



# Up taking sustainable farming in Kitui County; strengthening the mango value chain

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Through the project Green to Grow: A Revenue Generation Approach for Sustainable Consumption and Production Practices Dissemination in Kenya, Christine Makomba is among the women making remarkable changes in her life and those of a local community group called Mosa Mango Growers in Kitui county. She participated in training sessions on sustainable mango production and consumption practices led by Green to Grow and with knowledge gained from this training, she is improving her mango enterprise.

Green to Grow is a project within SWITCH Africa Green flagship that is funded by the European Union to help in the effort to transition African countries towards an inclusive green economy. The project focuses on building the capacities of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the coffee, mango and dairy sectors in Kenya to promote a positive social and environmental impact, that results to a sustainable economy.

Christine with the help of Green to Grow coaches and researchers has gradually adopted sustainable production and consumption methods resulting to higher quality produce and increased yield from her 550 trees of Kent, Apple and Ngoe mango varieties. Previously, her main challenge has been post-harvest losses and intermittent low-level rainfall that results in low-quality yield. *Kitui* is among the Arid and Semi-Arid (*ASAL*) counties characterized by long dry periods, few water sources and high levels of poverty.

“Through the training sessions, I now understand the benefits of adopting sustainable mango farming to my family, the community and my fruit farming enterprise. We can now eat healthy fruits that are free of chemical residues and in addition, get improved yields that can eventually reach export markets, increasing our profit margins.” Remarks Christine

In addition, this Green to Grow beneficiary has exchanged knowledge gained from Green to Grow’s trainings with local mango producers. “Lack of access to information on sustainable mango farming is a challenge not only for me but for most farmers in our region. For this reason, I passed on the knowledge from the training to fifty members of Mosa Mango Growers. I am happy that most of us have gradually adopted practices such as use of fruit fly traps, sustainable pruning techniques and organic mango farming which has resulted to a significant increase in quality and yield.”

Training sessions led by Green to Grow build the capacities of MSMEs to manage their farming businesses more sustainably and utilize traditional knowledge and technologies to increase quality and production while also impacting their community.

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