

ANGELA GITAU, LARMAT ALUMNI SHARES HER INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE AT FIPS-AFRICA

Farm Input Promotions Africa (FIPS-Africa) is a not-for-profit organization that specializes in dissemination of the appropriate farm inputs to farmers in East and Southern Africa. FIPS-Africa is funded by the USAID for a period of five years to build climate change resilience and to ensure food security among small-holder farmers in Kenya through improved agricultural practices and innovative technologies. The FIPS-Africa Program aims to reach out to 56,000 poor and vulnerable households in Feed the Future focus Counties, namely Busia, Siaya, Makueni, Embu, Machakos and Kitui areas of Kenya. The Program will have an impact on 336,000 beneficiaries upon completion, through its innovative interventions that utilize Village-based Advisors to disseminate information on appropriate agronomic practices.

FIPS Africa offers internship to graduates. This year being the mid-term year of the program, FIPS-Africa is conducting household data collection to assess the mid-term impact assessment. It's during this period that they got an opportunity to work in a village called Kithambeoni in Wote, Makueni County. The village has one source of water which is from the roots of the tree that has brought the water closer to the surface. The water channel has been designed in such a way the wood acts as a pipe (tap). The uncollected water finds its way to the man made dam. The villagers from different locations come from far to fetch water from there. They use donkeys to carry the water. For some it's a livelihood.

This experience has been a tremendous one for Angela who has just cleared her Bachelor degree programme in Management of Agro-ecosystems and Environment, and is scheduled to graduate in August 29, 2014.