



Name: Joackim Ondiege  
Email: [joackimochieng@gmail.com](mailto:joackimochieng@gmail.com)  
Title: Program Coordinator

## SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023

### Background

Sigomre Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) CBO is a Community Based Organization working with farmers in Sigomre Ward and East Ugenya Ward in Siaya County. The organization also extends its operations in Musanda ward in Kakamega County. More than 2500 farmers have been trained on fodder farming. Fodder production, that is, brachiaria and desmodium is the major cash crop cultivated by farmers and sold in form of hay. Other than fodder, indigenous vegetables are also cultivated to enhance household nutrition and earn additional income. The vegetables cultivated are spider plant, crotalaria, jute plant, cow peas, blacknight shade and amaranthus.

The organization works mainly with the small landholder farmers with passion and interest in practicing organic farming and adopting different agricultural projects with an aim of income generation.

Sustainable organic farming and crop diversification is a major training area that SOAP focuses in order to ensure that food production is consistent and soil health is maintained for better production of crops over time. Due to the rising cases and reports of the overuse of inorganic fertilizers, farmers have embraced organic farming due to its beneficial results to the soil living organisms, crops and human as consumers of soil products. In addition, the trainings are aligned to farming practices which avoid negative adverse effects of climate change such as mulching of farms and proper soil conservation measures to keep the soil structure in good shape.

### Partner

SOAP CBO partners with Sasa Harambee (American NGO) as its main support financially and also for capacity building in implementing various designated projects. It is also open for collaboration with other like-minded organizations with an aim to improve the livelihood of farmers and the society at large.

X

---

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator



Edit with WPS Office



Name: Joackim Ondiege  
Email: [joackimochieng@gmail.com](mailto:joackimochieng@gmail.com)  
Title: Program Coordinator

## Model of operation

SOAP CBO engages farmers in small organized farmer groups of between 10 to 20 farmers. These farmer groups are managed by farmer teachers who are also the lead farmers from the areas of residence where these farmer groups are found. The farmer teachers receive training from SOAP field and coordination staff and are mandated to reach their respective farmer groups through training and field visits. During training sessions, the farmer teachers apply demonstration as the most effective mode of communication for farmers to master the required activities and implement. Part of the demonstrations include, land preparation, nursery bed preparation and management, general agronomic practices associated with fodder and vegetable farming and any other crop of interest, harvesting, baling and post-harvest management. In addition, it has been realized that record keeping is something very crucial when farming as a business and this is therefore another area of focus.

Other areas of interest are training on sustainable organic farming, composting and mulching which helps the farms hold adequate water for crops even during drought. These practices help in addressing the effects of climate change.

Village Saving and Loaning (VSL) groups within the farmer groups are also initiated to unlock the financial challenges which may be faced by the farmers during their farming business. Upon agreement, respective groups elect their leaders and discuss how to run their saving and loaning business. This is guided by the farmer teachers.

Regarding fodder production and hay processing, individual farmers after being trained establish, manage and harvest their grass which is then processed into hay ready for sale. SOAP facilitates the selling of hay through a collective approach. Farmers from every sub location have an organized place where they aggregate their bales waiting to be picked. These bales are managed by an aggregation center manager who ensures that bales coming meet the required market standards and are appealing to the buyers. They also ensure that clear records of bales coming in and out are kept for

X

---

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator



Edit with WPS Office



Name: Joackim Ondiege  
Email: [joackimochieng@gmail.com](mailto:joackimochieng@gmail.com)  
Title: Program Coordinator

reference and smooth payment once sales have been done.

Once bales delivered by farmers in the aggregation centers are sold, a list of payment is prepared and farmers paid 90% of the total amount generated from his/ her bales, for instance, a farmer who delivers 20 bales and each bale sold at 250 ksh gets paid 4500 ksh. The 10% deducted from their total sales caters for marketing.

Farmers are encouraged to cultivate indigenous vegetable varieties due to their market demand and also, the seeds can be harvested and replanted in more than three seasons. This is not true with the hybrid seeds which once planed and vegetables harvested, the farmers have to go back to the agro dealer to buy more. The farms planted with vegetables are mulched to ensure longevity in harvesting since they can survive even during drought due to retained soil moisture by the help of the mulch.

### Accomplishments in 2023

1. A total of 12,547 bales were sold in the year 2023 fetching a total of 2,969,129 ksh gross income. Out of this amount, 90% was paid back to farmers which amounts to 2,672,217 Ksh. The deducted 10% went into the organization account to cater for marketing expenses. Three hundred and forty-two (342) farmers contributed to these sales. Money generated from hay sales has significantly helped farmers improve their livelihoods and pay their bills including some starting small business like poultry keeping and improving their houses. The distribution of the volume and value of sales from different areas of operation is as shown in the table below.

---

X

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator



Edit with WPS Office



Name: Joackim Ondiege  
 Email: [joackimochieng@gmail.com](mailto:joackimochieng@gmail.com)  
 Title: Program Coordinator

### VOLUME SOLD PER REGION

SN	REGION	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOT
1	Got Osimbo	178	84	40	11	120	139	18	30	20	98	36	68	
2	Mungáo	99	499	159	54	73	204	44	31	102	172	165	63	
3	Madungu	140	200	114	25	32	122	13	70	109	115	29	40	
4	Musanda	0	121	27	26	22	0	134	0	0	7	6	0	
5	Sigomre	76	52	7	0	16	127	0	23	40	99	0	11	
6	Tingare	330	856	192	92	253	175	0	119	405	184	121	464	
7	A.East	52	97	56	14	0	4	0	20	53	101	0	0	
8	A.West	125	369	33	64	192	164	0	0	234	0	165	0	
9	Bungasi	136	189	115	55	67	265	217	0	50	230	60	405	
10	Masiro	220	328	196	17	131	200	0	0	202	0	200	20	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>2795</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>1215</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>1071</b>	<b>12</b>

X

---

Joackim Ondiege  
 Program Coordinator



Edit with WPS Office

**VALUE OF SALES PER REGION**

SN	REGION	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT.	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOT (KSH)
1	Got Osimbo	42010	21000	9960	2750	30000	33550	4140	7300	4680	23260	2760	15130	190000
2	Mungáo	23775	123630	39750	13400	18250	49590	10120	7190	23940	37960	38090	14240	390000
3	Madungu	32700	50000	28300	6250	8000	29650	2990	16660	25410	26570	6670	8900	240000
4	Musanda	0	28340	6750	6500	5500	0	31100	0	0	1750	1440	0	80000
5	Sigomre	17595	12960	1750	0	4000	30680	0	5750	9200	22820	0	1770	100000
6	Tingare	76300	211986	54500	25100	67220	41150	0	29750	89830	43650	26400	103240	760000
7	A.East	11663	23930	14000	3500	0	960	0	4900	12190	23090	0	0	90000
8	A.West	29190	85690	9900	16550	48660	41000	0	0	55500	0	36300	0	320000
9	Bungasi	31960	45510	28750	13750	16750	61150	49910	0	10000	55560	13800	85050	410000
10	Masiro	49000	77730	46180	4250	32750	45000	0	0	40400	0	44000	5000	340000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>314193</b>	<b>680776</b>	<b>239840</b>	<b>92050</b>	<b>231130</b>	<b>332730</b>	<b>98260</b>	<b>71550</b>	<b>271150</b>	<b>234660</b>	<b>169460</b>	<b>233330</b>	<b>2960000</b>

A comparison of sales for the years 2021 – 2023 is as shown.

COMPARISON OF TOTAL VOLUME OF SALES PER YEAR (2021-2023)														
YEAR/MONTH	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	
2021	1164	618	1198	1715	813	619	964	671	578	1229	946	729	11244	

X

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator





Name: Joackim Ondiege  
 Email: [joackimochieng@gmail.com](mailto:joackimochieng@gmail.com)  
 Title: Program Coordinator

2022	860	1260	1134	1035	1056	739	1347	790	1695	2179	829	1223	14147
2023	1356	2795	939	358	906	1400	426	293	1215	1006	782	1071	12547
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3380</b>	<b>4673</b>	<b>3271</b>	<b>3108</b>	<b>2775</b>	<b>2758</b>	<b>2737</b>	<b>1754</b>	<b>3488</b>	<b>4414</b>	<b>2557</b>	<b>3023</b>	<b>37938</b>

From the table above, 37, 938 bales have been sold in the past three years; this means that an average of 12,646 bales are sold every year translating to 1,053 bales per month.

2. Crop diversification was adopted where 107 farmers purchased subsidized vegetable seeds from the organization. These vegetables were aimed to provide alternative income generation stream for farmers and also improve household nutrition by eating organically produced and fresh vegetables. In getting ready for drought effects, the vegetable farms are mulched to help in moisture retention.
3. 7 farmer groups of averagely fifteen farmers actively operating savings and loaning among themselves. Members of these groups can access small loans which they repay after some time as agreed.
4. A field day was organized which pulled together stakeholders from different areas practicing different activities. On this day, 263 people attended the event. It was a learning event which gave farmers an opportunity to tap ideas and skills from experienced farmers and experts from different fields. Such events are useful since they make farmers develop a wider view of farming techniques available. Demonstration gardens established were attractive and offered good learning sites for all farmer who attended the field day.
5. SOAP plot became a model farm and a demonstration center where farmers learnt different practices. The main objective of developing the farm was to prove to farmers that farming many crops does not require a large piece of land but just doing things in a way that maximizes use of available land by planting different crops in a smart way.

X

---

Joackim Ondiege  
 Program Coordinator



Edit with WPS Office



Name: Joackim Ondiege  
Email: [joackimochieng@gmail.com](mailto:joackimochieng@gmail.com)  
Title: Program Coordinator

## SOAP and Sasa Harambee Financials

In 2023, SOAP accumulated a total income of Ksh 3,058,049. The organization entirely relies on percentages generated from hay sales as a major source of income. Sales of bales generated ksh 2,969,129 while the rest of the income was generated from other sources. Other sources during the month were from vegetable seeds, membership and subscription, and sales of hay from SOAP leased plots. On the other hand, Sasa Harambee donation to SOAP was a total of ksh 4,652,105.

X

---

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator



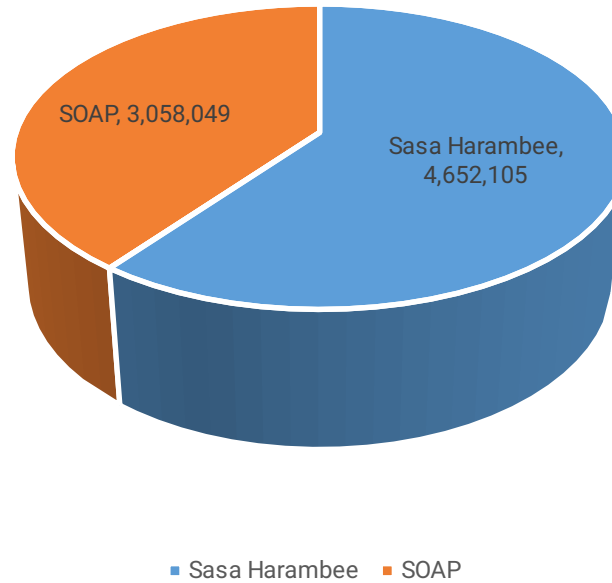
Edit with WPS Office



**SOAP**  
Sigomere Organic  
Agriculture Program

Name: Joackim Ondiege  
Email: [joackimochieng@gmail.com](mailto:joackimochieng@gmail.com)  
Title: Program Coordinator

### SASA HARAMBEE AND SOAP INCOME IN 2023 (KSH)



X

---

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator



Edit with WPS Office

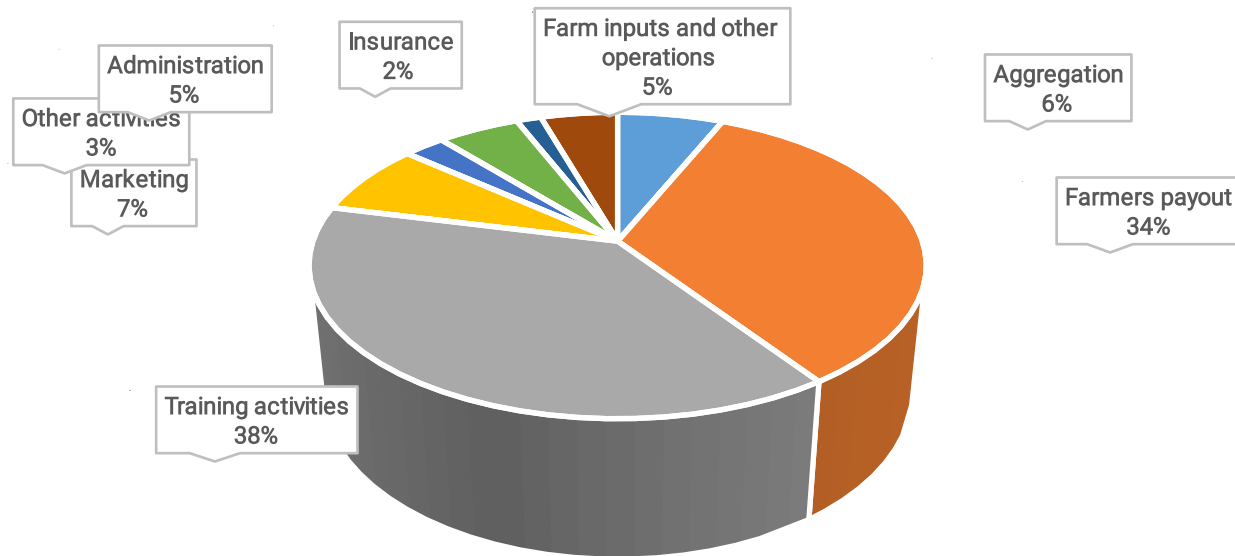




**SOAP**  
Sigomere Organic  
Agriculture Program

Name: Joackim Ondiege  
Email: [joackimochieng@gmail.com](mailto:joackimochieng@gmail.com)  
Title: Program Coordinator

### SOAP and SAHA Expenditure in 2023 (Ksh)



X

---

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator



Edit with WPS Office



Name: Joackim Ondiege  
Email: [joackimochieng@gmail.com](mailto:joackimochieng@gmail.com)  
Title: Program Coordinator

The funds received were spent in activities such as SOAP demo farm development, aggregation manager stipend, annual general meeting planning, transaction charges, fencing of aggregation plot, water tank purchase and installation, shirts purchase, administration costs, training activities, vegetable seeds purchase, farm developments and other related SOAP activities. The total expenditure from SOAP income was 513,457 ksh; additional money spent was drawn from the cash brought forward from 2022 balance. All SaHa funds were spent as budgeted for during the year.

### Challenges encountered

- a. Unpredictable climate change which slowed down general fodder operations from harvesting, drying baling and also affected sales. Hay is in high demand during dry periods when dairy farmers have scarce alternative feeds to give to their animals. From the month of May onwards, sales drastically declined and this resulted to a major setback which left farmers wondering their destiny with the project. However, this didn't seem surprising to farmers who have been producing the grass since 2018 as they understand how the uncontrollable factors can sometimes affect hay sales then finally everything gets sold. The most important thing is ensuring that the bales are stored well free from moisture and even rats.
- b. Storage for hay was a challenge and is still a present challenge. Most farmers from different areas have rented storage where they pay monthly or based on agreement with the owner of the rooms. However, the stores cannot accommodate all their bales due to high production evidenced during the year. This problem results to grass overgrowing in the farms or some getting destroyed after harvesting or even in storage. Leaking roofs, damages caused by termites and rodents led to some losses due to rotting.

X

---

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator



Edit with WPS Office



Name: Joackim Ondiege  
Email: [joackimochieng@gmail.com](mailto:joackimochieng@gmail.com)  
Title: Program Coordinator

## Recommendations

Due to the recurrent challenges associated with fodder business, the following recommendations can help address them.

- i. Introducing different value addition activities such as grinding the grass and selling it to reduce the bulkiness associated with transportation and also to convert it in to the form that is easily consumable by dairy animals. This requires purchasing a hammer mill/ crusher, packaging bags and space for installing the crusher for production.
- ii. Building more stores to get over the storage challenge especially in areas with high producing farmers.
- iii. Expanding on the marketing strategies and frequently exploring public digital platforms to increase visibility and publicity of the product being sold. This includes social media and other relevant platforms.
- iv. Encouraging diversification of crops to avail alternative income generation streams.
- v. Working closely with the county government of Siaya and Kakamega to increase visibility and tap opportunities available.

## Conclusion

SOAP organization has had a great impact in the community by improving the farmers lives and enabling them learn various farming techniques. Through the organization, it is a social focal point for some farmers during their meetings

X

---

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator



Edit with WPS Office

where they are able to share experiences and ideas to build one another. The total amount of money paid back to farmers in 2023 had a meaningful economic impact. This amount was 2,605,203 Ksh.

## Gallery



Fig 1: Picture taken during the field day activity at SOAP aggregation center

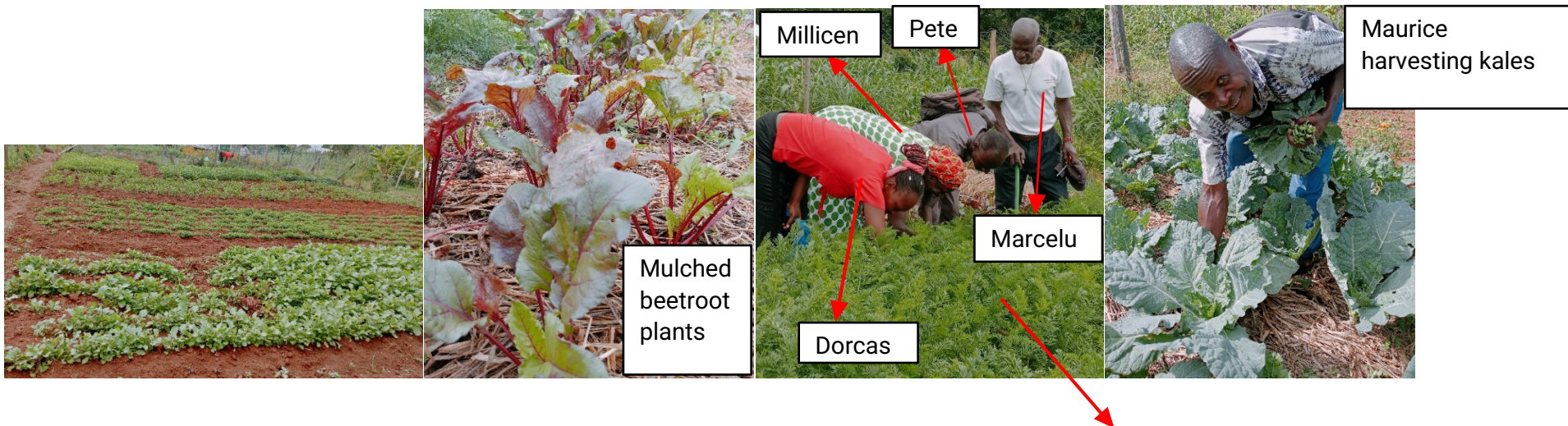
X

---

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator



Fig 2: Activities during preparation of aggregation center demo farm in Sigomre



X

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator



Edit with WPS Office

Members of the  
management board inspect

Fig 3: Results of the demo plot

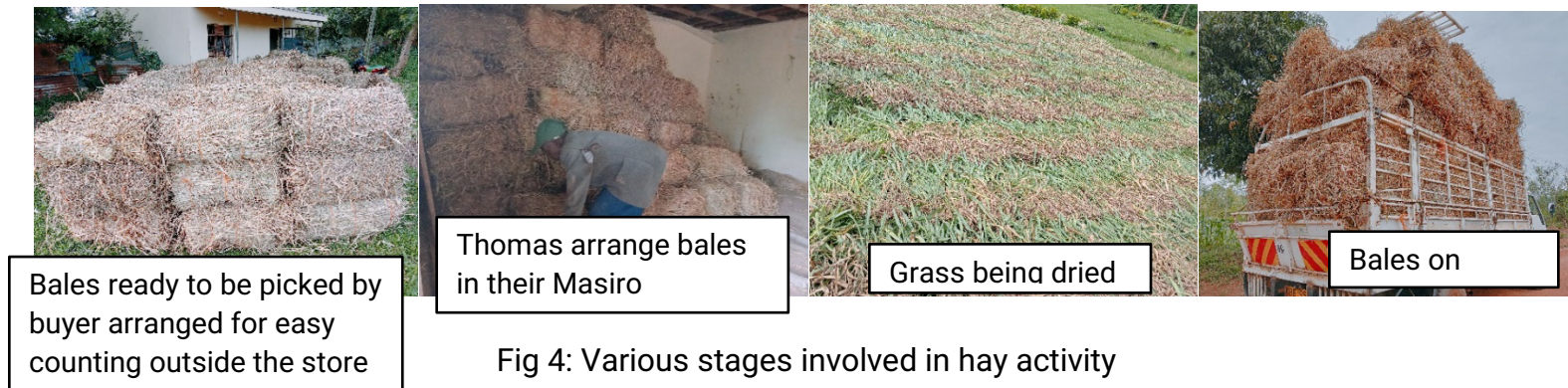


Fig 4: Various stages involved in hay activity

X

---

Joackim Ondiege  
Program Coordinator

