

Success Story

Small Farmers in Kisii district greatly increase their yields of maize through improved management practices

In 2004, FIPS-Africa staff, within the framework of the USAID-funded Kenya Maize Development Programme, started to train farmers in Kisii and Nyamira districts on improved maize crop management practices. Approximately 20,000 farmers have so far been trained in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, and have started to substantially increase their maize production. Two example of succeeding farmers are given below.



Loise Mora

Loise Mora farms 0.25 acres in Riondo'nga village in Keumbu division, Kisii district, where she lives with her family of 7. She used to harvest 2 bags of maize from using 2 kg H614, and 20 kg DAP fertilizer. Last season she harvested 6 bags from her small plot using improved spacing and fertilizer application methods with 10 kg *Mavuno* planting fertilizer, 1 kg WH505 seed, and 5 kg *Mavuno topdressing* fertilizer. Loise used to plant 2 seeds at a spacing of 60 cm x 40 cm, and used to place her fertilizer on top of the seed. She now plants 1 seed/hole at a spacing of 75 cm x 25 cm, and places the fertilizer below the seed.



Victor Osoro

Victor Osoro is a member of the Nyankororo Farmers Group, in Keumbu division in Kisii district. He grows maize on a 0.25 acre plot, and before he was contacted by FIPS-Africa staff, used to harvest 1.5 bags of maize. He used to purchase 2 kg H614 maize seed and 10 kg DAP fertilizer and applied the fertilizer on top of the seed. After learning from a FIPS-Africa demonstration in his village, last season Victor harvested 8.5 bags from the same area! He achieved this yield by using 1 kg H6210 seed, 10 kg *Mavuno* planting fertilizer, and 5 kg CAN for topdressing. He sowed 1 seed/hole, and placed fertilizer below the seed, separated by a thin layer of soil.

By improving the management of their maize crops, both Loise and Victor have more than trebled the yields of their maize, and now have enough food for their families. In so doing, they have reduced the amount of seed they used to purchase.