

Published by

**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
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In cooperation with

**KOFAR**   
"Repairing Your Damaged Soils"



Farmers being trained by Kofar on compost grading.  
© KOFAR Kenya Ltd.



## COFFEE INNOVATION

Soil repair as a way to increase quality  
and quantity of coffee

## CHALLENGE

As climate change makes seasonal shifts more unpredictable and brings more unpredictable and extreme weather patterns, coffee farmers find their production and income reduced from both older trees and challenging environmental conditions.

## INNOVATION

### FORTIFIED COMPOST AND MULCH TO STRENGTHEN SOIL AND IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY

Through the application of mulch and compost, and practices that support soil health and fertility, coffee farmers are able to cost-effectively increase quality and volume of coffee production.

## COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Francescah is a transformational social entrepreneur with a natural passion for farmers and the environment. She founded KOFAR Kenya Ltd. (KOFAR), where they convert vegetative waste into fortified compost. She has over ten years of experience working with farmers as an expert in soil and human nutrition, as well as working with finance institutions in her early employment years.

## KEY COMPANY STATS

### NUMBER OF PRODUCER PARTNERS

Three cooperatives, directly working with 4,600 farmers

### NUMBER OF STAFF

14 (six are women)

## COST

### COSTS

None provided by project

### EFFECTS ON REVENUE

Could not be determined

### EFFECTS ON YIELD

Could not be determined

## PREPARATION

### TIMELINE

None provided by project

### MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

- Screening and granulating machines for making compost
- Location for compost workstation
- Raw materials for composting

### STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

None provided by project

## LESSONS LEARNED

### CHALLENGES

During COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, farmers were quite negatively impacted and most suffered financial difficulties.

### TAKEAWAYS

- KOFAR would change the timing of trainings to be during the sunny period and not during coffee harvest, when farmers are quite busy.
- They also realized that production and distribution of compost is a viable business and they would invest in a truck to pick up more raw materials and distributing finished compost, as well as expand to additional coffee societies and cooperatives.

## RESULTS: KOFAR KENYA LTD. (KENYA)

As a result of KOFAR's efforts to improve soil fertility:



Heavy coffee blooms and healthy branches suggest good coffee tree nutrition and effectiveness of fertilizer. © KOFAR Kenya Ltd.



### THE FARMERS HAVE ADOPTED INCREASING ORGANIC MATTER IN SOIL AND MULCHING

as a way to increase moisture retention.



### 2 KG TO 10 KG

increase in quantity of coffee yields in the demo plots.



### 900 HECTARES LAND

improved moisture retention and soil health through aeration and application of compost and soil conditioners.

The COFFEE INNOVATION FUND has been developed and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

**MISSION:** The Fund's objective is to increase the profitability of smallholder coffee farmers, and foster greater, more equitable value distribution along the supply chain through promoting innovative farming systems, transparent and inclusive business models, and access to new markets.

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