Small scale farming in kenya pdf

In the pre-Colonial days of the early 1900s, Africans mainly cultivated sow with soil, soror, pearly prose, amaranth, jute mallow, spider plant and lablab. Farms were so rich in biodiversity that food production thrived. This existence of an agricultural saw is passed from farm to plate. In nyanza's western belt, for example, ugali was brown (a mixture of sirak and proso) and often accompanied by native vegetables such as elisaka (spider flower), omurere (jute), and chimboka (amaranth). In favourable days, farmers have bridged local food markets to sell their surplus crops. The food was varied, high in nutrients, locally grown and locally available. By contrast, most farms in Africa today have been switched to monocultural (growing one type of crop) of farms. In Kenya, maize is the most dominant food crop on most farms. Cash crops such as tea, cotton and coffee introduced by the colonial company still dominate most farms, while food markets mostly sell germs (sukuma wiki), spinach, corn and cabbage. As a therefore, meals in most households were switched to white processed ugala and sukuma wiki or beef and chakras or rice. Food is now processed, low in nutrients and 14% imported. The diversity present in farmers' fields has steadily declined and threats of diversity are increasing. Of the more than 6,000 plant species grown for food, fewer than 200 contribute significantly to global food production, with only 9 representing 66 percent of total crop production in 2014. Such was the development of food systems, which farmers intuitively gravitate towards the production of a prepared market as opposed to nutritious and indigenous. Cash crops have replaced the heritage of food that feeds people for generations that go back to the dawn of human life. Trimming cash: The profitable paradigm Mass cropping of money (popularised by industrial agriculture) has done little farmers more harm than good. Fertile lands in Kenyan visions are occupied by multinational tea corporations such as James Finlays and Unilever Tea. These corporations are making huge profits at the expense of Kenya's small tea farmers, who are constantly clinging to low prices for this crop and remain calm in poverty. Meanwhile, tea pickers work and live in poor conditions, and some suffer from sexual harassment. As advocates of farmed cash products could argue that this type of farming has put farmers on the global market (thus increasing the chances of earning, which could address food insecurity), health, economic and social concerns have taken second place for profit. However, the history of the development of cash crops in Africa over the past few decades shows that the cash crops produced minimal cash. Over the previous three decades, real income from cash crops decreased. African shares in the world's most markets has deteriorated and most African countries have been sinking deeper and deeper into debt. The monopoly on cash crops has led to the inhumane exploitation of small farmers. This system has oppressed farmers economically and socially by grabbing land, repressive laws on sock and dependence on multinational corporations for agricultural inputs. Farmers can no longer save and share the seed from the current harvest for planting next season, as this seed is patented by multinational seed corporations and is protected by intellectual property laws. In Tanzaia, farmers risk a prison sentence of at least 12 years or a fine of more than EUR 205 300, or both if they sell and share seed, including their own sessions, which are run by farmers who are not certified. Small farmers now have to buy the semo, chemical pesticides and fertilizers every planting season. They increasingly found their way to the short end of the stick in this profit-based paradigm. This dependence has tied farmers to the crippling of debt, which has immersed farmers deeper into cyclical poverty. In India, many farmers committed suicide because of spiralling debt. In the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, in 2007, 60,000 farmers committed suicide due to debt, multiple crop failures and the impossibility of meeting the rising cost of production. Growing cash yields for exports have taken over more productive land from local food production. The resources that would otherwise have been useful in local food production were intended for the production of agricultural export products. As a result, small farmers have changed peripheral land with little agricultural productivity for local consumption. The cultivation of cash crops on land traditionally intended for food production has a significant impact on the food security of the community or the nation. The shift from farming to market-oriented agriculture and the transition from the cultivation of traditional food crops to cash crops through the commercialisation of agriculture have led to an increase in malnutrition and food insecurity in most African countries. In Kenya, for example, in 2008, there were about 1.3 million people in rural areas and between 3.5 million and 4 million in urban areas of food insecure food. That's despite Kenya exporting more than $3 billion in food crops in 2010. The cultivation of cash crops has also led to the overuse of fertilisers and agrochemas, which have damaged our pashes and soils and aquatic organisms, and our bodies of water have been suffocated by pollution. The need for more land for the cultivation of cash crops has led to a sharp increase in soil and increased water. According to the Ndung'u land report, from 1963 to 2003, 11,000 hectares of forest land in Kenya were culled to create Nyayo tea areas. In 1988, the Transmara Forest Reserve lost 937.7 hectares to Kiptagich Tea Estates. Issues of monochroming Agricultural commercialization led to monokropping. This introduction of new and similar crops farmers' fields have drastically changed the diversity of local varieties that farmers have already cultivated. Agricultural diversity has been killed under the false assumption that local varieties have low productivity. Ownership of various indigenous seed varieties has shifted from small farmers to multinational corporations. The farmer doesn't control it, and he's got the more the sed: New patented varieties, often marketed as highly grown varieties, require small farmers to buy the seed of one supplier, in this case multinational corporations. Growing monocultures on farms are only advancing on the global agenda of globalisation, which is often controlled by global corporations. Monocultures have proved to be a displaced biodiversity on farms. The UN International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources in Leipzig Germany in 1996 noted that industrial monocultures in agriculture replaced 75 percent of all agro-biodiversity. In addition, Western agricultural corporations and governments are now forcing African countries to industrialise their agriculture. As a therefore, food crops such as rice, wheat and maize are currently grown as cash crops. These plants currently account for more than 50 percent of the world's calorie intake. A sign of the loss of agricultural diversity is the fact that today we have more Kenyans ingesting imported maize, wheat and rice, as opposed to bece and cheese, so they have previously become staple foods. It is this reliance on food and agriculture imports that has seen most Kenyans go to sleep on an empty stomach. Worse still, according to COVID-19, farmers are losing their crops due to a lack of markets or selling them at discarded prices. In his marching address, President Uhuru Kenyatta encouraged traders and farmers to continue their agricultural activities so that Kenyans have access to agricultural produce at all times - a clear indication that small farmers produce food consumed in the country. Who feeds Kenya? The World Bank report shows that Kenyan agriculture covers small, medium and large-scale farming. Small production accounts for about 75 percent of total agricultural production. The report further states that small production accounts for 70 per cent of the marketed agrarian produce as opposed to large-scale agriculture, which accounts for 30 per cent of the agrarian food trade and mainly involves the cultivation of commercial crops such as tea, coffee, corn, sugar and wheat. Hans Binswanger-Mkhize in his book Redistribution of Agricultural Land: Against Greater Consensus, he gives a similar assessment. It notes that only 37 percent of kenya's small-farm land produced 73 percent of agricultural production in 2004. It is therefore quite obvious that small farmers are feeding Kenya, as they focus on food production for local and national markets and their own families. By contrast, large-scale farms specialising in crops are being used to produce goods and focus on export plants, many of which cannot eat. They also focus mainly on return on investment. Nevertheless, there is little evidence of measures to ensure that these small farmers produce more in this COVID-19 pandemic. To help Kenyans waver from hunger, the Agriculture Ministry imported 4 million bags of corn instead of supporting small farmers producing 70 percent of the country's corn to produce more. This dependence on the international food security market, which prioritises the paradigm of industrial agriculture (the border of the monetary crop monopoly), is the cornerstone of the food crisis that we are facing today. This lack of support has reduced the number of small farmers. In his book Who Really Feeds the World, Dr Vandana Shiva notes that since the introduction of agricultural globalisation policies in 1991, farmers have sunk in numbers from 110 million to 95.8 million – the loss of almost 15 million farmers or 2,000 farmers per day. This reduction in the number of small farmers is a direct result of the loss of agricultural land. A large number of farming families have less than two hectares to feed themselves and humanity. The crops available for cultivation are reduced by a number of factors, including population pressure, lack of access to land and rules of globalisation for companies to profit at the expense of small farmers. The World Bank report shows that between 2008 and 2010, at least 60 million hectares of agricultural production land were rented out or sold to foreign investors for large-scale agricultural projects, more than half of which were in Africa. farmlandgrab.org is that these massive new agri-agricultural projects have tossed an unlimited number of small farmers from their territories. As if shrinking the size of land is not enough of a barrier, farmers are even locked in debt, as multinational corporations sell them expensive raw materials in the form of patented radiation, fertilisers and agrochemists while buying their crops cheaply. Multinational corporations such as Bayer, Dupont, Syngenta, Land O'Lakes, BASF, Yara, PepsiCO, Unilever and Carrefour all rip off farmers. As a result, agriculture has become invisible and most farmers are leaving their farms to facilitate jobs in urban areas. The future of food security and food safety lies in promoting and protecting small farmers. It is time for small farmers to be viable, given that resource-intensive farming systems have not achieved sustainable food and agriculture production. In contrast, the government's decision not to buy corn for its strategic food reserve from local farmers is a way of reassing the way to the private sector. This will not lead to food stabilisation prices in the country during a prolonged suing. The move may exacerbate the level of food insecurity in the country by increasing food prices, thus reducing its availability to most Kenyans. This is in line with the strategy for the transformation and growth of the agricultural sector for 2019-2020, which is expected to strengthen the country's food security. What needs to happen has already been shown by small farms that they can produce more diverse foods for households and the market. The Ministry of Agriculture must prioritise domestic food production over international exports and increase investment in food production based on small farmers. The UN Environment Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food estimate that small farmers produce up to 80 per cent of food in non-industrialised countries. We must stop allocating land to agricultural ventures and ensure access to land for small farmers through appropriate land reforms. Land from cash crops must be surrendered to small farmers. The farmers who produce most of our food do not have access to land. We need systems that need to be legal for women to own and cultivate land. We need policies that allow farmers to grow locally, export real super-weights and import what is not available locally. Policy measures include stabilising market prices and regulating the control of imports with taxes in order to avoid dumping, which threatens local agricultural production. We need to innau something and create environmentally friendly farming systems, such as organic farming, which protects and strengthens the foundation of natural resources while raising agricultural productivity. Agricultural systems should promote diversity in the face of climate shocks. We need farming systems that protect farmers and consumers from the growing monopoly power of large, multinational, agro-industrial corporations. We are asking for systems that encourage consumers to buy food directly from farmers, systems that allow farmers to breed seeds, to rescue and exchange these seeds, systems that will prevent small farmers from being dependent on overuse of agrochemas and fertilisers. These systems promote self-sufficiency and self-sufficiency, which are key to a future free from hunger, oppression and hunger. In the words of Thomas Sankara: The one who feeds you controls you. Since food is fundamental to the development of society and serves the purpose of eating in addition to strengthening our culture, its producers must be protected and supported. Claire Nasike is a food for life campaigner at Greenpeace Africa Africa