



# FARMER STORIES

These stories come from farmers, community facilitators, government focal points, and partners who have been engaged in project activities in Kenya.

**NAME:**  
Urbanus and Anastacia Kamuti

**AGE:**  
37

**LOCATION:**  
Malumani Village,  
Mwala, Machakos County

**FARM SIZE:**  
0.75 acres

## WHAT DO URBANUS AND ANASTACIA GROW ON THEIR FARM?

Urbanus and Anastacia have diversified the crops they grow on their farm. They grow maize, beans, cowpeas, watermelon, onions, tomatoes, kale, sweet potato, bananas, cassava and pumpkin. These crops are for home consumption and sale at the local market.

Fruit trees include pawpaw, lemon and syzygium.



## BECOMING MODEL FARMERS

Urbanus was trained, through the project, on soil and water conservation measures including on different sizes of planting basins and their management. He was also trained on the different tree planting methods and management practices.

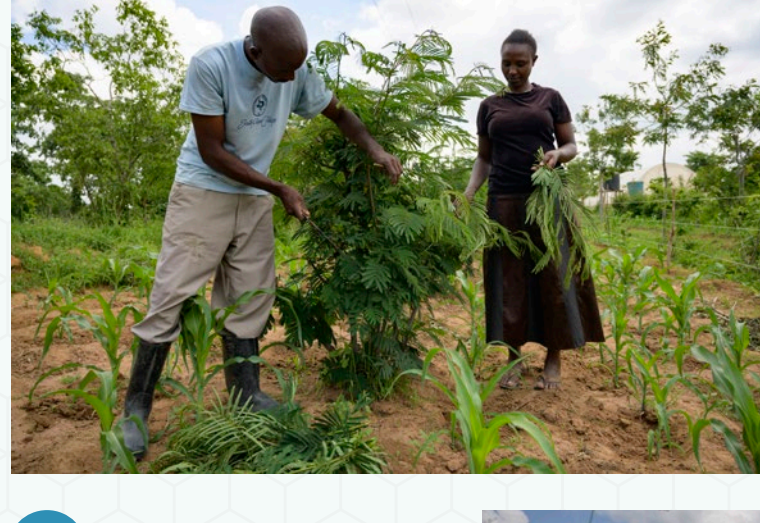
Urbanus and Anastacia are model farmers, they started with **80 planting basins**

And now have **100 planting basins** and are able to get good yields from the crops despite unpredictable rains.

They also have other agricultural enterprises on their farm such as;

- dairy farming,
- poultry keeping,
- aquaculture,
- goat, and
- beef farming.

Other interventions on their farm include, rainwater harvesting through a farm pond and a household pond. Water from the farm pond is used for farming while the household pond is used for livestock and poultry.



**FARMER INNOVATION**

Urbanus and Anastacia are using planting trenches which are a bigger version of the planting basins. These require less labour and have higher returns on yield. They plant maize in the nursery before the planting season starts after which they transplant to the farm. This allows them to harvest the maize early and take advantage of the ready market.

They have diversified the crops they have planted in the basins to include horticultural crops such as onions and watermelon. They are also planting bananas.

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Urbanus and Anastacia's have been incorporating a range of improvements on their farm, including different restoration technologies including large planting basins and tree planting, and investments in water conservation and aquaculture. They host and teach other farmers who are interested in learning from them. They have taught about **100 farmers** so far.

## IMPACTS FROM PROJECT INTERVENTIONS AND LEARNING

**RESTORED LAND QUALITY**

Urbanus and Anastacia through the project have incorporating different technologies on their farm, from soil and water conservation to aquaculture.

**PEST CONTROL**

Urbanus and Anastacia reflected they felt the basins have helped to manage pest control as they have crops in a concentrated area on their farm so can directly target pest control there.

**INCREASED DIVERSIFICATION**

They have also diversified the crops they grow and consume on their farm.

**FODDER PRODUCTION**

Urbanus also planted both fruit and fodder trees and most have survived. The *Calliandra calothyrsus* is already being harvested for fodder to save money by supplementing animal food. They previously spent approximately KSH 20,000 per year on animal feed but now spend only half that.

**INCREASED YIELD**

**Crop yield increased by 74%** when Urbanus and Anastacia started using planting basins. They produce enough to feed their family and sell the surplus to buy the food/crops not produced on the farm for both the household and the livestock. They buy food such as rice, wheat flour, potatoes and pineapples from the local market.

**WATER AND FOOD SECURITY**

They established a fishpond with capital from the sale of green maize that was grown in the basins which they use to rear fish for sale and home consumption.

**GENERATING INCOME**

With increased farm production, Urbanus and Anastacia sell the surplus to get additional income which they use to buy the crops/ food that they don't produce on their farm. They have also been able to diversify the crops they grow in the planting basins which they sell for extra cash e.g. tomatoes, onions and watermelon. They sell the following crops from their farm:

- 10,000 onion bulbs once a year at KSH 5 per bulb
- 1000 pieces of green maize twice a year at KSH 20 per cob
- 1 tonne of watermelon twice a year at KSH 20 per kg
- 100 chicks monthly at KSH 100 per chick
- 100 chicken twice a year at KSH 500 per chicken
- 6 litres of milk daily at KSH 60 per litre