

SCRIPT SMALL SCALE FARMERS KENYA

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PR

With the increasing food prizes farmers world wide could have the time of their live.
For many small scale in Kenya it's not like that.
The country now produces 350,000 metric tonnes wheat per year,
and that could easily be doubled.
Ruud Elmendorp visited two farmers in a fertile area.

BETA

They could have been rich, but they're not.
Pauline Kosgei and Andrew Kiprono.
The couple grows wheat on 10 acres of land,
but is hardly making any profit.
Everything they need nowadays is expensive.
It start with leasing the land,
and the plowing earlier in the year.
All together 900 US Dollars, on a Kenyan income.
Still you don't have anything yet.

PAULINE KOSGEI, walking through the wheat field

- How much do you pay for seeds?

90 kg costs 3,000.

- How much do you need?

10

- 10 bags.

Yes.

The land is almost ready for harvesting.
A lot of fertilizer was necessary for that.

ANDREW KIPRONO - holding bag of fertilizer

- So this is fertilizer. Can you tell us something about it?

This is NPK fertilizer 23 23 0.

A bag like this costs 4,500.

PAULINE KOSGEI

One acre needs 75 kg.

Because of lack of money we only use 50 kg per acre.

ANDREW KIPRONO

- grabs fertilizer grains from the bag

- It looks very chemical.

Yeah.

- It is harmful

Yes, for people.

- walking through the field

PAULINE KOSGEI

- How long has it been here?

Four months.

So let's say at the end of October the wheat will be ready.

- Is it good?

Yes, it is good.

I'm going to use combine harvester.

And the prize is 2,000 per acre.

- 200 Euros for harvesting.

Yes.

Last year it was 80,000.

Because of the fuel.

They have increased the fuel.

It will add up to 3,000 Dollars.

Eventhough after harvesting the profit might be small.

ANDREW KIPRONO

If the yield is good you can harvest up to 100 bags.

- How much do you get per bag?

If I sell per bag.

Per bag I get 2,600.

If they're lucky some 900 Dollars profit will remain.

That's small to invest on.

Because also the children have to eat.

There are 300,00 small scale farmers like this in Kenya.

The government tries to help them with training.
This group of farmer is attending a workshop on effective farming.

QUOTE AMOS NYAKEYO, Ministry of Agriculture

- *What would be the solution?*

The solution would be maybe access to credit.

For them to be able to purchase inputs to be able to carry out farming operations.

And also support in marketing.

ANDREW KIPRONO

- *If all these problems were not there. What could be the result?*

All Kenyan farmers could be rich.

ENDSHOT

- couple staring at wheat field