

ASDSP II Updater

INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

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EMBASSY OF SWEDEN

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- Highlights
- National Outlook
- County Outlook



About ASDSP II

The Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme phase II (ASDSP II) was formulated in 2016 to consolidate the gains made in ASDSP I (2012-2016) and contribute to the realization of the ideals of the Agricultural Policy. The programme aims at transforming crop, livestock and fishery production into commercially oriented enterprises that ensure sustainable food and nutrition security by developing value chains that are environmentally resilient and socially inclusive.

Pursuant to this objective, the programme addresses agricultural sector transformation through consultation, collaboration and coordination at the national, intergovernmental and county levels. The programme which is implemented by both the county and national governments is financed by the Government of Kenya (National and County), Government of Sweden and the European Union at a cost of KES 5.692 billion for a period of 5 years (December 2017 to June 2022).

ASDSP II operates through collaborations and partnerships and targets 700,000 value chain actors in order to achieve 4 key result areas namely; increased productivity of priority value chains; strengthened entrepreneurial skills of priority value chain actors; improved access to markets by value chain actors and strengthened structures and capacities for consultation, collaboration, cooperation and coordination in the agricultural sector.

Implementation of the programme is operationalized through a 3 tier approach encompassing national, intergovernmental and county levels. The national comprises the Joint Agricultural Sector Steering Coordinating Committee (JASSCOM) and the National Programme Secretariat (NPS) whereby, JASSCOM is the steering committee for the programme whilst the NPS provides technical and strategic capacity support to the Counties with regard to programme implementation as well as supporting specific value chain development activities at the national level.

At the inter-governmental level, the JAS-IGS (Joint agricultural sector intergovernmental secretariat) provides secretariat functions to JASSCOM such as organizing for JASSCOM meetings, following up on JASSCOM resolutions; organizing, formulating and circulating sector reports among others.

At the County level, the County Agricultural Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) provides an oversight role to the programme while the County Programme Secretariat (CPS) coordinates programme implementation at the County level.

It is expected that at the end of the Programme in 2022, Kenya will have significantly advanced towards commercialization of agriculture through sustainable value chain development and well-structured institutions for Agricultural Sector consultation, cooperation and coordination.

**700,000 Value
Chain Actors
targeted**

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Editorial



Mr. Richard Ndegwa, NPC

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this very first edition of the Updater Newsletter for the Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme II (ASDSP II) which highlights activities undertaken by the programme every six months. In this edition we cover the activities carried out at national and county level in the course of the past one year. At the national level we focus on some of the activities that enabled the smooth implementation of the programme while the counties provide accounts of the activities undertaken by the service providers in building the capacities of the value chain actors and some of the successes that the value chain actors have had.

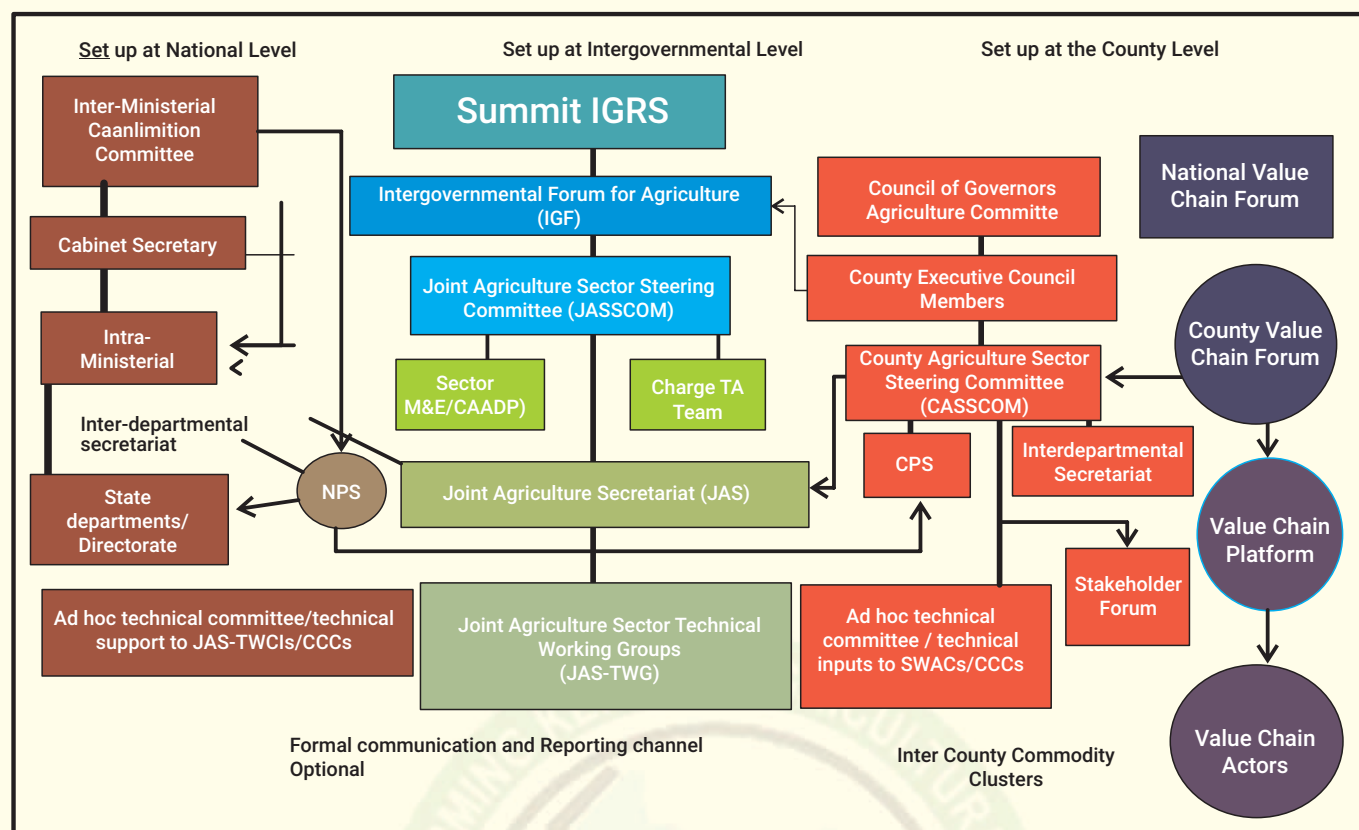
ASDSP II, which is anchored in the State Department for Crop Development and Agricultural Research in the MoALF&C is aligned and contributes to the goal of the overarching Agricultural Policy of "Transforming crop, livestock and fisheries production into commercially oriented enterprises that ensure sustainable food and nutrition security". It is implemented by the national and the 47 county governments. The objective of the programme is to develop sustainable priority value chains for improved income; employment creation; and food and nutrition security. To this end the programme supports 29 value chains in crops, livestock and fisheries sub sectors and targets 700, 000 value chain actors across the 47 Counties.

In the 2020/21 financial year, we laid great emphasis on fast tracking capacity building of value chain actors on key areas that increase value chain productivity, strengthen the entrepreneurship skills and increase market access for the value chain actors. These core activities are central to the development of the value chains. The programme supported the training of master trainers and front line service providers on technical and entrepreneurial skills, who in turn impart the knowledge and skills to value chain actors. On market access, the programme supported market linkages through market information platforms. Specifically, the programme played a key role in supporting the ministry to develop and operationalize a real time agriculture data dashboard on food surplus stocks in response to the covid-19 situation. The system was crucial in minimizing speculation and public misinformation on the food supply chain as specific bottlenecks to the food-system were openly highlighted, alongside respective actions taken by both levels of Government.

As a programme, we believe well coordinated structures that enable seamless consultation at all levels ultimately ensure sustainable food and nutrition security in the country. In this regard, the programme supported initiatives that promote the strengthening of structures for coordination, consultation and cooperation between the National and County governments as well as within each level of government. At the county level, this was achieved through the establishment and operationalization of 47 County Agriculture Sector Coordinating Committee (CASSCOMs).

At the National level, the programme continued to support activities of the Joint Agricultural Secretariat (JAS) as well Sector wide agricultural group (SWAGs) meetings.

Towards the end of 2020, a mid-term review (MTR) evaluation for the programme was initiated and completed in early 2021. The recommendations made are highlighted in this newsletter.



Organogram

One of the main challenges faced by the programme in 2020 that hindered its implementation was the COVID-19 pandemic. Capacity building activities were halted for most part of the year, but nonetheless the programme was able to put in place measures that ensured continued programme implementation such as online consultations and when this was not possible face to face engagements were done with strict adherence to ministry of health protocols.

In the coming year the programme will continue to support the service providers in their quest to provide quality and efficient services to the value chain actors as well as other stakeholders in the sector geared towards increasing value chain productivity and creation of an enabling environment for improved food and nutrition security.

It is my hope that you will enjoy this edition of the ASDSP Updater.

National Round-Up

Bilateral Review Mission Visit to Embu and Marsabit Counties

The first Bilateral Review Mission (BRM) of 2020/2021 financial year was held from 9th to 11th November 2020, whereby representatives from the governments of Kenya and Sweden made a three day field visit to Embu and Marsabit Counties. The Mission which provides oversight for ASDSP II meets every six months to assess the progress of the program as well as address emerging issues that may affect its implementation. Specific Mission Review activities include bilateral board meetings between the representatives of the Government of Sweden, the European Union, the National Treasury and the Permanent Secretary, Crop Development & Agricultural Research, MoALF&C. This is followed by visits to selected program implementation sites to evaluate the progress made at grass root level and finally a meeting with the technical committee members is held to assess the technical issues affecting the program.

During this year's first Bilateral Review Mission, the team visited Embu and Marsabit Counties where they were met by the respective county representatives composed of the County Executive Committee Members (CECs), Chief Officers (Cos), County Programme Secretariats (CPSs), Value Chain Organizations (VCOs), and Value chain Actors (VCAs). The main objectives of the of the Mission field visit were to:

- i. Understand the implementation structures formed at that County level and how they were working
- ii. Assess the functionality of County Agricultural Sector Steering Committees (CASSCOMs) and Value Chain Platforms (VCPs)
- iii. Assess the social inclusion aspects and how VCAs were benefitting from the programme activities
- iv. Assess the partnerships formed especially with Hand in Hand and any other Swedish supported programs in the two counties.

The teams held discussions at the respective county offices on the progress made in the implementation of the program activities and proceeded to the field. In Embu County they visited Mburugu dairies farmers' cooperative society, Kikai food processors and Irangi Agricubusiness cluster self help group while in Marsabit county they toured Merille livestock markets, kinisa farmers cooperative society, Kadere farmers' cooperative society and Moyale camel milk cooperative society. In both counties, the Bilateral Review Mission was able to see the achievements made by VCAs, and VCPs, in the implementation their road maps for the commercialization and growth of their value chains.



Courtesy call to H.E. Solomon Gubo Deputy Governor, Marsabit County by BRM



BRM visit to Mburugu Co-operative Society, Embu

ASDSP II Supports Ministry in Coordinating Data Collection on Food Stocks for Effective Covid-19 Response

The COVID 19 (CoronaVirus Disease 2019), was declared a world pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2020. By this time, not much was known about the disease except that it caused death through pneumonia like symptoms. Kenya, like many other countries in the world, opted to take drastic precautionary measures through imposition of curfews and locking down the country by limiting the free movement of people within and out of the country. Other containment measures taken were closures of schools, colleges, and workplaces.

The restrictions on movement of people and goods locally and internationally aggravated the already existing food insecurity in the country by disrupting the regular flow of and access to food especially to the cities and other high density towns. The agricultural supply chain was also affected as inputs could not reach their destinations in a timely manner. To understand the extent of the disruptions in the normal food distribution in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operative organized a team of data experts drawn from ESRI Limited, KALRO and ASDSP II to work together to provide reliable data on how much food was available in the country and where in a timely manner.

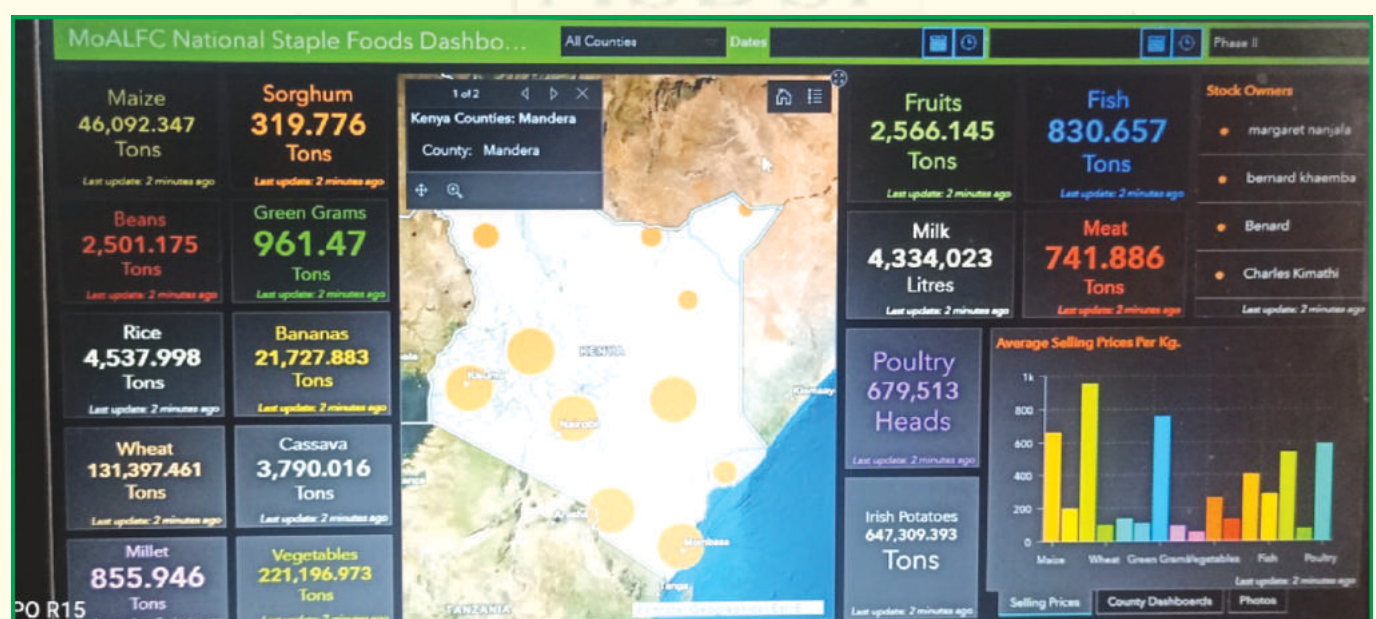
In May-June 2020, the team configured internet based technology and deployed a mobile-based survey (Food Staples Survey) to collect data on available food

stocks from stockiest, value chain actors (VCAs), traders, aggregators, and other agricultural food operators across the country. Once collected, the data was aggregated in a Food Staples Dashboard, and made available to members of the ministry's Food Security War Room (FSWR), project staff, as well as other stakeholders. This led to the development and dissemination of concrete and reliable food availability data that were rolled out across the country for action by relevant stakeholders.

The exercise provoked thought and reflection on how the government can coordinate data collection, access and sharing across the agriculture ecosystem to enable data driven solutions that can transform the agriculture sector.

As a way forward, two key issues emerged that needed to be addressed;

1. Transforming access to agriculture data needs better coordination and constant sharing; this will embed a data driven approach to decision making and build a culture of data generation and use.
2. Transforming access to agriculture data needs more and improved financing, especially by the government; This is a key ingredient in prioritizing investment in foundational/core systems that allow building of innovative solutions.



National staples Food dashboard

CoG Urges Counties to Reflect on Barriers to Productivity During the Annual Programme Review Meeting

The annual programme review meeting, whose purpose is to discuss the progress made in the implementation of the programme with Chief Executive Committee Members (CECs) and Chief Officer (COs) in agriculture was held in Naivasha from 7th to 10 December 2020. The meeting which was officially opened by Ms Jacqueline Mogeni, MBS, CEO of the Council of Governors (CoG), was attended by, the Agriculture Secretary (AS), Mr. Josephat Muhunyu, Mr. Timothy Odipo (National Treasury), Head of Agricultural Programme Coordination Unit (APCU), Ms. Jane Ndungu and staff from the ASDSP II Secretariat led by the National Programme Coordinator (NPC), Mr. Richard Ndegwa.

In her speech, the CEO CoG, began by commending the programme for its role in supporting delivery of extension services in the Counties. She noted that as the programme ends in 2022, there is need for deliberate efforts that will guarantee its success by both the counties and the national government. Commenting on matters of food security, she reminded participants that the country was experiencing a food deficit, - a situation that had been worsened by the COVID 19 pandemic. She pointed out that the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) had revealed that the country had an estimated 12 million food poor people majority of whom were in the rural areas. This, she said, called for an urgent need to ensure that food systems were restructured to address existing gaps.

She further called upon both the national and county governments to reflect on the following questions; "What have we done as County CECs and COs to contribute to this problem of food insecurity and what do we need to change to ensure that we support farmers to produce adequate food for our country"; "Have the actions taken by the MoALF&C supported the counties to achieve the intents of the BIG four agenda on food security? If not, what are the necessary corrective actions that need to be carried out by the Ministry to enable counties achieve food security?"; "What is the contribution of the many donor-funded



CEO, Council of Governors Ms. Jackline Mogeni

projects in achieving food security?"; "What have the two levels of governments done to ensure a reduction in the cost of food production in the country?" She added that if these questions were answered, the country could be on the right track towards attainment of food security and wealth creation through agriculture. In her concluding remarks, she assured the programme of continued support by the CoG in ensuring the programme is implemented with minimal challenges.

The NPC in his remarks reiterated that the programme is aligned to national objectives and the realization of the ideals of the Kenya Vision 2030, the Big Four Agenda and the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS). He further added that the main focus of the programme is capacity development of value chain actors to enable commercialization of 29 priority value chains in the crops, livestock and fisheries sub sectors. In addition the programme also supports the strengthening of structures and capacities for consultation, cooperation and coordination in the agricultural sector with a view of creating a conducive environment for value chain development.

Other features of the meeting were the sharing of: ASDSP II Progress Report; Audit Report of 2019/20 by Price WaterHouse; Terms of Reference and County

selection criteria for the programme's Mid Tern Review (MTR); and, guidelines for the preparation of the 2021/22 Annual Work Plan and Budget.

In his remarks, the NPC said the programme is aligned to national objectives and the realization of the ideals of Kenya Vision 2030, Big Four Agenda and Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS). He further added that the main focus of the

programme is capacity development of value chain actors to enable commercialization of 29 priority value chains in the crops, livestock and fisheries sub sectors. In addition the programme also supports the strengthening of structures and capacities for consultation, cooperation and coordination in the agricultural sector with a view of creating a conducive environment for value chain development.



Chairperson CEC caucus addressing the CEC and COs during the sensitization workshop



ASDSP II on Right Track, Reveals Mid-Term Review

The mid-term review of the programme was conducted between December 2020 and April 2021 by an independent team comprising of local and international consultants.

The overall objective of the evaluation was to conduct an independent review for the ASDSP II which has been under implementation since December 2017 and, to document the extent to which the envisaged results have been achieved. The specific objectives were (i) to assess the progress made towards the achievement of the programme objective (ii) to determine the extent to which the implementing institutions had delivered on the envisioned programme results and (iii) to identify key challenges and any factors that may have affected the programme and its implementation.

The findings and analysis of the review were expected to provide useful information for programme learning and improvement for the remaining period of implementation.

Part of the review exercise involved conducting a survey to collect data. The respondents were selected using purposive sampling that targeted project beneficiaries, implementers and partner organizations. Data collection tools used included Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). A major aspect of the review consisted of field visits to 8 counties which were purposively selected to represent the 47 Counties. The 8 were at varying degrees of progress towards achieving the intended programme outcomes, and covered a wide range of agro-ecological zones. The selected Counties were Elgeyo-Marakwet, Garissa, Siaya,

Nyandarua, Kakamega, Makueni, Tana River and Kajiado.

Overall the mid-term review mission concluded that although the programme had experienced some delays in implementation, it was on the right track towards achieving the programme's outcomes. The programme was also found to be highly relevant in relation to existing policies and strategies in the agricultural sector at both the county and national levels, and was responsive to the needs of its target beneficiaries.

Other review findings included: strong evidence of collaboration between the ASDSP II and other programmes being implemented in the sector at

national and county level; the programme had put in place measures to address gender issues within the value chains; some progress was being made towards the achievements of the programmes outcomes; for instance, a significant number of VCOs had developed strategic and business plans for their businesses; VCOs had increased production capacity which was helping them take advantage of

emerging market opportunities and there was marked improvement in access to extension services mainly facilitated by the programme, among others.

The MTR also made several recommendations touching on programme management and oversight; coordination at national and County level; enterprise development, capacity building, youth engagement and environment issues.

**Programme
is responsive
to the needs
of its target
beneficiaries**

Master Service Providers (MSPs) Trained as TOTs to Enhance Entrepreneurial Skills of VCAs at County Level



Co-Chair, CEC Caucus, CECM Nandi County Dr. Kiplangat

One of the objectives of ASDSP II is to enhance the entrepreneurial skills of value chain actors and service providers. Entrepreneurial skills that enable the development and implementation of viable business plans often lead to the formation of start-ups businesses, or to the growth of already established commercial agro-based micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). In order to address the entrepreneurial skills gaps of the 700,000 VCAs targeted by the programme, there was a need to build the capacity of a team of trainers with the desired entrepreneurial skills, knowledge and mind-set to spearhead the training of VCAs at the county level.

To achieve this objective, the programme convened regional capacity building sessions between 26th October 2020 to 6th November 2020 in three clusters (Mombasa, Naivasha and Kisumu). The participants were drawn from the 47 Counties comprising programme staff, private sector and County departmental staff. A total of 141 county trainers also known as Master Service Providers (MSPs) were trained. The MSPs were equipped with the necessary entrepreneurial skills and knowledge in order to train the County Frontline Service Providers (FSPs) who will in turn enhance the entrepreneurial skills of the value chain actors.

ASDSP II Participates in the Ministry's Internship and Attachment Program

In line with the government's Internship Policy and Guidelines for Public Service of May 2016, ASDSP II through the Human Resource Department of the MoALF&C has engaged a total of 10 students on attachment and internship since 2019. The objective of the internship/attachment programme is to provide the



youth with a hands-on experience to build upon the skills learned in the classroom, as well as provide them with an opportunity to gain experience in the world of work and to enhance their future employment prospects.

Currently the program has one student intern (graduated) and one student on attachment (still to graduate). Florence Mbugua graduated from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (JKUAT) in 2019 with a Bachelor's degree in Financial Engineering. Prior to joining ASDSP II, Florence was a dedicated student leader at the university for four years. The programme has helped her gain experience in workplace etiquette and other routine office practices.



Mary Njoki is a 3rd year student at Nairobi Technical Training Institute with a major in Project Management. Her attachment in the programme has enhanced her knowledge in monitoring and evaluation of agricultural projects

and has given her resolve to achieve her aspiration of becoming an Agricultural Project Manager.



Philip Galgallo an Agricultural economics graduate from the University of Nairobi class of 2019, participated in the internship programme in 2020. Philip comments on his internship experience, "ASDPS gave me my first professional experience in the field, I was able to work with a great team and gain tremendous skills in

the agricultural field and project management. I worked as a data analyst, where I contributed in cleaning of data sets for value chain actors, value chain organization as well as the programme baseline data, and also participated in business plan and entrepreneurial skills training organized by NPS". After his internship, Galgallo was able to secure employment with the County Government of Isiolo as a data analyst in the department of Agriculture.

The students who have passed through the programme have gained exposure on workplace environment while the programme has gained from the accomplishments of the various tasks assigned to them which have contributed to the achievement of the programme's goals and objectives.

It is hoped that the internship programme has inspired students to learn more, become more inquisitive and to seek excellence at the work place.

Unraveling the Roles of Inter-Governmental Forum for Agriculture (IGF-A) and the Joint Agriculture Sector Consultation and Cooperation Mechanism (JASCCOM)

The inter-governmental Forum for Agriculture (IGF-A) is the highest level of consultation among the national, county and sector stakeholders. The forum is co-chaired by the Cabinet Secretary (CS) MoALF&C and the Chair of Council of Governors (CoG). Other members comprise Governors representing all Counties; Chairpersons of the Standing Committees on matters relating to agriculture, livestock and fisheries in the Senate and the National Assembly; Principal Secretaries and Directors responsible for matters relating to agriculture, livestock and fisheries; County Executive Committee Members responsible for matters relating to the Agricultural Sector; County Chief Officers responsible for matters relating to the Agriculture Sector and Representatives of the County Assemblies Forum.

The forum which is held every two years provides guidance for the sector on:

- Policy development and implementation
- Joint review of sector performance
- Critical emerging sectoral issues
- Oversight on CAADP implementation
- Mechanisms for sector coordination and resolution of disputes

The Joint Agricultural Sector Steering Committee (JASSCOM) is an apex technical committee of the agriculture sector composed of the sector executives

from the national and county governments. JASSCOM membership comprises the Cabinet Secretary (CS) and the five Principal Secretaries (PSs) of the MoALF&I; the Chair, Agriculture and Lands Committee, Council of Governors (CoG); the Chair and Secretary of the County Executive Committee (CEC) Caucus; and on an ad hoc basis, the co-chairs of the proposed Joint Agriculture Secretariat (JAS) Sectoral Working Groups (JAS-SWAGs). Other key stakeholder representatives and resource persons are co-opted in JASSCOM meetings on a need-to basis. JASSCOM is co-chaired by the CS - MoALF&I and the Chairman of Agriculture and Lands Committee of the CoG.

JASSCOM is mandated to:

- Provide regular policy and strategic direction for the agriculture sector
- Convene the intergovernmental forum on agriculture at least once in two years
- Convene sub-sectors intergovernmental consultative forum for the sector
- Review and adopt agriculture sector progress reports including joint programmes and projects reports
- Oversee implementation of the agriculture resolutions from the intergovernmental forum (IGF)
- Provide regular policy and strategic direction for the agriculture sector

Gender Mainstreaming Ensures Equality and Non-Discrimination

One of the main considerations that informed the design of ASDSP II is the human rights principle on equality and non-discrimination. To realize this principle, the programme promotes gender mainstreaming in order to ensure the integration of women and youth in all programme activities. The County Specific Gender and Social Inclusion Action Plan (GSIAP) is the key tool used by the programme to ensure that gender concerns are mainstreamed and, women and youth are integrated during programme activities. The GSIAPs have been developed in the 47 Counties and, are aimed at:

- Translating the four programme's outcome pathways into a set of concrete actions to be taken

in order to mainstream gender and address inclusion of women and youth with time-bound indicators to monitor performance

- Identify, collaborate and network with partners responsible for each gender and social inclusion activity at national and county level
- Foster collaboration, synergy, ownership, commitment and accountability among partners and stakeholders during gender and social inclusion mainstreaming
- Support implementation and monitor progress of ASDSP II on gender and social inclusion commitments

Establishing Baseline Conditions for Climate Smart Agriculture Interventions

Environmental degradation and climate change are serious problems that impact negatively on the productivity of value chains. One of the programme's strategy to increase productivity along PVCs is to strengthen environmental resilience in VCD by applying climate smart agriculture (CSA) and green growth (GG) technologies. In ASDSP II, environmental resilience means the capacity of value chains to withstand unfavorable weather conditions as a result of climate change through application of appropriate practices, technologies or ideas that do no harm to the environment. The programme supports the CSA and GG technologies through development and analysis of prioritized value chain suitability maps and development of downscaled weather forecasts and their dissemination. Suitability maps provide baseline environment conditions in the Counties against the

bio physical requirements of the prioritized value chains.

The maps profile the County based on soils, temperature and rainfall and thus categorize the Counties into various classes namely; highly suitable, moderately suitable, marginally suitable and unsuitable against the requirements of the value chains in question. The suitability maps provide a road map for teasing out improvements and interventions to aid development of value chains so as to improve household incomes and food security to levels commensurate with the level of inputs applied. To date the programme has developed suitability maps for each of the programme prioritized value chain in 47 Counties and these have further been consolidated into suitability atlases for each County.

County Round-Up

Bomet and Laikipia Counties Launch their County Agricultural Sector Steering Committees

Laikipia and Bomet Counties launched their County Agricultural Sector Steering Committees (CASSCOMs) on 13th November, 2019 and 10th December 2020 respectively. The Committee plays a key role as the apex body overseeing the implementation of all agricultural projects in the counties unlike previous situations whereby different projects and programmes had different steering committees. CASSCOMs facilitate and enhance Consultation and Co-operation among agriculture stakeholders at county level and provide an effective link to the Joint Agriculture Sector Consultation and Cooperation Mechanism (JASCCM) - the governance framework for the agriculture sector at the National level. They provide a forum for promoting joint planning, monitoring and reporting progress in the implementation of agricultural projects and programmes by agriculture stakeholders in the Counties. The Committee is mandated to:

- i. Consolidate sector progressive reports at the County level and share with the Joint Agriculture Sector Steering Committee (JASSCOM) who in turn share with relevant stakeholders and govern-



Dr. Lucy Murugi, CECM Laikipia County and other officials during launch of CASSCOM

ment agencies at the national level for information and decision making

- ii. Strengthen collaborations and linkages with public and private institutions in the management and delivery of agricultural programmes and services
- iii. Develop and approve instruments for operation and accountability of agriculture sector programmes and projects



H.E. Dr. Hillary Barchok, Governor Bomet County launches CASSCOM

- iv. Facilitate development, review, implementation, and monitoring of policies, strategies, standards, regulations, plans, and legislations relevant to the sector
- v. Develop mechanisms for management and dissemination of agricultural information

CASSCOM, Laikipia County was launched by Dr. Lucy Murugi, CEC for Agriculture who appreciated the critical role the committee would play. She noted that the existing nationally funded projects in Laikipia; the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture program (KCSAP), Agricultural Support Development Support Program II (ASDSP II), the European Union's Instruments for Devolution, Advice and Support (EU-IDeAS), Regional Pastoral Resilience and Livelihoods Programme (RPRLP) among others previously had independent steering committees and technical committee at county level, a replication that hindered proper

accountability in project implementation. This she said had now been addressed through CASSCOM.

The occasion was also attended by Mr. Benson Mureithi, representative of Joint Agriculture Sector Steering Committee, (JASSCOM) Secretariat who congratulated Laikipia County Department of Agriculture for being the first county to adopt CASSCOM structure and promised continuous support to the County. Also in attendance were the then ASDSP II National Project Coordinator, Mr. Josphat Muhunyu, Ag. Chief Officer for Agriculture, Dr. Mugere, other senior staff from the County.

In Bomet County, the launch was presided over by H.E. Dr. Hillary Barchok, Governor, Bomet County who thanked the Chief Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Agriculture (Dr. Kipchuma Toweett and ASDSP II for their efforts in establishing the co-ordinating structure which is an essential component within the sector.

Australia High Commissioner & Governor of Machakos County Tour Best Tropical Fruits Ltd.



Machakos Governor and Australian High Commissioner having a taste to some of the BFT products

The management team of Best Tropical Fruits (BTF) Limited hosted the High Commissioner for Australia, H.E. Luke Williams and the Governor of Machakos County, Dr Alfred Mutua, on 9th June 2021 at their Kasolongo fruit processing plant, Masii ward, Mwala sub-county in Machakos County. Also present during the occasion were the County Executive Committee member (CECM), Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperative Development and his team, County Commander of Police, other government officials and the Machakos mango value chain platform members. A total of 61 members were in attendance.

Speaking during the visit, The High Commissioner stated that BTF had demonstrated sustainable development and innovation for the agricultural value chains. He observed that there were similarities between Australia and Kenya and that the two countries could advice and share experiences. He cited the devastating case of fruit fly infestation in Australia that had almost led to quarantine of crops and that his country could assist Kenya in fruit fly control. Best Tropical Fruits Limited is one of Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Business Partnership Platform (BPP) partners that is being supported to develop new products from fruit waste in Machakos County.

Machakos County Governor, on his part acknowledged the great partnership between the County Government of Machakos and the Australian Government which had made BTF development project a success. He urged the people of Machakos to take advantage of BTF, as it provided a ready market for their produce.



BTF Manager, Patrick Mc Mullin explaining to the visiting team the fruit processing stages within the production line



Avocado fruits at the delivery store ready for processing

The Governor further urged youth to embrace agricultural activities especially value addition. He announced that the County government had factored Kshs. 50 million in the budget of 2021/2022 Financial Year to support village processing hubs in the county. He added that the county was planning to start business centers in each Sub County.



Charcoal making from mango and avocado waste



Charcoal making from mango and avocado waste

BTF Manager, Mr. Patrick Mc Mullin, said that the Village Processing Hub concept was important in creating markets for agro-producers and BTF was working closely with the Machakos County Mango Value Chain Association (MCMVCA). Currently the factory operates 24 hours and has employed 50 staff members who work on weekly basis on shifts and 4 permanent employees.

The CECM, Mr. Urbanus Musyoka representing the sector stressed on the important role ASDSP II had played in the development of the mango value chain through the Mango Innovation Concept that supports the control of mango fruit fly and mango processing to

a tune of Kshs. 8.3 million. The MCMVCA chairman, Sila Mbolu confirmed that BTF had offered a ready market for mango farmers and that the association had 6,500 members. He thanked the County Government for the support given to farmers through various programmes such as good road networks and favourable environment for private investors to do business that benefit the local communities. He added that fruit fly and mango seed weevil were the main challenges faced by farmers and requested for support in controlling them. He noted that due to availability of water, farmers were expecting good off season mango fruits.



Charcoal making from mango and avocado waste

Virtual Field Day Held To Counter Imposed Restrictions of Normal Activities Due to Covid-19 in Nyeri County

Wambugu Agricultural Training Centre host an annual field day in collaboration with stakeholders in the crop and livestock sector. During the event, various organizations, majority of whom are input suppliers set up demonstrations to train farmers as well as showcase their products. On average, the event is attended by more than 30,000 agricultural sector actors with over 100 exhibitors showcasing their technologies and innovations. This annual event that draws many farmers are eager to learn new technologies and innovations could however not be held in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the governments containment measures.

To counter this, ASDSP II Nyeri, in the spirit of promoting partnership, collaboration and cooperation as well as strengthening local agricultural organizations, proposed a virtual field day for the farmers. The idea was accepted by the collaborators and stakeholders who prepared their technologies and innovations for media coverage. ASDSP II facilitated LIVE broadcast on Kameme FM on 23rd July 2020 from 9 am, Kameme TV on 24th July 2020 from 10am and K24 TV on 25th July 2020 from 10:30am. A total of 20 exhibitors showcased their technologies and innovations for adoption. The objectives of the virtual field day were to:-

- improve access to agricultural technologies, innovations and information
- promote commercialization of agricultural enterprises
- promote value-addition and utilization of agricultural produce
- promote sustainable land use and conservation of natural resources
- promote household food security

The success of the virtual field days signifies that activities that are beneficial to farmers can still be held despite the restrictions of Covid-19 pandemic using the various mass media platforms and that the shortage of extension staff can be mitigated through the utilization of available digital platforms to promote technologies and innovations.



SIVCAP Validated in Kajiado County

Various stakeholders supported by ASDSP II held a workshop for Tomato Value Chain Actors (VCAs) in Kajiado County at the Catholic Hall in Loitokitok in 2019. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the tomato value chain; the benefits, the constraints and the possible solutions to the challenges and to validate the Tomato Strategic Integrated Value Chain Action Plan (SIVCAP).

During the meeting, the stakeholders acknowledged that the value chain just like most value chains in the country was characterized by low productivity, low entrepreneurial skills, low marketing skills, limited access to markets and inadequate management of agricultural co-operatives. The effect of this has been inefficiencies in operations along the value chains leading to low per capita income and low living standards for actors who derive their livelihoods from agricultural activities.

ASDSP II Coordinator in the County, Ms. Halima Nenkari said during the meeting that the programme addresses the challenges by promoting interventions that deal with the constraints faced along the value chain nodes.

"We are in the process of developing the Strategic Integrated Value Chain Action Plans (SIVCAP) for ASDSP II and the workshop today is the final step in the development of the stakeholder-led Tomato Action Plan for Kajiado County through public participation" she said.

The validation workshop drew members from across the value chain. They included input suppliers, tomato producers, traders, wholesalers, retailers and distributors from the five sub-counties in Kajiado. They were taken through the constraints experienced at various nodes of the value chain and the possible interventions designed to improve productivity, such as entrepreneurship, viable business plans and models, improved tomato marketing and increased efficiency in coordination among the tomato players in the county. The expected outcomes of the interventions

would be a viable and profitable tomato value chain in the county which would ultimately lead to improved incomes and standards of living among the tomato value chain actors.



Halima Nenkari, ASDSP II Coordinator addresses tomato value chain stakeholders, Kajiado County

VCA's to Benefit from Indigenous Poultry Market

Soko Ya Kuku Launched in Voi Town, Taita Taveta County

Taita Taveta County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation, Mr. Davis Mwangoma, officially launched the Soko ya Kuku Market, at Voi town on 15th January 2021 to promote marketing of local poultry and its products in the county. Indigenous chicken is one of the value chains supported by ASDSP II in the county.

Speaking during the launch, the CEC encouraged local poultry value chain actors (VCAs) to strive to be self-reliant and to ensure a continuous flow of poultry products now that the county government had provided an opportunity in the market to sustain the value chain. He added that his department in collaboration with the department of Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives would make sure that poultry value chain actors (VCAs) were given space in the market every Tuesday and Friday to market their products that range from eggs, indigenous chicken, broilers and growers. He further added that the county was determined to provide market spaces for VCA in each sub-county to boost marketing of poultry products thus empower farmers at grass root level.

Ms. Mary Akumu, a poultry farmer expressed her gratitude to the county administration. "This is a milestone for us value chain actors because going forward, we won't need middlemen to sell our products, we have a readily available market thanks to our county government," she said.

Mr. Rophus Mwamburi, Chairman of Tsavo Kuku Cooperative Society, thanked the department for their swift action in ensuring that poultry value chain actors were provided space to market their produce.

"This is a breakthrough for our local poultry value chain actors because this free market will enable us sell our products at any time," he said.

The CECM in his concluding remarks noted that the initiative would boost the hygiene and safety standards of chicken and chicken products for consumers.

"This is a milestone for us value chain actors because going forward, we won't need middlemen to sell our products"



Taita Taveta County CECM on official launch of Soko ya Kuku, in Voi town

Beef Value Chain Actors in Samburu County Advised to Adopt Improved Beef Cattle Breeds for Higher Returns

Beef value chain actors in Samburu County attended a field day organized by the Samburu County Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in partnership with ASDSP II at Hon. Adamson Lanyasunya's farm, Loibornkare village, Samburu central sub-county in Loosuk ward. The purpose of the field day was to sensitize beef farmers in the county on the improvement of local beef cattle and beef products for higher returns to investment. Beef is one of the value chains supported by ASDSP II in the county. The program seeks to address constraints that hinder the development of the value chain by focusing on productivity, market access, entrepreneurship and where applicable alignment to policy. During the field day, the value chain actors were trained on the value of adopting improved beef cattle breeds, notably the Sahiwal and Boran to improve their indigenous cattle herds.

The event was presided over by H.E. Mr. Moses Kasaine Lenolkulal, Governor of Samburu County accompanied by, CEC Member for Agriculture, Mr. Vincent Learaman, Acting Chief Officer (CO) for Agriculture Mr. Tyson Lemako, a host of Members of County Assembly (MCAs), and other county government officials. Speaking during the opening ceremony, the governor said the time had come for the county to shift from traditional cattle keeping practices and realize the benefits and profits that come with livestock value chain addition practices through the improvement of local cattle breeds. He added that Samburu County Government would promote the Sahiwal, a dual purpose breed and Boran a beef breed among value chain actors for improved productivity. He further added that Nomotio Livestock Improvement Centre would hence forth play a pivotal role in livestock breed improvement in the county.

The field day was also attended by livestock value chain actors and breeders from Kajiado County who shared their experiences with Samburu value chain actors on the best management practices and benefits accrued from improved cattle breeds.



Improvement of local beef cattle and beef products for higher returns to investment

Pyrethrum Agro-Producers Trained as TOTs in Bid to Revive the Value Chain in Nakuru County



Capacity building of pyrethrum TOTs

Twenty (20) pyrethrum agro-producers attended a three-day workshop organized by ASDSP II on pyrethrum production and marketing, in a bid to increase pyrethrum production in Nakuru County. The agro-producers who were drawn from various pyrethrum growing areas in the County were trained as Training of Trainers (TOTs) to train other agro-producers in their home areas to promote pyrethrum growing as a viable business.

Speaking during the opening of the workshop, on 18th January 2021, the Agriculture Chief Officer (CO), Mr. Kibet Maina urged the value chain actors to view pyrethrum growing as a business as opposed to an insignificant source of income. He noted that pyrethrum was once a lucrative sector and that the county was determined to revive the value chain.

In a bid to encourage farmers to take up pyrethrum growing, over Ksh 20 million had been injected into the sector by the county government with value chain actors (VCAs) receiving over 8.3 million worth of pyrethrum seedlings to establish at their farms.

Thirty (30) ward agricultural officers, from pyrethrum growing sub counties, had been trained on entrepreneurial skills to train value chain actors (VCAs) in their wards.

The County has over 2,000 acres of pyrethrum and is aiming to expand 30,000 acres. The County Government works with KALRO and other partners to bridge the knowledge gaps in the sector through research and new technologies.



Pyrethrum seedling for distributed to agro-producers

Siaya Traders Work as One Marketing Platform for Increased Efficiency

ASDSP II convened a workshop for 45 trade representatives in the fish, mango and indigenous chicken value chains drawn from all over the county at Siaya County headquarters on 4th December 2020. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss issues concerning market dynamics as a marketing platform designed to enable the traders to understand key market players and market characteristics that create a win – win scenario for both the customer and trader.

In her remarks, while opening the workshop, Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo, County Executive Member (CECM) for Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, urged the different value chain actors to operate as one formal market platform that would enable aggregation of their products, provide a platform for lobbying, access to financial services, and gain knowledge on what the market wants and the specific locations of these markets. They were further

encouraged to be disciplined in their businesses if they were to reduce the problems and challenges they face while marketing their products.

The Department's Chief Officer (CO), Mr. Charles Siso said there was need to consider Agribusiness as the main source of employment in the county and streamline the sector for increased opportunities for the youth. Mr. Kenneth Owuor, ASDSP II County Program Coordinator assured the meeting that the program was continuously working towards facilitating market linkages through collaboration with companies, cooperatives and individuals to increase the number of value chain actors accessing markets by gender.

The trade representatives were sensitized on business planning and management to bridge the knowledge gaps that hinder access to markets thereby improve their businesses, among other topics.

ASDSP Long Walk With Cotton Value Chain Actors in Kisumu County Pays Off

Cotton value chain actors in Kisumu County received 12 tonnes of conventional cotton seeds, 480 kgs of hybrid seeds and 140 kgs of biotechnology (BT) hybrid seeds after the government lifted the ban on the use of GMO (BT) cotton seed. The high-quality seeds were rolled out by the National Government for trials through the Agricultural Food Authority (AFA) in partnership with the Kisumu County government through; ASDSP II, Agricultural Information Initiative (SAII) and the County's Directorate of Cooperatives Development to improve cotton farming in the county on the 4th May 2019.

During a follow up field visit made on 10th July 2019 by AFA and the county officials, to take stock of the progress made by the county cotton value chain actors, it was realized that the county had achieved



ASDSP Co-ordinator, Mr. Isaac Dawo and AFA representative looking at Cotton harvested presented by Seme-Kisumu Farmers Cooperative Society Chairperson

100% of its target hectareage within 6 months after the re-introduction of the high quality hybrid seeds.

The number of VCAs had increased to 600 cultivating a total of 2000 hectares. The total annual yield is expected to increase from 50 tons to 600 tons as the BT seed is resistant to ball worm, a stubborn pest in cotton production.

While emphasizing the economic value of cotton in the county, Mr. Dawo, the County ASDSP II coordinator said farmers were harvesting on average 300 kg of cotton per acre but with the improved hybrid or BT seeds, the potential yield is 2000kg under rain fed conditions and 2500kg for BT hybrid seed under irrigation. This translated to between ksh 104,000 - 130,000 per acre at the current price of ksh 52 per kg. This was much higher compared to the average yield from crops like maize and sorghum which fetched ksh 17,000 per acre on average.

He added that through ASDSP II partnerships initiative, VCAs from Kisumu County had bench-marked themselves with Salawa ginnery in Baringo County to learn their best practices. This had led to the signing of an agreement with them for the purchase of all cotton harvested in Kisumu, hence securing ready market for cotton.

"In the past VCAs would store their cotton for up to one year due to lack of market, however in this dispensation as soon as they harvest, the crop is transported to Salawa ginnery, and soon after that the VCAs receive payment." Mr Dawo said adding that Kisumu County had no functional ginnery. Kisumu County government, through ASDSP II has largely been involved in building the capacity of VCAs. They had set aside Ksh

1.4 million this financial year (2020/2021) to train more VCAs on cotton.

Mr Nixon Chebuche, from AFA said value chain actors would receive a donation of 78 liters of pests control chemicals for use He encouraged the farmers to use herbicides to clear weed as it was cost effective adding that they should keep farm records to inform their decisions for the subsequent planting seasons to cut down on costs.

The seeds were distributed through the eight cotton value chain co-operative societies in the county which are Kobura, Seme Kisumu which is the largest with about 180 members, and Muhoroni, Nyakach, Nyando, Kisumu East, Kimira and Kano Kajulu VCAs Cooperative Societies.

Mr Henry Dickson Odoyo a farmer registered with the Kobura cooperative society, planted the improved cotton seed on virgin land, he is both surprised and satisfied with the yield he was harvesting.

The secured market and the price incentive have attracted more VCAs, as Seme -Sub County alone has registered an additional 30 VCAs this planting season who are waiting to harvest their crop as well as join a SACCO.

ASDSP was started back in 2013 when conditions for cotton VCAs were dismal. The selling price of cotton was low at Ksh 42 per kg and the seed available in the market was of poor quality leading to low yields. Since then the program has supported the value chain through capacity building and addressing the key issues of seed and market through linkages. This has transformed the value chain.



Elgeyo-Marakwet Government Flags Off Potato Seeds to VCAs



County Secretary, Mr. Paul Chemutut, Flags-off seedlings

Potato value chain actors (VCAs) in Elgeyo-Marakwet County received 300 bags of certified potato seeds during a flagging off ceremony held at Iten town on 29th April 2021. The initiative was aimed at enabling the county value chain groups to generate their own potato seeds for the future.

While flagging off the consignment, County Secretary, Mr. Paul Chemutut appreciated the role of ASDSP II in the promotion of high value crops in the county. "By supporting our value chain actors (VCAs) to produce their own seeds, we ensure that in the near future, we shall be seed sufficient and will not have to import seed from other counties," he said. Chemutut disclosed that the county was in the process of setting up a potato seed multiplication centre at Chebara Agricultural Training Centre through the support of the World Bank.

Speaking during the occasion Agriculture Chief Officer (CO), Mr. Timothy Kiptum said that the seeds were disease free as they had been certified by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS). He added that the seeds would be distributed through the Elgeyo Marakwet potato cooperative society in order to reach the targeted value chain actors.

"As a county, we are encouraging our value chain actors (VCAs) to join or form cooperatives and take advantage of economies of scale and access the extension services provided by the cooperatives. Going forward this is the model we shall work with," he said.

The ASDSP II Coordinator, Jane Tallam noted that as part of the seed multiplication plan, the value chain groups had set aside one acre in each of the 14 wards to ensure that the potato seeds were available for future seasons. She said the initiative would reduce the costs associated with outsourcing seeds which was both expensive and posed a risk in importation of disease.



County Secretary, Mr. Paul Chemutut, Flags-off seedlings

Richland Poultry Farm Makes Profits After “Start Your Business (SYB)” Training, Kericho County

ASDSP II through ITC-ILO supported the training of 40 value chain actors from Kericho and Kakamega Counties on how to "Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB)". This is part of the entrepreneurial skills development tools and package of the programme. The 40 trainees, 20 from each county, were supposed to implement the skills acquired during the training in their respective value chain businesses. The value of the entrepreneurial training is demonstrated by Caroline Chepkemboi, a youth from Kericho County who is the sole proprietor of Richland's Poultry Enterprise popularly known as Carol's farm. Caroline rears indigenous poultry, one of the value chains supported by the project. The following is her testimony as at 2/9/2020.

"I started Richland's Poultry Enterprises popularly known as Carol's poultry farm in June 2016. I started with a brooder whose capacity was 250 chicks. I would rear day old chicks (DOC) for one month and then sell them for between KES 280 – 300 each. In September 2019, I attended a training on "Start - Your Business (SYB)" by ASDSP II. The training focused on a) generate your business idea b) business plan development c) resource mobilization.

After the training, I set my target at rearing 2000 chicks to be achieved by the end of 2020. I have worked smart towards my target and constructed a brooder with a capacity of 2000 chicks at a cost of KES 100,000. I then stocked the new brooder with 500 chicks. I have done a lot... imagine from 200 chicks in October, 2019 to 1500 chicks one year later. Currently, I have 200 chicks at two days old; 660 Kuroiler chicks at 7 days old; and 200 Kuroiler chicks at 14 days. I am expecting 500 DOCs on Friday (4/9/2020). To supplement my income, I offer incubation and brooding services where by

people bring their eggs and day old chicks with feeds and vaccines and I take care of them for one month at a fee. The COVID – 19 pandemic has affected my business as day old chicks (DOCs) have become scarce. It now takes four weeks for chicks to be delivered when you place an order from the rearing farms in Nakuru and Nairobi?..... To solve this problem, I have placed an order for a 1,500 eggs capacity incubator from my business profit. My previous incubator had a capacity of 352 eggs. My business is worth KES. 661,650 including fixed assets. Just after SYB training, I changed so many things and that's why I have achieved a lot since then. I do have a business plan"



Sensitizing traders on market linkages and business planning aspects

Goldvine Dairies Doubles Business Volume as A Result of ASDSP II Initiatives - Vihiga County

Goldvine dairies group is one of the 78 cow milk value chain organizations (VCOs) supported by the programme in Vihiga County. The group was registered in 2007 by the Department of Social Services, and currently has 20 members (5 men, 3 female and 12 youth). During the first phase of the programme, the group was primarily involved in fermenting fresh milk into fermented milk (mala) as part of value addition. They purchased on average 45 litres of milk daily of which 20 – 30 litres could be processed into mala for sale at their milk bar.

Due to lack of adequate knowledge and skills, the group opted to use fermented milk to make mala instead of applying appropriate cultures and this at times affected the quality of the end product. In addition, the group was experiencing high milk postharvest losses (up to 33%) mostly due to spillage and milk spoilage arising from contamination by workers and lack of refrigeration facilities. Through ASDSP support, the group members were trained on; milk handling, value addition of milk to mala and yoghurt using cultures, and sensitized on dairy industry regulations. As a result, post-harvest milk losses were drastically reduced to 4.6%.

In June 2018, the group, through ASDSP II facilitation, attended the AGRITEC International Conference and Fair in Nairobi where they gained more knowledge and additional exposure on the processing and marketing



of milk products leading to improvements in the branding of their products. For instance, prior to the exposure trip packaging of milk was done in 5 litres jerricans, the group has now been able to adopt the new branding for their products.

The group has also played a key role in the ASDSP II stakeholder consultations during the development of the Cow Milk Strategic Integrated Value Chain Action Plan (SIVCAP) in Vihiga County. They highlighted key challenges, opportunities and interventions at the processing nodes.

Currently, the group's milk intake has increased from the daily average of 45 litres to 80 litres while the quantity of yoghurt has increased to 30 litres from the previous 20 litres per day. Similarly, the quantity of mala processed has increased from 20 litres to 35 litres per day. The milk collection catchment area has also increased from one village to a whole sub location with suppliers increasing from 10 to 25.

The future aspirations of the group are to: upgrade their business from a milk parlour to a state-of-the-art milk cottage industry with a capacity of bulk 500 litres of milk per day and, to enhance efficiency of milk processing and packaging through acquisition of modern equipment e.g. bulk pasteurizers and cup sealing equipment and, to create more job opportunities for youths in the County.

ASDSP II & Partners Strategize to Control Mango Fruit Fly to Improve Mango Quality for Export in Makueni County

Mango production was introduced in Makueni County more than a decade ago by the then Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) to mitigate food insecurity occasioned by the frequent droughts experienced in the county. Farmers readily took up mango farming and today the County which has an estimated 4,311,375 mango trees, is the leading producer of mangoes in the Country. Mango value chain actors however face various challenges among them high incidences of pests and diseases. The mango fruit fly has been a major pest in mango production and this has led to restrictions on mango exports to the European Union (EU) market.

In order to address this challenge, ASDSP II together with other partners has embarked on the following strategies aimed at improving the quality of mangoes in order to tap into the export market.

- **Training and certification of mango service providers:** 10 mango service providers in the mango value chain were trained on the KS 1758 Standards and certified as ToTs by Horticultural Crops Directorate (HCD). The KS 1758 Standard is a Government standard, under the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) which covers food safety, environmental sustainability, and social accountability. It aims to ensure that horticultural produce is produced and handled in a responsible way at every stage and that there is strict adherence to guidelines on the safe use of chemicals.

The 10 ASDSP II supported service providers have reached 2765 value chain actors in the County through training to create awareness and enhance compliance with the standard.

- **Certification of mango nurseries and large scale farms:** This is done to ensure that mango fruit tree nurseries supply quality mango seedlings (disease free, true to type and hardy) while large scale farmers are trained and certified to ensure they meet the standards for the export markets. So far the HCD and KEPHIS have registered and certified 2 nurseries

(Makima Self Help Tree Nursery Group and, Usalala Maendeleo ya Wanawake in Waia Kako and Mavindini wards of Mbooni and Makueni sub counties respectively.) Registration and certification of large farms is ongoing targeting 200 farms with 200 trees each, producing an average of 300 mango fruits per tree.



Training and demonstration on setting Fruit fly traps to enhance pest free Mango production for the export market.

- **Training on fruit fly control:** ASDSP II in partnership with Research Triangle International (RTI), National Agriculture Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP), and Vert Fresh Export Ltd, is training farmers on pre and post-production management practices aimed at controlling the fruit flies. So far 1360 VCAs (825 men, 504 women and 31 youth) from 9 wards have participated in fruit fly control trainings and demonstrations. Other partners (Kenya Crops and Dairy Marketing Systems and LYNKS consultants) working with ASDSP II have also supported the initiative by distributing 2677 fruit fly traps to mango producers.

With these interventions in place, it is anticipated that the fruit fly will be effectively controlled and Makueni County will once again fully participate in the fruit export markets. The estimated production of mangoes for export to the European and Asian Markets in Makueni County stands at 12,000 MT valued at Ksh 9 Billion.



Ultimate product being prepared for export

Farmer's Effort to Improve Entrepreneurial Skill Leads to Thriving Business in Mombasa County



Zahra Sikudhan a retired employee of Twiga Chemicals Limited Nairobi relocated to her 4 acre farm in Kisauni Sub County, Mombasa County to try her hand in farming. She joined Kuku Kienyeji Shanzu group, one of the 20 poultry value chain

groups involved in commercialization of improved indigenous chicken supported by ASDSP II. She was then elected chairperson of the group.

Zahra bought an incubator for 520 chicks and some day old chicks from Kuku chick – a local supplier of chicks in Mombasa city and within no time she had a flock of 1000 chicks in her farm. It was at this stage that she realized that she had not anticipated the demand and startup capital required to run the business and the challenges she would face.

Through ASDSP intervention she attended several topical trainings on poultry production including one on business planning which she found very valuable. Today her farm, Be- Zed Poultry & Veggies farm, is one of the most successful improved indigenous poultry rearing farms in the County. Through the trainings, she learnt that in poultry farming, cleanliness which ensures that chicken do not contract diseases easily is very important as through diseases one can lose all their birds in a short time. To reduce mortality rates, she follows the recommended vaccination program and also ensures that the nutritional requirements of her flock and met by purchasing kuku kienyeji chicken feeds, minerals and vitamins from local agro- dealers.

The Kuku Kienyeji Shanzu group has since mastered the art of poultry farming and have zeroed in on brooding as many poultry value chain actors have challenges rearing day old chicks. They now specialize in the supply of month old to 2 month day old chicks as their core business. To make extra money, they keep at least 100 mature chicken which they sell at the farm

gate and Majengo market. As part of value addition, they package ready for the market products. This not only ensures that hygiene is maintained but also attracts customers; especially high end customers who offer relatively higher prices.

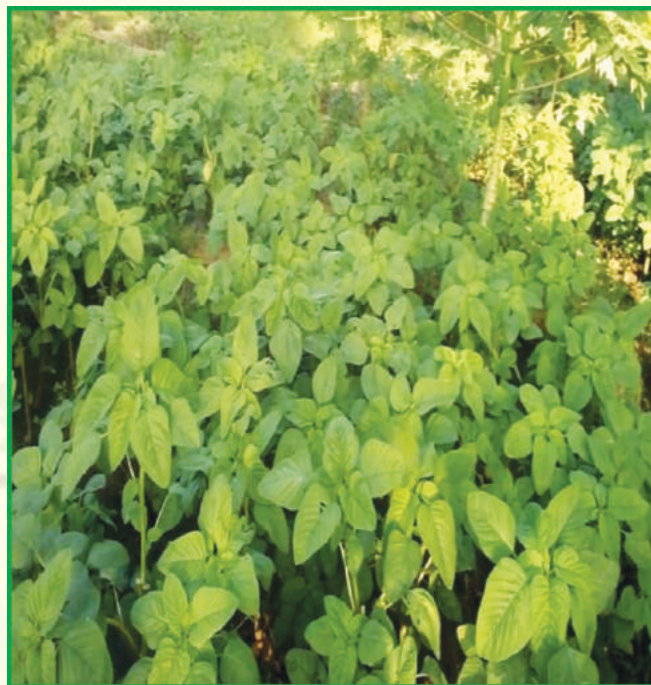


To utilize the remaining part of the farm, Zahra ventured into vegetable and fruit farming. Amaranthus (terere, mchicha, lidodo, alika) which thrives well at the Coast. The vegetables which are very leafy can tolerate a wide range of conditions take 7 to 8 weeks to mature and, and are one of the most profitable vegetables in the Coastal region. She also plants okra and cowpeas for their leaves which mature in 4 weeks.



In order to promote marketing of produce and products from her VC businesses; she has branded her farm (Be-Zed Poultry & Veggies farm) and uses social media platforms especially her Facebook page to market her produce and products. She sells her vegetables mainly at farm gate where vegetable vendors and traders visit the farm to purchase the produce for sale to their respective customers. With an initial capital of ksh 7000 she makes 150,000 in 45 days from her enter-

prises. She however notes that Agricultural business is a relatively high risk venture that requires diversification to cushion farmers from any unforeseen eventualities such as prolonged drought, pests and disease incidences; price fluctuations among other issues.



Apart from training on the core VC businesses of local vegetables and indigenous chicken production, the ASDSP II also trained the group members on alternative livelihoods and diversification. This was aimed at building resilience in the event of any unforeseen problems that could negatively affect their VC businesses. The group members have planted fruits trees in their farms which include oranges, passion fruits, assorted bananas and pawpaw trees. Zahra has established 400 hybrid pawpaw trees that mature between 7 to 9 months (recommended pawpaw population per acre is 450 plants). These are intercropped with low growing annual crops such as capsicum, onions, beans, etc whenever she can. Yields per tree vary from 75 to 150 fruits annually giving 35 to 50 tons of fruit per ha per year. An estimated gross return per year for one acre is 450x50x25 (selling at

Ksh. 25 per fruit) which equals to Kshs. 562,500/=. With a little maintenance cost of around Kshs: 60,000/=, her approximate gross income is Kshs: 502,000/= per acre from the pawpaw fruit.

Be-Zed farm employs and mentors youth. The group has trained unemployed youth on basic agricultural best practices to ensure that they manage the business well and at the same time earn decent wages to support their livelihoods. Each youth has been assigned to a particular section of the farm; however they also work as a team to ensure smooth running of the VC business.

Through hard work and determination Be-Zed Poultry & Veggies farm has made an impact in Mombasa County as a producer of local poultry and vegetables.

Beekeeper Accidentally Ventures Into Fish Farming; The Story of Pauline Okore, Siaya County

Pauline Okore from Haga village in Karemo, South East Alego is the proud proprietor Mc Okore Fish Ponds comprising three fish ponds that measure 8m x 5m, 14m x 10m and 20m x 15m also. Her tilapia fish rearing business started in 2020 as an offshoot of her beekeeping enterprise. Pauline had hives whose bees went into exile on seasonal basis. After consulting the bee experts, she was advised to excavate a small pond to provide water for the bees. She then realized that she could not only construct the pond for the bees but also rear fish in it.



Trader Pauline Okore selling fish to Customers

Fish is one of the prioritized value chains in the county, and ASDSP II has trained service providers to promote the value chain. Pauline was introduced to the service provider for fish in her area Mr. David Oluoch who helped her with the enterprises. Together they developed a business plan which has enabled her to manage her operations with ease. Through his instructions, she now understands what is expected of fish farming in terms of feeding, stocking levels and times of harvesting.

After constructing the fish ponds using her own savings, she contacted a supplier who provided her with 800 fingerlings of tilapia for the first pond. Two months later, she bought another 600 fingerlings followed by another 700 fingerlings for the remaining 2 ponds. She feeds the fish using growers and finisher feeds.

"There have been challenges, such as reduced water levels during the dry season, predators such as tortoise and kingfishers but that has not derailed my ambition to rear fish" she says. "Frequent visits from the service

provider to supervise and diagnose any illnesses have motivated my efforts in this Journey" she adds.

Her first harvest from the first pond yielded 40kgs of fish which was bought by the local community, friends and a few to hotels in Kisumu city through her networks. Her second harvest a few days later from the other two ponds yielded 35 kg which she sold at Kshs. 300 per kg. Pauline is grateful to ASDSP II though the County Programme Coordinator, Mr. Kenneth Owuor for linking her to other markets that saw her sell all her stock for Kshs. 22,500 in one day.

"Currently, I am renovating all the ponds for restocking in early February 2021" she says. Pauline adds that she

intends to increase her stock of fish as she understands most of the logistics involved in fish farming, from stocking to harvesting. She adds that her background in education has enabled her to use the knowledge and skills acquired in fish farming to encourage the young unemployed women in her area to venture into small scale fish farming as a business to improve their livelihoods.

Pauline is looking forward to growing her networks and engaging with other partners and believes the agribusiness venture will thrive overtime because according to her, the ponds are easy to manage, environmentally friendly and economical.



One of Pauline's fish ponds and Weighing of harvested fish at the pond site

National Programme Secretariat (NPS) Team



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Rosemary Magambo
M&E, Communication Specialist



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Mr. Bernard Mwangangi
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Mr. Benjamin Ndegwa
Environmental Resilience & Climate
Smart Officer



Ms. Frashiah Mwebia
Gender, Research & Social
Inclusion Specialist



Aggrey Adul
Knowledge Management &
Communication Officer

ASDSP II Welcomes Team Leader, Technical Assistance for the Programme



Mr. Marc Van Uytvanck

ASDSP II is happy to welcome Mr. Marc Van Uytvanck as the Team Leader, Technical Assistance for the programme with effect from 1 May 2021.

Marc comes with more than 30 years' experience in international agricultural development in Africa, with specific experience in managing high-value, multi-sector development programmes in food security and nutrition; climate smart agriculture; value chain development; policy formulation and influencing; institutional strengthening and capacity building; and SME development. He has successfully managed complex portfolios in Sub-Saharan Africa, with budgets of above US\$ 200 million for FCDO (DFID), UN (IFAD & UNOPS) and EU and supervising up to 1,200 staff. Marc has a Master of Science (MSc) in Agriculture, Master of Arts in Public Administration for Developing Countries (MPA) and Lecturer Degree.

He is in love with Africa; he enjoys the space, the climate, game parks and most of all, its people! He believes in working as a team to get the necessary results. He hopes to contribute to ASDSP II in reducing poverty in the country through the development of value chains and creating employment. Marc succeeds Mr. Mikael Segerros who retired after many years working in Kenya as Team Leader Technical Assistance NIRAS for ASDSP I and II.



Mr. Mikael Segerros, the outgoing Team Leader for the Technical Assistance under NIRAS to ASDSP II, joined the programme in February 2017 when ASDSP II was approved for implementation. Prior to this he had been the Technical Advisor (TA) NIRAS, to ASDSP I from August 2012 to 2016 when the first phase of the programme ended.

Michael first came to Africa in 1978 as a volunteer in Northern Angola. He since then spent most of his life in Africa working in various capacities in the agricultural sector in Eastern and Southern Africa. Second to Sweden, Michael has spent most of his life in Kenya. He worked with the National Soil and Water Conservation Programme between 1985 to 1990. In 2008, he became the

Programme Adviser and Team Leader for the Technical Assistance team to The National Agricultural Extension Programme (NALEP II, 2008-2012) and the Improved Food Security in the ASALS Project (IFSAP, 2008-2012).

In May 2021 Mikael reached retirement age and left the service. In total Mikael has lived and worked within the Agricultural sector in Kenya for 18 years making it a very special country in his life. He remains very grateful to the staff and people in Kenya he has been in contact with. There are ups and downs in life, but no doubt Kenya has provided him with immense learning opportunities, a lot of joyful moments, in addition to lasting friendship.



**Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme II
(ASDSP II)**

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