



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR AGRICULTURE**

**PS TALKING NOTES DURING OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE KENYA
AGRICULTURE INTELLIGENCE PILOT PROJECT RADISSION BLU
HOTEL, NAIROBI 12TH FEBRUARY 2025**

- The government of Kenya has ambitious plan to transform the agricultural sector to drive the pillars of national food security, youth employment, increased earnings and exports, reduced imports of basic staples and climate change mitigation.
- Under the Bottom Up Transformation Agenda (BETA) driven by the current administration, the Ministry has prioritized key value chains that will receive maximum attention and support the farmers in order to drive the envisaged transformation.
- In order to transform agriculture, the MoALD intends to take the lead in leveraging data and digitalization as key drivers and enablers. The Ministry is therefore keen in generating, curating and utilizing data while at the same time using ICT to establish innovative, digital solutions.
- Our Ministry is also implementing the Kenya Digital Masterplan, which is aligned with the global technological advancements and supports the rapid rise of Kenya's digital economy and growing startups ecosystem. Within the Digital Masterplan, the government sees ICT as a critical enabler for key sectors such as agriculture, but also others including health, education, creative economy, among others.
- The MoALD has established the Big Data Centre at KALRO, which is one of the largest infrastructures for storing and safe-keeping of the data. Moreover, the Ministry has undertaken comprehensive registration of farmers with 6.4 Million farmers database. The Big Data center also hosts current and historical datasets generated by the national and county governments, state corporations, projects, private sector and other players.
- Technology changes very fast and with it comes constant innovations that transform almost everything from economics to businesses, livelihoods, the environment, communication, among others. Within the

framework of Fourth Industrial Revolution, the tools that have been deployed such as big data and machine learning, internet of things, drones, robotics, cloud computing, virtual reality, and so on, keep changing very fast. Now, the real game-changer is **Artificial Intelligence**, which we know is being embraced rapidly by the private sector, and hence we are happy to be associated with this tool and pilot it as part of government-led initiative.

- In Kenya, AI is being used in many ways, especially by the youths and agritech start-ups. In the social media, AI is being used, some negatively, others positively. The rapid adoption means that either you join early or fail to catch-up entirely if you are slow.
- The MoALD is grateful to the office of the Presidential Economic Transformation Secretariat (PETS) for identifying our Ministry to take lead in piloting the first government-led AI project
- Our Ministry wants to move faster with regards to digital agriculture. We are therefore very happy to get the support of Oracle company, to team up with our ICT, Data and Food security officers in order to pilot the Kenya Agriculture Intelligence project.
- I am informed that this project promises to help us monitor field crops, estimate crop yields, provide early warning information such as onset of pests, diseases or droughts; support real time data collection, reporting and creation of a single national dashboard with key indicators for monitoring food systems; provide a feedback mechanism to the government on the impact of policy interventions, among others.
- Our Ministry is ready to take on this pilot project and show-case the value of technology. In this regard, I have set up a national AI technical Committee which will build on this project and others to embrace the AI tool for real agricultural transformation. We also hope to avail staff who will go through various learning stages and apply their AI skills in managing other activities, including the normal office work.
- I thank you all for joining us this morning to launch the inaugural Kenya Agriculture Intelligence Pilot project. I therefore declare this meeting officially opened.