



Technical and Agronomic Service support 4X4 Vehicle

Furrows in the Desert

**An Agricultural Development Project for North-Eastern
Turkana, Kenya**

2016



Overview of FID

a. Turkana District

Turkana is a semi-arid region in Northwestern Kenya, on the border with Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda. It is the largest yet least developed district in the country. Turkana People, a Nilotic Tribe of semi-nomadic pastoralists, still live, for the most part, according to their ancestors' ancient tradition. In the last decades increasing numbers of Turkana and other pastoral communities in East Africa can no longer live off their livestock the way their ancestors used to. Frequent droughts and geopolitical changes have led to diminution of local pastures. As a result there are increasing accounts of malnutrition (mainly among children), disease outbreaks, deaths of livestock, dependency on aid food distributed by international NGO's, mass migration to urban centers, and tribal conflicts.

A family that can no longer sustain the traditional way of life is "in transition". The development of sustainable agriculture is an appropriate form of diversification as a mean to self subsistence and food security available to the Turkana that are "in transition". Former attempts by aid organizations to establish an agricultural infrastructure in the area have not produced satisfactory results owing to the harsh environmental conditions, the lack of know-how in developing agriculture in arid land, the difficulty to bring expert agronomists and skilled manpower to the area on a long term basis, the deep cultural gap between the herders' way of life and farming way of life, and the lack of transportation infrastructure and markets.

b. Furrows in the Desert

Furrows in the Desert (FID) is an agricultural development program focusing on Turkana North district, north Kenya, the poorest region in Kenya and one of the poorest and remotest areas in the horn of Africa. The program is designed to introduce desert agriculture into the area as a new source of food production and income-generating activities for the local population. The program is implemented by Israeli experts and by professional volunteers from Israel in collaboration with an international NGO based in Turkana. FID, which was initiated in 2010, trains local Turkana people in desert agriculture and helps them start family agricultural plots. In addition, the program provides these new farmers with ongoing professional, material and logistic support, and assists them in marketing their agricultural produce. Thus, it enables them to reach independence and sustainability.

To date there are two hundred and thirty farmers trained graduates of FID, and another one hundred and twenty other Turkanas who received net houses from Kenya Red Cross and are now supported by the FID team.. The graduates farms are spread out on an area about a quarter of the Turkana county (With a total area of nearly 77,000 km²). The expansiveness of the district and the poor road network makes it difficult for transportation of people and their goods, thus increasing the complexity of developing agriculture in the area.

A major component of the implementation program is the **TIPA** project initiated by Rotary Israel, which provides the new farmers with all needed equipment for the family plots. Over 400,000 US \$ will be raised for this program.

In the coming three years the project will provide food security for many hundreds of local families. In the longer term (next 6 years), it is planned to have a major regional impact.



c. NGOs partnership and supporters:

- **Missionary Community of Saint Paul the Apostle (MCSPA)**, an international humanitarian NGO, which has been operating in north east Turkana since 1987 in the fields of health, animal husbandry, nutrition, water resources, education, fishing and agriculture.
- **Brit Olam – international volunteering and Development**, an Israeli humanitarian organization specializing in international community development and in volunteer training and management.
- **Arava Centre for Sustainable Development (ACSD)** part of the **Arava Institute for Environmental Studies**, an Israeli center of scientific research and development, focused on the

dissemination of appropriate knowledge and technologies of water management and treatment, renewable energy and agriculture to developing communities

FID supported by:

- **Rotary Israel, Rotary Kenya, Rotary Clubs worldwide, and The Rotary Foundation.**

The combination of the organizational and professional skills of these organizations contributes to the success and sustainability of the program. FID operates in the spirit of Tikkun Olam, making use of Israeli expertise and technology together with the work of Israeli volunteers who are sent to Turkana as agricultural trainers. It offers a development solution which can help one of the poorest populations in east Africa to achieve food security, and moreover, reduce their dependency on aid organizations and regain their economic independence and dignity. The potential beneficiaries of the project are the graduates' families and their communities, local schools and mother & child feeding centres, residents of the town of Lodwar and the inhabitants of the large refugee camp in the district.

Technical and Agronomic Service support 4X4 Vehicle for FID

To fulfill the ongoing support needs of the “*Furrows in the Desert*” farmers through-out North East Turkana it is essential to supply the farmers with continuous and dependable professional support - provided by the Israeli team (the farm manager and the volunteer agronomists) and by the local Turkanas team (who has been trained as a local support team by the Israeli agronomists), thus securing adequate yields in each and every one of the farms and establishing a sense of confidence in the farmers work and enabling them to successfully overcome the endless ongoing daily challenges of farming in such a harsh environment.

All farms are visited every two weeks. In addition the new Turkana Farmers association formed by them requires a van to help with the transportation of their products to local emerging markets.

a. Objectives of the Outreach support project:

1. To provide technical support including operating and repairing irrigation systems, and supplying essential basic agricultural equipment including seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

2. To provide, on a bi monthly basis, agronomical support to all graduates of FID through out the Turkana north district.
3. To aid in transporting products to local emerging markets.

b. Illustration of the required support van.



c. Outreach Support Van Budget

Costs (USD):					
	Item	2016	2017	2018	Total
1	Purchase of Hilux double cabin 4x4 Toyota van	72,000			72,000
2	Installation of agriculture and water maintenance equipment supply crates	3,700			3,700
3	Partial Maintenance : 3,000 kms per month *12 months* 0.9 USD/km * 25%	8,100	8,100	8,100	24,300
					100.000

Sources:					
	Requested grant	100,000			100.000

Remark:

FID is responsible from ongoing budget to support 75% maintenance (approx. 72.900 in 3 years)

Sample of FID Farms In Turkana – TIPA Project



Installing FDS, Rebecca's farm, Todonyang



Joseph farm, Kachoda



Christopher farm, Kaikor



Christin farm, Kakelae



Christin farm, Kakelae



Installing FDS, Dickson farm, Koyasa



Ruth farm, Manalogoria



Gabriel farm, Nachukui



Ruth & Daniel farm, Nakinomet



Abraham farm, Napak



Thomas & Yhoana farm, Nariokotome



Spraying pesticides, Natoo



Growing in a net-house, David farm, Small Erus



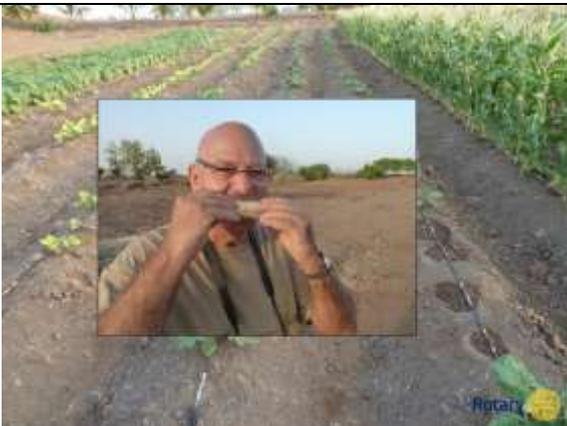
Wilamina's daughter and assistant, Kopotia



Robert & Lea farm, Todonyang



Robert & Lea farm, Todonyang



Sweet corn... delicious! PRID Gidi Peiper



Mozes farm