



Gullies that expand due to erosion.  
Photo author: Beth Medvecky

**Summary:** The project aims to work with farmers and groups to improve ecosystem functioning at both farm and landscape levels. Working with farmers to research suitable options for diversifying crop production with more climate-resilient crops, the project focuses on simultaneous improvement of soil fertility and productivity along with profitable water use. Much attention will be paid to empowering the community to gain skills and agency for implementing sustainable soil-water conservation strategies, including simple physical control measures and integration of legume-cereal-livestock-agroforestry strategies.

**For more information see:**  
<https://www.ccrp.org/grants/drylands-frn-iii/>

**East and Southern Africa  
Community of Practice**



**Project Partners**

- University of Eldoret
- Kaporowo Farmer Group
- Korellach Parak Farmer Group
- Kapkitony Farmer Group

University in Region      Farmer Organization

COLLABORATIVE CROP RESEARCH PROGRAM

McKNIGHT FOUNDATION

# Research to Impacts Map: Farmer Research Networks (FRNs)

Drylands FRN Project 2014-2019

## Respond to local context

The project **landscape** in West Pokot county is **highly degraded**. Food insecurity and water scarcity are recurrent problems. The Pokot people are former pastoralists and livestock remain central to their cultural identity.



Farmer exchange visit to view terraces in E. Kenya  
Photo author: Drylands team



## More farmers and organizations participating in multiple parts of the research process

2017: FRN members engaged in **participatory mapping** of the major erosion areas in the catchment to help target sites for conservation structures. They also identified community water points for future development.

## Covenings with emphasis on farmer participation

2015:

- **Exchange visit** of 2 groups of farmers to formerly degraded landscapes in Ethiopia and E. Kenya that had been restored through the **collective action** of the affected communities.
- Capacity building on AEI
- Community trained on **rehabilitation strategies**



## Stronger, more vibrant, rural organizations

2016-2017: 80 FRN members self-organized into **work groups, constructing terraces** and on how another's farms.

- **Youth** were trained to help demarcate contour lines using simple tools (A frame) and how to use a spirit level to do the terracing. This seems to have given them a bit of **status** and made them more **engaged**.
- **Women** were very actively engaged in the project, which is a change from the first year when few women were involved.
- The project team supports the groups' efforts with the **provision of tools** (pick axes etc.)



## Equity and Rural Vibrancy

There has been **regeneration** of streams following the building of terraces and sand dams. This has greatly reduced the distance traveled to fetch water for livestock and domestic uses. This activity is usually done by **women**, so has reduced their **labor** burden.



## More resilient, multi-functional, sustainable, productive & self-provisioning ag systems

- Sand dams intercept over 2,000 T of soil, which contributes to the conservation of over 800 kilos of Nitrogen and 7 T of total organic carbon, as well as over 200,000 L of water per season.
- The terraces have the capacity of intercepting almost 10,000 T of soil and 6.5 million liters of water.



## Increased use of contextually appropriate options by farmers

In 2018 the work groups:

- Dug approximately 10,000 meters of **terrace** lines (2 feet wide and 2 feet deep) on 28 member households' farms.
- Constructed 2 **sand dams**, as well as a physical barrier to protect a borehole/ water pump that sand build-up in a pre-existing sand dam was threatening to overwhelm.