

Winny



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Winny is 29 years old. She is married with two children. Winny has half an acre of land on which she grows tea and vegetables which she sells and uses at home. She also keeps poultry. She has been a Radio Champion for two years.



Winny works from Monday to Saturday, resting only on Sunday. On Thursday she sells her produce in the nearby village. Winny values the independence that her crops give her and the financial security that their sales can bring. She uses the income to send her children to school and to look after her family.

Nonetheless, there have been challenges. The changing climate has affected Winny's crops: drought affects production and hailstorms have affected tea plucking – delaying it by up to three months. This has impacted her finances, and her personal circumstances have compounded these challenges. A family member has been sick and they have struggled to pay for their children's education. This has led to conflict and disagreements with her husband.

Winny enjoys her role as a Radio Champion and the chair of a women's group: she is recognised in her community. She believes that her involvement has led to better collaboration with her husband on farming, sharing household responsibilities and looking after their children. She uses her kitchen garden for her families' needs, understanding how she can bring more nutrition into their diets. In the community, there is a great understanding of efficient farming processes and crop rotation. Winny plans to grow her poultry business, building more security into the life of her family.

“The programme has helped me and my community.”



Nancy C



Nancy C

Nancy is 46 years old and is a widow. She runs a kitchen garden, growing tea, bananas, avocado, rosemary and moringa. She also has cows. Nancy is a programme reference group member.



Nancy faces a number of challenges, from hiring labour to taking her tea to the buying centre. Adverse weather, pests and diseases have affected her crops. Nonetheless, through her farming she has paid off her loans and has been able to diversify.

Nancy believes that engagement with the radio programme can be life changing. She is more development conscious and aware of different sources of energy. She has gained information on farming techniques, including the use of herbicides, organic farming and weeding. Nancy has ambitions to grow her avocado production and introduce a technological green house to control disease.

She also values the fact that the programme has assisted women with funds and information and empowers them through their membership of women's groups.

“Knowing that cutting down trees causes climate change, there are other sources of energy like biogas. We can use cow dung, chicken and rabbit droppings and decaying materials to generate power to light up homes and other run machines like the chaff cutter.”

“Being part of the programme has helped me to improve my communication skills.”



Betty



Betty

Betty is 44 years old and is married with 4 children. She is a programme reference group member and has been a Radio Champion for one year.



Betty owns 3.5 acres of land and grows pineapple, coffee, tea, beans, cabbage and maize, for both sale and for family use. Her pineapple farming brings in a good income to support her family and pay school fees. The tea farming has helped her to access a bank loan which has also helped to pay for the children's school fees

However, Betty faces a number of challenges. Drought has led to low production and hailstorms affected the tea plucking for two months. She has struggled to get enough capital to pay for farm inputs and the labour needed for plucking.

Her engagement in the programme and her role as a Radio Champion have helped her to address some of these challenges. She has gained information on good financial management and tea farming practices which have increased production.

She has received advice on leadership, decision making in the family and preventing violence, which has improved life at home. Betty aspires to increase her family's income and build a permanent house.

"In the past it was a taboo for a woman to lead. Right now, we have opted to have women to lead us because they are down to earth and truthful."



Nancy R



Nancy R

Nancy R is 55 years old. She is married with three children and has 10 acres of land, evenly split between pineapple and tea production. She is also engaged in dairy and poultry farming. She has been part of the biodigester demonstration project for one year.



Finance is the biggest obstacle for Nancy, preventing her from growing her business.

She was keen to get involved with the biodigester demonstration project to understand more about timing saving and environmental conservation. She also wanted to understand how it could benefit her health.

Using the biodigester has reduced the cost of firewood and she has been able to use the manure (bio slurry) in poultry feeds and fertilizer for the farm and her kitchen garden. She has also found that her health has improved. She no longer has eye problems as she has reduced her use of firewood.

Other farmers in the community have been coming to Nancy's farm to learn about the value of the biodigester.

"I am looking forward to expanding my tea and pineapple farming in the near future."

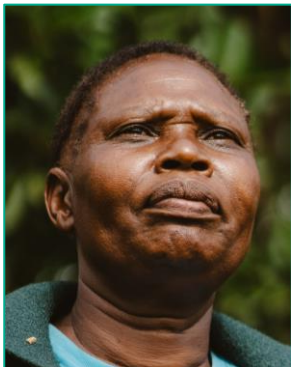


Monicah



Monicah

Monicah is 55 years old. She is married with seven children. She has 5 acres in total, with 1 acre for tea, and the rest for crops including beans and cabbage. She also keeps cows. She has been a Radio Champion for a year.

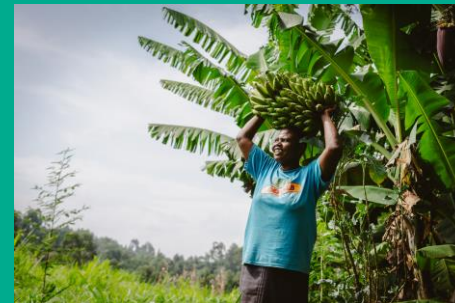


The long droughts have affected her crop production, as have pests and diseases. This has impacted her income. However, her engagement in radio programme has helped to tackle some of these issues.

She has valued the discussions they have had on topics including diversification of crop production and fertilisation. She has been able to improve her family's finances through increase milk and poultry product sales. She is also part of a local banking self-help group which has purchased water tanks for its members.

Monicah aspires to own more cows and poultry and increase the produce and income from her kitchen garden.

“Our family listens to the programme and discusses farm topics together.”





Vinic

Vinic is 33 years old and is married with four children. She is a Radio Champion and farms 1.5 acres of crops including bananas and tea.



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Vinic's routine involves tending to cows and poultry in the morning and farming in the evening after handling local business.

Vinic's family faces financial challenges and they sometimes struggle to afford school fees. This causes occasional conflicts with her husband. Despite this, farming supports her family and gives her satisfaction and motivation.

As a Radio Champion, Vinic has gained confidence and community respect.

The programme has improved her farming techniques and allowed her to train others on topics like financial management, soil erosion and climate change. Positive feedback has led to proposals for more topics and expert talks to groups in the community.

Vinic aims to enhance her crop production through better composting and techniques. She believes education and community involvement are vital.

“There is a need for continued support and training to adapt to climate change and improve community resilience.”

