



ASDSP II

SUCCESS STORIES

Kiambu County

Acknowledgement

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to the successful completion of the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) in Kiambu County.

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Thank you all.

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ASDSP II Background

Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP II) sought to address the challenge that hinder commercialization of Agriculture as an objective of the Agriculture Policy. ASDSP II has been relevant to the policy since the programme outcomes focused on the realization of this goal. Embedded in the Agriculture Policy is the Agriculture Sector transformation and Growth strategy (ASTGS). This strategy focuses to increase small-scale farmers' incomes, increase agricultural output, value addition and increase household food resilience. The Bottom-up Economic Transformation Plan of 2022-2027 on the other hand proposes to transform 2 million poor farmers into surplus producers through input finance and intensive agricultural extension support, enhance the productivity of key value chains. This is targeted to reduce the dependence on basic food imports by 30% through supporting local production and revitalization of export crops. The value chain development applied by the ASDSP II programme in Kiambu County was anchored on the background of these strategies and sought to increase the production and productivity of the three value chains namely Bananas, Indigenous chicken and Dairy cow milk. To achieve this objective the programme was structured as follows;

Programme Goal: In line with Agriculture policy the aim of ASDSP II was to contribute to “Transformation of crop, livestock and fisheries production into commercially oriented enterprises that ensure sustainable food and nutrition security”.

Programme Purpose: To Develop Sustainable Priority Value Chains for Improved Income, Food and Nutrition Security”.

To achieve the goal and the purpose, the programme had four outcome areas as follows;

Outcome 1: Productivity of Value chains Increased

Productivity is generally expressed as a ratio of revenue over inputs. Low productivity along the whole value chain has been identified as one of the key barriers to commercialization of the Agricultural Sector affecting VCAs at all levels. This has led to low production levels and irregular supply of traded value chain commodities for industry among many others resulting in low incomes. The production of the priority value chain is generally low as per the yields recorded. The production in dairy cow milk value chain was 8 litres per day compared to the average potential of 10 litres per day, indigenous

chicken average of 1.2 kg dressed weight compared to the potential of 1.5 kg dressed weight and banana yields were 18 tons per hectare compared to the potential of 24 tonnes per hectare.

Outcome 2: Entrepreneurship of priority value chain actors Enhanced

Inadequate or lack of entrepreneurial skills was found to be a key factor inhibiting commercialization of agriculture. This challenge was reported to cuts across women, men and youth although the levels of education and culture were different. The Government through ASDSP II aimed to facilitate a change in mind-set by ensuring that its financial support to VCD interventions is perceived as 'investments'. Thus, VC analysis, planning and interventions was based on market analysis and business planning. The expected outcome was increased incomes and commercialization.

Outcome 3: Access to Markets by VCA Improved

The objective of this outcome was to improve access to markets by Value Chain Actors. It was targeted to be achieved through three intervention strategies:

1. Improving market access linkages for priority VCAs
2. Improving access to market information by VCAs
3. Improving access to financial services by VCAs

Outcome 4: Structures and capacities for consultation, cooperation and coordination in the sector Strengthened

This outcome focused on strengthening structures and capacities for consultation, collaboration, cooperation and coordination in the Sector. This was realized through 4 strategies:

- Supporting initiatives for establishment of structures for consultation, cooperation and coordination.
- Enhancing capacities of established structures for consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Enhancing participation of stakeholders in consultation, cooperation and coordination structures
- Preparation, launching and roll-out of Sector policies, strategies, regulations and plans.

The achievements of this outcome were measured by the following indicators: the number of policies, strategies, plans and regulations formulated and or reviewed and implemented, and the percentage of VCAs satisfied with structures for consultation and coordination (by gender.)



The Role of ASDSP in Banana Value Addition and Processing

(A woman from the Arise and Shine Self Help Group serving porridge made out of banana flour to her family)

The Abundance of Banana Production in Kenya

In the flourishing hills and fertile valleys of Kenya, the story of banana production unfolds as a tale of transgenerational sustenance. Here, where the land is generous and the climate favorable, bananas have become a lifeline for countless communities. With over 400,000 smallholder farmers cultivating this golden fruit, banana farming supports nearly 1.5 million Kenyans directly and indirectly. Each year, these farmers harvest over 1.5 million metric tons of bananas, making it one of the country's most significant crops (FAO, 2022).

Be that as it may, the Kenyan banana sector has been unable to reach its full potential. This has been due to a variety of challenges most notably poor crop varieties, lack of value addition, and inadequate market linkages. It is for these reasons that the Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDSP) set out to partner with banana farmers in Kiambu County.

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME



(Members of The Arise and Shine Self Help Group receiving expert training on banana value addition)

Innovative Value Addition in Kamburu-Kamuchege Ward

In the scenic region of Kamburu-Kamuchege Ward in Lari Sub County, a community group known as the Arise and Shine Self-Help Group (SHG) is rewriting the narrative of banana farming through innovative value addition practices.

As we enter their lush premises we are welcomed by a grateful Mr. Emmanuel Kyuna who is the Secretary of the group. Soon after Mr Kyuna shares their journey from traditional farming to becoming a model of

agricultural innovation and economic resilience. “Established in 2013,” begins Mr Kyuna, “The Arise and Shine SHG had 13 members dedicated to growing indigenous crop varieties, including bananas and cassava. However, our early efforts were hampered by the lack of monetary and technical support needed to upscale our farming activities. The traditional banana varieties we cultivated were also ravaged by diseases from time to time, leading to low yields and significant losses.”



(Members of The Arise and Shine SelfHelp Group inspecting banana slices in their solar dryer)

The Intervention of ASDSP

On the backdrop of these challenges, The Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) stepped in to offer the much-needed support. Through ASDSP, the group received comprehensive technical training on pest control, production enhancement, harvesting techniques, and value addition processes.

This intervention marked a turning point for the group. ASDSP also provided the group with critical resources, including a solar dryer, market linkages through the Banana Value Chain Platform, and a milling machine. These tools and connections were instrumental in transforming their banana farming operations.



(An image of the milling machine that The Arise and Shine Self Help Group received from ASDSP)

Addressing Surplus and Reducing Losses

The training and resources led to a remarkable increase in production. At one point, the group faced the challenge of having more bananas than they could sell, resulting in some of the produce rotting away in the farms. To address this, ASDSP helped the group set up a banana value addition system, enabling them to process their bananas into flour. The milling machine played a crucial role in reducing post-harvest losses, which were previously exacerbated by the long distances required to access milling facilities.

With the new value addition capabilities, the group established a table banking system. Members contribute Sh300 monthly, creating a fund that supports both agricultural and domestic needs. This financial structure has provided members with easier access to funds and has been pivotal in sustaining their agricultural activities.



(An image of the slicer that The Arise and Shine Self Help Group received from ASDSP)

Improved Household Nutrition and Economic Impact

The benefits of the value addition system are evident. Members like Mrs Anne Njambi testify to improved household nutrition as they now consume porridge made from their own banana flour.

For Mr Kyuna, the financial stability brought about by value addition has been significant. He saves money by using banana flour instead of purchasing maize flour, reflecting the economic impact of the initiative.



(A woman from The Arise and Shine Self Help Group preparing porridge from banana flour in her kitchen)

Youth Involvement

The group sells the banana flour at Sh200 per kilogram, with members being the primary consumers. The collective effort has been particularly beneficial for younger members like Mr John Mbugua. “Since joining the group about six months

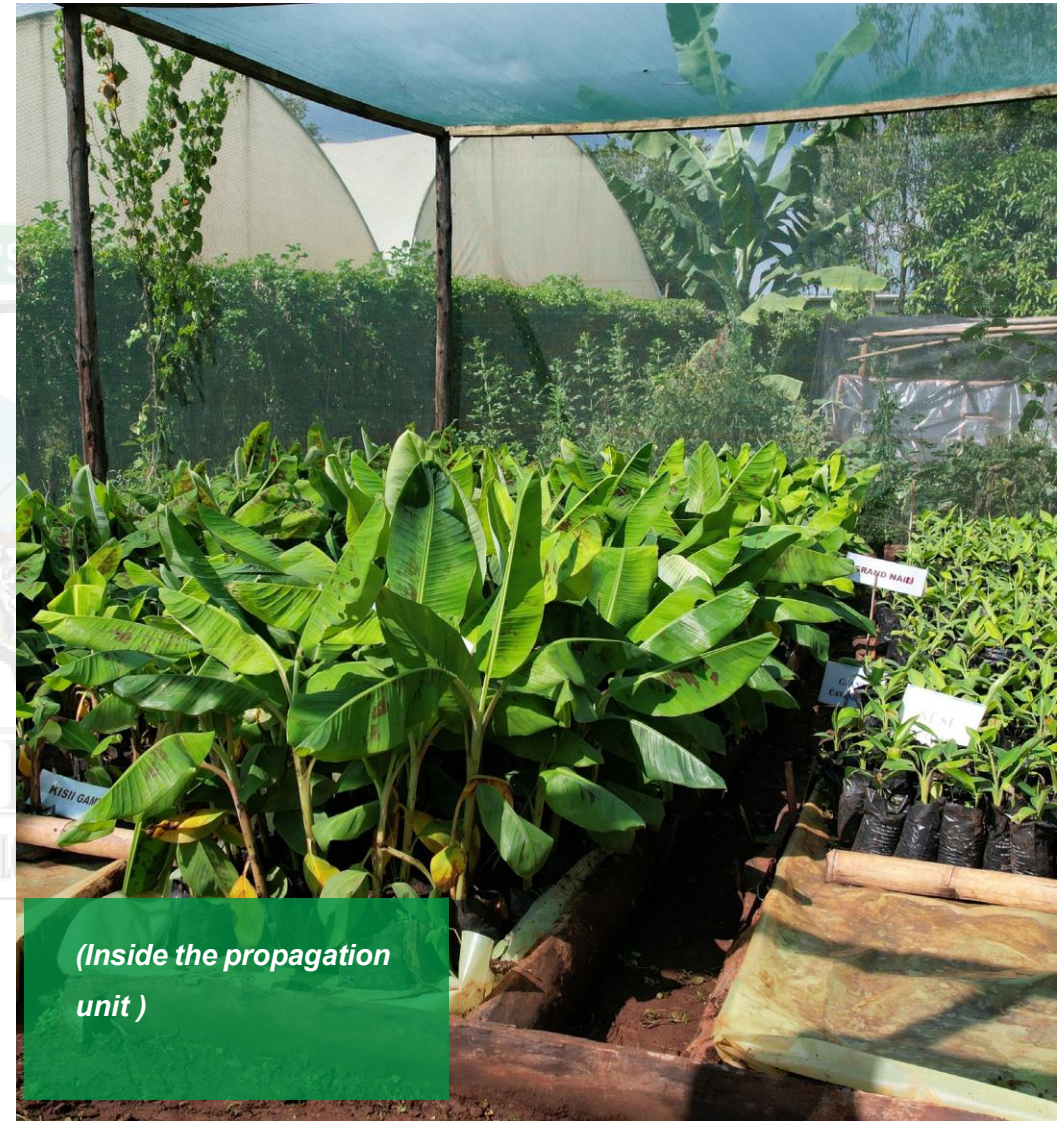
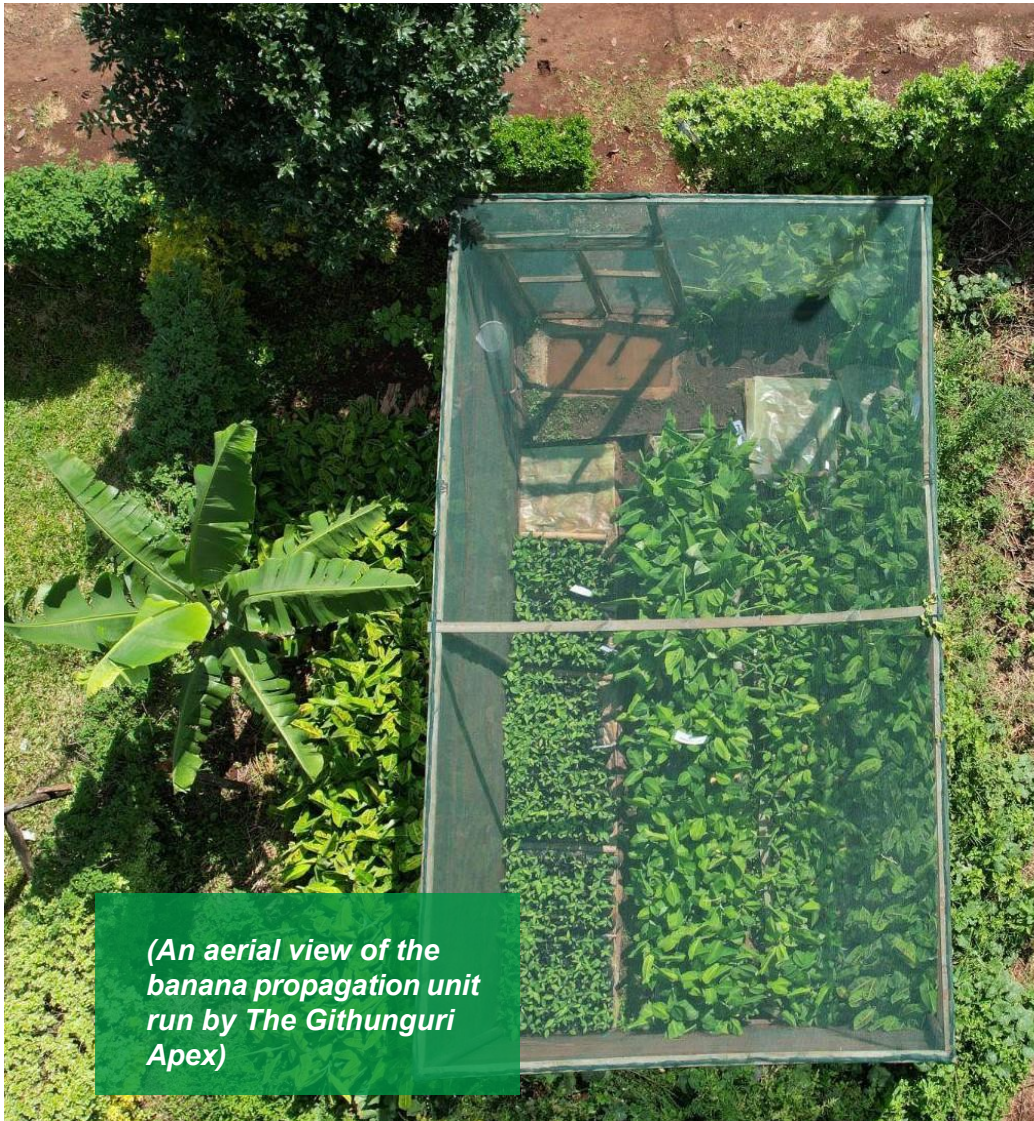
ago, I’ve been able to reap the benefits of the collective effort of the members. This has been quite a blessing as I was not able to start my individual value addition process before due to the large expense required,” says a joyful Mr Mbugua.



(A member of The Arise and Shine Self Help Group enjoying a cup of banana flour porridge)

Future Ambitions and Gratitude

Looking to the future, the Arise and Shine SHG aims to sustain and expand their successes. They plan to purchase a new dryer to increase their production capacity and ensure the generational continuity of their agricultural enterprise by training their children to start their own banana farming ventures. The group also has ambitions to diversify their products through baking and to enhance their market reach by packaging and shelving their products in supermarkets. “Personally,” concludes Mr Kyuna, “I am grateful to ASDSP for not only exposing me to new knowledge but also providing linkages to more partners across the value chain.” The journey of the Arise and Shine SHG is a powerful example of how strategic support and innovative practices can transform agricultural communities, ensuring a future of growth, sustainability, and sweet success.



How ASDSP is Revolutionizing Banana Production and Marketing

In Kiambu County, Kenya, bananas, known as “marigo” in the Kikuyu language, have played a dual role as a dietary staple and a crucial economic driver. Over the years, the demand for increased banana production has grown, necessitating effective agricultural practices and support systems. The Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP II) in Kiambu County has risen to this challenge, empowering farmers through training and innovative equipment to boost yields and enhance the quality of banana produce. This initiative has not only significantly bolstered food security but also ensured sustained livelihoods for farmers across the region.

Formation of Githunguri Apex: Strengthening Collaboration for Prosperity

Central to ASDSP II’s success has been the formation of the Githunguri Apex, an umbrella organization representing 15 registered banana farmer groups in Kiambu County. This collective effort has proven instrumental in making banana farming more profitable and sustainable. By pooling resources and expertise, the Apex has addressed common challenges such as access to quality planting materials and knowledge gaps in banana husbandry. Esther Wariara and Humphrey Njoroge, key members of the Githunguri Apex, have highlighted the program’s impact in equipping farmers with essential skills—from cultivation best practices to pest management and post-harvest handling.



(Mrs Esther Wainaina, a farmer from The Githunguri Apex, helping a client load tissue culture banana seedlings onto his motorbike)

Tissue Culture Banana Hardening Nursery: A Game-Changer for Sustainable Productivity

Before ASDSP II's intervention, accessing disease-free and high-yielding banana plants has been a major hurdle for farmers in Kiambu County. Recognizing this need, the program has established a 1,500-capacity tissue culture banana hardening nursery and propagation unit. Esther Wariara and Humphrey Njoroge have emphasized the nursery's significance in providing reliable planting materials, which has significantly boosted production levels and ensured sustainable productivity

Promoting Value Addition and Collective Marketing: Expanding Market Horizons

Beyond training and planting materials, ASDSP II has focused on adding value to bananas, enabling farmers to secure better prices and maximize profits. By organizing farmers into groups, the program has facilitated collective efforts in value addition and marketing strategies. These groups have undergone training in processing bananas into various products—banana flour, blended flour, baked goods, and dried green banana chips. Ayub Njuguna, a beneficiary, has underscored the transformative impact of these initiatives in opening new market opportunities and securing higher incomes for farming families.



(Members of The Githunguri Apex receiving training on tissue culture banana propagation)

Addressing Ripening Challenges: Introducing Modern Technologies for Market Standards

ASDSP II has also addressed specific challenges like inconsistent ripening practices among banana farmers in Kiambu County. At Moi Market in Thika, the program has supported the Moi Market Banana Ripeners by establishing a state-of-the-art banana ripening chamber. This innovation has ensured uniform ripening of bananas to meet market standards, enhancing customer satisfaction and increasing sales for farmers. The chairperson of the Moi Market Banana Ripeners has noted the chamber's transformative effect, which has revolutionized operations and improved overall profitability.



(Members of The Moi Market Banana Ripeners removing ripe bananas from the ripening chamber that ASDSP got for them)

Conclusion: A Vision for Sustainable Growth and Community Prosperity

ASDSP II's comprehensive approach to supporting the banana value chain in Kiambu County has yielded remarkable results. By addressing critical challenges, providing essential training, and facilitating access to modern agricultural technologies, the program has empowered farmers to increase productivity and improve the quality of banana produce. Moreover, by promoting value addition and collective marketing, ASDSP II has enabled farmers to secure better prices, enhancing their livelihoods and ensuring sustained economic benefits.



(A member of The Moi Market Banana Ripeners engaging a client looking to purchase bananas)

The success of the Githunguri Apex and individual farmer groups has underscored the transformative power of collaboration, innovation, and strategic support. ASDSP II's efforts have not only boosted agricultural productivity but also uplifted the entire community by creating numerous opportunities for growth and prosperity. As banana farming continues to thrive in Kiambu County, ASDSP II remains committed to fostering sustainable development and improving living standards for farmers across the region. Together, farmers and ASDSP II have built a brighter and more resilient future—one banana at a time.

STORE



**KIRIITA DAIRY FARMERS
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
LIMITED**

VISION:
The daily of choice in quality production, collection, Processing and marketing of milk And milk products countrywide.

MISSION:
To enhance production, collection, processing and marketing through provision of quality support services to improve the welfare of the members and other stakeholders.

CORE VALUES:

- Visionary
- Integrity and accountability
- Team work
- Innovation
- Customer focus
- Professionalism



Coordination and Cooperation in the Dairy Cooperatives

(The Kiriita Dairy Agro Shop)

Dairy production is a critical component of Kenya's agricultural sector, underpinning both the economy and the livelihoods of millions. Engaging over 1.8 million smallholder farmers, the dairy industry supports nearly 10% of the nation's population (Kenya Dairy Board, 2021). These farmers collectively produce more than 5.2 billion liters of milk annually, making Kenya the leading milk producer in East Africa (FAO, 2022).

The sector contributes approximately 4% to Kenya's GDP, underscoring its economic significance (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2023). Beyond its economic impact, dairy farming plays a vital role in enhancing food security and promoting rural development across the country (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, 2023).

Background

In the heart of Kenya's dairy sector lies Kiriita Dairy Cooperative, a long-standing pillar of the community founded in 1961 with just 30 farmers. Today, it boasts a total membership of 7,200, with 750 active members contributing to a daily milk collection of 7,500 liters.

The cooperative's success is mirrored in the Kiambu County Dairy Farmers Association, founded in 2019 in response to challenges in milk production, marketing, and pricing.

"At inception," reports Mr. Peter Mwangi Mbugua, Chairman of both Kiriita Dairy Cooperative and Kiambu County Dairy Farmers Association, "farmers were being paid an average of Sh 23 per liter with the production cost standing at Sh 32 per liter." The Association, with its active membership of 18 Dairy Cooperative Societies, aimed to unify farmers to gain more bargaining power and better control over the market.



*An aerial view of the
Kiriita Dairy premises*



**KIRIITA
DAIRY**

*(Kiriita Dairy Chairman
Mr Peter Mbugua (right)
having a word with one
of the workers)*

Challenges Before ASDSP Intervention

Before the intervention of the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP), farmers were not maximizing the use of cow dung, a valuable resource that could be transformed into biogas for energy and fertilizer for improved fodder production. This inefficiency contributed to higher production costs and lower profitability for dairy farmers.

Support from ASDSP

The collaboration with ASDSP has been transformative for the Kiambu County Dairy Farmers Association. Through this partnership, all the cooperatives have come together to share knowledge on sexed semen, a technology that enhances the quality and quantity of milk production. Additionally, ASDSP has provided comprehensive training for dairy farmers, managers, and quality assurance personnel, significantly boosting the operational standards across the cooperatives.





(Kiriita Dairy Chairman, Mr Peter Mbugua (centre) addressing ASDSP's Mrs Eunice Wainaina (left) and a worker concerning the sexed semen that they received from the program)

Improvements and Achievements After ASDSP Intervention

Some farmers, including Mr. Peter Mwangi Mbugua, have also benefited directly from the provision of biogas systems and improved fodder varieties such as Bracharia and Desmodium. These resources have been crucial in enhancing the sustainability and efficiency of dairy farming operations.

The tangible benefits of the ASDSP partnership are evident across the Kiambu Dairy Value Chain. The imminent distribution of sexed semen is set to revolutionize breeding practices, ensuring higher milk yields and better quality cattle. Improved management practices, fostered through training and shared knowledge, have elevated the overall efficiency of dairy operations.

Enhanced fodder has led to significant improvements in milk production among farmers. The introduction of biogas systems has not only reduced energy costs for households but has also promoted environmental sustainability by utilizing cow dung effectively.



(A worker from The Kiriita Dairy testing the quality of milk)

Future Prospects and Sustainability

Looking ahead, the Kiambu County Dairy Farmers Association anticipates a substantial increase in dairy production due to better breeding practices and improved farm management. The Association's vision is one of sustained growth and enhanced market presence, driven by the collective efforts of its members.

To ensure the sustainability of the benefits received from ASDSP, the Association plans to implement rigorous monitoring and evaluation processes. These measures will help track progress, identify areas for improvement, and ensure that the support provided continues to yield positive outcomes for the farmers.

Conclusion

The journey of Kiriita Dairy Cooperative and the Kiambu County Dairy Farmers Association highlights the transformative power of coordination and strategic partnerships in the agricultural sector. Through the support of ASDSP, these dairy cooperatives have not only improved their production capabilities but have also fostered a spirit of collaboration and innovation among their members. As they look to the future, the continued focus on sustainable practices and improved management promises a prosperous and resilient dairy industry in Kenya.



(Dairy farmers Mr James Kamau (right) and Mr Daniel Muratha)

Dairy Production and Value Addition

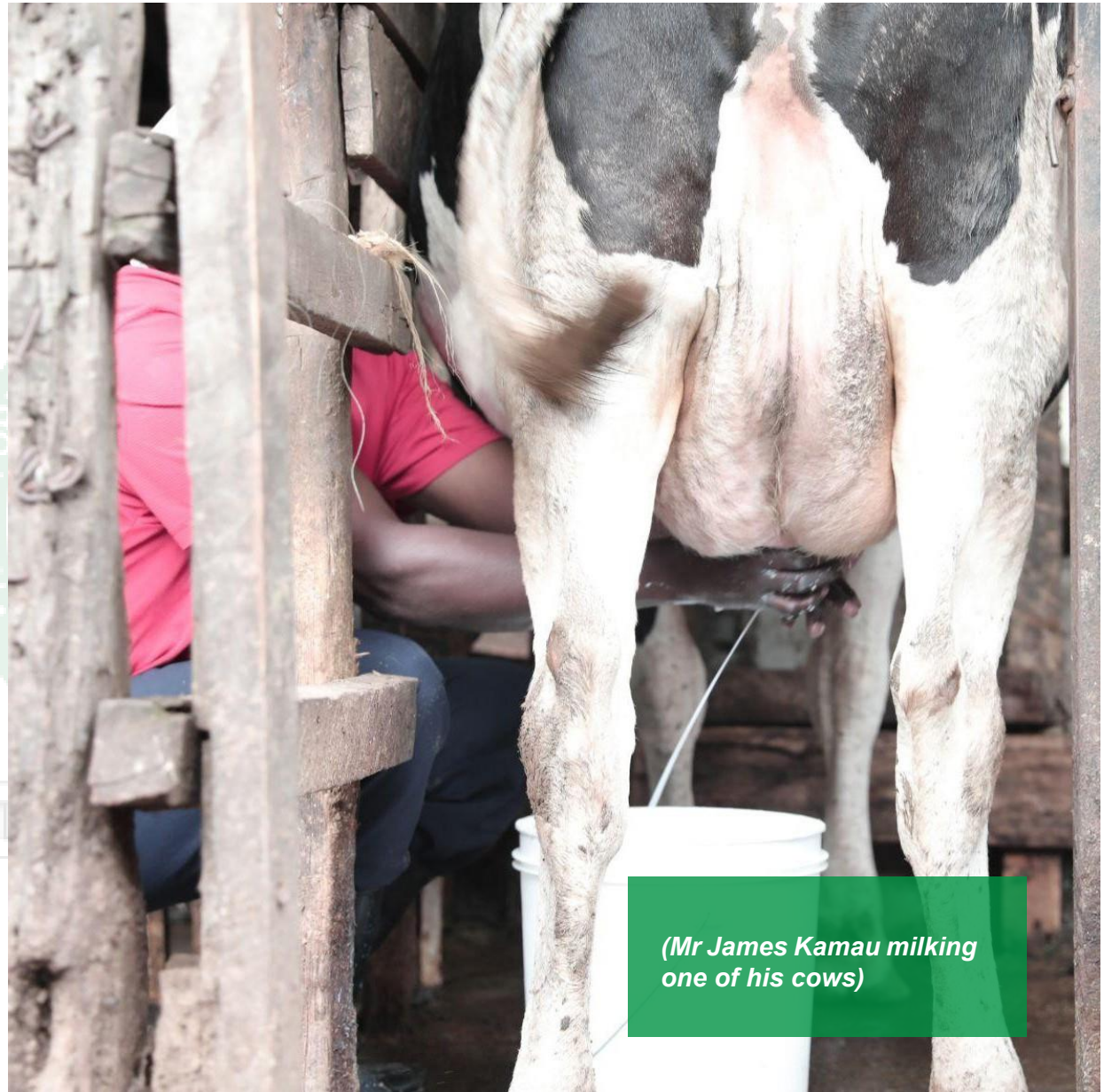
In the picturesque region of Kirenga Ward, Lari Sub County, dairy farming has undergone a remarkable transformation, thanks to the dedicated efforts of farmers and the support of the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP). Two farmers, Mr. James Kamau and Mr. Daniel Muratha, stand out for their significant achievements and contributions to the local dairy industry.

Mr. James Kamau embarked on his dairy farming journey in 2012 after taking early retirement. Meanwhile, Mr. Daniel Muratha began his venture into dairy farming in 2017, following his relocation from Nairobi. For Mr. Muratha, dairy farming was a return to his roots, as he started by building shelter for traditional cow breeds familiar from his childhood.

Initially, these cows produced only 5 to 6 liters of milk per day, primarily for domestic consumption. In contrast, Mr. Kamau managed a herd of 10 cows, each yielding an average of 8 liters of milk daily. However, both farmers faced significant challenges, particularly due to limited training and information on critical aspects of dairy farming, such as feed growing, feed preservation for the dry season, feed programming, breeding, and disease management.

The Intervention of ASDSP

Recognizing these challenges, ASDSP stepped in to provide comprehensive support. The programme offered in-depth training on various aspects of dairy farming, including breeding, calf rearing, feed mixing, fodder preservation through silage, value addition, and record keeping. This intervention proved to be a game-changer for both Mr. Kamau and Mr. Muratha.



(Mr James Kamau milking one of his cows)

Impact of ASDSP

The training on feed mixing enabled the farmers to reduce the cost of dairy meal by teaching them how to buy raw materials and mix the food themselves. This practical knowledge led to significant improvements in milk production. Mr. Kamau's cows, for instance, saw an impressive increase in milk yield from 8 liters to 18 liters per cow per day, representing a 125% boost.

Similarly, Mr. Muratha experienced a remarkable rise in milk production, with his cows producing 16 liters each daily, up from the initial 5 liters.

The enhanced milk production, coupled with training on value addition, allowed Mr. Kamau to invest in a yogurt pasteurizer. This investment enabled him to produce yogurt, adding a new revenue stream to his dairy business. On the other hand, the increased proceeds from milk sales enabled Mr. Muratha to finance his brother's education up to the tertiary level, illustrating the profound impact of improved dairy farming on the wider community.



(Mr James Kamau taking milk from his farm to his gate for selling)



(Mr James Kamau operating his yoghurt pasteurizer)

Both farmers also capitalized on direct sales, offering fresh milk at their farm gates. Additionally, Mr. Kamau diversified his income by rearing and selling calves. He credits the record-keeping training from ASDSP for teaching him how to effectively manage his production costs and revenue streams.

“I know how to separate sales made from fresh milk from the ones made from yogurt because of the record-keeping training that I received from ASDSP. This has enabled me to know how to properly manage my cost of production, thereby increasing revenue,” he explains.

The increased revenue also facilitated the purchase of a milking machine, enhancing efficiency when milk production was too high for manual milking.



(An image of Mr James Kamau's yoghurt brand)

Sustaining and Scaling Up

Looking ahead, both farmers are optimistic about the future. They plan to sustain the gains made through upscaling their operations. Mr. Kamau, for example, anticipates a further increase in his herd, having learned about the benefits of zero grazing from ASDSP. He also aims for greater market penetration, leveraging the skills and knowledge gained from the program.

Gratitude and Future Collaborations

The transformative impact of ASDSP on their lives and businesses has left a lasting impression on both farmers. "This partnership has been life-transforming," Mr. Kamau concludes. "I not only want to thank ASDSP for their matchless support but also welcome them again and again for future collaborations." This heartfelt gratitude underscores the profound difference that strategic support and training can make in the lives of smallholder farmers, paving the way for a more prosperous and sustainable dairy industry in Kenya.



**MUGUGA DAIRY
FARMERS CO-OPERATIVE
SOCIETY LIMITED**
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(A horizontal view of The Muguga Dairy Cooperative Society's premises)

Reduction of Post Harvest Losses using Lactoscans

In the serene landscapes of Muguga, a remarkable transformation in dairy farming practices has unfolded, driven by the diligent efforts of Muguga Dairy Cooperative and the strategic support from the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP).

Led by Chairman Mr. Kamau wa Kinyagia and Manager Mr. Ephantus Njoroge Wainaina, Muguga Dairy Cooperative has become a beacon of progress and innovation in Kiambu's and Kenya's dairy sector as a whole.

Muguga Dairy began its journey in 2004 as a self-help group with just 37 members, collectively bringing 180 liters of milk per day. By the time it was registered as a Cooperative Society in 2015, the membership had grown to 300, with 150 active contributors. Despite this growth, the cooperative faced significant challenges, particularly in managing post-harvest losses and ensuring quality control.



(A worker from The Muguga Dairy helping a farmer unload milk from his motorbike)

Before the intervention of ASDSP, Muguga Dairy struggled with substantial milk wastage due to a lack of customers and ineffective quality control measures.

This not only led to low pricing of their products but also considerable financial losses, reaching up to Ksh 30,000 per day. Unscrupulous farmers adulterating milk further exacerbated the problem.

Additionally, local competition and a lack of proper training in various aspects of dairy management hindered their progress. By this time, the cooperative had grown to 500 farmers, yet the challenges remained daunting.



(A worker from The Muguga Dairy operating the Lactoscan that the Cooperative received from ASDSP)

Intervention by ASDSP

The turning point came in 2015 when Muguga Dairy Cooperative began partnering with ASDSP. The program provided the cooperative with a lactoscan, a crucial tool for testing milk quality.

This significantly enhanced their quality assurance processes, reducing the losses they had previously faced. Furthermore, the cooperative received sexed semen to increase their stock, benefiting from the advocacy and resources of the Kiambu Dairy Cooperative Society through a platform called KIKO.

ASDSP also delivered comprehensive training in various critical areas, including milk quality control, milk disposal, waste management, office management, and record keeping. This holistic approach equipped the cooperative with the knowledge and tools necessary to elevate their operations.



Impact of ASDSP

The benefits of ASDSP's intervention were immediate and substantial. The introduction of lactoscans drastically improved milk quality assurance, reducing losses and increasing profitability. Farmers eagerly anticipate a boost in milk production as the sexed semen matures.

Additionally, ASDSP-funded biogas systems installed on farms, like that of Mr. Joseph Ndung'u wa Gachoka have had a transformative impact.

"I used to use a minimum of Sh 4000 to buy gas each month. With the biogas provided by ASDSP, I am now able to redirect that money to other needs, such as the treatment of the foot and mouth disease which has been affecting my cows. This has been a real lifesaver," reports a grateful Mr. Gachoka. The bio slurry produced by his digester has also significantly enhanced his farm's productivity.

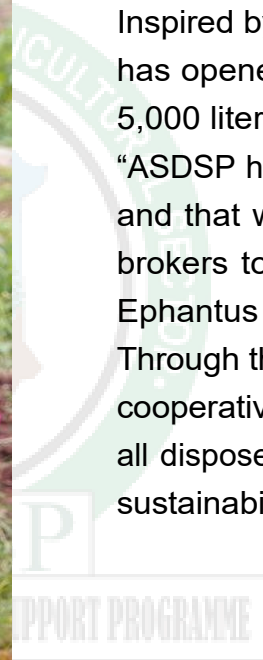


(Mrs Gachoka and her worker making biogas from cow dung)

Currently, Muguga Dairy Cooperative boasts 700 farmers, collectively providing about 6,000 liters of milk per day. The cooperative pays farmers Sh 50 per liter and sells the milk at Sh 65 per liter, ensuring fair compensation and profitability. Inspired by ASDSP's teachings, the cooperative has opened 10 milk bars, selling an average of 5,000 liters per day.

"ASDSP has taught us that market is everywhere and that we do not have to be at the mercy of brokers to profit from our efforts," remarks Mr. Ephantus joyfully.

Through the training on waste management, the cooperative has installed a septic tank, recycling all disposed water, and promoting environmental sustainability.





(Mr Gachoka's daughter Nyambura preparing a cup of tea using biogas)

Future Plans and Gratitude

To sustain the progress made, Muguga Dairy Cooperative plans to strengthen their advocacy through KIKO and explore further partnerships. They aim to expand biogas installations for more farmers and acquire a bigger homogenizer and pasteurizer to enhance marketability.

Expressing heartfelt gratitude, Mr. Kamau remarks, "Above all, we would like to thank ASDSP for partnering with us to transform the lives of our farmers. Their invaluable insights and unwavering support will forever be cherished."



(A worker from The Muguga Dairy pouring milk into a chiller)

The journey of Muguga Dairy Cooperative, with the support of ASDSP, illustrates the profound impact of strategic intervention and training in transforming the dairy farming landscape. The cooperative's success story serves as an inspiring model for sustainable agricultural development, fostering economic growth and improving livelihoods in Kenya.



ASDSP's Role in Empowering Dairy Farmers: A Transformation Story of Mang'u Progressive Dairy Cooperative

(An aerial view of The Mang'u Progressive Dairy Cooperative Society)

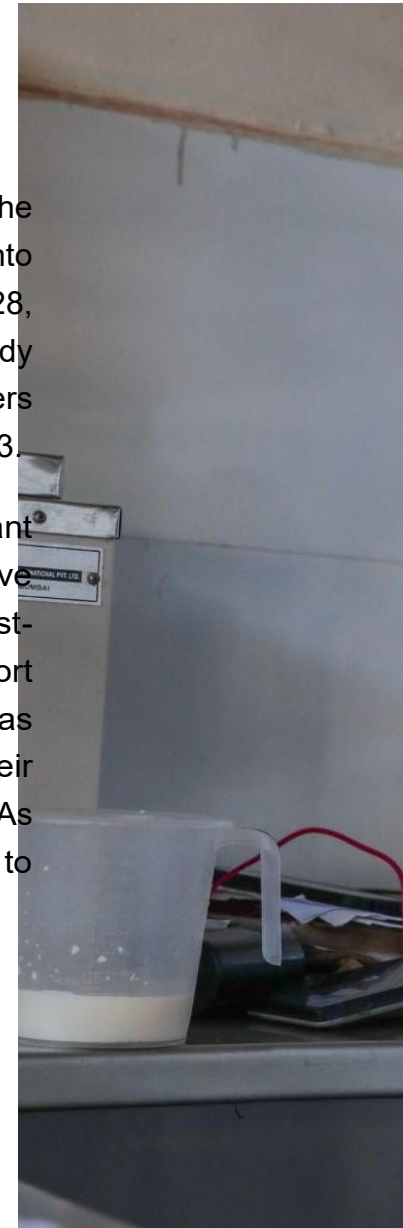
In the rolling hills of Kiambu County, Kenya, the Mang'u Progressive Dairy Cooperative Society has emerged as a model of success and transformation. Thanks to the strategic support from the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP), this cooperative has seen remarkable growth and sustainability, driven by the visionary leadership of Mr. Bernard Weru Mugumo.

Early Beginnings and Challenges

The journey of Mang'u Progressive Dairy began in November 2014, when it was known as the Mitero Visionary Development Forum. The group started with just 23 members, producing an average of 115 liters of milk per day.

Inspired by the achievements of the Githinguri Dairy, the forum transitioned into a cooperative society on September 28, 2016. By this time, the group had already increased its milk production to 3,500 liters per day, and membership had grown to 183.

However, the cooperative faced significant challenges. There was a lack of effective quality control measures leading to post-harvest losses. Furthermore high transport costs, and the fact that the cooperative was operating from rented premises made their production expenditure very hard to bear. As such, the average price per liter of milk to farmers was only Sh 26.





(A worker from the Mang'u Progressive Dairy using The Lactoscan they received from ASDSP to ascertain the quality of milk)

Support from ASDSP

Recognizing these challenges, ASDSP stepped in with comprehensive support. The program provided training on leadership and governance for committee members and training on dairy production for the cooperative's members.

This included covering crucial topics such as breeding, feeding, clean milk production, record-keeping, entrepreneurship, and business planning. Additionally, ASDSP supplied a lactoscan to test milk quality and established demonstration farms on biogas.

Transformative Impact

Since then, the impact of ASDSP's interventions has been profound. Firstly, the group transitioned from a self-help group to a cooperative society after receiving visionary training on leadership and governance from ASDSP. .

By 2018, their milk production volumes had increased to 5,300 liters per day. Members then began applying the lessons from the entrepreneurship and business planning training sessions, resulting in a present average milk production per member of 10.3 liters.

“Currently,” shares a gleeful Mr. Weru, “we have members producing 100 liters per day with our total average daily milk production standing at 33,000 liters The price per liter of milk to farmers has also increased significantly to Sh 50..””



(Workers at the Mang'u Progressive Dairy filtering milk for pasteurization)

Biogas and Beyond

Members like Mrs. Teresia Wangui have also benefited from the ASDSP-funded biogas system installations on their farms, enabling them to save on energy costs and use bioslurry for improved crop farming. Moreover, the success of her demonstration farm has attracted corporate farmers willing to help cooperative members install biogas systems on credit.

“Through this biogas system,” shares Mrs. Wangui, “I have been able to save the monthly Sh 5000 and quarterly Sh 3500 I was using on firewood and LPG gas respectively. Moreover, my power costs have drastically reduced as I no longer have to use electrical heaters for my bath water.”



(Mrs Teresia Wangui adding water to her digester to generate biogas)

Improved Breeding and Financial Support

The cooperative has also seen improvements in breeding practices through the use of sexed semen provided by ASDSP. In addition, they have started a Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) with over 600 members, gaining access to financial facilities to support their agricultural activities.

The cooperative has moved from a rented space to their own premises, a significant milestone after ASDSP's support led to improved milk yields and sales.

Sustaining the Gains

To sustain the benefits received, Mang'u Progressive Dairy plans to strengthen their advocacy through KIKO, while growing their SACCO, and partnering with local agrovets to provide agricultural facilities like feeds and vaccinations for their members.



Future plans also include expanding biogas system installations through partnerships with biogas installation companies, transitioning from a marketing society to a milk processor, and venturing into yogurt and cheese production.

Gratitude and Vision

“The support from ASDSP has been like a guiding hand,” says Mr. Weru, “helping us stand firmly and walk confidently into a brighter future. As such we would like to offer our heartfelt gratitude to them for partnering with us to change the face of dairy farming in Kiambu County forever”



ASDSP's Role in Reducing Post-Production Losses in the Kiambu Dairy Sector

(A farmer bringing in milk for pasteurization at The Juja - Gatundu Milk Traders' premises)

In the dairy sector, post-production losses have long been a significant challenge, particularly for small-scale farmers and traders. However, innovative interventions by the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) have begun to turn the tide.

One such success story is that of Juja Gatundu Milk Traders, a group that aggregates milk from farmers in Gatundu North and Gatundu South before selling it in milk bars and restaurants after pasteurization.

Background

Juja Gatundu Milk Traders was formed to mitigate the hefty sales tax that farmers used to incur when doing individual selling.. Comprising 22 members, including 12 youth and 5 women, the group initially faced numerous challenges before ASDSP's intervention.

For one, they used to transport milk in plastic containers using a bicycle. With the lack of quality control, frequent complaints from customers about milk adulteration and spoilage, were a common occurrence resulting in significant post-harvest losses.



(Mr Macharia from The Juja- Gatundu Milk Traders ascertaining the quality of milk)

ASDSP's Intervention

Recognizing these challenges, ASDSP stepped in to provide critical support. The group received training on financial management and record-keeping, alongside a 500-liter capacity milk chiller. This intervention marked a turning point for Juja Gatundu Milk Traders.

Impact of ASDSP's Support

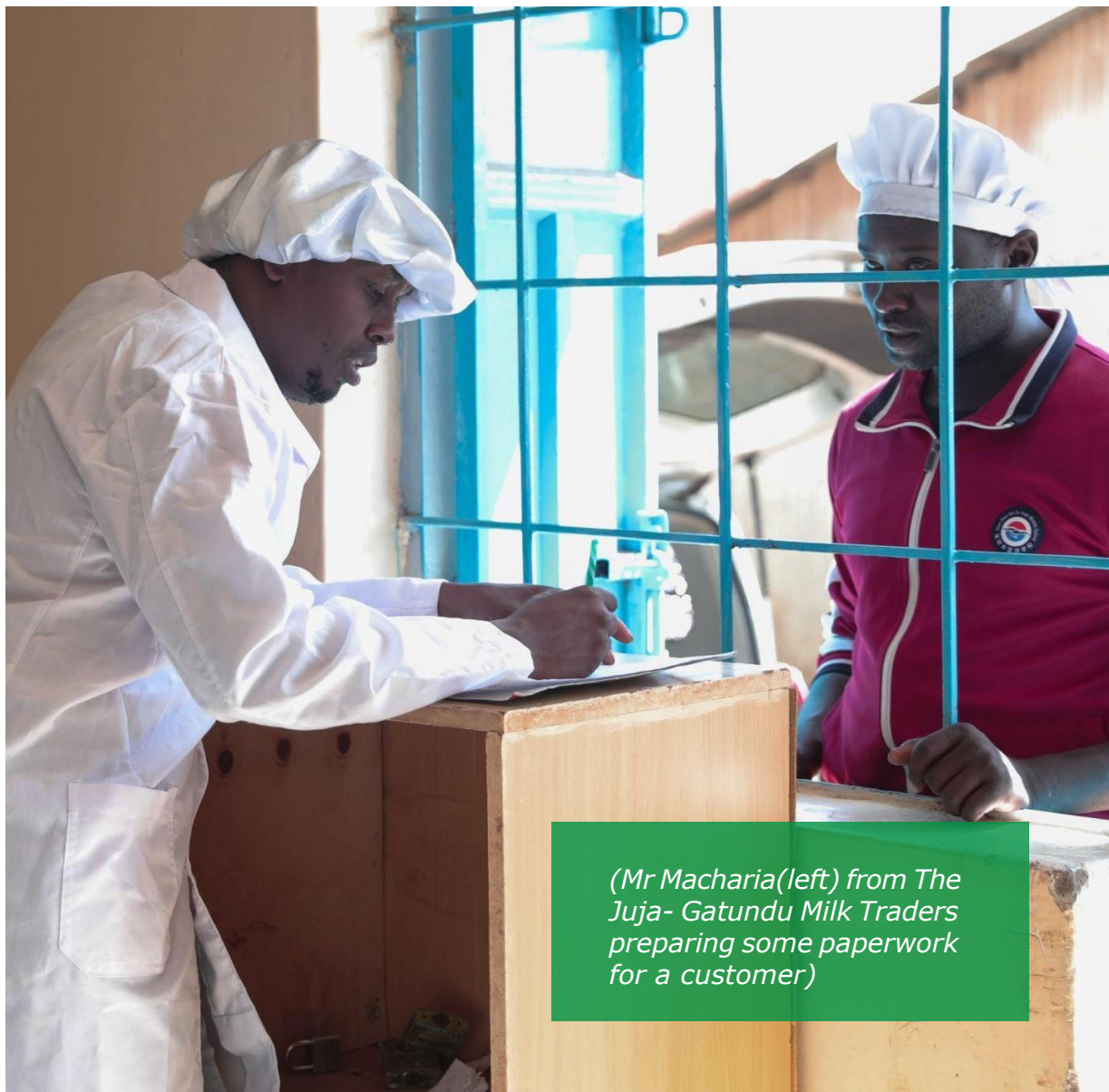
The impact of the chiller has been profound. Post-harvest losses have been eliminated, significantly boosting the group's profitability. "We charge random farmers Sh 5 per liter for pasteurization while members pay Sh 3 for the same service. With the demand for milk exceeding supply in this area, this is enough for us to maintain profitability," says a smiling Mr. Macharia.



(Mr Macharia and a farmer pouring milk into the pasteurizer)

The group now buys milk at between Sh 45 and Sh 50 per liter, depending on the distance they have to cover to collect it. The profitability has enabled them to invest in a motorbike for more efficient milk collection and delivery, and to replace their plastic packaging with industry-recommended aluminum containers.

The benefits extend beyond just improved logistics and quality control. Members have been able to raise their families from the group's proceeds, illustrating the broader socio-economic impact of ASDSP's support.



(Mr Macharia(left) from The Juja- Gatundu Milk Traders preparing some paperwork for a customer)

Future Plans

Looking to the future, Juja Gatundu Milk Traders plans to sustain and expand the gains made. The group aims to upscale its operations and eventually grow into a fully-fledged dairy cooperative.

Expressing his gratitude, Mr. Macharia concludes, “This partnership has truly transformed our lives. As a group, we are immensely grateful to ASDSP for their unparalleled support and welcome them back for future collaborations.”

ASDSP’s strategic interventions in the dairy sector demonstrate the powerful impact of targeted support and capacity building. By addressing critical issues such as post-production losses, ASDSP is not only enhancing the profitability of dairy operations but also contributing to the overall economic resilience and sustainability of rural communities.



Revitalizing Indigenous Chicken Farming through BSF Technology

*(Members of The All Seasons Self Help Group
sorting out some market waste before grinding)*



where rural landscapes shimmer under the morning sun, over 31 million chicken stand tall as the backbone of a growing poultry industry. Culturally significant and economically vital, these chickens provide nutrition and income to rural households.

Recently, the Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP II) has been instrumental in addressing the challenges faced by indigenous chicken farmers in Kiambu County. ASDSP II has focused on training farmers on biosecurity measures to prevent diseases as well as encouraging the use of alternative feed types such as Black Soldier Fly (BSF) larvae. These measures have been instrumental in enhancing the sustainability of indigenous chicken farming across Kiambu County.

ASDSP
AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME



(Mr Joseph Njuguna from The All Seasons Self Help Group grinding market waste to create food for their Black Soldier Fly Larvae)

In Kiambaa Sub County, the All-Seasons Self Help Group exemplifies the success of ASDSP II's interventions. The group received support in the form of 100 one-month-old chicks and a Black Soldier Fly (BSF) kit. This kit has enabled them to cultivate BSF larvae, a high-protein alternative to the costly commercial feeds. .As such, they have managed to cut their feed costs by 50%.

“The BSF production has not only reduced our feed costs significantly,” shares a group member Mrs Annah Wanjiru ,” but also contributed positively to environmental conservation..This is because the larvae feed on various types of waste, such as fruit, vegetable, and slaughter waste, which would otherwise have contributed to greenhouse gas emissions. This process has helped keep our environment clean while providing employment opportunities for local bodaboda riders and youth members of our group.”



(Members of The All Seasons Self Help Group preparing to feed their Black Soldier Fly Larvae)

Processing Feeds Efficiently

The ASDSP II program also supported the group with a hand mill for crushing feeds, which has enabled them to process market waste efficiently.

Mr Joseph Njuguna, an Egerton University graduate, has gained valuable knowledge in operating the machine thus enabling the group to produce high-quality feeds at a lower cost.



(Mrs Elizabeth feeding the Black Soldier Fly Larvae to her chicken)

Youth Involvement and Employment

The adoption of BSF larvae production and feed processing technology has also significantly impacted the livelihoods of farmers like Mrs Elizabeth. By reducing feed costs and ensuring a steady supply of nutritious feed, Elizabeth has been able to increase her flock, thereby improving her income and overall livelihood. The initiative has also created employment opportunities for the youth, who assist with feed processing and distribution.

Support for POMAGA Self Help Group

In Thika, the POMAGA Self Help Group has also benefited from the ASDSP II program. Recognizing the importance of feed formulation, the program provided the group with a feed mixer, a feed mill, and a digital weighing scale. This support has empowered the group to process their own feeds, ensuring that their chickens receive the necessary nutrients for optimal growth and egg production.

Mary Wairimu, a member of the POMAGA Self Help Group, highlights the benefits of this support: “By learning how to formulate our own feeds, we have ensured that our chickens receive the necessary nutrients for optimal growth and egg production. This has increased our productivity and reduced our reliance on commercial feeds. Moreover, we have been able to employ youths who assist with feed processing and sales.”



(Members of The POMAGA Self Help Group receiving training from Mrs Jane Njue (centre) from ASDSP)



(A picture of the milling machine that POMAGA Self Help Group received from ASDSP)

Conclusion

The interventions by ASDSP II have revitalized indigenous chicken farming in Kenya, transforming it into a sustainable and profitable venture. By addressing critical challenges such as feed shortages and diseases, and by promoting innovative practices such as BSF larvae production and feed formulation, the program has empowered farmers to improve their productivity and livelihoods.

The success of groups like All-Seasons Self Help Group and POMAGA Self Help Group demonstrates the potential of strategic support and training in transforming traditional farming practices into modern, efficient, and sustainable enterprises. The future of indigenous chicken farming in Kenya looks promising, with continued support and innovation paving the way for increased productivity, environmental sustainability, and improved livelihoods.



(Customers negotiating for indigenous chicken sold by The Madaraka Processors)

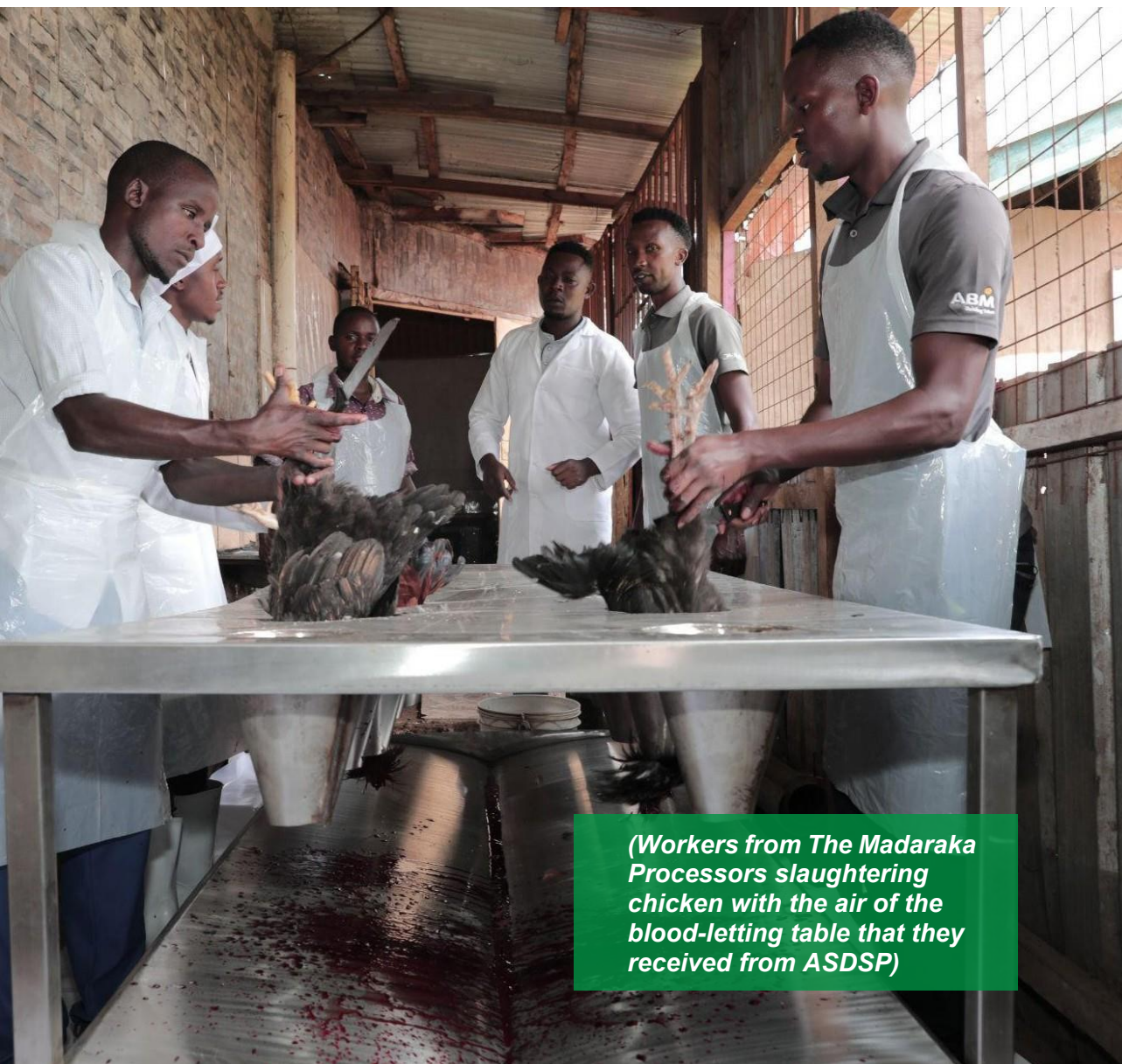
Production and Marketing

Raising indigenous chickens has been a cornerstone of African agricultural practices for generations, providing vital food and income for many communities. However, traditional chicken farming has often been fraught with challenges such as feed shortages and diseases, making it an unsustainable venture for many. The Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP II) is addressing these challenges head-on, transforming the indigenous chicken value chain in Kenya.

Tackling Feed and Processing Challenges

One significant intervention by ASDSP II has been in supporting value chain organizations like the youth-led Madaraka Processors. To enhance the efficiency and hygiene of chicken meat processing, the program provided them with a defeathering machine, weighing scale, deep freezer, crates, and a bloodletting table. These tools have 15ized their operations.

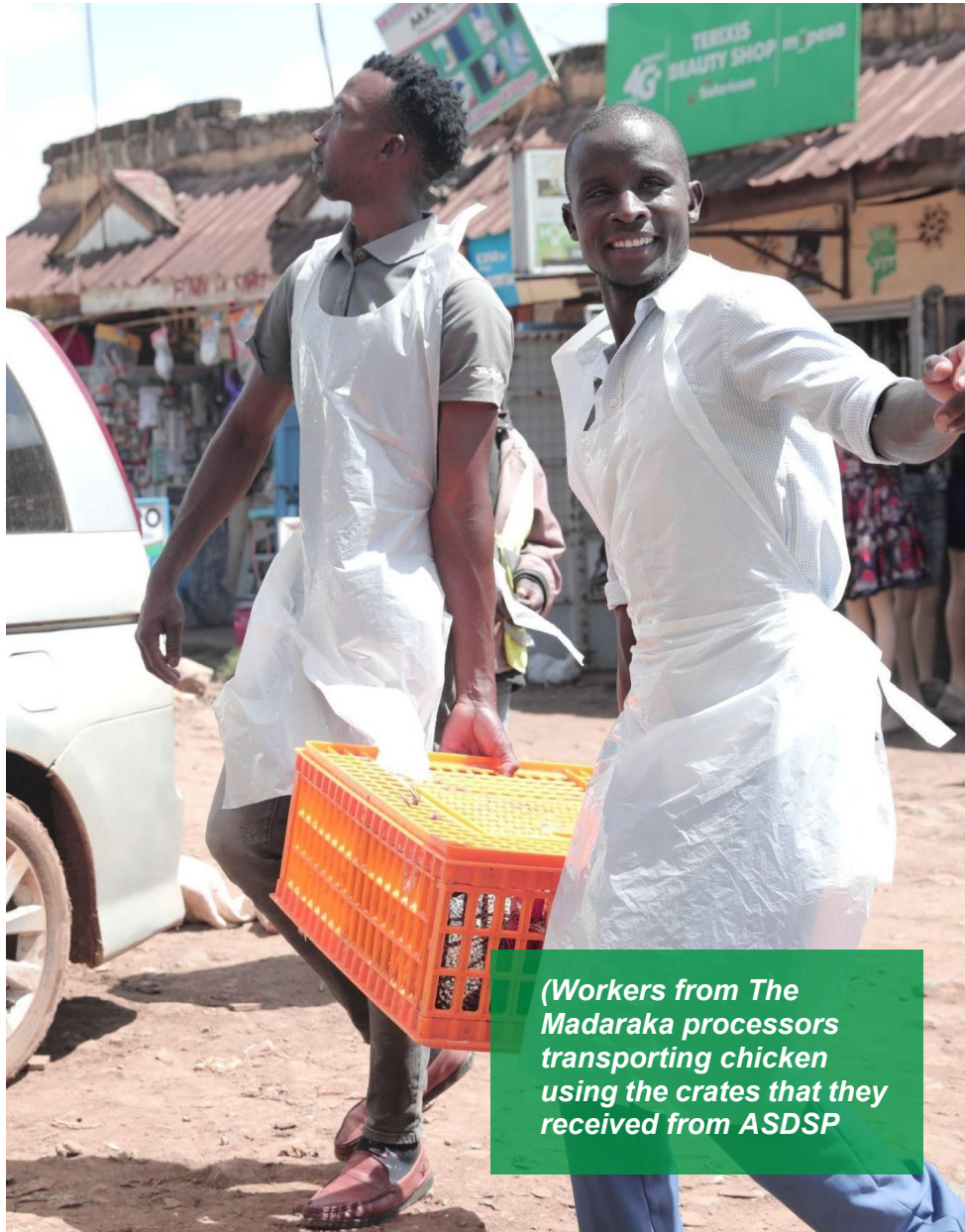
Members of the Madaraka Processors highlight the impact:



(Workers from The Madaraka Processors slaughtering chicken with the air of the blood-letting table that they received from ASDSP)

“With the new bloodletting table, we can process an average of 200 chickens daily more efficiently and meet the required health standards. This has helped us expand our market and improve profitability compared to when we did it manually.” The provision of crates has also made a significant difference. As one member notes:

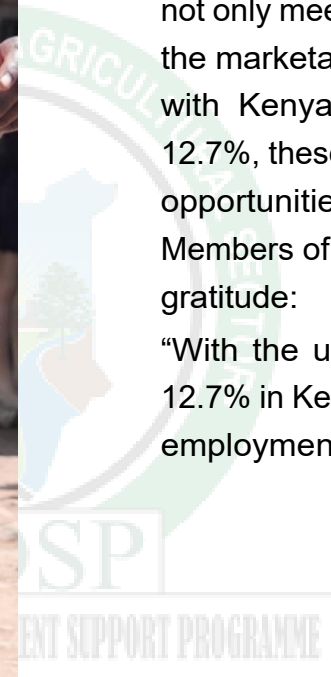
“The crates supported by the programme have enabled us to carry poultry birds in a more humane way compared to before.”



(Workers from The Madaraka processors transporting chicken using the crates that they received from ASDSP)

This humane handling and processing of poultry not only meet health standards but also enhance the marketability of their products. Additionally, with Kenya's unemployment rate at around 12.7%, these initiatives offer crucial employment opportunities, especially for young people. Members of Madaraka Processors express their gratitude:

“With the unemployment rate high at around 12.7% in Kenya, this has provided an avenue for employment, especially for the youth.”





(Mr Mwaura taking a look at one of his hand-crafted incubators)

Promoting Inclusivity and Innovation

ASDSP II's implementation has a strong focus on inclusivity and sustainable development, encouraging women and youth to participate in the indigenous chicken value chain. A prime example of this is Mr. Simon Mwaura from Tinganga Sub Location, proprietor of Mugumo Ini Poultry Farm. Before receiving support from ASDSP II, Mr. Mwaura faced significant challenges in raising chicks.

“Through training, I saw an opportunity in selling chicks. I fabricated my own incubator, but hatchability remained low.” He recalls:



(Mr Mwaura fixing the lights in one of his chick coops)

To address this issue, ASDSP II provided him with a solar backup, ensuring continuous operation even during power outages. This innovation has significantly reduced his production costs and improved hatchability rates. Mr. Mwaura has also diversified his income streams by brooding chicks on behalf of other farmers, thereby earning higher incomes. He shares:

“He has further diversified his income streams by brooding chicks on behalf of other farmers, earning him higher incomes.”



(Mr Mwaura examining one of his chicks)

Leveraging Marketing Training

Marketing training provided by ASDSP II has enabled Mr. Mwaura to successfully market his birds, especially through social media platforms. This has not only improved his livelihood but also positively impacted his family's well-being. Mr. Mwaura emphasizes the importance of this training:

“After receiving training in marketing, I have successfully marketed my birds, especially through social media platforms, which has improved my livelihood and that of my family.”

Conclusion

Through collaboration, innovation, and dedication, ASDSP II is transforming the indigenous chicken value chain in Kiambu County. The program's strategic support in feed formulation, processing capabilities, and marketing has empowered farmers, created employment opportunities, and fostered sustainable agricultural practices. As ASDSP II continues its mission, the future of indigenous chicken farming in Kenya looks brighter and more promising than ever.



(Mr Mwaura packaging week old chicks for a client)

The stories of groups like Madaraka Processors and individual farmers like Mr. Mwaura demonstrate the transformative impact of strategic support and training, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for all involved. Through ASDSP II's efforts, indigenous chicken farming is not only becoming more sustainable but also contributing significantly to economic development and food security in Kenya.

Together, through collaboration and innovation, ASDSP II and Kenyan farmers are building a brighter and more sustainable future. The journey of transforming the indigenous chicken value chain is a testament to what can be achieved with dedication and strategic support.

ASDSP II SUCCESS STORIES

Kiambu County

