

Letter from Jonathan Karita, born in Temow Village

My name is **Jonathan Karita**, I'm a middleaged man of 30 years, brought up in a remote part of Kenya, in West Pokot county Sekerr Mbara Sub-location, Temow Village. More so, I was brought up by a single parent, my mother.

I started my education in Temow Primary School to standard 3, where I joined Mbara Primary School from the year 2001 at standard 4 until 2004, when I sat for the Kenya certificate of primary education (KCPE) examination where I became the best pupil in the school. This time, *Together We Succeed* had started building nice classrooms. From here, I joined Ortum Boys High School. At this point I experienced myriads of challenges of school fees, where being sent home for fees was an order of those days. I thank God, the community of Temow village led by women/mothers who came to my rescue by organizing fund raising to aid me continue with my education due to the perennial poverty that had settled in our family led by a single parent, my mum. Unfortunately, my dear mother passed on before she saw the fruits of my education that she had passionately hoped for.

This initiative by the community rekindled hope and dreams to my future. I completed the Kenya certificate of secondary education (KCSE) examination in 2008, where I did well and became the only boy who joined a public University, The University of Nairobi, college of Agriculture where I pursued Bachelor of Science Agriculture (Crop protection major).

This time the community approached Petra and her team to help them carry my burden. Thanks be to God, again *Together we succeed* came to my rescue and sponsored my university education since 2010 until 2014, when I graduated from the University in August 29, 2014. From May 2014 to April 2015, I volunteered at organization of Africa Instituted churches (OAIC) as a field officer on livelihood project and ran other shortterm employment contracts.

From May 2015 to 2017 Dec, I got employment at **Bayer East Africa Company** as a **field Agronomist** in 3 counties that is West pokot, Trans nzoia and Elgeiyo Marakwet where I did my best in training the farmers on good Agricultural practices for the purpose of increasing yields and quality.

In January 2018, I was nominated by West Pokot County Government through the governor as Chief Officer to lead Agriculture and Irrigation Department, becoming the youngest person to hold that position. I took this position as a challenge to me and also to proof that youth can do it better. I always call upon youth to engage in Agri-business enterprises rather than waiting for white color jobs that are becoming a mirage (hard to realize).

I really thank Together We Succeed and wellwishers for the support to me and the rest of students that benefitted and those still being supported now.

These are my/our sincere requests to *Together We Succeed*:

- Enhance partnership in transformation of Agriculture in West Pokot county by engaging youth and women in farming. The partners/well wishers and the government of the Netherlands are key in this so that I impact my community in addressing Food and nutrition insecurity.
- Start my Post graduate degree studies in Agriculture after the year 2022. To gain more skills /innovations.

On behalf of my community and colleagues. I promise we won't let you down.

Thank you so much for your immeasurable support and making our dreams valid.