Abstract

The overall development objective to which the Drought Management Initiative (DMI) is intended to contribute is the improved effectiveness and efficiency of the drought management system in Kenya by strengthening the capacity to intervene in an appropriate, effective and timely fashion before and during the drought cycle. The purpose of DMI is to support, strengthen, and institutionalise existing drought response mechanisms to develop into a more effective and timely mechanism.

In addition to the institutional building and policy support, the Project has spearheaded implementation of innovative livelihood initiatives aimed at enhancing resilience of communities to drought crises. The pilot project to reduce the negative impact of Prosopis species in Garissa district by exploring opportunities for the use of the tree pods as animal feeds is one example of innovation for dry-lands that could contribute to enhance food security of pastoral communities.

DMI has supported the Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) office in Garissa to test the use of Groasis® water boxes for reforestation of arid areas. The Groasis® water box is a ‘water incubator’ that produces and captures water from the air through condensation and rain. The pilot is an important effort towards turning the tide of desertification and land degradation in Northern Kenya.

DMI promoted water harvesting for food production through the adoption of appropriate technology and strategic collaboration with research institutes. These rainwater harvesting interventions may provide practical solutions to some food security and environmental degradation challenges and strengthen community resilience to drought. For instance, the partnership between DMI and KARI towards the support of Ndigiria water pan in Kilifi District demonstrates how integrated use of water and the adoption of suitable crop varieties and agronomic practices can enhance resilience to drought, boost food security and diversify livelihood.