

Improving Livelihoods of Rural women through eMobile Learning and Climate Smart Agriculture in Kenya.

BACKGROUND

Rural women in Kenya face economic hardships due to climate change, limited financial access, and outdated traditional farming methods, leading to poverty and food insecurity. To address this, Rural Education and Economic Enhancement Program (REEP), in partnership with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) under the Girl Inspire Initiative, launched an Open and Distance Learning (ODL) initiative for 300 women farmers.

Climate-Smart Farming for Economic Resilience



The training offered through the e-mobile learning platform introduced 300 women to a range of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques. These innovative practices included the cultivation of drought-resistant crops, which are specially designed to withstand the challenges posed by climate change, and organic farming methods that prioritize sustainability and environmental health.

Impact and Outcomes

The e-mobile learning initiative on climate-smart agriculture led to significant improvements in the lives of the 300 targeted women farmers including:

- Increased agricultural productivity: Through the adoption of CSA practices, women farmers experienced improved crop yields and more resilient farming systems
- Economic empowerment: The women farmers gained financial independence and enhanced financial stability through practicing climate smart agriculture and adopting the Savings methodology
- Improved household food security: Increased crop yields ensured consistent food availability

E-Mobile learning on Financial literacy



Through the interactive mobile lessons, the women farmers were equipped with knowledge in financial literacy. This included how to create and regularly contribute to a communal fund, enabling them to save income earned from climate-smart agriculture practices including value addition. The training also covered how to initiate income-generating activities, access loans for personal or business needs and utilize a social fund during emergencies.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECCOMENDATIONS

Leveraging ODL to integrate climate-smart farming and SILC has proven to be an effective strategy for developing economic resilience among rural women in Busia County. The modular nature of the courses delivered through eMobile learning allows for easy customization to suit different rural community contexts. The blended micro learning design allows users with limited literacy or smartphone access to participate via basic mobile phones.

To further enhance sustainability and scalability, local governments are encouraged to develop and implement targeted policies. One such initiative is the creation of a County-Specific Women's Economic Empowerment Policy, which focuses on increasing women farmers' access to financial services, land ownership rights, and agricultural inputs.