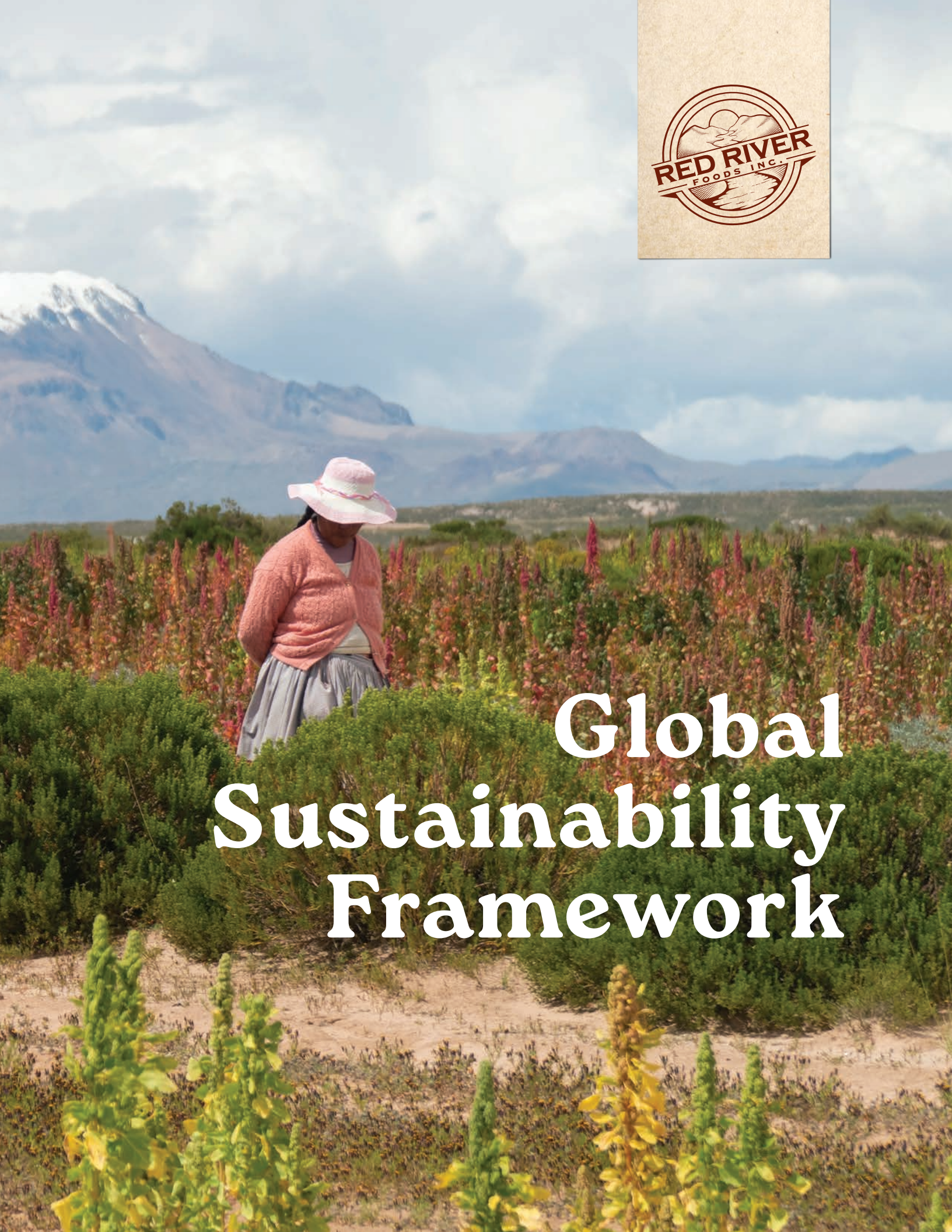




Global Sustainability Framework



What does sustainability mean to us?

Sustainability is an increasingly common word in our industry, with many uses and interpretations. At Red River Foods, we look at sustainability simply. For something to be sustainable, it must be resilient and endure against external and internal forces. It is with this interpretation that we approach sustainability, from farm-level to delivery of the final product.

What is our sustainability framework?

This framework is a structure under which we align all sustainability activities in the company. We have developed this framework to plan, select, organize, implement, and communicate all our sustainability-related actions across our global network of supply chains.

**Ethical Sourcing.
Exceptional Products.**



Pillars of Sustainability

These are the three key pillars that form the core of our framework, which is based upon our company mission, vision, and values. It is with these three pillars that we align all our sustainability work company wide.



People

At the core of any business lies the people that make it happen and ensure it thrives. With our global reach, we have the opportunity to engage with a significant number of various stakeholders, from farmers, processors, and small-scale aggregators to multi-national trading companies. It is through thoughtful engagement and collaboration that we can work together to improve livelihoods, working conditions, and well-being in our supply chains.



Products

At Red River Foods, sourcing and providing high-quality products are paramount, as defined in our company mission. We see product sustainability as an extension of industry responsibilities. Whether this is the development of increased traceability systems or ensuring responsible sourcing through due diligence with suppliers, we strive for constant improvement and uncompromising commitment to this objective.



Planet

The impact of global agriculture on the environment is considerable, and becoming more apparent as more attention is focused on it. As part of the food industry, we recognize our place and our responsibility in protecting, conserving, and even regenerating the planet and its resources. Therefore, we aim to minimize our negative impacts while maximizing our efforts to innovate and regenerate across all our supply chains.





Themes

In order to further define how we work within these pillars we have established the following themes:



PEOPLE

Farmer Livelihoods

For farmers in our supply chains to prosper, we aim to support them through trainings, farm services, and additional revenue-generating projects. We focus on optimizing on-farm production to maximize yields and creating alternative forms of income, both on- and off-farm. The main activities within this theme are farmer training, beekeeping, pruning & thinning, and cooperative development.

Community Development

Going beyond the optimization of primary crop production, we also aim to support farmers and their communities to improve their well-being through other programs like VSLAs (Village Savings and Loan Associations), reforestation projects, and scholarships.

Safe & Decent Labor

Ensuring safe and decent labor conditions for all stakeholders in our supply chains is paramount. Starting at the farm all the way through to the delivery of products to our customers, we guarantee that we do everything we can to uphold international and industry standards by requiring adherence to our Red River Foods Code of Conduct and verification by first- and third-party social compliance audits.



PRODUCTS

Traceability

Improving our levels of traceability is more and more demanded by consumers and our customers. Therefore, we must advance our capacity and understanding of traceability across our supply chains. We view traceability as a foundational component to several of our other themes, and a means to connect our extensive work on the ground with producers to the end product.

Regeneration

To have a positive impact on the earth and the ecosystems from where we source our products, we must take action to implement practices that have regenerative effects, specifically focusing on soil health and biodiversity.



PLANET

Responsible Sourcing

Ensuring that our sourcing is ethical and responsible is becoming an increasing requirement from governments, lenders, customers, and consumers. For us, ethical sourcing means working to implement fair wages and prices; a vital aspect of this is educating our customers on the realities faced by the farmers, harvesters, and producers and the need to protect the environments from which our products are grown.

Innovative (Green) Practices

Finding new and state-of-the-art ways of reducing our impact on the environment is critical to the way we do business. Therefore, we prioritize continual innovation in our planning and company strategy. This could include green energy solutions, recycling/upcycling systems, and reducing GHG emissions, amongst others.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 interconnected global objectives designed to address some of the world's most pressing challenges by the year 2030. Adopted by all UN member states in 2015, the SDGs encompass a wide range of ambitious targets, including the eradication of poverty and hunger, ensuring access to quality education and healthcare, promoting gender equality, fostering clean energy and environmental sustainability, and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies. These goals serve as a universal call to action, encouraging collaboration among governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals to work collectively towards building a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for people and the planet.

Through the themes and actions laid out within our Sustainability Framework, we aim to contribute to the following SDGs:



Looking Ahead

As we have long-standing sustainability efforts ongoing, we have integrated our Sustainability Framework to establish the following initiatives and goals through 2027. We have identified these initiatives are the most relevant and impactful for our supply chains and our business. We aim to measure our progress and the success of these actions by setting ambitious goals in order to challenge ourselves to do more and do better moving forward.



01

Supply Chain Mapping

In order to ensure responsible, transparent sourcing around the world, we will conduct thorough mapping of our key product supply chains. This activity creates a foundation for our sustainability strategy, and guides our decision making towards achieving our goal of developing sustainable supply chains around the world.

2024 Goal: Conduct mapping of direct supply across our key product supply chains

Create detailed maps of all direct suppliers for cashew supply chains

2025 Goal: Conduct secondary supply chain assessments in cashew and direct mapping of apricot and hazelnut supply chains

Engage with direct suppliers to create initial maps of their supply chains

2026 Goal: Conduct secondary supply chain assessments in Apricot and Hazelnut

Continue the progression of enriching our supply chain maps to include other key products

2027 Goal: Maintain updated supply chain maps

Monitor and assess potential supply chain risks

This will include setting up processes for continual updating of maps as supply chains evolve

02

Launching Red River Foods Farmer Application

We work with thousands of farmers across multiple supply chains. In order to engage and collaborate with these communities, we must collect farmer and farm data around the world. In order to collect this data reliably and efficiently, we will be launching an in-house farmer data application for use by our global teams.

2024 Goal: Conduct field testing with registration, survey, and mapping capabilities

2025 Goal: Utilization of application and the development of additional functionalities



03

Farmer & Agricultural System Programs

Working with farmers and farming communities has been at the core of Red River Foods' sustainability efforts over the years. We recognize that we have a responsibility to help farmers optimize their production systems while guiding best or innovative practices. We also work with production communities to boost livelihoods and streamline our procurement activities through implementing income-diversification projects, such as beekeeping.

Farmer Trainings

We work directly with farmers to boost their production, inform them about responsible production practices, and increase their business knowledge through group trainings. We have and will continue to support farmers by bringing novel trainings into their communities so that we can grow together.

2024 Goal: To complete our target of 10,950 cashew farmer Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) trainings in West Africa

2025 Goal: Launch Pilot Farmer Business School Program

2026 Goal: Evaluate and scale-up of Farmer Business School Program

2027 Goal: Continue scaling of Farmer Business School Program

Pruning & Thinning

Over 50% of the world's cashew production takes place in Africa, where the crop thrives. One widespread issue with the prevailing production systems is the spacing and maintenance of cashew orchards. Overly dense orchards generally have low yields and are more susceptible to pest and disease pressure. For several years, we have worked with farmers and local chainsaw operators to prune and thin farmers' orchards. We aim to build on this experience and continue supporting farmers to implement this highly impactful practice in their orchards.

2024 Goal: Prune & thin 200 hectares of cashew orchards

2025 Goal: Establish a Rural Service Center Pilot to prune & thin 200 hectares of cashew orchards

2026 Goal: Prune & thin 200 hectares of cashew orchards

2027 Goal: Prune & thin 200 hectares of cashew orchards

Beekeeping

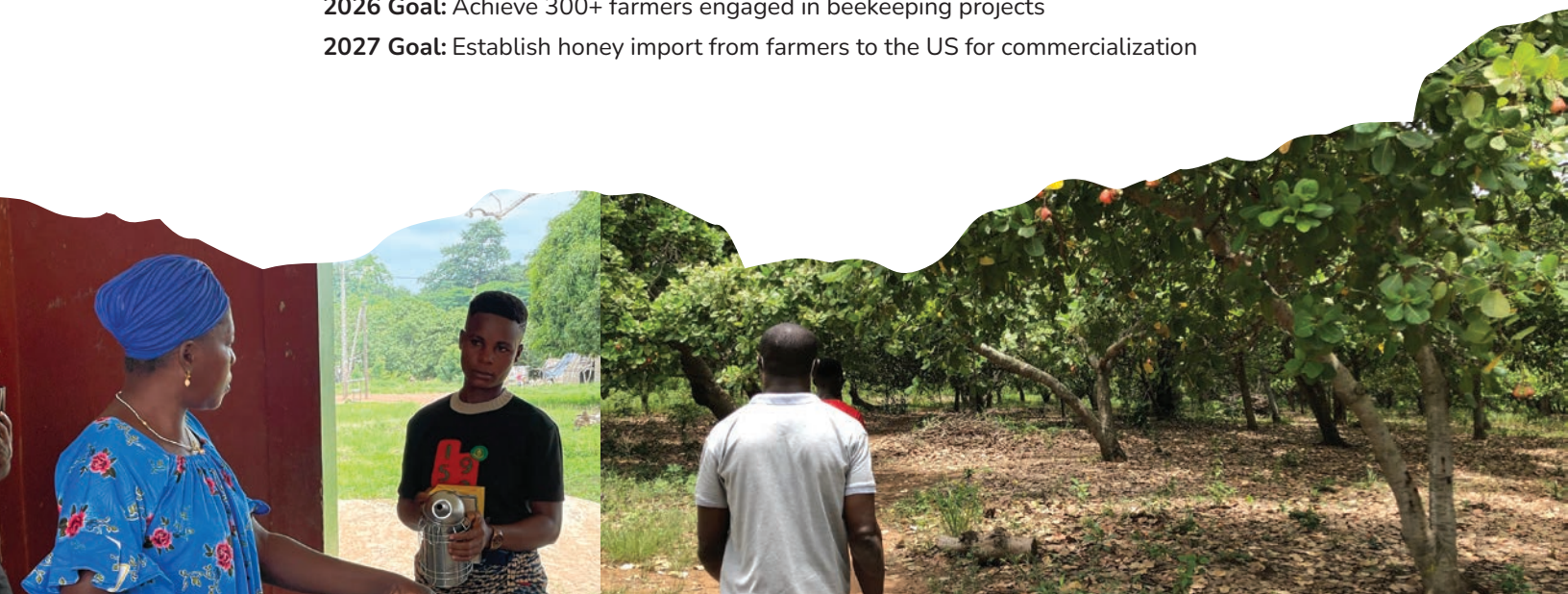
We encourage and support farmers to learn and implement the practice of beekeeping in their existing agricultural systems, particularly among West African cashew farmers. This practice has several positive impacts on production and livelihoods. By placing bee hives in cashew orchards, we can increase pollination, resulting in higher yields, and farmers can also sell honey, wax, and other hive products for additional sources of revenue.

2024 Goal: Reach 150 active beekeepers in RRF Initiatives

2025 Goal: Increase to 200+ active beekeepers in RRF Initiatives

2026 Goal: Achieve 300+ farmers engaged in beekeeping projects

2027 Goal: Establish honey import from farmers to the US for commercialization



Community Development Projects

At Red River Foods, we understand that healthy communities are the foundation to healthy farmers, and a healthy supply chain. We engage directly with community leaders and officials to implement various projects, particularly those that address gender equality/financial independence and reforestation/land restoration.

Community Forests

Community forests are forests owned by entire communities, cooperatively cared for, and can provide additional income through the integration of fruit trees. These reforestation projects sequester carbon, promote biodiversity, and increase community resilience. They also encourage cohesion and togetherness amongst community members. We aim to work with local farming communities and relevant authorities to design and implement appropriate and beneficial reforestation projects.

2024 Goal: Prepare and install 5 community forests in Côte d'Ivoire

2025 Goal: Increase to 10 established community forests

2026 Goal: Establish 5 additional community forests

2027 Goal: Establish 5 additional community forests

Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)

VSLAs are informal groups that offer savings, loans, and mutual assistance facilities to members of a community who need access to formal financial services. They are autonomous and self-managed groups of a given number of self-selected members. The groups can be mixed or women only. Training is provided to the groups to enable them to manage their activities. At the end of a cycle, the members of a VSLA share the funds in proportion to their savings and start a new cycle if they wish.

2024 Goal: Reach 15 RRF-supported VSLAs in West Africa

2025 Goal: Increase to 25 VSLAs + Pledge \$10,000 support to VSLA-linked projects

2026 Goal: Increase to 35 VSLAs + Pledge \$10,000 support to VSLA-linked projects

2027 Goal: Provide support to VSLA-linked projects of \$20,000





Upcoming Initiatives

1. Improving Traceability

An additional measure to increase supply chain transparency is to implement traceability systems for all products that we source. Though supply chains can vary greatly in terms of geography and complexity, we understand the need to improve upon our current practices in order to meet industry standards and stay aligned with industry trends.

2024: Assess company capacities for traceability; Develop Traceability Roadmap

To begin our journey of increasing traceability across our key product supply chains, we will first conduct a thorough assessment of the current status of each. Each product that we source has a unique and diverse supply chain, with each its own intricacies, which must be studied and understood from different perspectives before setting ambitious yet realistic goals.

2. Developing Green/Innovative Practices

To minimize the negative impacts of our operations, from farm to table, we will strive to assess our impacts and implement innovative solutions to mitigate or minimize them.

2024 Goal: Develop Green Practices Roadmap

Our roadmap will begin with an assessment of our current processes and an exploration of innovative solutions to make them more environmentally responsible.

KPI	Baseline	2027 Target
# of supply chains mapped	0	6
# of risk assessments completed	0	6
# of farmers trained on farm business management	0	2000
# of beekeeping projects launched	3	6
# of farmers participating in beekeeping projects	100	350+
# of farms pruned and thinned	0	750
# of community forests established	1	15
# of trees planted	2300	50,000
# of VSLAs established	5	35
\$ aggregated to group savings	0	100,000






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