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# Kenya Update

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## "Little Kitali"

Imagine my delight when I learned Kager Village had been given the nickname "Little Kitali". It seems the most productive agriculture land in Kenya is located around the city of Kitali, the "bread basket" of Kenya. I was told Kager Village had put into practice some of the teachings of Farming God's Way and had seen their corn production go from two to three 90kg sacks per acre to ten to twelve 90kg sacks per acre! Now, when food runs out, the surrounding villages come to Kager to buy food and have given them the name "Little Kitali". So, when twenty farmers gathered for further Farming God's Way training I asked them what they believed led to the improvements. Some of their answers included that they: 1- Worked harder at planting on time to get the full blessing of God's rain. 2- Spaced their corn further apart for less competition of nutrients and water. 3- Introduced the use of mulch (God's Blanket) in their vegetable production. 4- Learned how important it was to place manure / compost in the root zone below the seed versus broadcasting.

While improvements had been made in vegetable production we saw very little change in

conservation tillage in corn production. We saw teams of oxen plowing up and down the hill sides. So, we once again stressed the importance of giving back to

the soil and the importance of "God's Blanket" in preventing soil erosion.

We also discovered some struggles in management, another focus of Farming God's Way. LaRon Beemer traveled with me and is a book keeper for DOW, he created an interactive spreadsheet where we could discuss profitability based on input costs and sale costs of the corn in order to stress God's all sufficiency and how we should trust in Him.

Our theme at Agri-Stewards has become "Little By Little". It was encouraging to see improvements made but a reminder that change takes time. We pray the farmers of Kager will continue to implement more of Farming God's Way and begin teaching the neighboring communities that have named "Little Kitali" what God can do for them.



## Your Opportunity Is Here!

Join us on our next trip to Kenya!

Dates: March 9-22, 2014  
Approximate Cost: \$2,000

Projects: Teaching, Greenhouse Work, Planting 24 acres



# From Herders to Farmers

The second leg of our trip led us to an area just south of Narok. The name of the tribe in this area is called the Masai. For centuries the Masai have been known as herders and they are very proud of their cattle and goats. The region they live in typically only produces one crop a year due to limited rainfall. They have begun to clear some land and have started farming.



Some fifty people gathered for us to demonstrate proper planting techniques, spacing, use of inputs, and mulching. We planted half an acre; and many said they would return the next day to plant the remaining half acre. Due to a drought during the last growing season many of them were only able to afford one meal a day. They have resorted to milking their beef cattle and taking it to town to sell to produce some income.



They were quite surprised to learn what a valuable resource they possessed in the two feet of manure piled up in their overnight



the manure below the seed for maximum use of the input.

pens for their animals. Lions roam the area at night so, for the herd's protection they are penned up. FGW explains how to place

They have cleared ten acres as a community and have fence posts set. They would like to fence the farm to prevent grazing animals from eating their crops. If you feel led to help with a project they are trying to raise \$2,500 to purchase barbed wire and fence. If you send a gift to Agri-Stewards we will forward on 100% of the gift to the project.



# My Second Home



No trip to Kenya would be complete without a stop at Joska. It is a joy to recognize so many familiar faces. No project is without its occasional hurdles, and Joska is no different. Since being there back in February they have experienced a great deal of turnover in the agriculture staff. We met with the new leadership team and reaffirmed our goals of food production for the students.

It was a real joy for us as Grant Dryden, the producer of the Farming God's Way DVD series, joined up with us at Joska. He was able to share with Jane and Moses, the directors of the girls and boys boarding schools, how the Farming God's Way curriculum had been integrated in many other schools in Africa.

During the demonstration at the girls school Grant did a great job engaging the girls through competitions as we quickly prepared our planting stations. What a joy it was to see the students quickly pick up on this new method of conservation farming. We all shared a good laugh as one of the newly hired agriculture staff "repented" of his Kenyan farming

techniques of slash and burn and inversion tillage after being taught the benefits of mulching or "God's Blanket". Once again in God's providence he led Grant to join our team at just the right time to breathe new life and excitement into our project at Joska. We once again see 'little by little' progress as we attempt to feed the 10,000 students of Missions of Hope International.

We used the Massey Ferguson, which was shipped over to them back in February, to spread gypsum on four acres and plant beans on three acres. The remaining acre will have millet planted on it.

One teacher from Joska girls and Ndvoini boys were selected to

go receive the full Farming God's Way training to implement the lessons into the school's curriculum. How exciting it is to imagine how 10,000 children could receive this training, what a huge potential impact this could have on Kenyan farming! Please pray that God would continue to be made famous through this agricultural work.

