

# SASOL FOUNDATION

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## SASOL PROFILE

1. NAME: Sahelian Solutions Foundation (SASOL).

### 2. SASOL'S KEY OFFICERS.

1. Prof. G-C. M. Mutiso -Board Chair  
Prof. Mutiso taught in universities in the US and Kenya, was an editor of the Daily Nation and, for the past twenty years, has been a full-time development management consultant.
2. Mr. Francis M. Katua - Executive Board Chair  
Mr. Katua, a retired Deputy Director of Education, currently is a local businessman, has many years in development.
3. Mr. Peter Van Dongen - Board Treasurer  
Mr. Van Dongen is a consultant on hydrology. He has lived and worked in Kenya for twenty-five years.
4. Mr. Evans Ngava - Board Member  
Mr. Ngava was a senior manager in BAT. On retiring he established a local business and is also a preacher.
5. Ms. Catherine Mumo - Board Member  
Ms. Mumo is currently a headmistress of a local girl's high school. Before this she taught since graduating.
6. Ms. Mary Mulwa - Board Member  
Ms. Mulwa, a graduate teacher, is currently a head mistress of a girl's high school in the district.
7. Ms. Elisa N. Mukua -Board Member  
Ms. Mukua is a development worker in Kitui District.
8. . Mr. Sam Muthoka - Field Manager/Board Secretary  
Mr. Muthoka, a graduate industrial chemist, has worked in community development over the past ten years.

### 3. REGISTRATION:

SASOL is an NGO incorporated in the Republic of Kenya on 23/07/93 Certificate No. C. 50265.and registered under the NGO Co-ordination Act on 04/05/94, OP/218/051/9369/328.

### 4. OBJECTIVES OF SASOL FOUNDATION:

SASOL was established to render governance, technical and financial assistance for the development of arid and semi-arid regions. Special emphasis is laid on the solution of the problems of water as a platform for subsequent development in building local governance institutions, food security, health, and education.

### 5. SASOL PHILOSOPHY:

Most communities in the Arid and Semi-Arid (Asal or Sahelian) parts of Africa have

suffered development. This is so because many of the activities are not planned to address key issues in the development of these areas. Often knowledge is borrowed from wetter parts of the continent and applied irrationally. Expertise is usually from without those communities. More often than not development agents do not listen to the communities who have operated some of the most sophisticated social institutions in human history. All these problems are compounded by short-term sectoral development strategies.

Increasingly, development of these areas has to be within the context of sustainable ecological resource use. This demands that communities participate in the design and implementation of activities. It also means that new ideas, technologies and techniques have to be generated to produce for the exploding populations. New natural and human resources management techniques are called for if these populations are not to lose their humanity and die off in the degrading environments and attendant poverty. The need is urgent.

Central in SASOL philosophy is commitment to participative development, which cannot be if resource conservation, within the framework of time tested technologies sustained by ASAL populations, is ignored. This does not mean that the scientific approach, planning and new ideas are not introduced to base communities. It simply means that the beginning point is what is known and sustainable by the base communities as evaluated by multidisciplinary teams. Clearly water is central in this.

#### 6. COMMUNITY MOBILISATION:

PRA Training is the preferred method used to involve the community in all aspects of development. As people deliberate together, they discover their ability to initiate, plan and execute their projects with commitment resulting in effective implementation.

#### 7. EFFORTS TO DATE: BRIEF HISTORY:

Currently SASOL is involved in two related activities. These are 1. Creation of a school water-net through construction of improved shallow wells. 2. Development of stable community water supplies dependent on the construction of sand dams on seasonal rivers.

These activities are undertaken in an area of 2,015-sq. km. (201,500Ha.) of Central Kitui District with a population of 182,264 in 32,020 households, thereby giving about 6.2 hectares per household, according to the 1989 Census as shown below.

Location	Sq. Km.	Population	Density
Kyangwithya	180	41,003	228
Mulango	320	35,697	112
Kisasi	277	30,522	110
Nzambani	237	24,286	102
Miambani	310	22,836	74
Yatta	297	14,369	48
Kanyangi	394	13,551	34

The area is varied includes steep hills, rolling land and plains. The soils similarly vary from black cotton to red soils to very sandy soils. SASOL on registration in 1992 initially got involved in the distribution of food during the famine of 1992 both in Kenya and Somalia. . In 1993-1994, SASOL supported 13 schools by sponsoring a total of 750 children in Kitui District. Since 1993, SASOL has been involved in the

development of water points in schools. This need was identified as a result of the work on school feeding. In this program, 93 shallow wells and 17 water tanks have been developed to date.

PRA's done in the project area established that water was the development priority. Most of the population did not have access to secure water supply. Irregular and contaminated supplies were on average 5km from most households. Women spend a lot of time in water fetching chores. Consequently SASOL decided to concentrate on building water supply as a platform for subsequent development.

#### Results Achieved

Evaluation of the relationships of the different elements of the catchment development approach led to the concept of building a water platform as the basis of advancement in the community. It is a platform on which other developments and capacities can rest on.

Distance to water sources in Central Kitui have been reduced by building sand dams within 0.5 - 1 km of each other on the dry river channels. This is why we talk of cascades. In general, the dry river channels are between 2- 4 km apart. Thus the target of a water source at a distance of 2 km from each household has been achieved.

Due to the development of sand dams and other water holding structures- terraces and contour bunds on farmlands- infiltration into the ground water holding spaces has been achieved. An example is Wii Sub-location. Only 2 productive shallow wells existed before the building of 14 sand dams and on-farm associated water-harvesting structures in 1999. 39 wells exist today.

A total 400 sand dam sites have, to date, (2004) been developed in Kitui. They have brought water nearer to households with 200,000 inhabitants. The time saving on water fetching chores for these inhabitants -mainly women and girls- has been reduced from 5-10 hrs to ½ - 1 hr in the Central Kitui areas.

#### FUNDS UTILISED IN BUILDING 400 KITUI SAND DAMS (KSH.)

Donor	Amount
DFID	56,176,759
SIDA	27,452,430
MCC	10,497,585
WATERAID	5,691,500
EXCHANGE	3,289,800
Subtotal	103,108,074
COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION	154,662,111
TOTAL	257,770,185
Say	US\$3,222,127
AVERAGE DAM COST	US\$ 8,055

Availability of water impacts positively on biodiversity. The improvement in ground water has led, not only to diversification of vegetation, but also to more extensive ground cover. Availability of water enables minor irrigations. This has boosted food security of the local communities. New economic activities have sprung up. Among them is bee keeping, brick making and growing of vegetables and trees. This has improved the people's livelihoods as it generates incomes over and above giving them better nutrition.

Along side the sand dams, off-take wells are constructed for abstraction of portable water, providing easy access to clean water.