Climate change causes increased frequency and severity of drought, making it difficult for Kenyan farmers to grow crops.
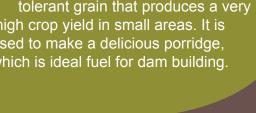

© Polly Braden

Please support drylands communities to implement climate-smart agriculture, enabling them to feed their families and pay their children's school fees.

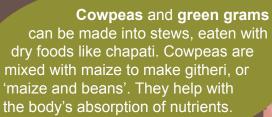Excellent | Pioneers of Sand Dams

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Community seed banks are stocked with seven drought-tolerant seeds, reducing the risk of crop failure, providing food throughout the growing season and ensuring a good nutritional balance.

Sorghum is a highly drought-tolerant grain that produces a very high crop yield in small areas. It is used to make a delicious porridge, which is ideal fuel for dam building.

Dolichos lablab can be used as a cover crop to repair degraded land. It provides a rich source of protein which encourages milk production - great for new mothers and dairy farming alike.

Cowpeas and **green grams** can be made into stews, eaten with dry foods like chapati. Cowpeas are mixed with maize to make githeri, or 'maize and beans'. They help with the body's absorption of nutrients.

Pearl millet is highly drought-tolerant and can be ground into flour and mixed with milk to form a porridge. Medicinally, the flour is mixed with water and used to treat diarrhoea.

Finger millet is one of the most nutritious cereal crops in the world - high in protein, with the third highest iron content of any grain. It is made into porridge, an ideal breakfast.

Pigeon peas fetch a higher market price when harvested green. The leaves can be used as animal fodder and the stalks can be used as wood fuel in the home.

"All the crops are different. What you get from dolichos, is not what you get from pigeon peas, is not what you get from sorghum. So we get a good mix."

Theresa Musyoka

"I never used to plant sorghum, pearl millet and dolichos lablab because I could not afford the seeds. Now I am sure I will harvest enough for my family."

Penina Mulwa

"When I spend the day on our community farm, I am guaranteed to go home with food for my family."

Elisabeth Ndungwa Kin'goo

"I was able to sell a bag of green grams to pay my children's school fees, so they could get their final year certificates."

William Kivuva Mumbua