MISSIOINVEST Impact Report

November 2021



Virginia Nyamu

Member of Missio Invest's Investment Committee

Co-Director of Missio Invest's Stakeholder Oversight Group Many stakeholders say that Africa has great potential to feed her people and eradicate poverty; *"but you cannot eat potential."* The potential has to be unlocked through provision of necessary infrastructure and resources.

Missio Invest has come in to provide systems that enable Catholic clergy and religious to unlock their potential. This in turn touches on very many lives who are very vulnerable. The religious and clergy often work with the most marginalized communities. 'Blending Faith and Finance' is a philosophy that will go a long way in unlocking Africa's potential.

In almost all African countries, poverty, hunger, conflict, inequality, and acute unemployment are real, despite the availability of rich natural resources. The contribution of the Missio Invest Social Impact Fund (MISIF) towards combating the aforementioned threats to humanity might still be growing, but is quite significant in impact. MISIF is expanding to cover sectors such as education, health and microfinance. This will increase the social impact greatly and provide solutions to challenges that threaten the well-being of the African people.

Missio Invest started by empowering target communities through education and training. This brought a great impact to many individuals' personal development, and they have remained grateful for the opportunity. The loans Missio Invest disbursed have transformed the target population into active entrepreneurs who look into means and ways to multiply what they get, empowering them to be actively involved in combating vices that threaten humanity and their well-being.





A Year of Growth

2020 began as most other years. New plans, new resolutions, new excitement and the same conviction to do good things. And then things changed rather quickly. Suddenly, the world was a different place. Yet, everywhere where Missio Invest works with and for our borrowers, life went on and had to go on given all of the social services they provide to local communities.

So, in March and April of last year, we acted quickly to provide COVID-19 loan repayment extensions to around 40% of borrowers (60% did not need them) to ease the pain of the pandemic and also provided quick injections of small stimuluses to each borrower to keep staff paid, farms running, and to provide for protective gear for local communities. We also decided rather quickly to keep lending and doing new projects—afterall, life does not stop. In fact, 2020 was our biggest year of financing social enterprises across the Catholic Church in Africa yet.

We made 12 loans, added 2 new staff, started lending in Rwanda and soon in Ethiopia. Perseverance, trust, and hard work pay off. The impact of the lending includes 1,300,000 patients served by 100 health facilities, 2,500 jobs, US \$3,000,000 injected into local economies via salaries and purchases, 500,000 students educated across 1,300 schools, among so many other impacts you can read throughout this report. Our lending in 2021 has kicked off with a fast pace with us already issuing 10 loans. We have now approved over 50 loans totaling around \$10 MM. We also brought on several new investors including a large long-term financing agreement from the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, which will enable us to expand financing to more social enterprises run by Sisters, Brothers, parishes and dioceses across Africa. We are already lending in 8 countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Rwanda, Nigeria and Ghana), and expect to be lending in Ethiopia by the end of the year.

This impact report reflects a small summary of all of the dedicated work of the enterprises in which we invest as well as the hard work of the Missio Invest team!



Keith Polo Managing Director, Missio Invest



Redefining Social Impact for Youth

60% of Africa's population is under 25 and youth account for 60% of all unemployed. Missio Invest is improving youth access to quality jobs by financing growing businesses across key sectors. In 2020, our borrowers supported: 1,334 schools with over 500,000 students

Equitable Change for Women 3,4

Across Africa, Sisters are engaged in discussions on how to create lasting change through investments. Missio Invest is supporting female entrepreneurs and business leaders through loans, training and mentoring.

3,406 smallholder farmers trained

45% women 54% youth





There for the Long Term

Brothers and sisters are rooted in communities and their commitment goes far beyond the terms of a loan. Investing in them translates into long term, widespread social impact. Our borrowers operate: 103 Hospitals and healthcare facilities caring for over 1,300,000 patients

Investing in Hope

A recent study showed a majority of youth are disenfranchised by governments and fearful about humanity's future due to lack of action regarding climate change.

Missio Invest trains borrowers in environmental practices, fueling positive climate action from within communities. 84% of borrowers are using clean energy

(solar, hydro, biogas)

52,700 trees planted





Investing in the Transformative Power of the Church

Cumulative Loans Issued through End of Year 2020



An Economy of Gift

In all its activities, Missio Invest begins from a posture of discernment with investors and investees, making its own the teaching of Pope Francis where he says that the *"logic underlying these innovative forms of intervention is one which acknowledges the ultimate connection between profit and solidarity, the virtuous circle existing between profit and gift."*

Read more about the *Vocation of Missio Invest*.

Impact First Investing

Missio Invest takes an "impact first" approach to investing. While modest financial returns are important for the long-term selfsufficiency of borrowers and sustainability of the MISIF Fund, Missio Invest prioritizes the social impact on vulnerable communities. As an impact-first investor, Missio Invest shares the same goals as our investees: the creation of decent work, reliable income and the care of our common home.



Adopting a bottom-up approach, Missio Invest identifies areas of need through existing Church networks (deal sourcing) and works with local leaders (technical assistance) to provide financing solutions for SMEs (loan products).

Missio Invest leverages the resources of the global Catholic Church, combined with local experience in agriculture, healthcare, education and financial inclusion.





Free Cash Flow for Long-term Self-sufficiency

For the borrower to become financially self-sufficient, Missio Invest ensures that all investees can generate annual cash flow equal to 1.5 times the annual repayments. This ensures that borrowers can comfortably repay the loan without financial strain on the institution, even if a project doesn't go according to plan. It also ensures that, after the loan is repaid, the borrower will have a steady stream of recurring income, which can be used to drive further business growth and expansion of social programs.



Loan Repayments & Cashflow Progression

The Journey to Creating Impact



Expanding Horizons

Investing in New Sectors

The Catholic Church operates hundreds of local **financial institutions** (FIs) ranging from credit unions to nationally charted banks. These FIs are uniquely positioned to serve poor and vulnerable communities because of the Church's vast network of social institutions, enabling them to reach this unserved group of potential borrowers.

64%

of AMMIL's borrowers

are **women**

In 2020, Missio Invest disbursed its first Ioan to a microfinance institution in Nigeria, Ave Maria Multipurpose Investment Ltd (AMMIL).

Missio Invest is also expanding into investing in **education** and **healthcare** facilities and in 2021 issued loans in these sectors in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania.

Investing in New Countries

Missio Invest continued to grow in 2020:

- Disbursing loans for the first time in **Tanzania**, and
- Establishing new country offices in **Ghana**, **Rwanda** and **Ethiopia**.

Different Countries, One Vision



Focusing on Impact

RESILIENCE / LAUDATO SI'

Missio Invest is deeply rooted in the environmental stewardship principles of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of environmental, economic, political, social and cultural issues, Missio Invest adopts interventions that promote comprehensive solutions to both environmental and human crises.



Investment finances

irrigation, clean energy and infrastructure to combat climate change



Sustainable farming practices promote environmental stewardship



Local food production reduces carbon footprint and reliance on imported goods, while protecting against supply chain disruptions



SHARED PROSPERITY

SMEs comprise upwards of 90% of economic activity in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, SME growth is often hindered due to lack of financing.

Missio Invest meets this need by lending to undercapitalized small and growing businesses, which catalyze formal employment growth, increased agricultural productivity, and expanded access to healthcare and education for rural and lowincome communities.





الله

communities with free training in agriculture and financial management





FOOD SECURITY

Investing in agriculture is one of the most effective ways to create sustainable social, economic and environmental development impact. Indeed, rural poverty is reduced by more than 1.83% for every 1% increase in agricultural growth.

No other sector has more impact on rural poverty.



Investments in capital equipment, strategic crop selection and improved farming methods drive higher yields



Irrigation enables year-round production and preserves water resources

Increased local production ensures availability of foods in times of crisis





STRENGTHENED CHURCH ENTITIES

Church-affiliated healthcare centers. schools, and other social facilities are vital to the communities they serve.

With the ability to increase their income as a result of Missio Invest's loans coupled with training in financial management, these entities can strengthen their long-term financial sustainability and transfer their expertise to the institutions they run and support.



Through investment, training and technical advisory, investees become financially self-sufficient



Increased farm income supports expansion of investees' schools, hospitals and other social institutions



Loans finance expansions and modern equipment in schools and healthcare facilities, offering improved services to more people





Kenya

| \$1.4 M | 12 | ~4,100 |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| LOANS ISSUED | NUMBER OF BORROWERS | ACRES MANAGED |
| | | ALL STATS YEAR-END 20 |

Missio Invest made its first investments in 5 church-run agribusinesses in Kenya in March 2016. In response to the urgent needs the pandemic created in 2020, Missio Invest disbursed 3 agribusiness loans in Kenya and approved 2 more loans towards the end of the year. The country portfolio has performed well to date, with 4 Kenyan borrowers fully repaying their loans in the first half of 2021.







Brother Paul Kabiti with girls in the empowerment program

Brothers of St. Joseph, Nyeri Mweiga

Brothers of St. Joseph is the oldest indigenous religious brothers' congregation in Kenya, founded in 1947. The brothers assist priests in pastoral and social services working as teachers, nurses, farm managers, and Catechists. The brothers also own and run schools, orphanages, farms and health facilities. In Nyeri-Mweiga, the brothers operate a health facility serving over 5,000 people affected by HIV and AIDS.

The brothers also own an 80 acre hay farm. The farm sells hay to local dairy farmers at an affordable price to boost their milk productivity, while earning income to sustain and expand the congregation's social ministries. For many years, the brothers had never been able to fully utilize their land resources due to lack of farm machinery. They relied on hired hay harvesting services sourced 420 Km away for \$0.83 per bale. In many years, the farm incurred losses through unavailable or unreliable services, which forced them to harvest pre-mature or overgrown hay.

In October 2019, Missio Invest disbursed a \$65,450 loan for the purchase of a tractor and hay bailing equipment. In 2020, the farm doubled their revenue and made several loan payments, often paying more than the amount due well ahead of schedule. The farm provided affordable hay bailing services to 48 neighboring farmers who had faced similar challenges. The farm also planted 500 trees and donated \$1,900 to the congregation's healthcare and social programs. At the height of the pandemic, the brothers founded a girls empowerment program serving over 500 vulnerable schoolgirls in the slums of Nyeri.

The initial loan has been so successful that the Brothers of St. Joseph have requested a follow-on loan to purchase a second tractor. This proposal aims to improve the farm's efficiency and meet the increasing demand for tractor hire services among surrounding farmers.

Malawi

| \$440K | 4 | ~442 |
|--------|-----------|------------------------|
| ISSUED | BORROWERS | MANAGED |
| LOANS | NUMBER OF | ACRES |
| | | ALL STATS YEAR-END 202 |

Malawi was the second country Missio Invest expanded to with 3 loans in 2017. These initial loans were used to develop farming operations of two dioceses and a congregation of Brothers. In August 2020 Missio Invest increased the portfolio with a \$54,000 loan to the Sisters of Holy Rosary for the expansion of their Chigwere Farm in Mzuzu.







Sisters of the Holy Rosary, Chigwere Farm

"We are not yet big, but we can confidently talk of a bright future with assured food security for the congregation and its social institutions, having produced 7t of cassava, 250kg of soya beans, 5t of maize for the 2020/21 farming season and 1600kg of pigs in live weight in the last six months." Sr. Mariarosa describing what the Missio Invest Ioan enabled them to do.

The Sisters of Holy Rosary (SHR) are based in northern Malawi in Mzuzu. Founded in 1951, they have grown to run 16 social institutions: 3 schools, 6 hospitals, one rural health center, one disabled center, 3 early childhood development centres, one home craft centre, one girls hostel, and are engaged in 9 parishes in pastoral work.

SHR decided to develop their 22-acre farm in Chigwere in order to generate income to support their social institutions. To make the most of their farm, the sisters needed to move into commercial farming, but lacked the financial resources. In 2017, Fr. Andrew, Missio Invest's CEO, introduced Missio Invest's work to the church in Malawi with SHR in attendance. Immediately after this

meeting, they applied for funding. As a greenfield project, the farm needed time and support to become ready for investment. Missio Invest's team worked with Sister Mariarosa through several revisions to her business plan to make the project viable.

Through Missio Invest's \$54,000 loan, the sisters were able to purchase a solar water pump, solar panels, water tanks and 40 pigs, as well as construct piggery housing for 360 animals. The sisters also planted 360 banana stations, installed 2 fish ponds, purchased 6 dairy cows and planted 600 apple trees, which are expected to begin fruiting next year. The farm has also planted 3,000 trees to support the environment.

Beyond making the sisters and their institutions food secure, the farm has provided employed workers and surrounding smallholder farmers with knowledge and skills, created a market for smallholder farmers, and supported the older sisters in the congregation in their retirement.

Nigeria

| LOANS | NUMBER OF | ACRES |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| ISSUED | BORROWERS | MANAGED |
| \$1.2MM | 9 | |

Missio Invest expanded to Nigeria in 2019 with 4 agribusiness loans. In 2020, Missio Invest issued another 3 loans to agribusinesses and disbursed the Fund's first financial inclusion loan to Ave Maria Multipurpose Limited (AMMIL). Currently 64% of AMMIL's borrowers are women.







Ave Maria Multipurpose Investment Limited (AMMIL), Diocese of Oyo

Ave Maria Multipurpose Investment Limited (AMMIL) is a faith-based, non-bank microfinance institution established and owned by the Catholic Diocese of Oyo. It was founded in 2009, with the goal of providing financial services to the poor, vulnerable and unbanked, irrespective of religion, race, age or gender. It provides savings and credit products to individuals and small businesses in Oyo State.

"Missio Invest's loan has boosted AMMIL's gross loan portfolio by 50%. It has enabled us to pursue our goal of financial inclusion - expansion to communities that are financially excluded - as well as increasing access to finance for SMEs. We now have microfinance branches in rural areas where there was no presence of microfinance or commercial banks, such as Igbeti, Kisi, Iwere Ile, Akinmmorin, Elekokan. And we keep expanding: Our microfinance branch at Iwere IIe will soon become licensed as a microfinance bank by the Ugandan central bank, and is the only financial institution in the whole of Iwajowa (about 50 kilometers radius), providing a population of over 200,000 people and 50,000 SMEs with access to adequate financing and financial intermediation services.

As the first-mover for enabling businesses in these rural communities, we strongly believe that our presence will transform rural economies in the long term."

-Fr. Gabriel Adeleke, AMMIL Project Leader

Tanzania

| \$122K | 2 |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| LOANS ISSUED | NUMBER OF BORROWERS |
| | ALL STATS YEAR-END |

Responding to needs exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic, Missio Invest started up in Tanzania in mid-2020 with 2 new borrowers. One of these loans financed expansion of Nzimano Soap Industries, which has provided essential health and sanitation support to local communities. In early 2021, Missio Invest disbursed its first education loan to SUMA Engikaret Secondary School.

| | als & healthcare serving 52,000 people | 11 schools e 3,300 stude | |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | | 100% | 1,730 |
| EMPLOYED | INJECTED INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY \$82,000 | USE OF CLEAN ENERGY | TREES PLANTE |





COUNTRY POPULATION

59.7 M



SUMA Engikaret Secondary School, Archdiocese of Arusha

The SUMA Engikaret Secondary School (SESS) provides access to education for children of the Maasai tribe, allowing girls to pursue studies and avoid early marriages and providing boys with an alternative to the pastoralist lifestyle that has left many in poverty. SESS has proven to surrounding Maasai communities that it is possible to for their children to get an education without fully abandoning customs and traditions.

Through Missio Invest's \$85,000 loan, SESS was able to construct a much-needed dining hall and library and to become a fully registered Ordinary and Advanced Level Secondary School. The new dining hall allows children to comfortably eat

meals indoors, and the library contributes to an enriched learning environment. The new structures financed by the loan will enable SESS to increase enrollment from 254 students in 2020 to as many as 320 students in future years, while also offering more scholarships to disadvantaged children.

SESS prides itself on offering affordable education to families of all backgrounds, with school fees that are less than half of comparable private schools in the region. The school also maintains a high standard for academic excellence and has ranked first in its district of 12 schools for the last three years.



Uganda

| \$547K | 4 | ~1,268 |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| LOANS ISSUED | NUMBER OF BORROWERS | ACRES MANAGED |
| | | ALL STATS YEAR-END 2020 |

Missio Invest issued its first loan in Uganda in April 2017 and grew to 4 agribusiness borrowers in the country by the end of 2020. In 2021, Missio Invest disbursed its first financial inclusion loan in Uganda to microfinance institution Hofokam Ltd.







Katigondo Seminary Farm, Uganda

St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary, Katigondo is the oldest higher institution of learning in Uganda. Founded in 1911, it was the first major Seminary South of the Sahara. Katigondo Seminary Farm started in 1969, and is a mixed farm operating on 400 acres, with enterprises such as crop farming, horticulture, poultry, piggery and cattle keeping. This is one of Missio Invest's earliest loans, and one of the portfolio's most inspiring success stories. Under the awardwinning guidance of Project Leader and Rector Fr. Herman Kituuma, the \$171,100 loan supported mechanization, improved efficiency and increased production. The farm now utilizes 90% of its farmland with ~20 acres of trees planted for enviromental preservation. Katigondo Farm has been become a become a model for surrounding communities, providing education on soil and water conservation and demonstrating sustainable agriculture as a viable business.

Water Harvesting and Organic Fertilization

Katigondo has 6 underground tanks of 72,000 liter capacity Fr. Herman is building a 578,000-liter pond at the to harvest rainwater for normal use and irrigation. Currently, highest point of the farm that will irrigate farmland by the farm is irrigating 2.5 acres of its banana plantation and gravity. The pond will also be used for aquaculture. 1 acre of horticulture using a drip and sprinkler system. The This will be a game changer in solving the lack of consistent farm has a piping system from the pig house that collects rainfall throughout the year and will enable the farm to urine and mixes it with water as organic manure for the 62- maximize its production. acre banana plantation.

Irrigation Innovation

Zambia

| \$124K | 50% | ~2,540 |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| LOANS ISSUED | FEMALE BORROWERS | ACRES MANAGED |
| | | ALL STATS YEAR-END 2020 |

Missio Invest issued two loans in Zambia in late 2018. Both loans finance the expansion of existing diversified agribusinesses, with one supporting a sisters congregation in their development of aquaculture and the other supporting a diocesan farm's poultry enterprise.









Sisters of the Child Jesus (SCJ), Lucema farm - Kasama, Zambia

Lucena Farm was purchased by four sisters from the monetary gifts they received for their Silver Jubilee over 5 decades ago. They decided to pool resources and buy a farm for the SCJ congregation, which would remain an asset for many generations to come. In 2018, the congregation applied for a loan from Missio Invest to increase farm productivity, income and thereby food security. Sister Mary Chilengwe of SCJ, an experienced agriculturalist and accountant, was appointed Project Leader after completing Missio Invest's agribusiness training program at Zambia Catholic University.

"I have been given the responsibility of managing the farms for the congregation. I'm happy to be a farmer because God has given me the chance to generate income for the congregation and to produce food for the congregation, the vulnerable members of our community, as well as the beneficiaries of the various social institutions run and managed by my congregation."

- Sr. Mary Chilengwe, Oct. 2021

Under the energetic leadership of Sr. Mary the sisters' dreams for Lucena Farm have come true. The farm not only provides food for the congregation, but also nourishes many vulnerable communities, provides local jobs, enables market and business linkages, and improves livelihoods for smallholder farmers and traders.

Expanding to New Horizons



Missio Invest in Ghana

Missio Invest expanded to Ghana in 2020 in order to issue loans in 2021:

- In May 2021, Missio Invest disbursed a \$115,000 loan to **Obuasi Diocese** to finance expansion of a student hostel.
- In September 2021, Missio Invest approved a \$820,000 loan to Keta Akatsi Diocese to finance diagnostic equipment for the diocese's new diagnostic center. The diocese has 3 hospitals, 2 clinics and an eye center and is currently constructing the diagnostic center to meet demand for these services in the Volta region. Missio Invest will finance equipment and provide technical assistance.





Missio Invest in Rwanda

- In June 2021, Missio Invest disbursed a \$225,000 loan to **Ruhengeri Diocese** to finance expansion of their agribusiness as they transition from subsistence to commercial farming.
- In October 2021, Missio Invest disbursed a \$135,000 loan to Nyundo Diocese to support the expansion of Busasamana Farm, which operates across the full potato seed value chain. The loan will more than double the area farmed to 50 hectares, allow for the introduction of new crops, and support commercial farming in this conflict-prone zone, contributing to improved income and food security.



COVID-19: Finding Opportunity in Crisis

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, Missio Invest offered 3- to 12-month payment moratoriums to all borrowers. Less than 50% of borrowers accepted this offer, with many choosing to abide by their original repayment schedule.

Several borrowers made early repayments during the peak of the pandemic in 2020, and 4 loans were fully repaid in the first half of 2021.

Missio Invest also provided \$5,000-\$10,000 grants via *missio.org* for emergency assistance (sponsored by Legatus):

- 69.5% of the grants were used for agribusiness needs (e.g. supporting worker salaries, working capital).
- 30.5% were used for social service programs and community assistance (e.g. purchasing PPE for healthcare facilities and community members, sending healthcare workers to rural communities, and running radio programs on health and safety measures).

Examples of resilience

One Kenyan project leader said "necessity is the mother of invention" as he looked for new markets for his farm services beyond his comfort zone due to the pandemic.

In Nigeria, Zaria's Diocese Cathdiza rice farm helped rural rice farmers to process rice, thereby boosting their income and improving food security in the surrounding cities during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Sister Catherine Adelegan from the Sisters of St. Louis in Nigeria used produce from their Louis Bautain farm to feed the local community amidst food shortages and market closures.

After receiving an agribusiness loan in January 2020, Sister Angeline Nyaosi of the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega, Kenya used her farm's increased profits to purchase a water tank to support the local community's COVID-19 prevention and sanitation efforts.



Nzimano Soap Industry - Kigoma Diocese, Tanzania

Disbursed in October 2020, Missio Invest's \$87,000 loan to Nzimano Soap Industry came through at a perfect time to expand the existing enterprises's reach. The loan facilitated the purchase of equipment and enabled increased production at a time of unprecedented demand.

The factory collects sustainable palm oil from thousands of smallholder farmers in the area and processes it into soap. In addition, over 1,800 women are engaged in selling the soap products, with a planned expansion to 5,000 women in coming years. **In 2020, production grew more than 10 times**, 29% more than Missio Invest had projected prior to issuing the loan.

Income from the factory supports social service institutions in the diocese, including three orphanages and an elderly home.

"Nzimano Soap Industry has improved tremendously. We attribute this to the loan, and the support we got from Missio invest. The increased production of soap has changed the lives of many: the farmers [we buy from] and our workers are sure of income."

- Fr. Esperius Hamenyande, Project Leader Nzimano Soap Industry, February 2021

Looking to the Future

Missio Invest leaned into 2020 with all of its challenges. The year turned into one of unprecedented growth, with 12 loans issued, surpassing expectations.

2021 has been a year of continued expansion with the launch of operations in new countries (Ethiopia, Ghana and Rwanda) and the issuance of loans in new sectors (finance, healthcare and education).

Missio Invest looks forward to further growth and opportunity in the years ahead.







Voices of Support



"The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Inc., (SPOF), on behalf of the people of the archdiocese, has a long history of cooperation with the mission church. But true solidarity is a two-way street, where everyone benefits from a spirit of encounter and engagement. Missio Invest is a program of mutual support that SPOF is proud to be a part of and encourages others to adopt." - October 18, 2021

Antoinette Mensah Missio Invest Board Member and Director of SPOF, Archdiocese of Milwaukee - Investor



"Missio Invest supports ministries of religious Sisters in Africa that mirror those of our own Servite Sisters in education and health care, as well as social and pastoral outreach. We especially appreciate Missio Invest's on-site investment managers who have firsthand knowledge of the religious institutes receiving loans and provide them with the advice and training needed to succeed."

- October 16, 2021

Sr. Theresa Sandok, OSM Servants of Mary (Servite Sisters) - Donor



Farm Mentorship Program of Salina Diocese, Kansas, USA

When Father Steve Heina from Salina Diocese in Kansas heard about Missio Invest's work, he wondered if it would make sense to create a mentorship program connecting farmers in the US to farmers in Africa. He contacted Missio Invest and worked with Kansas farmer Tom Murphy to launch a pilot program, which came to fruition in 2020. To date, the program has matched 5 US famers with 5 of Missio Invest's project leaders across Kenya and Tanzania for sharing of experiences, agricultural advisory, and faith.

One participant in the program is Fr. Eliud Mwenda, Project Leader of Holy Family Parish's Mukothima Farm in Kenya. Mukothima had received a \$60,000 Ioan from Missio Invest in July 2020 to support farm mechanization and irrigation. In June 2021, Fr. Eliud was in the US visiting a parish in Iowa and had the opportunity to drive to Kansas to meet with Fr. Heina and Tom Murphy, exchange ideas and learn from each other.

While there are many differences between farming in Africa and the US, the mentorship program is an opportunity to explore common ground and transfer knowledge - in both directions. Fr. Eliud's visit was an excellent step forward in this initiative that is true to the mission spirit.

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A virtuous circle of sustainable impact. That's the power of Missio Invest.



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