

## **The sjt Farming Ministry**

### **Introduction:**

In December 2019, the sisters held a special assembly for the Kenyan province and one of the main Agenda and concern of the delegates was the aspect of the self-reliance and sustainability of the Province, consequently, the assembly came up with a decision to develop the province lands through sustainable Agriculture. In 2022, the sisters Implemented a farming project through a grant from Caritas Italiana Micro –project at the formation house community, Muringato, Nyeri, and got trained in permaculture method of farming by the Laikipia Permaculture Centre. They together with other farmers gained knowledge and skills to practice this regenerative method of farming and grow food not only for themselves but also the interested farmers in their locality, whom they welcomed in the training and are continuing to mentor through their Demo farm at Muringato, Nyeri- Kenya.

### **Regenerative agriculture through sustainable farming methods to enable food security and environment conservation in target regions of kenya.**

### **Background:**

Agricultural sector is the backbone of the economy, contributing approximately 33 percent of Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The agriculture sector employs more than 40 percent of the total population and 70 percent of the rural population. Agriculture provides the livelihood employment, income, and food security needs for more than 80 per cent of the Kenyan population and contributes to improving nutrition through production of safe, diverse and nutrient dense foods.

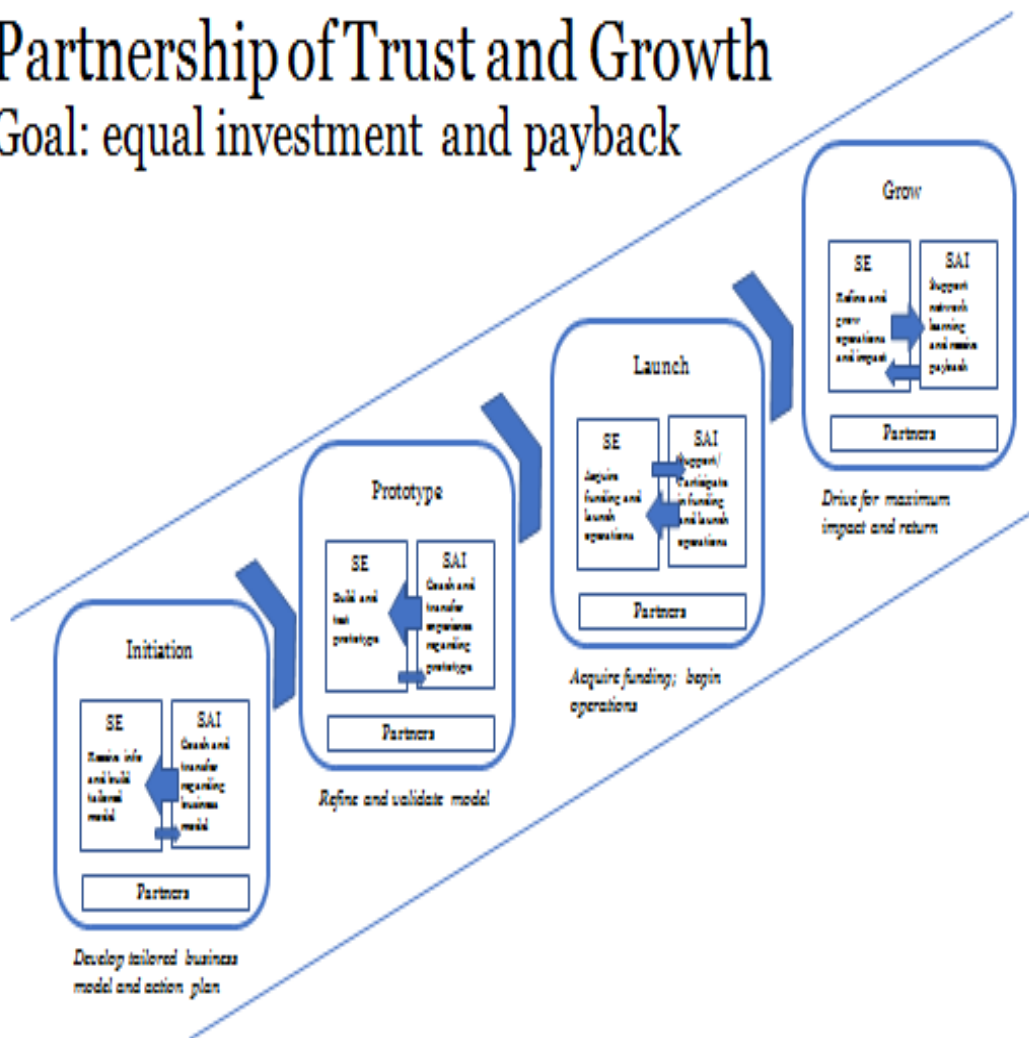
The dynamics of poverty within Kenya are changing and directly influence the country's agricultural sector. Currently 46 per cent of the population live on less than 1 USD a day, 36.5 per cent are food insecure and 35 per cent of children under five are stunted (chronically malnourished) in Kenya. Farmers, who are used to rain-fed farming systems, are being pushed into dryer, more marginal areas where they become increasingly vulnerable to drought and the unpredictability of weather patterns resulting from climate change.

Sisters of St. Joseph in Kenya are passionate about farming and Empowering indigenous farmers in order to enable them to learn and practice Permaculture method of farming for food security and Environment conservation. The sisters have learnt and practiced the method with Women groups across the 9 Dioceses of their Mission stations in Kenya. They have successfully practiced the method during the Covid -19 pandemic when many people especially the low-income earning families were struggling to put food at table. The initiative served as a means to livelihood for the sisters and for local poor communities who were faced with challenges of food security and economic instability. In the Sisters came across other interested partners in this sustainable development initiative and published an Article with the Global Sisters Report (GSR) flat form.

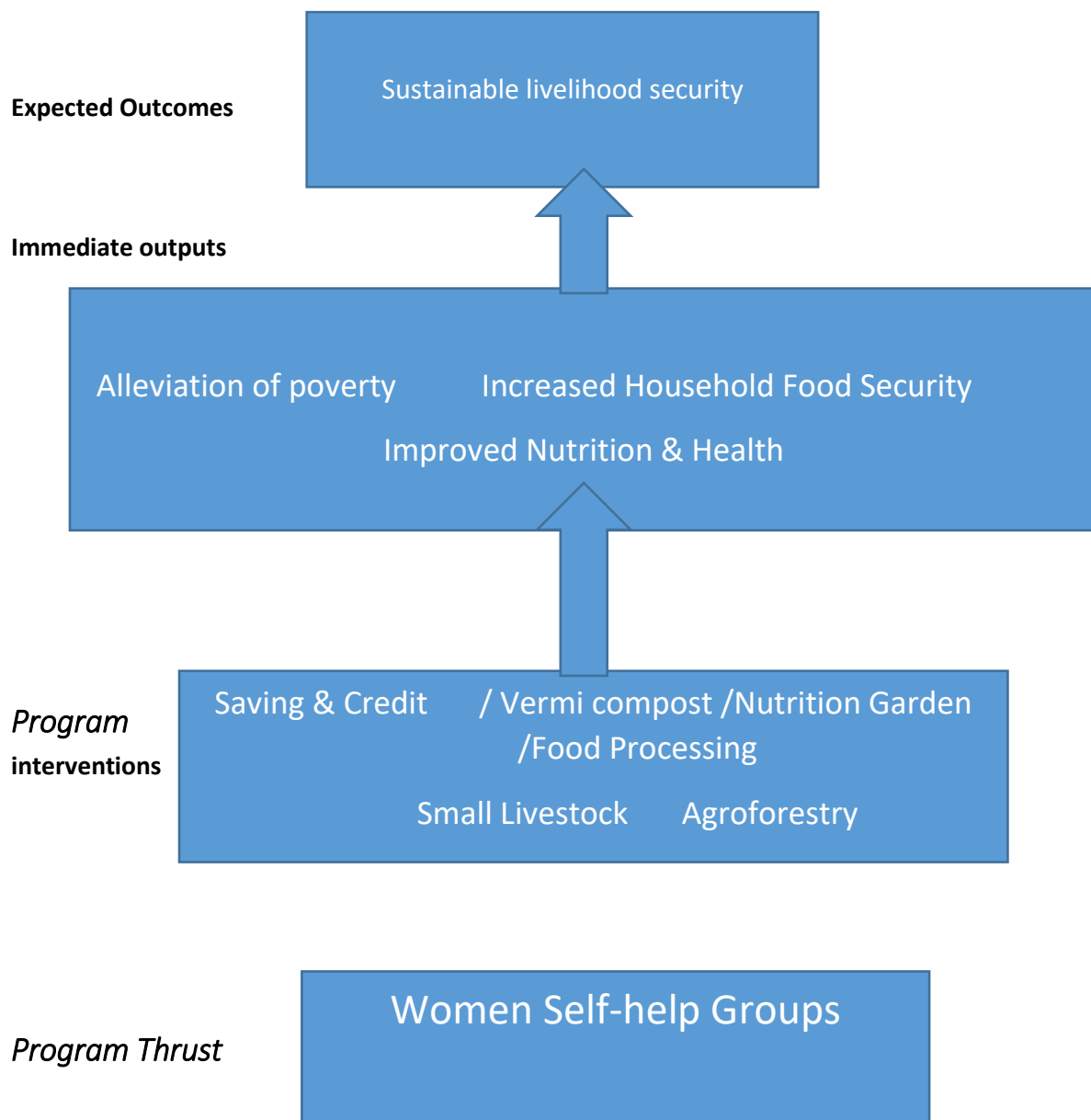
To create more awareness about regenerative Agriculture, and address the increasing challenge of food security, the sisters have formed a Consortium team of 12 others interested farming partners, with whom they are currently working to implement an Agriculture project with other farmers in the respective villages in Kenya.

# Partnership of Trust and Growth

Goal: equal investment and payback



## Theory of change



**CONCLUSION:**

The main purpose of this partnership is to work together to empower ourselves and the local community to lift themselves out of poverty in sustainable manner through Agriculture. Our model is social enterprise model as we believe that charity may be able to provide short-term support but the poor must stand on their feet to come out of poverty. Therefore, we use grant model to build their capacity and invest the amount wisely in social enterprises which they can manage themselves without depending on external funding support in future.