



Felister Mihayo poses in her tomato field

Tanzania

Spotlight: Addressing Soil and Water Challenges in Kahama

Smallholder farmers in the Kahama area contend with sandy soils and an intensifying dry season. Few farmers understand the ways in which different soil types affect the productivity of vegetable crops, or how to amend the soil for agricultural use. In addition, less annual rainfall is producing progressive water shortages that are impacting farmers' boreholes, limiting the water available for crops.

The EWS-KT Tanzania team supports farmers to succeed in this environment by demonstrating how to use decomposed post-harvest material

and aged manure to achieve more suitable physical and chemical soil properties for vegetable farming. Training on various organic mulches helps to ensure that the little available water gives the highest possible yield, producing more income for farmers.

The Tanzania team uses a blended learning approach that includes on-field trainings, outreach via radio and social media, and a newly established learning farm that showcases improved techniques and the difference they make.

Learning from the Ground Up

Living in the Kahama district, 49-year-old Felister Mihayo was growing corn, rice, groundnuts, and sunflowers when she attended an EWS-KT training on vegetable cultivation that was hosted by fellow farmers. Impressed, she began to learn with EWS-KT and grow vegetables herself. Her first tomato crop brought good returns, so she scaled up production and began to hire laborers for her new enterprise.

Before she encountered EWS-KT, Felister knew very little about vegetable farming. She didn't know what seeds to use, or how to amend the soil, or safe handling of pesticides. She didn't know where to sell her produce. She learned all of this and more at EWS-KT training sessions and through conversations with the trainer. She now has the confidence and knowledge to visit agro-input shops on her own and select the seeds, fertilizers, and other supplies she needs.

Whenever Felister encounters a challenge, she forges ahead with a solution. To reduce the cost

of irrigation water, she is using organic mulch to conserve moisture. To get the best returns on her harvest, she is strategic about what she plants and when she plants it. For instance, she prefers tomato production in the dry season because of the high tomato price in the market from November to February.

Through her perseverance and success, Felister has become a role model in her community, and she readily shares her expertise with other farmers.

“ In this area, men and women consider me a hero in vegetable farming and as an entrepreneur. Men and women come to learn improved farming techniques from my field. ”

- Felister Mihayo

2022 Results

8,734

FARMERS TRAINED



152

DEMO PLOTS ESTABLISHED

278

TRAINING EVENTS

AVERAGE NET PROFIT

US\$ **496.02** per crop cycle, 500 sq. m. plot

HIGHEST NET PROFIT TOMATO

US\$ **710.63** AVERAGE NET PROFIT, per crop cycle, 500 sq. m. plot