

## **SYNOPSIS**

Agricultural Sector is important to many national economies and it is a key for the daily survival of human populations. In Kenya, the sector contributes up to 25% of total gross domestic product (GDP) and about 60% of the export earnings, mainly in form of cash crops (tea, coffee, pyrethrum, horticultural products). It also accounts for 80% of the income and employment opportunities for many livelihoods, especially the rural areas.

However, this sector is undergoing stress, being contributed by multiple constraints, such as climate variability or climate change with its resultant frequent and prolonged droughts that contribute to widespread crop failures. Soil degradation on the other hand, has resulted in huge losses of fragile unprotected surface soil which carry through erosion, the nutrients needed to produce healthy and high yielding crops. Under these circumstances, low and declining crop yields are evident on smallholder farms such as the common maize yields below 0.5 t /ha/ season (less than 6 bags /ha ) frequently obtained from low input agriculture in west Kenya. To reverse this situation of food insecurity, there are proven and effective technologies which can restore soil fertility and hence improve maize yields from 3 to 5 t / ha / season (33 to 55 bags / ha) on the average. Adoption of these technologies will enhance food security.

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**ALL ARE WELCOME**