

## Success Story

### Makarue Self-help Group, Embu district

The Makarue Group in Nembure Division in Embu district has 30 members. Their aim is to improve their food production. Following a maize variety demonstration conducted with FIPS-Africa in the 2004 short rainy season, 10 group members adopted to purchase FIPS-Africa's "food security" package in the following season. This package consists of fertilizer and maize and bean seeds for a 20 x 25 m plot of land which is designed to yield 4-5 (90 kg) bags of maize and 25 kg beans.

*Photo: Jacob Mugo shows off his food security package in which the Katumani bean is placed in the same hole as the WH403 maize variety.*



*Photo: Some members of the Makarue Group by their 2 acre group farm on which they are growing the WH403 maize variety with Mavuno fertilizers.*

The group purchased 16 kg of seed and 100 kg of Mavuno planting fertilizer at the start of the 2005 long rainy season.



Eighteen individual members of the group adopted FIPS-Africa's recommendations in the 2005 long rainy season. They purchased a total of 90 kg of WH403 maize variety and 400 kg Mavuno fertilizer.

*Photo: Group member Jacob Mugo by his plot of maize.*

## Success Story

### Dickson Kamau, Ruthagati Village, Nyeri district

Dickson Kamau is a small-scale farmer in Nyeri district. He has 250 coffee bushes. After attending a FIPS-Africa field day in his village, he decided to buy 25 kg *Mavuno* planting fertilizer which he applied to his coffee in October 2004. He applied 25 kg *Mavuno* topdressing fertilizer in March 2005.

He normally harvests 60 kg coffee per day using 17-17-17 and CAN fertilizers. With *Mavuno* he is harvesting 180 kg/day! As he harvests 3 times a week, over a six week period, he estimates that use of the *Mavuno* fertilizer will earn him an extra US\$576!

Dickson has also doubled the yields of his potatoes by using *Mavuno*!



*Photo: Dickson Kamau (left) together with his local stockist from whom he purchased the Mavuno fertilizer shows off his day's harvest.*



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### Grace Maitha, Nembure division, Embu district



In 2003, FIPS-Africa staff, within the framework of the DfID-funded Crop Protection Programme, started to train farmers in the Mt. Kenya region on improved maize crop management practices. Approximately, 50,000 farmers have so far been trained, and have started to benefit by improved their yields through the adoption of improved disease-resistant varieties, and crop management practices.

Grace Maitha is one of these farmers. She lives in Karue Village, Makengi location, Nembure division. She is 60 years old, and looks after 5 family members in her household. She used to grow maize on 2 acres of land, and using conventionally-used inputs, harvested only 5 bags/acre. She used to plant two seeds/hole, and spaced holes 60 cm apart.

Following instruction from FIPS-Africa, she now harvests 15 bags/acre using MSV-tolerant maize varieties (WH403, and DK8031) and *Mavuno* planting fertilizer. She now sows 1 seed/hole and holes are spaced 30 cm apart.

She now grows maize on only 1 acre because she says she can now meet her family's requirements on a smaller area! She therefore harvests 5 bags maize more than before on half the land area using the same cost of inputs. But she has significantly reduced her labour input.

	Area planted to maize (acre)	Fertilizer used	Maize variety used	Yield (90 kg bags)
Before FIPS-Africa	2	DAP (50kg) + CAN (20kg)	10 kg (H511/H513)	10
After FIPS-Africa	1	Mavuno (50kg) + CAN (20kg)	8 kg (WH403/ DK8031)	15