SUCCESS STORY

EXCHANGE VISIT CAN BOOST SMALL SCALE FARMER

Morris Mwiti- a youthful farmer , an inspiration to his village men, ‘a hero in his own respect’ has managed to rise from an ordinary youth to a role-model in agri-business, motivational speaker, enterpreneur, a good husband and father. Other youths in his village ignore farming; he has flourished as he made a bold decision to venture into farming which has turned out to be an impressive business, which has now made his home popular with visits of popular individuals and groups to capture his success story.

Morris is a member of Jikaze youth group which was founded in the year 2006. It has 10 members’ 6 are women and 4 men. It’s registered as a self-help group and now the plans are to convert it to a community based organization in Tharaka-Nithi county. The youth group is a beneficiary of GRADIF-Kenya in various projects that empower youth like Health and social protection, Sexual Reproductive Health Right (SRHR) agriculture and livelihood, Natural Resource &Climate change. Morris says that trainings and farmer learning visits add magic for agri-business farmers. During an interview with Morris

Through an interaction with a very successful couple in farming during one of the exchange visit, I learnt that women need to be educationally empowered; this made me change my attitude towards women and started seeing them as very resourceful. I then made a decision to take my wife to college. I started appreciating rabbit keeping and poultry as an economic activity which I had earlier perceived as a leisure activity for small boys. Also learnt that farming was not only for aged people but also for the youth.’ In fact I am now advocating for farming by youths in churches, group meetings and social gathering areas.