



Empowering Communities for Climate Resilience

Welcome to this edition of the DaCCA Phase III Newsletter, where we share the inspiring journey of communities across the Lake Victoria Basin as they build resilience against climate change. Over the period from 2024 to 2027, the DaCCA programme is instrumental in equipping smallholder farmers and local communities with the skills, knowledge, and voice they need to participate actively in local governance and sustainable agriculture.



OUR PARTNERS



Amplifying Community Voices Through Advocacy

At the core of DaCCA's efforts is the drive to ensure that community priorities are fully integrated into local government policies, plans, and budgets.

By facilitating genuine dialogues between communities and duty bearers, the programme has redefined public participation and transparency.



George Othina
Ward administrator for Kwa Ward
Migori County

Local leaders and community members now have a platform to articulate their climate change adaptation needs, ensuring that the local government's annual development programs reflect the real challenges on the ground. As George Othina, the ward administrator for Kwa Ward, captured this transformation when he explained:

“The community has become so much aware that as a county government, when we are coming up with our programs, annual ADP, and short-term initiatives, the community's needs are now at the forefront. Through our involvement with DaCCA, community members actively contribute to public participation, ensuring that their voices are heard in the budget-making process.”





Strengthening CSOs Capacity for Effective Public Participation



Samwel Sasu Wambura:
Masaba Ward

DaCCA's second outcome focuses on bolstering the capacity of civil society and grassroots organizations to claim and exercise their rights within local planning & budgeting processes. Through a series of training workshops, capacity-building sessions, and exchange visits, community groups have acquired practical skills—from lobbying for resources to drafting compelling proposals—that empower them to advocate for sustainable development.

Samwel Sasu Wambura, a community member, reflected on the transformative nature of these training sessions:

“Before DaCCA came, we were unsure how to address our leadership challenges. Their training on proposal writing and lobbying has truly opened our eyes. We now have the capacity to advocate effectively for development and finance initiatives that directly benefit our community.”

This enhanced capacity not only ensures that community voices are represented in policy-making but also fosters local ownership of the development process. With their newfound skills, grassroots organizations are now actively participating in the formation of CAAPs (Community Adaptation Action Plans), thereby reinforcing the legitimacy and effectiveness of their local governance structures.





Strengthening CSOs Capacity for Effective Public Participation

Climate change is no longer a distant threat—it's a reality that communities are facing every day. From floods during El Niño to droughts during La Niña, vulnerable populations bear the brunt of these extreme weather patterns. However, resilience is possible when communities are equipped with the right knowledge, tools, and support.



WILLIS OMONDI
Chair- Homabay CSO Network

“ I had little knowledge about climate change, but through DaCCA’s capacity-building efforts especially through meetings and training sessions I have been fully empowered.

Climate change isn't a distant threat—it's happening now. Communities around the world are experiencing extreme weather events, from devastating floods during El Niño to prolonged droughts during La Niña.

The most vulnerable populations, particularly those in developing regions, bear the heaviest burden. These communities often lack the resources to adapt, making them more susceptible to food insecurity, water shortages, and economic instability. However, resilience is possible when people have the right knowledge, tools, and support.

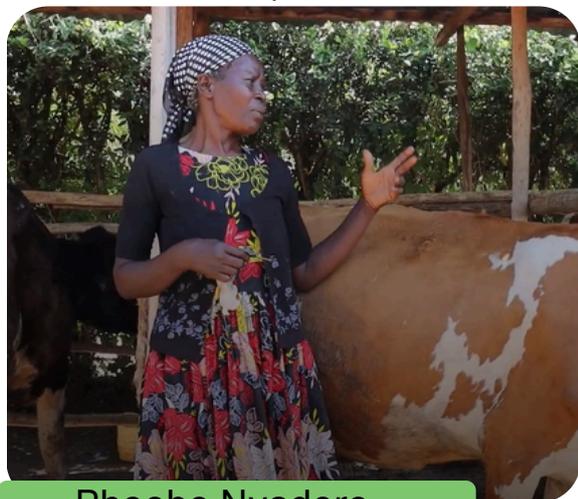
One of the most significant barriers to climate resilience is a lack of awareness and understanding. Many people do not realize how climate change affects them directly or what they can do to prepare. Without this knowledge, they remain vulnerable, waiting for external aid rather than taking proactive measures.



Advancing Agroecological Practices for Sustainable Farming

The third pillar of DaCCA Phase III is dedicated to advancing agroecological practices that improve the climate resilience of smallholder farmers.

Recognizing that sustainable agriculture is integral to community well-being, the programme has introduced practical training in agroecology—a bottom-up approach that champions the use of local resources and traditional knowledge over external, often unsustainable, inputs.



Phoebe Nyadere
Kochia Group- Homabay

Phoebe Nyadere from Rockfield Farm, Kochia ward offers a vivid account of this impact:

“Working with DaCCA has been a game changer. The construction of the biogas plant, for instance, has brought tangible benefits to dairy farmers. Not only did it improve energy access, but it also inspired other farmers to adopt similar sustainable practices in their own operations.”

This outcome has also seen young community members and women establish tree nurseries and leverage bio slurry to nurture seedlings and diversify their crop production. Such initiatives underscore the broader vision of agroecology; not merely as a farming method but as a sustainable pathway towards environmental stewardship and economic empowerment. Through these efforts, DaCCA is ensuring that local agricultural practices are both environmentally sound and economically viable.



Agroecological Practices for Sustainable Farming

Training plays a crucial role in the successful adoption of agroecological practices. Training programs provide farmers with hands-on learning experiences, equipping them with the skills needed to transition to sustainable farming. Workshops cover key topics such as compost making, integrated pest management, and efficient water use.

One such initiative is taking place at a demo farm, where farmers gather to learn and practice agroecological techniques.

“This demo farm is where we learn and train ourselves to grow food throughout the year,” says a farmer attending one of the training sessions. “At the moment, DaCCA is training us in agroecology. Before DaCCA came, we did things differently.” Nancy Wangui



Nancy Wangui
Community Member-Migori

DaCCA, a local agricultural organization, has introduced a range of agroecological techniques, demonstrating their benefits through practical application. Farmers learn how to create organic fertilizers, implement soil conservation techniques, and cultivate diverse crop varieties. These practices not only increase productivity but also promote self-sufficiency, reducing reliance on expensive agricultural inputs.

Beyond individual farms, agroecology strengthens entire communities. Information campaigns help spread knowledge, encouraging more farmers to adopt sustainable practices. Community-based seed banks allow farmers to access and preserve indigenous seeds, reducing dependency on commercial seed companies.



Empowering Communities for Climate Resilience

This transformation is critical. By educating people about climate risks and adaptation strategies, organizations enable individuals to take action. Whether it's learning sustainable farming techniques, understanding how to conserve water, or developing early warning systems for extreme weather, knowledge equips communities to protect themselves.

Funding Helps, but It's Not Enough
Financial support plays a crucial role in climate adaptation, but money alone doesn't build resilience. Many well-intentioned funding initiatives fail because they don't address the root causes of vulnerability—lack of skills, knowledge, and local leadership.

“My group, for example, received funding from FLOCCA (Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program). The financial boost was valuable, but what truly made a difference was DaCCA's additional support. “

“We received training in proposal development, which allowed us to write stronger applications and secure more funding independently. This was a game changer. No longer were we reliant on a single donor; we now had the skills to seek out and manage multiple funding sources.”

By equipping community groups with the ability to apply for funding themselves, DaCCA empowered us to sustain our initiatives beyond the initial grant. This approach ensures long-term climate resilience rather than short-term relief.



WILLIS OMONDI
Chair- Homabay CSO Network

Pictorial

