



ECONOMIC PROJECTS TRANSFORMATIONAL FACILITY
A Ministry of The Navigators - Kenya



EPTF GRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (GRIP)

A majority of farmers and farm owners in Kenya lack the capacity to make agronomical and other farm management decisions for maximum profitability. They are often ill-equipped with technical, managerial and entrepreneurial knowledge and skills. The **Graduate Internship Program (GRIP) housed under the Economic Projects Transformational Facility (EPTF), is addressing this gap by providing Farmers with Graduates in agriculture as well as farm entrepreneurship and management trainings to commercialize their farms.** Farmers who wish to join the program are paired with a regularly supervised trainee manager to commercialize their farms. EPTF is a ministry of the Navigators Kenya and is dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs and farmers who will then transform their communities.

Flagship Project since 2013

The ultimate goal of the GRIP initiative is to increase the level of production for cost effective and efficient management of farms. This is an EPTF's flagship project started in the year 2013 and has so far trained 320 farmers.

The farmer in the program will support the manager with a small stipend (averaging KES 10,000 per month for starting Intern-Managers and KES 17,000 per month for more experienced Managers) throughout the period of operations in the farm (2 years average). Farmers can partner to take up the cost of Managers **in groups of 3** depending on the size of their farms, making costs manageable (average of **KES 4,000** per farmer). Terms and conditions of engagement are then documented after prior baseline and business plan development. Farm locations and access to basic amenities will render the stipend amounts negotiable upon a baseline survey of the farm.

EPTF in partnership with Agricultural Training Institutions in Kenya has selected farms and agricultural related companies seeking to provide opportunities to graduates who wish to have a long term career as Farm Managers with a sharp edge in entrepreneurship. The interns will be trained in entrepreneurship as farm managers linked to farms through EPTFs Graduate Internship Program (GRIP).

Counties we have worked in and workers on the ground.

The place of intervention has been in Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Transzoia, Machakos, Uasin Gishu and Kisumu counties. EPTF currently has a team of trained Agricultural Graduates currently assisting the farmers to manage their farms and Administrative staff directly involved in the project. EPTF outsources consultants who are experts in the field of agriculture during the training sessions.

Approach in developing farmer groups.

EPTF provides platform for market linkages and agricultural support services for farmers who wish to be trained in entrepreneurship. The training is administered through organized farmer groups where follow ups can easily be carried out by the company agronomist for the success in production.

The main aim of EPTF's Graduate Internship Program (GRIP), is to create employment opportunities for young agricultural graduates and improve farm productivity and farm commercialization of small holder farmers in the region to alleviate poverty and ensure food security in the nation.

To find out more about our past success and ongoing support through the GRIP initiative, kindly log onto our website: www.eptf.org or email grip@eptf.org / call 0732006261 to speak to the **GRIP Coordinator** on the same (Lydia R. Cell: 0724862879).