The Ethiopian Pastoralist Project aims to reduce poverty in Afar and south Omo – piloting a new approach whereby pastoralists plan and manage their own development, whilst developing the skills required to effectively influence policy and practice in their areas. With the highest respect for traditional pastoralist livelihoods, the project will work with both traditional and government-based institutions, helping them to develop their own micro projects. These will be supported by a community-based fund – managed by the pastoralists themselves. Most importantly, they will develop new skills in strategic planning, helping them to manage and prepare for future droughts. This project builds on the experiences of the Afar Pastoralist Development and Emergency Project.
The Training and Advisory Unit (TAU) in Ethiopia was established to share lessons and best practices from FARM-Africa’s work through training, preparing publications/training materials, and networking – significantly influencing both policy and practice in Ethiopia. Comprising experts drawn from FARM-Africa Ethiopia’s programmes, the TAU has provided training for the Ethiopian Government in participatory approaches, baseline survey techniques and implementing projects at the woreda (district) level. In addition 13 years’ experience from the Farmers’ Participatory Research Project – now completed – will be published and staff are involved with developing new policies supporting pastoralist livelihoods.

The Women’s Enterprise Development Project works in Kedida Gamela and Lemu woredas (districts) in the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State of Ethiopia. Based on empowered women’s groups, the project aims to improve the welfare of women, helping them to play a larger part in economic, social and cultural life. Initially, the project sets up credit group associations – women are provided with goats which are then repaid by donating female kids to other groups. The project runs awareness campaigns and training on women’s legal rights and opportunities to improve their welfare, and many women have already seen considerable improvements to their livelihoods.

The Woreda (district) Capacity Building Project works in partnership with Woreda Development Associations – local community-based organisations – and key local government staff across five Woredas in the Southern Region of Ethiopia. Aiming to reduce poverty in the most vulnerable households, the project strengthens each Development Association to support a wide range of development initiatives, leading local communities in the management of their own development. Currently in its start-up phase, the project has collected base-line information about the area and the Development Associations themselves. The project builds on the success of FARM-Africa’s Konso Capacity Building Project which ran from 1998 to 2003.

Malaria in human beings and trypanosomiasis in cattle are the major diseases in Konso district, Ethiopia. The project aims to improve the management of livestock disease, protecting the livelihoods of Ethiopian herders, and investigates whether insecticide-
treated cattle, already effective in the fight against trypanosomiasis, could also be used successfully to control malaria. The project examines the relationship between the density and distribution of cattle and people and the transmission of malaria. Findings to date suggest that malaria transmission could be reduced through the use of insecticide-treated cattle. The project is seeking further funding to continue its research.

CURRENT PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel’s Participatory Forest Management Programme aims to integrate Participatory Forest Management – governments and communities managing forest resources in partnership – in government practice in Bonga, Chilimo, and Negele in Ethiopia and Nou in Tanzania. Participatory Forest Management Plans, governing use of and access to forest resources, have been established, and new activities — such as beekeeping, poultry and community-based tourism – introduced as alternatives to traditional forest resource use for communities. The programme’s approach is starting to be replicated by the Ethiopian Government with forest users outside FARM-Africa’s programme whilst in Tanzania, communities now view their livelihoods as an integral part of forest conservation. (See www.pfmp-farmsos.org for further information about the programme.)

CLOSED 2003 AFAR PASTORALIST DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGENCY PROJECT

Working with pastoralists in Afar, north eastern Ethiopia, the project used the Mobile Outreach Camp approach – a team of mobile professionals moving with migrating pastoralists – to help them develop their own food security and drought management systems. In response to the severe drought of 2002/3, FARM-Africa established an emergency approach to preserve livestock, enabling both herds and communities to recover quickly in the aftermath. Communities were also encouraged to sell their livestock at market, taking steps to rebuild their livelihoods.

The project closed at the end of 2003 – project staff are now involved in the new Ethiopian Pastoralist Programme (see above), building on the experience of this project.
KENYA

**FORTHCOMING 2004 PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

Part of the regional FARM-Africa/SOS Sahel Participatory Forest Management Programme, this project aims to integrate participatory forest management and environmental conservation with local communities – the Boni (hunter-gatherers) and Bajuni (smallholder farmers) – in Kiunga area of Lamu, Eastern Kenya. Working in partnership with the Government and community groups, it will also collaborate with the World Wide Fund for Nature and the East African Wildlife Society, already involved in conservation activities in this area. The project is currently in the planning phase and is seeking funds.

**NEW 2004 DAIRY GOAT AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME**

Adopting the model of the Meru Dairy Goat and Animal Healthcare Project (see below), this project aims to reduce poverty for the small-scale farmers of the Kitui and Mwingi Districts, Kenya, through increasing the productivity of dairy goats and providing access to animal healthcare. It emulates the proven approaches of working with local Government departments and community organisations, expanding FARM-Africa’s work in marketing and adding value to livestock products. In particular, this project will develop links with the private sector to improve farmers’ access to markets.

**NEW 2004 NORTHERN KENYA PASTORALIST CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT**

The project aims to reduce the levels of poverty of pastoral communities in Marsabit, Moyale and Isiolo Districts, Northern Kenya, promoting pastoralism as a viable lifestyle. FARM-Africa and partner organisations work directly with pastoralists, helping them both develop practical skills to manage their natural resources sustainably and strengthen advocacy skills. FARM-Africa’s thorough understanding of how pastoralist communities manage their natural resources and the existing agricultural extension services’ failure to meet their needs will be drawn on during the course of this four-year project, which ultimately, will help pastoralists take control of their own development and play an active role in lobbying for better government policies and services.

**NEW 2003 FARMER-TO-FARMER RESEARCH PROJECT**

FARM-Africa – in collaboration with The University of Reading, UK, and The International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)-Kenya – is implementing a research project on “Improving Information and Communication for Smallholder Farmers” in two districts in Kenya, namely Meru Central and Meru South Districts. The project aims to
develop methods of communication that support improved information flows between farmers, and between farmers, researchers and extension agents. With a focus on sharing new agricultural technologies, the project seeks to demonstrate the potential for such methods to complement existing public and private sector services.

**CURRENT** COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK – CAHNET

The Community Animal Health Network (CAHNET) – managed by NGOs FARM-Africa, CAPE, CLIP and PACT – provides a forum for animal health information exchange across the Greater Horn of Africa. By increasing access to such information, it aims to improve the livelihoods of pastoralist communities, encouraging better livestock production, care and marketing. Linking with outreach partners – local community-based organisations who channel information to target beneficiaries – and using cost-effective, accessible communication methods such as the worldwide web, community radio, workshops and the WorldSpace multimedia channel, the network is able to target resource and information-poor areas of the region with the latest developments in animal health and technology. (See www.cahnet.net for further information.)

**CURRENT** THE MAENDELEO AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY FUND

Currently in its third year of operation, the Maendeleo Agricultural Technology Fund has funded 35 projects in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Supported by The Gatsby Charitable Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation, projects share proven technologies with farmers whilst establishing strong linkages between farmers, research organisations, extension services, NGOs and the private sector. As an example, “The Diffusion of Improved Banana Planting Material to Smallholder Farmers through a Micro-Credit Scheme” project has adapted a local approach to provide small-scale farmers with credit to purchase planting material, as well as training 255 farmers in banana-growing technologies – using the Farmer Field School approach. (See www.maendeleo-atf.org for further information.)

**CURRENT** THE MERU DAIRY GOAT AND ANIMAL HEALTHCARE PROJECT

The Meru Dairy Goat and Animal Healthcare Project reduces poverty for very poor small-scale farmers in central Kenya by combining improved dairy goat productivity with accessible animal health services. Poor farmers have seen their living standards improve and incomes increase through goat and milk sales, whilst access to animal healthcare means that they can better care for their animals. The project, debatably one of FARM-Africa’s most successful, has provided the model for the Dairy Goat and Animal Health Project in Uganda and will shortly share its experiences at a new site – Mwingi.
SOUTH AFRICA

The Eastern Cape Smallholder Support Programme aims to improve agricultural and livestock skills whilst reducing poverty and unemployment in the Eastern Cape, South Africa’s poorest province. The project offers a range of training to both communities and government staff, and implements activities such as developing community land-use plans and establishing credit funds. During 2003 Government staff were trained in agribusiness skills, the use of participatory approaches and project management. Revolving fund credit schemes have helped over 400 farmers invest in poultry, piggery and crop production enterprises, repaying their loans and making profits, increasing their household income and quality of life.

NORTHERN CAPE LAND REFORM AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMME

Aiming to equip land reform communities – those dispossessed from their land under Apartheid – with the skills, tools and confidence to make a living from available natural resources, the Capacity Building in Community-Based Natural Resources Management Project continues its support in the Northern Cape. Livestock banks continue to prosper, some setting up Lucerne-banks to provide fodder, whilst other communities are implementing water conservation projects in collaboration with local municipalities. Eco-tourism projects at two sites are nearing completion, government staff have received further training in participatory methodologies, and advocacy is strengthened with the forthcoming publication of project experiences for policy makers.

TRAINING AND ADVISORY UNIT – KENYA

In the past, many of FARM-Africa’s projects have been recognised as demonstrating good practice and yet, have tended to have a limited and localised impact. To address this, FARM-Africa Kenya’s Training and Advisory Unit (TAU) aims to maximise the impact of current and future projects through targeted training, networking and communication of successful grassroots work. Initially focusing on Kenya, the TAU has conducted research into who will best benefit from its training, designing practical courses with these audiences in mind. It has already delivered training courses in dairy goat management to NGOs in Kenya as well as working on a national curriculum for community animal health workers with the Kenyan Government and other professional bodies.

CURRENT: EASTERN CAPE SMALLHOLDER SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The Eastern Cape Smallholder Support Programme aims to improve agricultural and livestock skills whilst reducing poverty and unemployment in the Eastern Cape, South Africa’s poorest province. The project offers a range of training to both communities and government staff, and implements activities such as developing community land-use plans and establishing credit funds. During 2003 Government staff were trained in agribusiness skills, the use of participatory approaches and project management. Revolving fund credit schemes have helped over 400 farmers invest in poultry, piggery and crop production enterprises, repaying their loans and making profits, increasing their household income and quality of life.

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“Smallholder farmers adopting new crop and livestock skills”
TANZANIA

NEW 2004

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

This project involves the nine Farmer Research Groups from the Babati Rural Development Project, along with a larger number of community-based organisations from 20 already identified villages in Babati District, northern Tanzania. Part of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Tanzania’s larger programme, The Agricultural Marketing Services Development Project, the project will ensure that these community groups benefit from increased access to markets and the possibility of increased sale-generated income. Investment for local traders will be provided through new relationships with commercial banks and rural road improvement, essential for easing the transport of produce, will take place through District Councils.

CURRENT

BABATI RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Babati Rural Development Project combines development planning and support to animal health services with a range of other activities to small-scale farmers in Babati District, northern Tanzania. The overall goal of the programme is to reduce poverty through community-based improvements to agriculture, including animal health, village planning, farmers’ agricultural research and dairy goat improvement. Working in partnership with local government extension staff and local institutions, the project offers a holistic approach to rural development: latest developments including improved management of the project’s breeding component and establishing greater linkages between farmers’ research groups and research institutions.

CURRENT

THE BABATI AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECT

The Babati Agricultural and Environmental Education Project is designed to improve agricultural and environmental education in thirteen primary schools in Babati District, northern Tanzania. With its Discovery Learning approach – in which pupils’ own knowledge is valued and used – along with strengthened school committees and increasingly involved parents, the project is ensuring that communities are heavily involved in the development of their schools. The project is currently piloting its new approach in 13 primary schools across the district where activities include the training of school committees and teachers, parent empowerment and community awareness-raising initiatives.
CURRENT  

**NOU JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

Part of the Participatory Forest Management Programme, this project aims to reduce poverty and conserve resources for forest communities around Nou Forest in northern Tanzania. By bringing together experts from government, NGOs and research institutions, the project helps forest users identify their rights to forest resources and encourages an awareness that the forest is a resource to be both protected and treasured. With the formation of farmers’ research groups and training in complementary natural resources and non-timber forest product technologies, communities have gradually changed their attitudes to the forest – their livelihoods being inextricably linked to forest conservation making them even more committed to their responsibilities as custodians of the forest.

UGANDA  

**NEW 2003  UGANDA DAIRY GOAT AND ANIMAL HEALTH PROJECT**

The project started in August 2003 in the districts of Mbale and Sironko in the remote upper slopes of Mount Elgon in Uganda. The project adapts the model of the Meru Dairy Goat and Animal Healthcare Project in Kenya, aiming to improve the living standards of poor small-scale farmers – many of whom are affected by HIV/AIDS – through increasing the productivity of local dairy goats and making animal healthcare accessible. Goats were distributed in November 2003 – priority being given to HIV/AIDS affected women and families headed by children or young people, and training has been provided, which will ultimately improve both their incomes and nutrition.