

Coffee & Avocado Demonstration Unit (CADU)

Impact Brief | Grace Foundation International (GFI)

Project Overview

The Coffee & Avocado Demonstration Unit (CADU) is a flagship sustainable-livelihoods initiative of Grace Foundation International that strengthens climate-resilient coffee and avocado value chains in Kenya's South Rift corridor (Kericho–Bomet and surrounding communities). CADU functions as a practical demonstration and learning hub where smallholder farmers gain skills, tools, and market readiness to improve yields, quality, and incomes while protecting soil, water, and biodiversity.

Problem Statement

Smallholder coffee and avocado farmers often face declining productivity due to climate variability, limited agronomic training, inadequate nursery and orchard management, and weak post-harvest handling. These constraints reduce quality, limit access to premium markets, and keep rural incomes low. CADU addresses these gaps through hands-on climate-smart agronomy, agroforestry and soil health practices, and improved post-harvest handling and market linkages.

Core Interventions

- Climate-smart coffee and avocado agronomy (planting, pruning, IPM, shade management)
- Nursery strengthening and resilient seedling establishment
- Soil health restoration, water conservation, and agroforestry practices
- Post-harvest handling, quality management, and value addition (where feasible)
- Inclusive participation of women and youth, plus practical entrepreneurship training
- Market readiness: buyer linkages, aggregation, and basic traceability/quality standards

Expected Impact (2026–2030)

- 2,000+ farmers reached through direct training and community replication
- 25–40% increase in crop yields among participating farms (target)
- USD 800–1,500 increase in average annual household income (target)
- Reduced climate vulnerability through resilient, diversified farming systems
- Improved quality and market access through better post-harvest practices
- Strengthened roles for women and youth across production and value addition

Why CADU Matters

CADU advances sustainable rural prosperity by pairing practical farmer training with climate-smart land stewardship. By helping farmers produce higher-quality coffee and avocados and connect to markets, the initiative strengthens household resilience, supports local employment, and contributes to food security and environmental sustainability. The program is values-driven and dignity-centered, reflecting GFI's commitment to building lives through the Golden Rule.

Partnership & Funding Opportunities

Grace Foundation International welcomes partnerships with foundations, philanthropists (including women-led giving), faith-based institutions, corporates, and development partners to scale CADU. Priority support areas include farmer training, nursery inputs and resilient seedlings, agroforestry and soil health activities, post-harvest equipment (e.g., pulping, drying, storage), and market linkage support.

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