BRIEF BACKGROUND:

The farm was founded by Ahmed Abbas Aden who is from a pastoralist community. He has set up the farm in Isiolo town situated in the upper eastern region of Kenya, about 270 kms from the Capital city Nairobi. The area is classified as arid and semi-arid regions. While residing there, he discovered a gap in the market for fresh dairy milk. Such demand sets him on a path to carry out extensive research. He visited numerous farms in Meru, Nanyuki, Kirinyaga, Kiambu among other towns to learn more about dairy farming and how to manage a farm generally. Through this process, he discovered his passion for farming. Towards the end of 2019, he acquired a seven (7) acre piece of land in Isiolo County on which the farm is currently located.

He began by planting over 1300 trees using drip irrigation method sourcing water from a nearby seasonal stream and rationing game galena project. Thereafter, he began by keeping poultry for eggs and additional 40 goats for milk production. The larger dream of the founder is still yet to be realized. When the Covid pandemic hit, Ahmed was in the process of constructing a barn estimated to accommodate 152 dairy cows to produce 3,000 litres of milk per day. Due to unavailability and high costs of construction materials, the project stalled.

High costs of animal feeds coupled with prolonged drought conditions also led the founder to resort to hydroponic farming to feed the growing number of chicken and goats on the farm.
MISSION AND VISION OF LONG DREAM DAIRY

The vision of the farm is to change the dynamics of traditional nomadic pastoralism by using the latest best practice in the dairy farming industry to enhance milk production, processing, marketing of quality dairy products in order to provide affordable, diverse and nutritious foods in Northern Kenya.

SHORT-TERM PLANNED PROJECTS:

- To complete the construction of the livestock barn and stock with dairy cows;
- To set up a state-of-the-art milk processing plant for value addition.
- To set up a point of sale in Isiolo town and along the Isiolo-Marsabit Highway.
- To drill a borehole to provide water to the farm and neighboring communities.

LONG TERM PROJECTS:

- To establish a similar farm in Marsabit County.
- To operate a research and educational programs at the farm.

LONG DREAM FARM IN PICTURES;

Figure 1: front gate entrance
Figure 2: water storage tanks and lavatory

Figure 3: growing trees
Figure 4: goats and poultry shed

Figure 5: poultry area
Figure 6: goats shed

Figure 7 (a): hydroponic c set-up
Figure 7 (b): Hydroponic fodder
Figure 8: ongoing construction of the barns.
Figure 9: fruit trees