



Better Seeds. Better Harvests. Better Lives.

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." - 2 Corinthians 9:10

Over the past year, and with the generous spirit of the St. Ignatius community, we have been able to raise a new church for the Upendo community from the Kenya soil. This new church will serve as the heart of the community and feed the Spirit within them. It is now time to shift our focus to feeding their earthly bodies.



The theme for this year's Kenya Mission Collection is providing a better life to the Upendo community through improved seed and agricultural practices. Subsistence farmers in Kenya average an income of only \$1,000 a year from the extra crops that they do not need for their own survival. Most residents in the Upendo community are subsistence farmers.

As the crow flies, almost the entire Upendo community resides within a mile of the incredible new church we have partnered with the Upendo community to erect. By God's grace, within that same mile radius is the Baraka Agricultural College run by the Franciscan Brothers. It was founded in 1974 by the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru to educate and train



the newly settled people of the Rift Valley. Its main mission is to promote sustainable agriculture to local farmers using the available resources. The college also aims at empowering them in enhancing food security and providing access to certified seeds.

While the members of the Kenya Mission Committee are visiting Molo in August of this year to celebrate the consecration of the new church with Bishop Tuka of the Diocese of Nakuru, they will also be meeting with the Franciscan Brothers at Baraka Agricultural College to finalize a Collaboration Agreement for the Upendo community. The goal is to provide the Upendo community with training in sustainable agricultural, access to certified seeds for better crop yield, pathways to alternative agriculture such as beekeeping, and potential partnerships for livestock farming (chickens, goats, sheep). The hope is to also negotiate into the agreement a partnership between the Franciscans and the local community to enhance and expand Baraka Agricultural College's ability to fulfill their mission. This may take the form of providing a local workforce trained to help the Franciscan Brothers sustain the college mission, providing additional pathways to increase certified seed production, or a multitude of other pathways.

The funds from this year's Kenya Mission Collection will be used to right-size the agreement to a level that is sustainable for the college and the community. Our hope is these programs can be used to increase the income of the local community by 50-100% on a sustainable basis.

Thank you in advance for your generous support for this noble cause. We will share the outcome of the meetings with the Franciscan Brothers when we return. Please pray that God will guide all parties and that we will have uplifting details of an exciting new agreement to share with the parish community by the time of the collection.

