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MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

KILIMO NEWS BULLETIN

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1.1 MEETING WITH DAIRY SECTOR PLAYERS



CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi joined H.E President William Samoei Ruto and Dairy sector players for an engagement forum on enhancing competitiveness and expanding value-added opportunities for Kenya's Dairy sector.

The government will distribute milk coolers to farmers through cooperative societies. Farmers will also be linked to processors as part of the Government's plan to boost milk quality, quantity, and prices.

The Government shall craft a plan together with the partners to empower farmers, processors owners and stakeholders in dairy value chain.

The Government is also tackling milk quality issues and finding ways to reduce costs for animal feds and packaging materials.



His Excellency President William Samoei Ruto on the September,2023 Officially opened the Nairobi International Trade Fair 2023.The President was taken through various agricultural exhibitions.

The President appealed to farmers and agri entrepreneurs to focus on value addition and mechanization to boost production incomes and trigger more job opportunities in the agricultural sector.

The President also highlighted the potential within agriculture, such as the hides and skin industry and the implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices in line with this year's theme: "Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth."

The President said the Trade Fair embraces sustainable agriculture and technologies to drive economic growth while safeguarding the environment.

The President also said elevating the Trade Fair was informed by agriculture being the prime mover of the nation's economic activity.

The President said agriculture and trade directly affect the performance of other sectors and are also affected by the activity in other spheres of economic pursuit.

The Trade Fair attracted various global exhibitors from sectors such as Agriculture and Manufacturing. The President got a chance to tour a variety of different exhibition stands from both the Government and Private sectors.

1.3 COFFEE FARMERS DELEGATION HELD IN COLOMBIA



H.E the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi were among Kenyan Delegation meeting of coffee farmers held in Colombia.

The Kenya Kwanza government is fully committed to revitalizing the coffee subsector to ensure that farmers receive the highest possible returns from their crops.

The Coffee event in Colombia was hosted by Vice President Francia Elena Márquez Mina. The delegation from Kenya explored the coffee value-chain alongside Kenyan farmers at the Naranjal Research Farm.

The knowledge of coffee production and policy practices will enhance efforts to support farmers in coffee value chain.

1.4 BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH INVESTORS FROM QATAR



The CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi conducted bilateral meetings with investors from Qatar who are interested in investing in Kenya's horticultural sector.

The CS signed an agreement with the Commissioner General of the Doha International Horticultural Expo, Bader Omar Al Dafa, to allow Kenyan horticultural sector players to participate in the six month long international expo.

Kenyan Horticultural sector players and agricultural agencies now have an avenue to showcase their products and expand their international market.

1.5 MOMBASA EXHIBITION



H.E the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi and Mombasa Governor interacted with farmers, exhibitors, and show goers, exploring new agricultural inventions and innovations.

The Exhibitors showcased nuts, edible oil seeds including sunflower, soybean, and coconut products meant for the market.

1.6 HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRY FORUM IN ELDORET



CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi attended the Horticulture industry stakeholders forum in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County. The Eldoret International Airport has a great potential of being an enabler of exporting agricultural produce.

The Ministry is searching for new international markets linkages for agricultural products produced by farmers in the country. Kenya is already exporting fresh produce to Israel and now will export avocados to India.

The improvement of Eldoret international Airport will bring about an easy avenue of transporting perishable produce to Nairobi and other International countries..

1.7 GATITU TEA FACTORY INSPECTION



CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi visited the Gatitu Tea Factory, Gichugu Constituency in Kirinyaga County for a routine inspection accompanied by the Nyayo Tea Zone Chairman.

The Ministry is determined to support full implementation of the Tea Act, 2020, to ensure reforms spelled out in the law are fully implemented.

1.8 UASIN GISHU COUNTY HERBS FARM



CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi visited a farmer from Uasin Gishu County.

The farmer has invested in herbs farming (basil) for the export market. Herbs farming are a new opportunity for the Kenyan farmers

1.9 CASHEWNUTS INDUSTRY IN COASTAL REGION



CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi attended a consultative baraza with the residents of Mkoroshoni, Kilifi North Constituency, Kilifi County, in regards to reviving the cashew nuts industry in the Coastal region.

The establishment of County aggregation centres will be the game changer in the agricultural value chain where farmers will sell their products at the accurate market prices



CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi flanked off NPK fertilizer at the Kenya Ports Authority in Mombasa, marking the first shipment of fertilizer purchased through KTDA to support tea farmers.

The government is keen on supporting tea farmers by making the fertilizer available up to the factory level. This fertilizer will be received at the port and then distributed to farmers via the SGR, reaching them at the nearest tea buying centers. The second shipment will arrive around mid-November.

The orthodox tea will increase farmers income due to the good prices it fetches in the market and the Government is keen to ensure farmers are ready to plant tea during short rains.

2.1 ACAT2023 OFFICIAL OPENING



CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi presided over the official opening of ACAT2023.

The CS said he is committed to creating an enabling environment for modern agricultural technology. The CS called on governments and organizations worldwide to collaborate with Kenya, in unlocking agriculture's potential for economic growth.

CS said that Science, Technology, and Innovation are key tools for food and nutrition security by combating climate change's impact on African agriculture through technology, together we will build agricultural resilience through innovation.



CS Ministry of Agriculture and Development Mithika Linturi attended the Farmers Field Day at Embu University.

He joined county embu officials and hundreds of farmers from Embu County together with Embu Governor H.E Cecily Mbarire, and other leaders during Field day.

The CS said that through the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), cashew nuts seedlings, avocado seedlings, macadamia seedlings, muguka seedlings, and bixar seedlings (a pilot sample) has being distributed to farmers for this planting season.

2.2 MERU TREE PLANTING DRIVE



The CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi alongside Soipan Tuya CS for Environment joined the Njuri Ncheke councils of elders and farmers in Meru County for Tree Planting Drive.

The Ministry of Environment, donated tree seedlings to support this effort. CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock development urged registered farmers countrywide to redeem their fertilizer vouchers at the nearest National Cereals & Produce Board Stores, as they prepare their farms for the upcoming rain.

2.3 KENYA SEED ANNUAL RESEARCH FIELD DAY TRANSNZOIA



CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi attended the Kenya Seed Company, Annual Research Field Day in Trans Nzoia County, at Elgon Downs Farm whose theme was "promoting affordable climate resilient seeds for food security and nutrition".

In line with the government's agenda of reducing the cost of farm inputs and increasing food production, the CS authorized Agriculture Development Cooperation Management to grant Kenya Seed Company additional land from their idle land for seed multiplication purposes.

Kenya Seed Company has assured farmers of enough Seeds in stock for the short rains and the Company is also adopting variety of seeds that are drought tolerant due to climate change and high yielding.

The NCPB has renovated their warehouses in readiness of the Government purchasing approximately one million bags for the National Food Reserve.

CS urged farmers to register in the upcoming farmer registration exercise to enable them to benefit from the government subsidy farm inputs including the subsidized fertilizer.



CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi officially opened the Africa Biennial Bioscience Communication Symposium at the Windsor Golf and Country Hotel in Nairobi.

The symposium brought together policy makers, bio safety regulators, scientists, communicators and other experts key in propelling biosciences innovations in the continent and globally.

CS appealed to scientists and all other agricultural stakeholders to develop ways of encouraging use of biotechnology across Africa to address food insecurity and climate change.

CS noted that scientists recognize enablers towards sustainable food and nutrition security. AU's Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 seeks to improve food security through new innovations.



The PS State Department for Agriculture Dr.Rono attended the National Cassava Conference and gave assurance to fully support the implementation of root tubers as a means of achieving food security.

The cassava value chain is amenable to numerous value additions, including flour. The PS asked every participant in the value chain to make sure that they adhere to the appropriate standards, starting with the farmers all the way to the international markets.

The PS said in order to support farmers, KALRO and KEPHIS to come up with cassava seed system.

2.6 SUBSIDIZED FERTILIZER MEETING



The PS State Department for Agriculture Dr.Rono has received an appraisal of the current situation of the subsidized fertilizers in the advent of the expected rains.

He met several agriculture stakeholders from different organizations. In the meeting the topic of discussion was subsidized fertilizers.

The PS said he will fast track the release of payment to the suppliers to facilitate seamless flow of supplies of fertilizer.



The CS Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi together with the Council of Governors-Kenya, came to an agreement to put Miraa Regulations 2023 into action, providing a much needed boost for Miraa farmers.

A signed agreement on the Miraa Regulations was presented to the Senate Committee legislation.

CS Mithika Linturi directed AFA Kenya to conduct Miraa farmers' sensitization forums on these regulations.

2.8 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET TALKS



The CS Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi alongside PS, State Department for Crops Development, Dr. Paul Rono and other state officers from the ministry appeared before the National Assembly's Committee on Agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development supplementary budget, was addressed and key concerns were raised by members.

2.9 OFFICIAL OPENING OF AGRICULTURAL SHOW IN KITALE



The Principal Secretary State Department for Agriculture Dr. Paul Rono officially opened Agricultural Society of Kenya Kitale National Show.

In the show the discussion involved promotion of smart agriculture and better agronomic practices to enhance food security in the Country.

3.0 LAUNCH OF NATIONAL HARVESTING PROGRAM



The PS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development State Department for Agriculture Dr.Paul Rono in conjunction with The Ministry of Public Service Performance & Delivery Management.

Launched a national crop harvesting programme "Vuna Mbegu Chuna Mbegu" in Kitale ADC Firms..



The Kenya Recipe Book 2018, includes recipes for frequently eaten cuisines. Kenya Stakeholders should make use of these helpful materials to encourage the development of a variety of foods.

The Government will work with development partners to raise public understanding of the nutritional benefits of various vegetables and the reasons people should grow and eat a variety of vegetables.

Consumers can choose nutritious foods for their health by learning the nutrient value of the vegetables.

Comparing the leaves of amaranth to cabbage, it is clear that amaranth contains three times as much protein and fibre, about seven times as much calcium, thirteen times as much iron, four times as much zinc, almost 300 times as much vitamin A, and four times as much folate

3.3 KIAMIS COMMUNICATION STRATEGY



A thorough understanding of innovation dissemination and social behaviour change principles, as well as their subsequent application into the communication strategy, are necessary for the effective transmission of KIAMIS.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Communications Division and FAO Kenya Communication division are currently working on developing the KIAMIS Communication Strategy.