ENROLLMENT OPENS FOR ONE ACRE FUND FARMERS IN KENYA FOR 2017

Affordable Agricultural Loans and Training Available to Farmers in Western and Nyanza

BUNGOMA, Kenya, Sept. 27, 2016 — One Acre Fund, a nonprofit agriculture organization that offers farming inputs and training on credit to smallholder farmers, today announced open enrollment for the 2017 long rain growing season in Kenya. Participating farmers will receive a complete bundle of agricultural inputs and services on credit, including the delivery of improved seeds and fertilizer, training on how to maximize crop yields, and education on how to minimize post-harvest losses. In 2015 farmers in the program increased farm income by 55 percent.

Loan package values range from 4,000 to 15,000 Kenyan shillings ($40 to $148) for new farmers and up to 27,500 shillings ($272) for returning farmers. One Acre Fund’s service bundle is available to smallholder farmers in selected counties in Western and Nyanza, Kenya.

One Acre Fund delivers all products to a drop-off point within walking distance of farmers’ homes and leads regular in-person training sessions so that farmers can maximize the benefit from the products they receive. Farmers in the program also have access to full-time field officers employed by One Acre Fund, a customer-care hotline, and local staff throughout Western and Nyanza in Kenya. One Acre Fund offers a flexible repayment system: Farmers may repay loans in any amount at any time during the growing season.

"One Acre Fund Kenya is excited to offer farmers its most affordable package yet,” said Kiette Tucker, One Acre Fund Kenya country director. “Enrollment for the program is officially open, and we’re looking to serve more new farmers than ever before."

One Acre Fund’s loan packages vary depending on farmers’ preferences. Farmers may enroll as little as a quarter of an acre of land, or choose to take non-agricultural products entirely. In Kenya, One Acre Fund provides a maximum of one loan package per household. To join One Acre Fund this season, farmers must sign up before October 21. To qualify to receive inputs, farmers are required to pay at least 500 Kenyan shillings toward their loan by December 31, 2016. They are expected to complete loan repayment in full by the end of harvest time, or no later than September 22, 2017.

Farmers may enroll for the following core products on credit from One Acre Fund: seeds for maize, beans and onions, fertilizer, additional topdressing fertilizer, solar lights, cook stoves, drying tarps, crop storage bags, PICS bags, actellic dust, reusable sanitary pads, and compost boosters. Every farmer will be required to take the client support bundle, which includes trainings, funeral insurance, a grevillea tree package, and sukuma wiki seeds. Returning farmers will also be able to enroll for a Solar Home System.

“When I enrolled with One Acre Fund in 2011, I harvested 15 bags of maize, three times more than before, and I have kept on harvesting more ever since,” said Andrew Murefu, a smallholder farmer in Nang’eni, Bungoma County. “With my harvests, I have been able to educate my children, and I’m now sure they will find good jobs and be able to support their own families.”