



### True Grasses Year Report for 2017

After approval of the ten year strategic plan to run all True Grasses activities on one property to build a community school, community demonstration farm, community accommodation facility and having the True Grasses office in the same to empower communities.

Year 2017 was a year full of activities with various milestones though not easy building in rural Tanzania. Kisarawe community school has taken shape and the project area is dazzling with activities.

### 2017 Highlights

- **Project Brick Making machine**

For the last two years, all building activities have been difficult buying quality affordable bricks and transporting them to the project site has been a challenge. We acquired project brick making machine and now we able to ensure good quality of the produced bricks in place. This makes life a whole lot easier for us in regards to building Kisarawe School.

The making of the bricks on site offers jobs to local unemployed youths. This fits perfectly to our aim to include the local population in the process of constructing the school, ensuring that the facility is rooted in and supported by the local community.



- **Official relocation of True Grasses to Kisarawe School project land**

True Grasses Tanzania Trust officially closed down its Moshi office and relocated to Kisarawe project land where we have been able to build the office building to reduce on the operational costs of having two offices to manage. This has given the organisation focus on the school building project.

- **Kisarawe School security house & building store**

With the official transfer of True Grasses Office from Moshi to project site in Kisarawe, the house that was being used to house the project security guard and was acting as the storage for all the building materials was turned into the official office. This created a need to have another building to accommodate the guard and keep the materials. We were grateful that we were able to have another building built with an extra room for the guard himself and a separate space to provide storage to all project building materials.

- **Poultry project house**

In order to develop and demonstrate practical skills. The students must have the opportunity to practice on a continuous basis. They will be working in teams to actually undertake activities where they practice what they are learning. This poultry project is a framework developed to empower them to manage projects and to also benefit from their proceeds. The poultry project is aimed at keeping chickens which will be sold to those who want to rear chickens either for eggs or meat. The proceeds will be used to offset the running costs of the school operations as well as supplement on the diet of the student.



- **Building classrooms**

True Grasses focus was to have the first classroom built so as to accommodate the nursery school kids. Together with the local builders, the classroom was built. By the end of the year students were registered and desks and materials were brought in so that community nursery kids can start the year 2018 studying.

- **Church building / community meeting hall.**

Kisarawe school project is located in area with no nearby church and because most villagers walk to a church 4 kilometres away, a temporary church building has been built for worship, serving the school and kisarawe communities. The newly built church structure on the school premises serve both as a worship place and also as a village meeting place for community meetings. With the start of the church, it will help the community spiritually, counselling and act as a change agent in the community.



- **Bee farming**

Kisarawe school project site is located on a 12 acre fertile land and has the entire area covered with natural trees and cashew nut trees thus providing indigenous bees a haven for their survival and honey production due to its climate and plant diversity. The school started a beekeeping activity as a sustainable social business to help ensure our core funding is not reliant on donors in the long term. Bee keeping will be encouraging our students and staff to participate in our beekeeping activities, to learn from them, but also reap the benefit and provide honey to the students. The school started with 6 hives and hopes to produce honey of both varieties; the current focus is to scale up our honey production until we can cover the basic costs.

## **Target for 2018**

We hope to focus and achieve the following in the next year.

- Build more classrooms
- Build Student toilets
- Build a Teacher's house
- Start of Nursery school
- Start building on theCommunity guest house
- Expansion of School farm