

Irrigation for smallholder farms in Kenya

Context

- Most farms are smallholder ~ 0.47 hectares; producing food for home consumption, sell surplus.
- The rain-fed agriculture no longer reliable due to climate change; available water need to be managed differently
- Commercial farms have capacity to support infrastructure

Strategy/Opportunity

- Install irrigation system to large farms (hub) and create access to smallholder farms (spokes) on periphery using a water services model.
- Produce more food using less water for a growing population

Need/Challenges

- Natural water access unreliable and not in system
- reliable water supply and distribution system
- High capital cost for infrastructure; small holder farms have limited financial capacity.

Project and Partners

- Project financing for combined commercial and smallholder farms through cooperative.
- Use blended capital structure to reduce financing costs for smallholder cooperative.
- Precision irrigation company, Netafim, founded in Israel; exports to developing economies