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

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.

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

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