

Kilimó

Bulletin



Kenya's Agricultural Revolution: Key Milestones and Sustainable Innovations

Issue 001 | Oct-Dec 2024

Introduction

Kenya's agricultural sector continues to be a critical driver of the country's economy, contributing significantly to food security, job creation, and income generation for millions of households.

In recent months, the sector has witnessed groundbreaking developments, from technological innovations and strategic partnerships to policy reforms aimed at ensuring sustainability and global competitiveness.

This edition of Kilimo Bulletin Magazine provides a comprehensive overview of the most notable milestones in August and September 2024. Among these achievements is the accreditation of the NCPB Laboratories by KENAS, a major leap towards enhancing the quality of agricultural produce. The Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) has launched bold initiatives, including a strategic plan for 2023-2027 and consultative meetings to boost local edible oil production, signaling a renewed focus on sustainability and food sovereignty.

In addition, KEPHIS continues to play a pivotal role in enhancing trade and compliance at key border points, ensuring that Kenyan exports meet international standards. The collaboration between KALRO and KTDA highlights the ongoing efforts to foster research and innovation, while the introduction of AI and embryo transfer in livestock breeding is set to revolutionize the sector.

Through these stories and more, Kilimo Bulletin seeks to inform, inspire, and empower stakeholders, as Kenya's agriculture sector charts a bold course toward a more resilient and prosperous future.



Josephine Mbeo

**Director
Public Communications**
Ministry of Agriculture &
Livestock Development

Editorial Note

The August-September edition of Kilimo Bulletin Magazine highlights key agricultural milestones in Kenya, showcasing remarkable strides in the sector that are set to transform the country's agricultural landscape. From significant advancements in agricultural research and innovation to policy reforms aimed at boosting local production and trade, this edition covers a wide range of topics.

The National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) has earned prestigious accreditation for its laboratories, while the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) is spearheading initiatives to enhance edible oil production and has unveiled a comprehensive strategic plan for sustainable agriculture.

Meanwhile, the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) continues to strengthen agricultural trade and border compliance

through partnerships and training initiatives. This issue also delves into groundbreaking research, technological advancements, and innovative projects such as the Miwa Bora App, which is revolutionizing sugarcane farming, and the NAVCDP program, which is empowering small-scale farmers.

With a focus on sustainable development, the magazine also highlights how key institutions like KALRO and KTDA are fostering partnerships that drive agricultural excellence. Additionally, we explore the growing role of AI and embryo transfer in livestock breeding, and the emergence of modern seed technology to enhance food security.

As Kenya's agriculture evolves, Kilimo Bulletin remains a key platform for sharing insights, updates, and best practices to empower stakeholders across the sector.

Editorial Team

Editor

Josphine Mbeo

Sub Editor

Job Mukaria

Design & Layout

Job Mukaria

Susan Ndirangu

Photography

Gladys Nyambura

Content Developers

Gladys Nyambura, Brian Kagwima,
Josemaria Mukiri, Sharon Mukami,
Alfred Odongo, Job Mukaria,
Susan Madina, Susan Ndirangu
Deborah Imaya.

©Kilimo Communications

Inside this Issue.....

Introduction

Overview of significant agricultural advancements and their impact on the sector.

II

Editorial Note

A snapshot of the key milestones and developments in Kenya's agricultural sector.

III

National Milestones & Institutional Achievements

NCPB Laboratories Earn Prestigious Accreditation from KENAS

01

BOOSTING LOCAL PRODUCTION: AFA Leads Consultative Meeting on Edible Oil Promotion

02

AFA Unveils Strategic Plan 2023-2027: A Bold Vision for Sustainable Agriculture

03

The Miwa Bora App: Revolutionizing Sugarcane Farming

04

Agricultural Research, Innovation & Partnerships

Strengthening Border Compliance: KEPHIS Leads the Charge at Moyale Crossing

05

Enhancing Agricultural Trade: KEPHIS Champions Quality and Safety in Kenya's Exports

06

Strengthening Agriculture: KEPHIS Partners with Nyeri County for Sustainable Farming

07

KEPHIS Embu Regional Office: A Pillar of Agricultural Excellence in Kenya's Eastern Block

08

KEPHIS JKIA Tackles Export Challenges with Targeted Training for Exporters

09

Strengthening Ties: KALRO-Tea Research Institute and KTDA Toror Factory Enhance Collaboration

10

Global Partnership in Action: KALRO Hosts Nanjing Institute

11

KALRO Hosts U.S. Delegation: Exploring Collaborative Opportunities for Agricultural Innovation

12

Empowering Farmers: KALRO and Partners Showcase Climate-Smart Sorghum in Makueni

13

Innovations in Agricultural Technology & Trade

Revolutionizing Maize Production: A Game-Changer for Africa's Food Security

15

Transforming Agriculture in Kenya: NAVCDP Empowers Small-Scale Farmers through Targeted Support

16

Milk Prices Surge as Consumption Hits Record Highs

18

New Dairy Industry Bill to Transform Kenya's Dairy Sector with Key Reforms

19

Livestock & Agricultural Mechanization

Meru's Kibiru Feedlot Nears Completion, Promises Boost for Local Livestock Farmers

20

AI and Embryo Transfer Set to Revolutionize Livestock Breeding in Kenya

21

Modern Seed Dryer and Certified Seedlings Set to Transform Kenya's Agricultural Sector

22





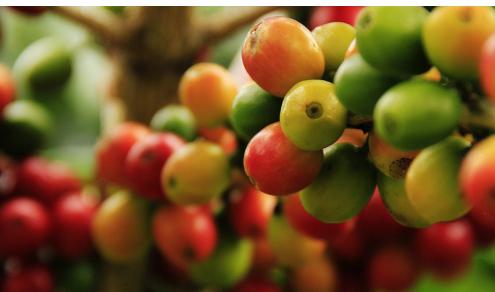
NCPB Laboratories Earn Prestigious Accreditation from KENAS

The National Cereals & Produce Board (NCPB) has achieved a significant milestone with the accreditation of its laboratories by the Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS), meeting the rigorous ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standards. This accreditation is a major achievement for NCPB, especially considering its pivotal role in Kenya's maize supply chain.

Aflatoxin contamination, caused by certain fungi, remains a persistent threat to food security. With five of its ten aflatoxin testing laboratories now accredited, NCPB has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to quality and safety. This recognition affirms NCPB's expertise, precision, and adherence to the

highest standards, bolstering public trust and elevating its standing on the international stage.

By securing this accreditation, NCPB solidifies its position as a crucial player in ensuring the safety and quality of agricultural products, aligning with global food safety, public health, and trade standards. NCPB Managing Director, Mr. Samuel Karogo, has reassured KENAS CEO, Dr. Walter Ongeti, of the board's ongoing commitment to upholding this accreditation and maintaining compliance with international testing and quality benchmarks.



BOOSTING LOCAL PRODUCTION:

AFA Leads Consultative Meeting on Edible Oil Promotion

The Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), through its Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate, recently hosted a pivotal consultative meeting with key stakeholders in the edible oil industry. The primary objective was to raise awareness about the Edible Oil Promotion Project, a strategic initiative aimed at increasing local production of edible oils and reducing Kenya's dependency on imports.

The meeting brought together a diverse group of participants, including representatives from the Council of Governors, the State Department for Agriculture, and various oil processing

companies. This collaborative effort underscores the importance of strengthening local capacity and fostering self-sufficiency in edible oil production.

By uniting industry players and government representatives, AFA is championing a move towards sustainable agricultural practices and economic resilience. The Edible Oil Promotion Project is set to play a crucial role in enhancing Kenya's food security, boosting the local economy, and paving the way for a more self-reliant future.



AFA Unveils Strategic Plan 2023-2027: A Bold Vision for Sustainable Agriculture

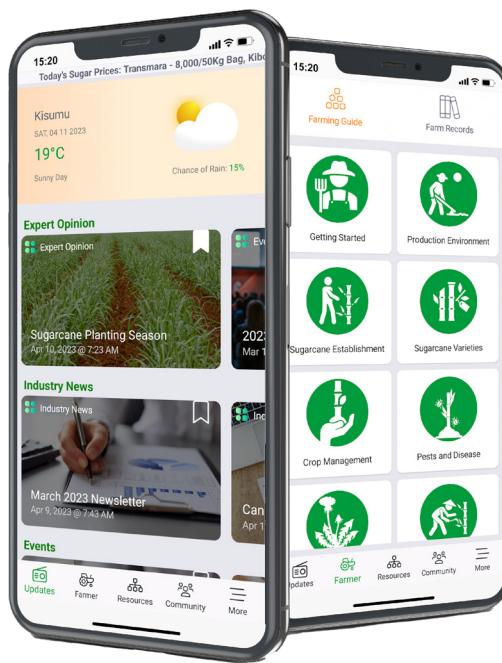
Cabinet Secretary Dr. Andrew Mwiha Karanja, accompanied by Principal Secretary Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh, officially launched the Agriculture and Food Authority's (AFA) Strategic Plan for 2023-2027 in a ceremony that marked a new chapter for Kenya's agricultural sector.

In his address, Dr. Karanja lauded AFA's ambitious vision, emphasizing the need for all sectors to professionalize agriculture to realize a self-sufficient nation and sustainable food security. He highlighted the Strategic Plan as a comprehensive blueprint that outlines AFA's vision, mission, background, mandate, and key functions.

The plan positions AFA at the heart of national development priorities, while also aligning with regional and international development frameworks. It underscores the critical role of linkages and collaborations in achieving the set strategic objectives.

A thorough evaluation of the previous 2017-2022 Strategic Plan was conducted, identifying key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. Additionally, an environmental scan was carried out to assess internal and external factors, with key stakeholders identified and their expectations carefully analyzed.





The Miwa Bora App

Curious about the sucrose content in your cane? Want to assess its fiber levels or address any concerns? Look no further! The AFA-Sugar Directorate's Cane Testing Units offer comprehensive testing services—absolutely free!

Discover the quality of your cane with precision and confidence. Simply Download the Miwa Bora App to learn more and submit your testing request today. Your pathway to better yields and informed decisions starts here!



Strengthening Border Compliance: KEPHIS Leads the Charge at Moyale Crossing

Ensuring that agricultural trade at Kenya's borders aligns with international standards is no small feat, particularly at the crucial Moyale border crossing with Ethiopia. To meet this challenge head-on, the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) is taking proactive steps to enhance compliance with stringent phytosanitary standards.

On July 29, 2024, KEPHIS leadership, led by Board Chairman Hon. Joseph M'Eruaki and Managing Director Prof. Theophilus Muthui, conducted a thorough assessment of the Moyale office's operations. This office plays a vital role in regulating plant materials entering and leaving the country, making it a linchpin in maintaining Kenya's agricultural integrity. To further bolster these efforts, the KEPHIS team held a courtesy meeting with the Deputy County Commissioner of Moyale and engaged with a multi-agency team.

This team included representatives from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), and others involved in revenue collection, public health, and security. Together, these agencies collaborate on joint inspections and border surveillance to ensure compliance with sanitary, phytosanitary, and import standards, in line with the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

This multi-agency approach is essential for promoting safe trade, supporting food and nutrition security, and ensuring the continued excellence of Kenya's agricultural sector. KEPHIS's leadership at the Moyale border is a testament to its commitment to upholding international standards and safeguarding the nation's agricultural future.

Enhancing Agricultural Trade: KEPHIS Champions Quality and Safety in Kenya's Exports

Kenya's agricultural sector is at a crossroads, facing significant challenges in maintaining the quality and safety of its exports—essential pillars for economic growth and food security. Rising to meet these challenges, the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), under the leadership of Chairman Hon. Joseph M'Eruaki and Managing Director Prof. Theophilus Mutui, has been actively engaging stakeholders and intensifying field surveillance efforts.

A recent visit to HM Clause Kenya Ltd in Timau, Laikipia County, underscored the critical importance of regulating the import and export of agricultural produce to meet international standards. HM CLAUSE, a global leader in vegetable seeds, exports to markets in France, the US, and Israel, making it a key player in the sector. KEPHIS's involvement ensures that such exports not only comply with international standards but also bolster Kenya's reputation as a reliable supplier of quality agricultural products.

The KEPHIS team also visited Equinox Horticulture Ltd and their Timau office, where they took a symbolic step towards environmental sustainability by planting trees. This gesture reflects KEPHIS's broader commitment to safeguarding both the agricultural landscape and the environment.

Timau, home to 25 companies producing cut flowers primarily for export, highlights the vital role of KEPHIS in promoting safe trade and securing the future of Kenya's agricultural sector. By ensuring adherence to international standards, KEPHIS is not just protecting Kenya's export markets but also enhancing the country's global agricultural standing.

HM • CLAUSE

HM HARRIS MORAN
SEED COMPANY

CLAUSE
VEGETABLE SEEDS



Strengthening Agriculture: KEPHIS Partners with Nyeri County for Sustainable Farming

In Kenya's agricultural landscape, the quality of inputs and the health of plant resources are crucial for boosting productivity and ensuring food security. Yet, challenges such as substandard inputs and environmental degradation continue to threaten both the economy and public health. In response, the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) is actively partnering with local governments to champion sustainable agricultural practices.

On August 1, 2024, KEPHIS Board and Senior Management, led by Chairman Hon. Joseph M'Eruaki, visited Nyeri County to strengthen these collaborative efforts. During the visit, the team met with Deputy Governor H.E. Kinaniri Waroe, underscoring their shared commitment to advancing the region's agricultural potential.

KEPHIS expressed its gratitude for the 15 acres of land allocated by the County Government at Wambugu Farm Agricultural Training Centre (ATC), where the new KEPHIS Nyeri offices and a demonstration farm will be established. This facility is set to provide farmers in Nyeri and the wider Central and Eastern Region Economic Block with essential services, including plant health assessments, seed certification, and plant variety development, all aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity.

The visit also included an engagement with KEPHIS Nyeri staff and a tree-planting activity at Wambugu Farm, symbolizing their dedication to environmental sustainability and community empowerment. This partnership between KEPHIS and Nyeri County not only addresses the immediate challenges in agriculture but also lays the groundwork for a robust and resilient agricultural sector in the region.

KEPHIS Embu Regional Office:

A Pillar of Agricultural Excellence in Kenya's Eastern Block

Ensuring the quality and safety of agricultural products across Kenya's expansive Eastern Regional Block is a formidable challenge, particularly given the diverse needs of its 12 counties. To meet this challenge head-on, the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) has established the Embu Regional Office as a crucial hub for Phytosanitary Services, playing a vital role in promoting safe trade and sustainable agricultural practices.

On August 2, 2024, as part of a weeklong tour, the KEPHIS Board and Senior Management, led by Chairman Hon. Joseph M'eruaki, visited the Embu office to reaffirm its importance in the region. The office is instrumental in providing essential services such as the issuance of Phytosanitary Certificates, Plant Import Permits, farm audits, and nursery inspections. These services ensure that farms adhere to high standards and comply with national and international regulations.

Beyond these core functions, the Embu office also offers advisory services and operates Mobile Plant Clinics, delivering expert guidance directly to farmers. This personalized support is key to enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability in the region.

The visit allowed KEPHIS leadership to engage directly with the dedicated staff, gaining insights into their operations and addressing the unique challenges they face. This tour underscores KEPHIS's unwavering commitment to safeguarding Kenya's plant resources, ensuring food security, and supporting the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) through enhanced service delivery across the Eastern region.

KEPHIS JKIA Tackles Export Challenges with Targeted Training for Exporters

Recent increases in document-related interceptions at destination markets have highlighted critical gaps in Kenya's export process. An assessment of these interceptions uncovered several issues, including a lack of awareness about phytosanitary certificate requirements and a disconnect between farms and logistics providers.

In response, KEPHIS JKIA organized a focused training session for exporters, emphasizing the proper processing of export documents, particularly the

phytosanitary certificate. The session attracted 84 participants from 55 companies, including key Business Membership Organizations. Together, they collaboratively developed a comprehensive document checklist designed to ensure zero interceptions moving forward.

This training underscored the importance of continuous education, especially as new exporters enter the market. Participants expressed their appreciation to the Managing Director for his prompt action and commended the KEPHIS staff for their unwavering dedication to facilitating safe and efficient trade.





Strengthening Ties: KALRO-Tea Research Institute and KTDA Toror Factory Enhance Collaboration

The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) Tea Research Institute initiated a comprehensive fertilizer application across all its fields. This crucial activity was meticulously overseen by the institute's director, Mrs. Lilian Kerio, and deputy director, Dr. Tony Maritim. Just two days later, the institute welcomed Evans Ragira, unit manager of KTDA Toror Factory—one of KALRO-TRI's key partners.

During his field tour, Ragira commended the institute for the timely and efficient execution of the fertilizer application. In a subsequent meeting with Mrs. Kerio and Dr. Maritim, they explored ways to deepen their collaboration, focusing particularly on improving leaf quality and addressing shared challenges. Ragira also expressed strong interest in the institute's cottage factory, which specializes in producing unique teas such as yellow, white, purple, and oolong, as highlighted by Dr. Ochanda.

The visit concluded with a tour of the plucking site, where Ragira interacted with tea pickers and clerks, listening to their challenges and emphasizing the importance of high-quality plucking practices. Both Mrs. Kerio and Dr. Maritim reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing agricultural practices and strengthening their partnership with Toror Factory, laying the groundwork for a more productive and collaborative future.



Global Partnership in Action: KALRO Hosts Nanjing Institute Delegation for Agricultural Mechanization Talks

KALRO warmly welcomed a distinguished delegation from the Nanjing Institute of Agricultural Mechanization (NIAM) in China for a pivotal meeting focused on advancing agricultural mechanization. The delegation, led by NIAM Institute Director Mr. Cao Guangqiao and Ms. Shao Yinghong, the first secretary for STI affairs at the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, engaged with KALRO's Director of the Agricultural Mechanization Research Institute (AMRI) and other key directors from Corporate Communication, Partnerships, and Business Development.

The meeting provided a platform for the visitors to delve into KALRO's recent advancements in agricultural mechanization. The discussions

explored various facets of mechanization and pinpointed potential areas for collaborative efforts. This strategic dialogue is part of KALRO's broader mission to push the boundaries of agricultural research and innovation.

Key topics included strategies for establishing and deepening cooperation between the two institutes, with a particular focus on increasing youth involvement in agriculture. The anticipated collaboration aims to enhance agricultural production, strengthen food security, and drive economic growth in Kenya.

This visit underscores a significant milestone in fostering international partnerships that promise to advance sustainable agricultural practices and technological progress in the region.



KALRO Hosts U.S. Delegation: Exploring Collaborative Opportunities for Agricultural Innovation

KALRO had the honour of welcoming a distinguished delegation from the United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS). The delegation comprised Damian Ferrese and Carol Kamau from the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, alongside Clemen Gehlhar, a USDA-FAS representative from Washington, D.C.

The focus of their visit was the Kenya Solar Cold Storage project, a USDA-funded initiative aimed at enhancing the storage of African Indigenous Vegetables and Orange-fleshed Sweet Potatoes during its pilot phase. The meeting provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the project's implementation and its potential impact on local agriculture.

Beyond the Solar Cold Storage project, the delegation explored additional areas for collaboration with KALRO. These included nutrition-supportive programs in schools, natural resource management, capacity building, value addition, and irrigation initiatives. This dialogue reflects a shared commitment to advancing agricultural practices and food security in Kenya.

The visit highlights the strong partnership between KALRO and USDA-FAS, aimed at improving agricultural productivity and supporting sustainable development. Through such collaborations, both organizations seek to enhance local communities' well-being and drive economic growth in the region.



Empowering Farmers: KALRO and Partners Showcase Climate-Smart Sorghum in Makueni



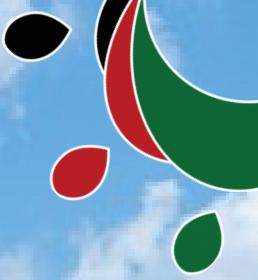


KALRO, in collaboration with CYMMIT and Makueni County, hosted a transformative farmer's field day in Muambu Ikungu village. Themed "Linking Farming Communities to Climate Smart Sorghum for Improved Livelihood," the event addressed the pressing challenges faced by farmers in Makueni County due to unpredictable climate conditions that jeopardize their staple crop production.

The field day was a beacon of hope, introducing newly released sorghum varieties—Dume, Jasiri, Smart, and Kamani. These varieties are engineered to be high-yielding, drought-resistant, and bird-tolerant, making them well-suited for commercialization and critical for bolstering food and nutrition security.

The event was graced by esteemed guests, including Ms. Joyce Mutua, the CEC for Agriculture of Makueni County. Attendees explored various exhibits featuring innovative products and technologies, gaining invaluable insights into climate-smart farming practices.

This knowledge-sharing platform equipped farmers with essential information on adopting these advanced sorghum varieties, providing them with practical solutions to enhance productivity and resilience against the impacts of climate change. The field day not only highlighted the potential of climate-smart agriculture but also fostered a sense of community and collaboration in tackling the challenges of modern farming.



Revolutionizing Maize Production: A Game-Changer for Africa's Food Security



In the heart of Africa, maize production faces a significant challenge: the labour-intensive process of detasseling, a critical step in hybrid seed production. This process not only demands substantial human resources but also drives up production costs, threatening food security and economic stability across the continent.

However, a groundbreaking solution has emerged from a dynamic partnership between the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Corteva Agriscience, the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), QualiBasic Seed Company (QBS), and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT). The Seed Production Technology for Africa (SPTA) project has introduced a revolutionary technique by harnessing a naturally occurring maize gene known as Ms44. This innovation eliminates the need for detasseling altogether, streamlining the production process and dramatically reducing costs.

On July 30, 2024, the SPTA project team showcased their progress to KALRO Senior Management and visited the demonstration site at KALRO Embu. The potential of this transformative technology was on full display, offering a glimpse into a future where high-quality seeds of modern maize varieties are more accessible to farmers and seed producers alike.

As the agricultural landscape evolves, this collaboration is set to revolutionize maize production efficiency, paving the way for a more sustainable and food-secure future for Africa. By addressing one of the most pressing challenges in seed production, this innovation promises to bolster food security and support economic growth across the continent.



Transforming Agriculture in Kenya: NAVCDP Empowers Small-Scale Farmers through Targeted Support

Kenya's agricultural sector, the backbone of the nation's economy, faces significant challenges in enhancing productivity and integrating small-scale farmers into the broader market. In response, the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP) was launched to empower farmers and elevate agricultural practices across 33 counties.

A cornerstone of this initiative is the appointment of Research Extension

Liaison Officers (RELOs), who will play a pivotal role in connecting the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) with county project coordination units, advisory service providers, and farmer groups. To prepare these RELOs for their critical responsibilities, KALRO's NAVCDP Coordination Office organized an induction workshop focused on the project's key intervention areas.



During the training, RELOs were equipped with the skills to identify research gaps and effectively communicate farmers' needs back to KALRO. This feedback loop ensures that the research and support provided are precisely aligned with the challenges farmers face. RELOs will collaborate closely with advisory service providers and farmer groups to disseminate relevant technologies and innovations, strengthening the entire agricultural value chain. Moreover, RELOs are tasked with preparing technical and annual reports detailing their achievements and activities. These reports will be shared with the respective counties, promoting transparency and accountability within the project.

This structured approach not only aims to boost agricultural productivity but also seeks to establish a sustainable framework for ongoing support and development in Kenya's agricultural sector. By bridging the gap between research and practical application, the NAVCDP is set to revolutionize farming in Kenya, benefiting smallholder farmers and contributing to food security across the region.



Milk Prices Surge as Consumption Hits Record Highs

The price of milk sold by farmers in Kenya surged by 5.7% to Sh49.9 per litre last year, according to the State Department for Livestock Development. This marks a notable increase from 2022, when farmers were receiving Sh47.2 per litre on average.

The price hike coincided with a rise in per capita milk consumption, which jumped from 78.3 to 86.1 litres. The increase offered some relief to dairy farmers, who were grappling with soaring costs of farm inputs like dairy meal.

To cushion producers from rising operational expenses, milk processors responded by raising farmgate prices. For instance, New KCC increased its purchase price from Sh45 to Sh50 per litre. President William Ruto, during a recent visit to Kobujoi Market in Aldai Constituency, Nandi County, urged New KCC to further raise the rate to Sh53.

Data from the Kenya Dairy Board reveals that in 2023, milk consumption soared to 755.34 million litres, a 7.33% growth, underscoring the increasing demand for dairy products across the country.



New Dairy Industry Bill to Transform Kenya's Dairy Sector with Key Reforms

The Dairy Industry Bill 2024 is set to revolutionize Kenya's dairy sector with the creation of a new regulatory body, the Kenya Dairy Authority (KDA). This entity will be tasked with overseeing and enhancing all aspects of the industry, positioning itself as the lead government agency for implementing dairy policies.

According to the Bill, "The Authority shall...exercise general supervision and coordination of matters related to the dairy industry and shall be the principal government agent in implementing policies on the dairy industry."

The KDA will have a wide mandate, including regulating and promoting the quality and safety of dairy products, managing imports and exports, advising on industry standards, and developing national and county-level policies. Its responsibilities also encompass overseeing the entire dairy production chain, from collection and processing to packaging, marketing, and storage, ensuring both local and imported products meet set standards.

Previously, many of these functions were handled by the Kenya Dairy Board, but the new Bill aims to streamline operations under the KDA. Additionally, the Authority will be responsible for enforcing industry standards, conducting research, and maintaining a national dairy database.

The Bill emphasizes the need for competitive pricing and consumer protection, with a focus on fostering a sustainable and globally competitive dairy industry. If passed into law, primary dairy producers will be required to register with county governments, although the Act exempts production for personal use.

The proposed changes also underscore the importance of ensuring all dairy operations, from equipment to premises, adhere to the highest standards. By promoting both domestic and international trade, the Bill aims to secure Kenya's position as a key player in the global dairy market.

Meru's Kibiru Feedlot Nears Completion, Promises Boost for Local Livestock Farmers

The Government's flagship Kibiru feedlot in Tigania West, Meru County, is on the brink of completion, marking a transformative step for local livestock farmers. The community feedlot, spearheaded by the State Department for Livestock Development, is designed to aggregate livestock from area cooperatives, fattening the animals in preparation for market, and ensuring farmers get maximum returns for their livestock.

During a recent project inspection, Livestock PS Jonathan Mueke expressed his satisfaction with the rapid progress. "Having broken ground just a few months ago,

I am happy with the speed of construction," he said.

The feedlot is set to offer a range of benefits beyond livestock fattening. It will provide clean water for the surrounding community and create an opportunity for local farmers to cultivate and sell fodder, offering an additional revenue stream. Once operational, the facility is expected to revolutionize livestock farming in the region, empowering local farmers and strengthening the market value of their livestock.





AI and Embryo Transfer Set to Revolutionize Livestock Breeding in Kenya

Kenya's livestock sector is undergoing a transformation, thanks to a cutting-edge breeding program spearheaded by the State Department of Livestock. The program has seen significant strides with the completion of the Goat Artificial Insemination (AI) Centre at Ndomba and the near-completion of an embryo transfer facility, now at 80% progress.

"Artificial insemination allows the widespread use of semen from genetically superior males, significantly enhancing overall productivity," said PS Jonathan Mueke of the State Department

for Livestock Development during a project inspection.

These technological advancements are expected to revolutionize livestock management, enabling farmers across the country to access superior breeding methods that will boost production, improve livestock quality, and increase profitability. The new facilities will play a pivotal role in modernizing the agricultural sector, positioning Kenya as a leader in livestock breeding innovation.



Modern Seed Dryer and Certified Seedlings Set to Transform Kenya's Agricultural Sector

Agriculture is the cornerstone of Kenya's economy, providing both sustenance and ensuring food security. In a strategic move to improve the sector's efficiency, PS Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh recently handed over a cutting-edge seed dryer and distributed certified Hass avocado and macadamia seedlings to farmers.

These initiatives are aimed at reducing post-harvest losses and enhancing the quality of

seeds, which in turn will lead to higher productivity. "These efforts are designed to ensure better outcomes for our dedicated farmers," said Dr. Ronoh.

With this investment in modern technology and quality seedlings, Kenya is positioning its agricultural sector for sustainable growth and improved livelihoods for its farmers.





Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
Development
Cathedral Road, Nairobi
P. O. Box 30028-00100 Kenya
E-mail: info@kilimo.go.ke
Telephone: +254-20-2718870
Hotline: 0800724891
www.kilimo.go.ke

#BETAKilimo



@kilimoKE



kilimo.ke



@kilimo.ke



kilimo_ke



Ministry of Agriculture
and Livestock
Development



Kenya Ministry of
Agriculture and Livestock
Development