

# 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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