

CSAWE-TILTH · LOCAL STRUCTURE & FIELD PREPARATION

Preparation Phase

August 2025 – January 2026

Location

Homa Bay County, Kenya

Report series

CSAWE-TILTH Field Report



Field learning rooted in community, practical action, and climate resilience.

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Short Introduction

Before TILTH could move into regular field demonstrations, CSAWE first needed to build the local structure for the work.

The preparation phase focused on introducing CSAWE to farmers in Homa Bay County, discussing the purpose of TILTH, identifying how farmer groups could be selected, and understanding what kind of coordination would be needed before field activities could begin.

This phase also showed that TILTH could not be built only through online communication. Farmers were interested, but the project needed physical meetings, clear local coordination, practical demonstrations, and visible commitment from each ward.

At a glance

PERIOD

August 2025 – January 2026

LOCATION

Homa Bay County, Kenya

FOCUS

Farmer group onboarding and field preparation

INVOLVED

Lambwe,

STRUCTURE

20 farmer

TOOL

WhatsApp

STEP

Physical field

15 August 2025 - First Introduction Meeting at Mbita District Livestock Office

FIELD NOTE

This was the first meeting convened by Denis and Emilly at the Mbita District Livestock Office to introduce farmers to CSAWE and the TILTH project.

During the meeting, Emilly shared the background of CSAWE and explained how the work began through the earlier HOFOGI pilot in Migori County. She also explained why the next step was to bring the project closer to home in Homa Bay County, with a focus on addressing food insecurity and supporting economic empowerment among women and youth.

The plan for the first phase of TILTH was introduced: to onboard 20 farmer groups from five wards — Lambwe, Gembe, Kasgunga, Rusinga, and Mfangano Island. The participants discussed how the groups could be identified, and it was agreed that each ward would nominate four farmer groups.

It was also agreed that demonstration plots would be established on the land of selected lead farmers, and that a WhatsApp community would be created to support communication and coordination.

WHY THIS MATTERED

This meeting created the first local structure for TILTH. It helped move the project from an idea into a shared plan with farmers, lead farmers, wards, and communication channels.

It also showed that farmers were open to the project and willing to take part in shaping how the work would begin.

14 January 2026 - Coordination Meeting at the District Livestock Office

FIELD NOTE

The team met again at the District Livestock Office to discuss what was slowing down the project and what needed to change before field activities could move forward.

Members openly discussed challenges around participation, timekeeping, and the use of digital platforms. Some participants were not comfortable using online tools, which made communication and coordination more difficult.

The group agreed that digital training would be useful, but that physical meetings were also necessary. It was decided that regular field meetings would be organized in farmers' fields, with a combination of theory and practical cone garden demonstrations.

The plan was to rotate meetings across the wards so that CSAWE could meet group members directly and begin demonstrating cone garden installation in practice.

WHY THIS MATTERED

This meeting helped reset the project.

Instead of depending only on digital communication, the team agreed on a more practical way forward: combining digital support with regular physical meetings, farmer field visits, and hands-on demonstrations.

This was an important step because CSAWE's work depends on learning by doing. The meeting helped prepare the ground for the next phase of TILTH, where farmers would begin seeing and practicing cone gardening directly in the field.



CSAWE-TILTH field learning in Homa Bay County, Kenya.

What this phase showed us

The preparation phase showed that TILTH needed more than a project plan. It needed trust, local coordination, clear communication, and practical field presence.

Farmers were interested, but the project had to become easier to follow and more visible. The discussions showed that physical meetings would be essential, especially for introducing cone gardening, answering questions, and building commitment among the groups.

This phase also confirmed the importance of lead farmers. By placing demonstration plots on selected lead farmers' land, CSAWE could create local learning points where farmers could gather, observe, practice, and continue sharing knowledge.

What came next

After the preparation phase, CSAWE moved into regular field meetings with farmer and women's groups.

The next phase focused on introducing CSAWE and TILTH more directly in the field, carrying out cone garden demonstrations, listening to farmers' challenges, and learning what kind of support would be needed for wider adoption.

The preparation phase was quiet but important. It created the first structure for TILTH and helped CSAWE understand how to move forward in a way that was more practical, more local, and more connected to the farmers themselves.