want briquettes to be a household name. We want our children to learn this skill and carry it forward.”