

# Food, Agribusiness and Rural Markets (FARM) Projects



The **Food, Agribusiness and Rural Markets (FARM)** projects established a strong foundation for agricultural development in South Sudan's fertile Greenbelt region, despite a very challenging and fragile environment. The projects were funded by USAID and the United States Feed the Future initiative. The first FARM project, which ran from 2010 to 2015, introduced modern agricultural technologies, farming practices, and marketing systems that had not existed in South Sudan. FARM II built on previous successes, further scaling up activities, advancing collective marketing systems, and developing market opportunities that ushered smallholders into a nascent economic system. This created the beginnings of commerce and prompted significant behavior changes among farmers and in their communities.



*Farmer Betty Abou from Magwi County in Eastern Equatoria State packs maize to be taken to Juba for sale.*

## What kind of project was FARM?

FARM was more than an agriculture project. It was a **food security project** that helped farmers to first feed their families, then their communities and country. It was also a **livelihoods program** that created economic opportunities and showed the rural poor how to create a living from farming. FARM was a **resiliency project** that helped farmers advance their economic progress, even during times of heightened insecurity and economic decline, by teaching them to produce their own food, which reduced dependence on imports and foreign aid. It was a **civil society program** that used agriculture as a mechanism to engage rural populations in a societal framework to collaborate on areas of common interest for individual benefit and the greater good. FARM was also a **human capital project**, creating a critical mass of knowledgeable and experienced farmers in South Sudan's Greenbelt zone.

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## QUICK FACTS

- Production yields increased by **up to 535%** over 2010 levels.
- Beneficiary farmers' yields for maize, groundnuts, beans, and cassava **more than tripled** the African continent average.
- Post-harvest losses reduced from **40% to 7%** through introduction of storage technology.
- More than **19,000** smallholders (approximately **40%** female) reached through **732** farmer-based organizations.
- **210 MT** in maize sales to World Food Programme facilitated in 2016.
- **4** public-private partnerships established: two for credit access; one each for seed multiplication and food processing supply.

## Key Highlights

### Boosted production and productivity

- Introduced modern seed technology, distributing 1,584 MT of planting material and placing over 26,500 hectares (114 square miles) of land under cultivation. Began local sourcing of cassava stem in 2012.
- Introduced agricultural know-how and replaced long-standing traditional farming behaviors with modern agronomic practices.
- Delivered climate-smart agriculture training and assistance. Demonstrated sustainable land reclamation practices.

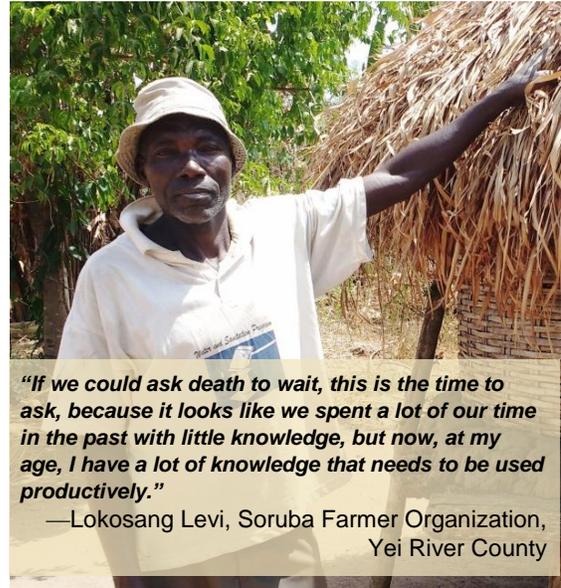


***“Instead of the government helping the farmers, the farmers are now helping the government by feeding the people of South Sudan.”***

German Oken, a FARM extension worker, pointed out one of the key impacts of the project’s work to link smallholders with large buyers. FARM facilitated the sale of maize to the World Food Programme, which used the grain to help fill South Sudan’s humanitarian assistance needs.

### Laid foundation for market development

- Developed value chain intermediaries to link smallholders with large buyers.
- Collaborated with South Sudanese financial institutions to design new lending products for smallholders, which are now helping farmers bridge the period between sale of produce and payment by buyers.
- Introduced mechanized grain processing technology for on-farm processing and value addition.



***“If we could ask death to wait, this is the time to ask, because it looks like we spent a lot of our time in the past with little knowledge, but now, at my age, I have a lot of knowledge that needs to be used productively.”***

—Lokosang Levi, Soruba Farmer Organization, Yei River County

### Built human and institutional capacity

- Developed cadre of 772 lead farmers to teach good agronomic practices. Built capacity of nine public sector county extension departments.
- Provided business development services support and training to more than 70 agro-enterprises.
- Awarded more than 2,000 grants, totaling over \$4 million, to introduce improved agricultural technologies and build local farming organizations’ capacity.
- Empowered women (40% of FARM’s beneficiaries) by helping them achieve surplus production, reduce workloads, improve business and leadership skills, and increase involvement in local communities.
- Implemented robust monitoring and evaluation system to monitor project activities and advance learning for future agriculture programs in South Sudan.

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