



Milken Motsepe Prize in Agri-Tech



## Smart Agri Centre

February 2023



**SMART  
VILLAGES**



**ecolife  
FOODS**

## Mbata Qualitative Data Analysis

This report dives deeper into the analysis of qualitative data gathered as part of the impact survey of 93 users of the Smart Agri-Centre in Mbata. The data reinforce the quantitative data on increased profits and reduced costs, but also paints a rich picture of deeper, more wide-ranging impacts, on farmers' children, futures, health, and general development outlook. Ambitions for farming productivity and enterprise have increased, and every person reported having increased revenue and more savings due to the services available at the SAC and the practices those services make possible, such as collective bulking and value addition. Increased disposable income has resulted in school fees being payable, such that the SAC has had an impact in keeping children in formal education. Respondents value the training available at the SAC and the new knowledge they've gained by interacting with the services there very highly, pointing out how it will not only benefit their futures, but also that of their children and the development of their community. Health benefits and positive environmental impact are also prevalent in respondents' answers.

## Method

93 users of the SAC in Mbata were surveyed with our partners Kiima in January 2023 asking them about the impact the SAC has had on their lives and business over seasons 3 and 4. Part of the survey was a set of 10 questions designed to delve into the qualitative impact the SAC has had on end users.

The following questions were asked:

1. How often do you visit the SAC?
2. Has the SAC impacted your future plans? If so, how?
3. Has the SAC impacted your income and savings? If so, how?
4. Has the SAC impacted your children and their future? If so, how?
5. Has the SAC impacted the ways you make money? If so, how?
6. Has the SAC impacted the environment here? If so, how?
7. Has the SAC impacted your knowledge? If so, how?
8. Has the SAC impacted the opportunities available here? If so, how?
9. Have you attended any training at the SAC?
10. What training and what was the impact?

All questions were designed not to be leading in terms of suggesting a positive or negative outcome, but to be neutral. In addition, many were left intentionally broad, such as asking about 'opportunities', so that they could be interpreted by the responder according to what it meant to them. Enumerators were trained to help respondents elaborate on their answers, searching for the meaning behind initial simple statements. This has led to a very rich dataset which contains multiple stories of change associated with the SAC, where key themes emerge throughout, and where the myriad of ways the SAC has been engaged with, and this the myriad ways in which it has led to lasting change in Mbata, can be observed.

## Results and Implications

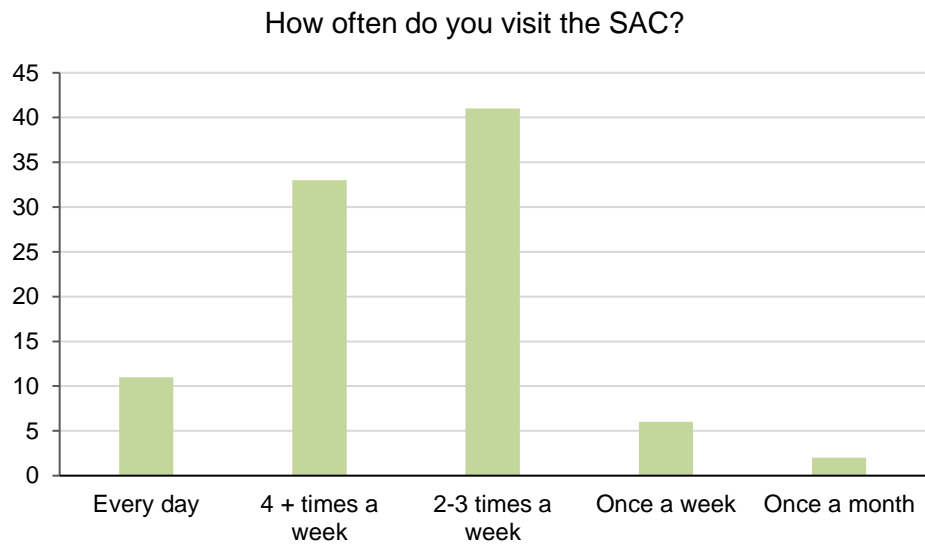
All questions apart from 1 and 9 produced qualitative data which has been analysed on a per question basis, by drawing out the key themes across the 93 responses, and representing the theme with some example quotes drawn directly from the responses. Questions 1 and 9 provide us with some simple quantitative usage data regarding usage of the SAC and training received there.

Because we analyse on a per question basis, it is common that the same themes come up across multiple questions. For example, nutrition was part of answers given about how the SAC had impacted their future plans (in connection with improved health being something they looked forward to), and also part of their answers about the impact of the SAC on their children.

### How often do you visit the SAC?

Out of 93 users, 11 visited every day, 33 visited over 4 times a week, 41 people visited between 2 and 3 times a week, 6 visited once a week and 2 visited once a month.

How often do you visit the SAC?	
Every day	11
4 + times a week	33
2-3 times a week	41
Once a week	6
Once a month	2



From this we can see that 91.4% of people interviewed visited the SAC more than once a week, 47.3% of people interviewed visited the SAC more than 3 times a week, and 11.8% of people interviewed visited the SAC every day.

1. Future Plans	
Question:	Has the SAC impacted your future plans? If so, how?
Theory of change:	Access to the SAC has caused higher profits for farmers and increased access to various required services, and this will impact how people think about their future plans.
Impact Summary	<b>The ways the SAC has impacted end users' future plans ranges from business and farming ambition, to expected health benefits.</b> 20% of respondents having greater ambitions for their farming productivity, and another 11% stating that they now have more of a 'business mindset' around farming. Other future plans involved improvements to their living situations, and some remarked about how their increased savings had caused their future plans to change compared to before they used the SAC. When thinking about the future, 9 people mentioned improved nutrition, which they envisaged leaving them with healthier futures for them and their family.
Key quotes	Impact analysis
<i>'It has changed my mindset in relationship to farming as a business'</i> <i>'Yes, I have start now agriculture for business not only for home consumption.'</i>	<b>Increased 'business mindset' around farming</b>  11 people either mentioned a mindset change with regards to farming and their business, or they are now starting, or planning to start, new businesses. They reported a greater understanding of how farming is a business which can be used for income-generation sufficient to provide a good livelihood.
<i>'Am planning to produce more crop produce since we have store now, have a shop near or at the facility and planning to have power in my home'</i> <i>'My plans has changed because I can now plan for the better farming in the next season'</i>	<b>Increased ambition in farming and development changes for their households</b>  19 people had ambitions for scaling up their farming to increase their productivity either with learned better-practice techniques or by extending their land.  8 people talked about improved access to electricity and other services.
<i>'Yes, looking forward to build a house for my family and paying fees for my schooling children'</i>	<b>Improved buildings and environment</b> 7 people mentioned improving their houses or extending their farms by purchasing more land (something made possible through increased income).
<i>'Yes I have learnt how to save money'</i>	<b>Saving money for the future</b> 4 people specifically mentioned learning to save or having increased savings as a result from the SAC, therefore allowing them to have future plans.
<i>'Improvement of livelihoods, nutrition and mind set change'</i> <i>'Livelihood improvement and nutrition'</i>	<b>Improved nutrition</b> 9 people specifically mentioned improved nutrition.



<b>2. Income and Savings</b>	
Question:	Has the SAC impacted your income and savings? If so, how?
Theory of change:	The SAC has increased incomes for farmers and their ability to save money.
Impact summary:	All respondents reported that the SAC had a positive impact on their income and savings. 25% of people said they had saved money (and just as importantly, time) through not having to travel to access the services now available at the SAC, when previously they had to pay for transport. A myriad of reasons for increased income were reported, which made use of the full range of ways people could interact with the SAC, including accessing higher value markets with better quality produce, and collective marketing and bulking practices; saving costs and higher yields, having learned better agricultural practices, and better financial management.
<b>Key quotes</b>	<b>Impact analysis</b>
<p><i>'Yes through access of high market prices for the value chain'</i></p> <p><i>'Good market for the products. Learning new methods of farming that has increased my production capacity. Have also learnt financial management.'</i></p> <p><i>'Yes, through good agricultural practices taught to us and extensional services. Saving and loan offered to farmers during season increasing my production capacity hence more income'</i></p>	<p><b>All people had increased savings and incomes through a number of different pathways through interacting with the SAC</b></p> <p>People gave a number of reasons, and often multiple reasons in the same answer, as to why they had increased their savings and income. These reasons were (several of these are picked out in more detail in subsequent rows of this table):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to higher value markets</li> <li>• Better agricultural practices reducing costs and leading to better quality produce</li> <li>• Reduced transport costs</li> <li>• Higher production capacity from trainings</li> <li>• Better financial management</li> <li>• Market access and bulking</li> </ul>
<p><i>'Yes, it has saved me from transport costs searching for services like agro inputs and other services that around the centre.'</i></p>	<p><b>Reduced expenditure on transport</b></p> <p>23 people surveyed specifically mentioned saving time and/or money through saving on transport costs. This is due to the close location of the SAC and that they can now access services there that they used to have to travel far for.</p>
<p><i>'It has increased the income through bulking my products and access to higher prices'</i></p> <p><i>'So much because I can now sell my produce in bulk because I have where to keep them like in the cold room hence getting some good money'</i></p>	<p><b>Increased incomes due to bulking produce</b></p> <p>10 people specifically mentioned bulking their produce with other farmers and thus reaching higher value markets as one of the reasons they saw an increase in income.</p>
<p><i>'Good market for the products. Learning new methods of farming that has increased my production capacity.'</i></p> <p><i>'So much well because we now have available market for our products because I sell them in bulk hence getting a lot of money.'</i></p> <p><i>'Yes, through quick service delivery which has cut my transport costs and other costs that I would suffer looking for market of my produces'</i></p>	<p><b>Accessing better markets</b></p> <p>28 people mentioned that they are now accessing good markets for their products and therefore able to sell produce for a higher price. Some mentioned the fact there is an available market nearby they can sell in bulk for a higher price and also they are saving on transport costs from searching for markets.</p>
<p><i>'Increased my income through collective marketing. Saving on my</i></p>	<p><b>Specific statement of 'increased my income'</b></p>

<p><i>transport costs for similar services like welding'</i></p>	<p>18 people directly stated that they had higher income due to the SAC (other people either answered 'yes' or described ways the SAC had increased their income, but did not use the term 'increased my income' (or a permutation of this) directly).</p>
<p><i>'Yes, quick service delivery has reduced my expenditure hence increasing my income and savings' 'True because we have a farmers sacco where we save and give credit hance improving my income' 'I save money for the future'</i></p>	<p><b>Specific statement of 'saving money'</b></p> <p>21 of those surveyed directly stated that they had more savings due to the SAC (other people either answered 'yes' or described ways the SAC had saved them money, but did not use the terms 'increased savings' (or a permutation of this) directly). Interestingly, 3 people specifically mentioned the formation of the SACCO (Savings and Credit Cooperative), which was developed alongside the SAC, as contributing to how they had been able to save more money and thus have more disposable income.</p>

<b>3. <u>Children and their future</u></b>	
Question:	Has the SAC impacted your children and their future? If so, how?
Theory of change:	Improved incomes and saving opportunities through access to the SAC will impact farmers' children in positive ways
Impact summary:	92% of respondents stated that their children had been positively impacted by the SAC. 57% of people cited positive impact from skills their children (or young adults) had been able to access at the SAC, which set them in better stead for their own livelihoods. 28% of people mentioned keeping their children in education and being able to afford school fees. Other mentions were on the topic of improved child nutrition, the connectivity their children are getting from access to the internet, and also the crucial link between these benefits to their children, and the positive development this represents for the community now and in the future.
<b><u>Key quotes</u></b>	<b><u>Impact analysis</u></b>
	<p><b>Most people remarked the SAC positively impacted their children</b></p> <p>92% of people said the SAC positively impacted their children, with just 7 saying it had not impacted their children. We break down the ways children were impacted in the following rows of this table.</p>
<p><i>'Yes ,as result of high market prices ,I have managed to afford school fees for my children'</i></p> <p><i>"Yes, through opening their eyes and see the value of education."</i></p>	<p><b>Improved access to school education</b></p> <p>26 people surveyed mentioned reliably being able to pay for school fees now and therefore being about to keep their children in education.</p> <p>As an aside, it was interesting that one person reported that their children's perception of education had changed, making them value it more, as a means to get better jobs in the future.</p>
<i>'It has helped in improving the nutrition and paying fees for my children and act [the SAC acts] as learning centre'</i>	<p><b>Improved child nutrition</b></p> <p>5 people specifically mentioned their children had benefited through improved nutrition.</p>
<i>'Through acquisition of knowledge and skills in trainings like in welding, juice processing, application of good agronomic practices'</i>	<p><b>Skills and trainings</b></p> <p>53 people talked about their children's lives being improved through gaining new skills or training that has allowed them or will allow them to gain employment. Some of those surveyed even mentioned that their young adults are actually directly employed by the SAC (the definition of child can also be interpreted as youth, if talking to an older farmer, and thus 'children' can sometimes refer to young adults).</p>
<p><i>'Much better because they a now skilled in welding and even the use of Internet which I hope will help them in their future.'</i></p> <p><i>'They are now getting information while they are at the centre through the watching local and international news'</i></p>	<p><b>Children's access to services</b></p> <p>11 people mentioned other benefits their children were getting from the SAC in terms of the access to the services available there. Themes covered are to do with connectivity to the internet and awareness of news and goings on in the wider world.</p>
<i>'They have also acquired skills from the centre like welding skill which will help them to generate income hence developing the community'</i>	<p><b>Future positive impact on the community</b></p> <p>2 people specifically linked the positive impact the SAC had on their children to a more positive future for their community.</p>

<i>'Much better because they a skilled in different sectors which I think will assist them and our community at large.'</i>	
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<b>4. Diversifying income streams</b>	
Question:	Has the SAC impacted the ways you make money? If so, how?
Theory of change:	The SAC offers new opportunities in terms of ways for end users to make money.
Impact summary:	99% of those surveyed said that the SAC had provided new ways to make money and new value chains to be part of. While 23% of respondents specifically pointed at the cold store as impacting the way they make money, 56% mentioned collective marketing and collective bulking. These methods of aggregating produce, either managed by individual farmers or by the cooperative, enable higher value markets to be reached. The storage facilities at the SAC, both cold and dry storage, are therefore playing a crucial role for the farmers. Other value chains they discussed that they are now able to participate in are milling, juicing, and welding.
<b>Key quotes</b>	<b>Impact analysis</b>
	<p><b>New opportunities for income generation</b></p> <p>Almost all respondents discussed how the SAC has provided them with new ways to make money and diversify their income stream. Just 1 person said that the SAC had not provided them with a new way of making money.</p> <p>In the following rows we break down the ways of making money that the respondents attributed to the SAC.</p>
<p><i>'Yes, through collective bulking and marketing at the centre which has quickened the marketing process'</i></p> <p><i>'Yes because we do collective bulking and collective selling and we get good money'</i></p> <p><i>'Through bulking of our products at SAC for good markets. Have learnt how to do business hence generating income for me at through the SAC'</i></p>	<p><b>Accessing higher value markets through bulking practices</b></p> <p>21 people specifically mentioned collective bulking. This is a new experience for Mbata farmers, offered by the cooperative that manages the SAC, using the SAC for storage. The cooperative buys the produce from individual farmers, aggregates it, and then sells the aggregated produce to higher value markets. Farmers benefit from good prices for their produce.</p>
<p><i>'It has improved it in a way that I now sell my products on time and on available market.'</i></p> <p><i>'Through collective marketing with other fellow members'</i></p>	<p><b>Accessing higher value markets through collective marketing</b></p> <p>31 people talked about collective marketing, whereby farmers look for buyers who are looking for higher volumes than one farmer can produce alone. They offer to the market what the group of farmers can grow collectively. The buyer then collects the produce from each farmer individually.</p>

<p><i>'It has enabled me to have changed mind set from artificial farming to modern farming for productivity'</i>  <i>'Much better because I used to do farming on a small scale ever since I was taught the best methods I changed to a bit big hence my income increased.'</i></p>	<p><b>Utilising modern farming methods</b>  It's possible across the responses to pull out an array of modern farming techniques which the SAC enables and gives access to. The full range of these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Using the cold room</li> <li>● Collective bulking</li> <li>● Collective marketing</li> <li>● Accessing higher value markets</li> <li>● Larger scale farming</li> <li>● Higher productivity farming</li> <li>● More environmentally sustainable farming methods</li> </ul>
<p><i>'Yes because I now get good money on time after selling my products because I now have where to keep them like the cold room here'</i></p> <p><i>'Yes because I now sell my fresh products at a good price because I use the cold room to keep them fresh'</i></p>	<p><b>Using the cold room for post-harvest storage</b></p> <p>21 people referenced the cold room when asked about how the SAC impacted the ways they make money. The cold store lets farmers keep their produce for longer, and organise themselves to bulk their produce, thus reaching higher value markets. It reduces the amount of post harvest loss, and allows them to plan when they sell in order to achieve better prices.</p>
<p><i>'Through business capacity building session and better market prices realized from the produce'</i></p>	<p><b>Business and capacity building sessions</b></p> <p>14 people mentioned improvements from business and capacity building sessions they have partaken in. These trainings have led to them accessing different ways to make money, for example through producing higher quality produce which fetches better market prices.</p>
<p><i>'Through trainings like in trading agricultural produces, tendering cassava milling machine, welding, juice processing, Cooling food store'</i>  <i>'Through cassava milling machine, welding, phone charging, storage of food produce'</i>  <i>'Ever since the SAC came i have managed to be processing my products like cassava using the milling machine that's here hence getting some good money.'</i></p>	<p><b>Participating in new value chains</b></p> <p>A theme we see in this section is farmers accessing different markets through processing their crops, or using other facilities at the SAC to diversify their income streams. They are participating in value chains they were not previously involved in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 12 people mentioned using the milling machine and thus selling milled cassava and maize</li> <li>● 10 people mentioned welding</li> <li>● 9 people mentioned being involved in the juicing value chain.</li> </ul>

5. Environmental impact	
Question:	Has the SAC impacted the environment here? If so, how?
Theory of change:	The trainings being hosted at the SAC include environmentally sustainable farming which would lead to more sustainable farming practices and increased environmental awareness in the farmers.
Impact summary:	<p>96% of people said that there had been a positive impact on the environment due to the SAC, with no one answering that there had been a negative impact. What is interesting is that while 18% discussed training on environmental aspects in response to this question (reforestation, sustainable agri-practices), many more people remarked on the environmental sustainability of the SAC itself.</p> <p>39% talked about the sustainability of the solar energy, with awareness that this has displaced fossil fuel use and deforestation. The only other way these services could be provided in Mbata would be through diesel generators, given the lack of grid extension to Mbata. 6 people honed in on the displacement of kerosene for lighting due to the electricity from the SAC.</p> <p>10% of people also highlighted the sustainability of the construction method of the SAC, which used bricks which do not require any firewood to be burnt. The reduction in tree felling was remarked upon by 10% of respondents.</p>
Key quotes	Impact analysis
	Out of all 93 interviewed, 89 people answered that the SAC had positively impacted the environment (just 4 people said 'not yet' or 'not sure').
<p><i>'Through trainings of farmers on good agronomic practices and use of clean light for lighting, charging and milling the cassava flour'</i></p> <p><i>'Through farm trainings that involve environmental conservation and promotion of clean water, clean light at the SAC and the surrounding community'</i></p>	<p><b>Environmental awareness and agri- trainings</b></p> <p>17 people specifically mentioned receiving trainings associated with environmental conservation. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental conservation</li> <li>• Emphasis on planting trees</li> <li>• Planting indigenous coffee plants</li> <li>• Good agronomic practices for the environment</li> </ul>
<p><i>'Through conservation of the environment and supply of electricity to public areas'</i></p> <p><i>'Productive use of solar energy have saved the environment from bad fumes which used to come from diesel machines for milling and pulping coffee'</i></p>	<p><b>Clean and sustainable energy</b></p> <p>36 people included in their answer the energy access provided by the SAC, remarking on the sustainability of solar energy compared to fossil fuels, but with some also mentioning how light powered by the SAC improved the environment of their public areas.</p> <p>The respondents are clearly aware of the benefits of using clean solar energy for electricity generation. If the SAC was not there, services would require burning fossil fuels such as diesel powered generators - therefore the SAC displaces this diesel use and associated carbon emissions. In the next row we draw out respondents who specifically mentioned this theme with respect to the displacement of kerosene for lighting.</p>

<p><i>'Yes because we used to use lamps candles which used to pollute the environment but we now have solar power that lighted our public places like the hospital that's being constructed near by the SAC which has the solar power'</i></p>	<p><b>Displacing fossil fuels for lighting</b></p> <p>6 people specifically mentioned how the solar power, used for lighting the trading centre and nearby public buildings, is displacing the use of kerosene lights. Burning kerosene creates particulates which have adverse effects on health, and it is also a fossil fuel.</p>
<p><i>'Yes we now have the solar system that has helped us as the community and has reduced tree cutting hance conserving the environment'</i>  <i>'Yes, through productive use of energy and use of interlocking blocks which doesn't require cutting down trees.'</i></p>	<p><b>Reducing tree cutting</b></p> <p>9 people specifically mentioned a reduction in tree felling as a positive impact the SAC has had on the environment. One reason for less tree cutting was cited to be the use of the environmentally friendly bricks that the SAC is built out of, which do not require burning firewood as part of their manufacture (see next row). Another reason was that the solar energy displaced the need to cut down trees - this is likely due to not needing to burn firewood to light up the trading centre (adjacent to the SAC) at night, because solar powered electricity is now used to provide this community security lighting.</p>
<p><i>'Yes like saving cutting of trees to make burnt blocks for construction'</i>  <i>'We used to dig a lot of soil to make bricks but the use of interlocking bricks will reduce on soil erosion because for it ,it doesn't need a lot of soil.'</i>  <i>'It conserved the environment since it uses the ISSB'</i></p>	<p><b>Environmentally friendly construction methods</b></p> <p>9 people talked about the particular bricks used to construct the SAC, Interlocking Stabilized Soil Bricks (ISSBs), and how using them means the burnt bricks are not needed, or referenced new construction methods when asked about environmental impact. They describe how making ISSBs instead of burnt bricks saves cutting trees for the firing process. ISSBs also contain much less cement than the standard red clay bricks, and they are stronger, meaning less cement is required when laying them to make walls.</p>

<b>6. Improved knowledge</b>	
Question:	Has the SAC impacted your knowledge? If so, how?
Theory of change:	Through access to the SAC farmers can access training which increases their knowledge and skills, which has a positive impact on their livelihoods.
Impact summary:	Everyone stated that the SAC increased their knowledge in one way or another. A key theme was talking about how their knowledge had increased through interacting with new technologies - 34% of people talked about how access to the cold store, internet, and other services had increased their knowledge. Out of the 46 people who talked about how the training they attended improved their knowledge, 11 of these specifically stated they had changed mindsets as a result. Others highlighted which areas they had experienced knowledge growth in - use of the cold store for post harvest loss reduction (18%), improved farming practices (16%), and how to save money (18%).
<b>Key quotes</b>	<b>Impact analysis</b>
	All those interviewed answered that yes, the SAC positively impacted their knowledge. 46 people explicitly stated they had participated in training (we know that actually 90 out of the 93 had attended a training at the SAC), and 43 people mentioned gaining new skills.
<i>'Yes, through farm training sessions and business development session hence leading to mind set change'</i> <i>'Yes, through mindset change in governance, financial management, post harvesting handling and the farmer field gap'</i>	<b>Mindset change</b>  11 people specifically stated they experienced 'mindset change' due to the training sessions, as a way of expressing how the new knowledge affected them.
<i>'Yes, through new technologies introduced like cold storage and use of solar panels to add value on our products'</i> <i>'Yes, new technologies like use of solar energy to add value on agricultural products'</i> <i>'The use and know of internet and other technology present at the facility'</i> <i>'Yes my knowledge changed very well because I have learnt a lot from it like welding and juice making'</i>	<b>Utilising new technologies</b>  32 people answered how they had improved knowledge due to the new technologies they are now interacting with at the SAC. These included the cold store, the solar energy itself, and the value-addition agri-processing services available, and ISSBs construction. These are all technologies which have brought new knowledge to community members.
<i>'Yes, I have learnt methods of agriculture and business skills. Bookkeeping'</i> <i>'Yes ,through farm training sessions and business development session hence leading to mind set change'</i>	<b>Improved knowledge on financial management and business skills</b>  9 people mentioned having a greater understanding of financial management, including book keeping and improved ways of handling finances.  7 people specifically mentioned business development training.
<i>'Yes, through learning new technologies like cold storage and generation of power by solar panels</i>	<b>Post harvest loss reduction and the cold store</b>

<p><i>that can operate different enterprises at the same time.'</i></p> <p><i>'Yes through learning how to store my products in the cold room so that I shall sell them when they are still fresh'</i></p>	<p>17 people specifically mentioned the use of the cold store and the ability to store their produce and reduce post harvest losses and sell at a higher price.</p>
<p><i>'Yes because I now think of doing better farming and even skilled in other sectors.'</i></p> <p><i>'My knowledge has changed about the good methods of farming where I have started getting much yields'</i></p> <p><i>'I am able to have a year plan that I never thought of previously'</i></p> <p><i>'Being creative'</i></p>	<p><b>Improved knowledge on good farming practices</b></p> <p>15 people said they now have better farming practices and are applying the skills they have learnt in their training to improve their farming. Some mention their mindset has changed in how they think about doing farming on a larger scale and planning into the future.</p>
<p><i>'I never knew the idea of savings but now I do'</i></p> <p><i>'I have learnt how to save money'</i></p> <p><i>'Through capacity building on good agronomic practices, post harvest handling and management, integrated pest management, Financial management'</i></p>	<p><b>Learning how to save</b></p> <p>17 people mentioned the ability to save, thinking about keeping money for the future or good financial management</p>



7. Opportunities	
Question:	Has the SAC impacted the opportunities available here? If so, how?
Theory of change:	The SAC will result in more opportunities for the people of Mbata - in terms of access to services, quality of life, and income and livelihood development.
Impact summary:	<p>98% stated that the SAC had increased opportunities in Mbata, and people interpreted this in a variety of ways. One way was to highlight the opportunity for setting up their own small enterprises or gaining employment due to the SAC - 37% discussed this, citing how people could be employed by existing services or set up their own enterprises. 23% of people referenced the opportunity for skill enhancement at the SAC due to the training sessions they could access there. Many other people focused on the opportunity to access various new services at the SAC. Popular answers were being able to source metal work products in Mbata due to the welding service in place (42%), use of the milling machine (14%), and internet access (9%). 20% of people highlighted the electricity access provided by the SAC and that this has led to lighting for their public buildings and areas.</p>
Key quotes	Impact analysis
<i>'Yes, we the farmers are using the opportunities of internet services, milling machine, agro input shop to generate income'</i>	<p><b>Increased opportunities due to the SAC</b></p> <p>91 people responded positively to this question, with only 2 people saying they were 'not sure' if the SAC had impacted opportunities in Mbata.</p>
<i>'Reduction on theft, knowledge and skills on good agronomic practices, increase on budgeting and planning'</i>	<p><b>Increased skills due to training opportunities</b></p> <p>21 people talked about the training opportunities provided by the SAC, which would otherwise not be available in Mbata.</p>
<i>'Yes because we now have improved solar lighting in our public places like in our nearby hospital'</i>	<p><b>Increased access to electricity</b></p> <p>19 people mentioned the access to electricity, to power the SAC services but also provide services for the public good, such as lighting public buildings and security lights to the adjacent trading centre.</p>
<i>'The SAC has brought the internet services for networking purposes and lobbying.'</i>	<p><b>Internet access</b></p> <p>8 people specifically mentioned access to the internet, allowing them to network, complete other training and begin to market their produce and access other markets.</p>
<i>'So much because the solar system that is here has assisted us to be adding value on products like the welding machine that has helped us to make modern doors'</i>	<p><b>Access to welding and metal fabrication</b></p> <p>39 people specifically mentioned welding and metal fabrication, which has given them access to metal products in Mbata which were previously only available in distant urban centres.</p>
<i>'We now have the milling machine that has helped us to grind our cassava and the youth are getting skills to do other jobs.'</i>	<p><b>Access to milling</b></p> <p>13 people specifically mentioned access to the milling machine to be able to grind their cassava in the village.</p>
<i>'It has created employment opportunity through enterprise establishment like welding, milling machine, input shop and the saloon'</i>	<p><b>Creating job opportunities</b></p> <p>34 people described how SAC has led to new job opportunities and the possibility of starting up small enterprises, powered by the solar power.</p>

### Have you attended any training at the SAC?

Out of 93 users of the SAC surveyed 90 said they had completed a training at the SAC.

### What training and what was the impact?

<b>8. Trainings and Impact</b>	
Question:	What training did you receive and what was the impact?
Theory of change:	Improved knowledge amongst the farmers will enable them to make improved agricultural and business decisions for themselves
Impact summary:	97% of farmers had attended training sessions at the SAC and found positive benefits on economic literacy, farming practices, governance, and construction methods. Respondents described how training on post-harvest management contributed to lower post-harvest losses, and training on pest management and other best agronomic practice led to higher yields. 31% of people talked about gaining skills in financial management and record keeping to better keep track of their farming activities. 12% of people described learning to make ISSBs, with some stating that they then used this new more sustainable construction method for their own building projects.
<b>Key quotes</b>	<b>Impact analysis</b>
	90 out of 93 people said they had attended training sessions at the SAC.
<i>'Governance and leadership which has assisted me to work together with my workers at my farm.'</i>	<b>Governance and Leadership</b>  9 people specifically mentioned gaining governance and leadership skills.
<i>'Agronomic practices, pests and diseases management, and post harvest management which has helped me to produce in large quantities'</i> <i>'Farmer field camp and I now know the good agronomic practices. Post harvest handling management and now I know how to reduce on the post harvest losses.'</i> <i>'Trainings on good agronomic practices that increases people yield'</i> <i>'About the good methods of farming where I learnt how to grow my produces in lines which has assisted me to harvest much.'</i>	<b>Agronomic trainings</b> 32 people mentioned training on good agronomic practices, which results in more efficient and effective farming, it also leads to more sustainable farming methods being implemented. 24 people mentioned attending a training on pest management. 23 people specifically mentioned receiving post-harvest management training and how this is reducing their post-harvest losses.
<i>'Training on financial management and this help me to know how it can management my financial resources for sustainable development'</i> <i>'Good agronomic practices, book account and record keeping hence leading to acquisition of knowledge and skills'</i>	<b>Economic literacy</b>  14 people mentioned financial management, and 17 people mentioned record keeping. This allows people to run their farms in a more effective manner and to keep track of how their business is doing.
<i>'Interlocking block making - now I know how to make the interlocking blocks'</i>	<b>Interlocking blocks</b>  11 people mentioned learning how to make interlocking blocks, which some said they went on to use for construction at their

<i>'Post harvest handling management - now I know to reduce and maintain crop quality'</i>	farms and their homes. This training has led to improved, more sustainable construction techniques within the community.
<i>'Farmer field camp training that helps me to change my mind set for traditional farming to modern farming'</i>	<b>Farmer field camps</b> 20 people mentioned completing a farmer field camp training, supporting farmers to adapt to a changing climate and farm in a more sustainable manner.