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**FAITH-BASED CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
(FBCCESD) PROJECT**

**MACHAKOS COUNTY**

**Kenya Organization for  
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**IMPACT STORY FROM GRACE MUTHAMA –  
MBALUKU PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**MACHAKOS COUNTY**

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## ***MAKING SAVINGS FROM CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE***

Mbaluku Primary School became part of the FBCCESD Project in 2015. The school was excited to be part of this life changing initiative using faith-based values. The school was represented by two teachers who took part in the project trainings. The two teachers were the head teacher, Ms. Elizabeth Maundu and Mrs. Grace Muthama. After attending several teachers' and faith leaders' trainings on adaptation to climate change, the school was inspired to start a roof water harvesting project to address the problem of water scarcity they faced. To complement the water project, the school also started a kitchen gardening initiative employing the Farming in God's Way technique taught during the trainings.



**Photo 1: Mrs. Grace Muthama with a fellow teacher at their school roof water harvesting project at Mbaluku Primary School**

With the project encouraging the beneficiaries to lead by example in promoting climate responsive technologies at household levels, Mrs. Grace Maundu was so touched and decided to apply what she had learnt through the project at home. This was also catapulted by what she saw in an exchange visit to Christian Impact Mission Center in Yatta Sub-county in October 2015 which demonstrates various approaches and technologies farmers can use to adapt to climate change.

Among the technologies that she practices at her home include mulching, zaipits, cover – cropping, intercropping, surface water harvesting and moist gardening (vegetables). Grace has decided to diversify her crops as she now grows pawpaws, mangoes, pumpkins, bananas maize, beans, sweet potatoes, cassavas, green grams among others as opposed just maize and mangoes which she used to grow. She has dug small earth dams in her farm to help her harvest surface rain water to irrigate her crops. She says she no longer spends much money on vegetables as she can now get them from her farm. She says her food supply issue has now greatly improved due to increased options of what to eat from her farm. Initially, grace spent about Ksh. 2,000 on vegetables and other foods per month, but now she says that cost has been cut to about Ksh. 500 per month. This has enabled her use the savings in other household needs as a complement to her income from teaching.



Photo 2: Grace has now embraced inter-cropping in her farm for maximum yields and benefits

Through the project, Grace was able to network and understand better the market dynamics of the county as she has now identified market for her mangoes and pawpaws in Machakos Town. She plans to go commercial on the growing of mangoes, pawpaws and bananas and hopes to expand her market outside Machakos County.





Photo 3: The results of the rich knowledge Grace got from the FBCCESD Project can be seen in the farm

Grace has managed to garner support from her husband who is now keen to start intensive tree planting around their homestead. They also plan to start an indigenous chicken rearing project to supplement the already existing cattle keeping.

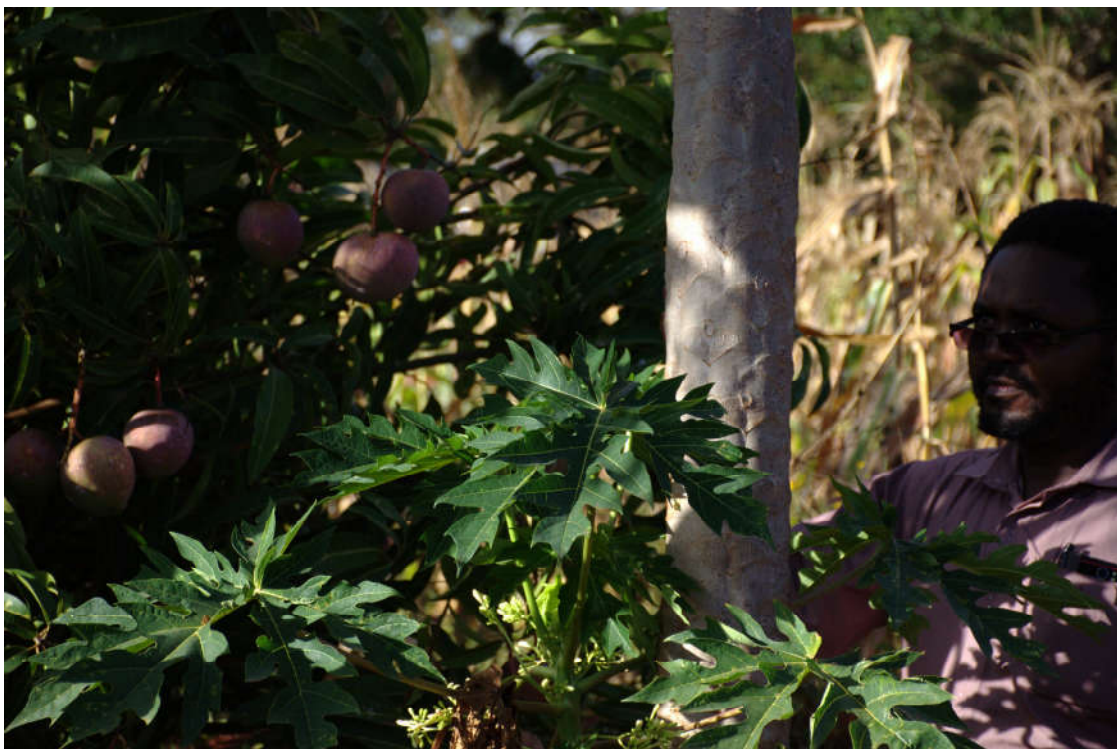


Photo 4: The healthy mangoes in Grace's farm are irresistible to admire

Grace believes the FBCCESD Project has opened her eyes in terms of making sustainable agricultural choices. She tries as much as possible to educate her fellow village mates and teachers at school on the various farming approaches that help them cope with the effects of climate change particularly prolonged droughts.