Msumarini Self Help Project, Msumarini, Kenya

Development Stage

Concept — Fundraising — Implementation — Operation — Scaling

The Msumarini Self Help Project (MSHP) was established over twenty years ago on the Northern Coast of Kenya in Msumarini to improve community livelihoods and food security and develop a relationship with the community. reNature will start a Model Farm and Model School in partnership with the Msumarini Self Help Project to teach about regenerative agroforestry to improve farming practices, farmer income and drive economic activity in the area. The project will boost biodiversity, regenerate natural resources and provide an inspirational alternative to conventional farming practices. Andrea and his team have already started implementing a permaculture system focussed on fruits, vegetables and turning all organic waste into compost.

Finance & Planing

200,000
Investment

Andrea Wikmann
Initiator

LOCATION:
Kilifi County, Kenya

SIZE OF PLANTED PLOT:
2 ha

SIZE OF POTENTIAL AREA:
60 ha

CLIENT:
Msumarini Self Help Project

KEY CROP:
Fruits and vegetables (such as tomato, mango, papaya, lentils, beats) in a permaculture food forest system.

INDUSTRY:
Food

GOAL:
Implement and scale regenerative agroforestry practices to support smallholder farmer livelihoods, food security and regenerate natural resources.

MAIN FOCUS:
Food and nutritional security, income opportunities for smallholders and environmental restoration.

PARTNERS:

Assignment & Impact

Number of expected beneficiaries

2000 Community Members

Development Challenge

Many of Msumarini's inhabitants suffer from a poverty and degradation trap. A lack of economic opportunity and resources under the stress of climate change cause people to seek out unsustainable farming practices. These deliver short-term results but exploit soils and resources in the longer term. Agriculture in particular is undiversified and often unsustainable farming methods are practiced with increasing use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. The strong reliance on monocropped maize will pose even bigger risks as it is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The global health pandemic has had a great impact on the flow of trade and abruptly halted food imports to Msumarini at times highlighting the fragility of food security relying on imports. There is a need for an alternative farming approach that can ensure food security locally, counteract poverty and degradation while benefiting the environment.

Intervention

The main activities within the MSHP project will be the development and implementation of a Model Farm and Model School. The first year will mostly focus on the Model Farm starting with the context analysis to ensure all local needs and interests are taken into account. Building on the agro-ecological, social and economic context a regenerative agroforestry design will be made and planted within. The next three years will be spent on the Model School educational program focused on capacity building for community members. Farmers will be trained in regenerative agroforestry practices, invited to engage with the farm design and start learning how to apply these practices on their own farm.

Objective

To improve farmer livelihoods, drive economic activity in the area and increase food security and resilience to climate change and weather shocks.

Financial Details

reNature Model Farm: est.	€ 50,000
reNature Model School: est.	€ 150,000

Inspirational Impact

Kenya and its smallholder farmers are being increasingly targeted by agribusinesses as a sales market for agricultural inputs and GM crop varieties. The business model in which natural ecosystem services such as nutrient availability and pest control are replaced with agribusiness products, traps farmers in a cycle of

2,000

Community Members

73% More

Biodiversity

13% More

Soil Humidity

12 Ton More

CO2 sequestration per ha/year

environmental degradation and the need to buy external inputs. reNature and the Msumarini Self Help Project will showcase there is an alternative to shifting to unsustainable practices or leaving villages in the hope of finding work in cities with the potential to end up in even worse conditions. The project will be a showcase for community based approaches, valuing local knowledge and customs, and taking a holistic view on the local agro-ecosystem. Proving the concept to work in this area could inspire neighbouring villages to start planting trees and regenerate an even bigger area.

Environmental Impact

By discouraging the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers further degradation of water resources will be prevented. Biomass production on farms will reduce the need to gather firewood from natural areas to counter the trend of deforestation in the region. Regenerative practices will restore ecosystem services of the landscape to better support biodiversity, water retention and soil fertility. The Msumarini Self Help Project has made great strides already with environmental education on sustainable energy sources and preserving the natural environment which will help amplify the effects of our Model School educational program.

Social Impact

The MSHP is already producing fish, fruits and vegetables on their own land to provide the community with fresh and nutritious food. This project would enable community members to produce these foods on their own farm for an even bigger impact on food and nutritional security which will also serve the poor who cannot afford to buy these products. Introducing new crops and materials in the area opens up opportunities for value-adding activities, small shops and small-scale export to neighboring areas. Job creation is sorely needed in the area as the lack of opportunities results in a rural exodus to nearby cities. The MSHP implements a gender focus in all of their projects. Women are mostly responsible in food production for the household and will benefit most from the Model School.

Economic Impact

The MSHP is already economically sustainable and able to fund most program activities using income generated by selling vegetables, fish and more produce. The demand for agricultural produce is clearly available in towns in the region, so the chance of success of increasing agricultural production is high. The MSHP founders strive for their project to provide an example model which can be replicated in villages nearby.

Evaluation Method

reNature offers a range of different methodologies to capture the impact of the project. Those are applied on custom-basis and can be tailored to the needs of the respective project stakeholders. Our expertise and network allows us to measure indicators illustrating the project impact on biodiversity, soil health, farmer income and well-being as well as the climate. For this project in particular, an M&E component could be included in the Model School service.