

Agriculture Sector Development support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II)

SECOND EDITION NEWSLETTER

ASDSP II SIAYA LAUNCH DISTRIBUTION OF EQUIPMENT WORTH 15 MILLION

11TH MARCH 2022

About 22 groups have benefited from the first phase of hard-earned equipment that is meant to enhance their capacities in the value chains of Fish, Mango and Indigenous Chicken courtesy of Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II), Siaya County.

During her address at the County headquarters yesterday, the CECM for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries, Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo applauded the move that has come to complement the excellent work being done ASDSP II in skills enhancement.

"These are equipment that you have never utilized in our various enterprises hence the concept INNOVATION which we are optimistic will eventually unlock the challenges hindering the process of value chain development", she added.



Mrs. Lorna Ouma of Madeya Abedo Value chain Organization being presented a Chopper grinder (innovation equipment) by the CECM for Agriculture Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo and Mr. Charles Siso (Chief Officer) at the ASDSP II premises.

Dr. Odhiambo finally urged the beneficiaries to visualize and actualize the value of the equipment failure to which they will be confiscated and given to other deserving groups.

Also present was the Chief Officer for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries, Mr. Charles Siso who equally envisages better rapid results through the distribution of 10 predator nets, 10 secateurs, 2 juice extractors, 10 pruning saws, 10 sprayer pumps, 5 shed nets and 10 incubators. The County Programme Coordinator, Mr. Kenneth Owuor on his part

clarified that the first phase valued at Kshs.2.7 Million is only but a start of a journey which will see more groups benefit from equipment valued at Kshs. 15 Million overtime.

He further stated that through this venture, women and youth have been favored so that they can compete men who for a long time have dominated the money-making Agribusiness ventures.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya



Indigenous Chicken Value Chain



Mango Value Chain



Fish Value Chain



CECM'S FOREWORD



*Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo
County Executive Committee
Member,
Department of Agriculture, Food,
Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries.*

It is indeed a great honour to be part of this 2nd edition of the Siaya County Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASD-SPII) Newsletter as we continue to work together and consolidate our efforts to chart the pathway towards sustainable food systems in Siaya County. We have come a long way in our journey of food systems transformation and our actions and initiatives in the agriculture sector are edging closer towards food and nutritional security with the implementation of the programme which has prioritized three value chains of fish, Indigenous chicken and Mango value chains.

Of great concern to the Department, is to address four key challenges hindering commercialization including low productivity along agricultural value chains; inadequate entrepreneurial skills; inadequate market structures and capacities for consultation, cooperation and coordination within the Sector.

The Department of Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries is implementing strong reforms for transformation not only to enhance commercially oriented enterprises but also to provide legal framework

including drafting policies and strategies.

Currently the Department has launched and rolled-out the Siaya County Youth Agribusiness Strategy 2022-2027 to ensure our youths are deliberately included in the sector and has developed Siaya County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) Bill and Regulations to enhance coordination of the Agricultural Sector. The department is also implementing Siaya CIDP and Annual Development Plans which are contributing towards the progressive implementation of The Big Four Agenda, Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals.

All the policies and strategies interventions for the Department are anchored in Draft Agriculture Policy (soon to be rolled out) which is already built on the strong foundations of Vision 2030 that sets the agenda for inclusive growth and people-driven sustainable development and the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) that presents commitment to transforming the sector by increasing output and productivity, boosting incomes in agribusiness and ensuring household resilience and food security. I wish to encourage all stakeholders to not only read the newsletter but also utilize the information for improving their implementation profiles and synergies to achieve realistic goals as depicted in this newsletter.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN FISH SIAYA COUNTY

SIAYA Fingerlings Producer Association comprising of 21 hatchery operators was formed with the support of ASD-SPII to champion and mobilize all fingerlings producers into one performing umbrella to improve productivity and above all ease product traceability.

- Through the support from ASD-SPII, approximately 17 fish hatcheries have been inspected of which 7 have been certified in compliance with the regulation for the authorization of fisheries enterprise to handle and process fish and fishery products.

- ASDSPII with the help of the SPs facilitated the formation of Siaya Millers Association comprising of 17 millers producing fish and chicken feeds.

- The ASDSPII through capacity building has imparted knowledge to approximately 276 cage owners with over 3,000 fish cages in SIAYA. This amounts to approximately 270,00MT.

- The ASDSPII innovation support to the VCAs and VCOs from the innovation fund in terms of predator kit has really led to increase in productivity.

- 3 ASDSPII fish value chain service providers working for the program has empowered 86 fish ponds value chain actors across the county in innovation mindset and Good Management Practices.

- Aquaculture Business Development Program has managed to improve aquaculture sector by providing farm inputs in terms of hardware eg predator nets and pond liners to some of the farmers.

- Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture program have heightened aquaculture industry in the county by constructing fish ponds and fabricating of fish cages as well as capacity development to CIGs and VMGs groups to increase productivity

- Blue economy has been put into its rightful gauge when Omena drier was constructed at Kamariga beach management Unit by Kenya climate smart agriculture to dry the *rastineobola argentea* (Omena) so that the effect of post-harvest losses due to lack of sun is no longer a problem.

- Vemric company ltd processing Omena called Char fresh in Luand Kotieno BMU has benefited from the support offered by ASDSPII on product development, market linkages and product Commercialization concepts for the expansion of the business.

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Chief Officer

Mr. Charles Siso

Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme phase II (ASDSP II) has an aim of contributing to transformation of crop, livestock and fishery production into commercially oriented enterprises that ensure sustainable food and nutrition security complementing the County Agriculture vision of commercialization of agriculture through sustainable value chain development according to Siaya CIDP (2018- 2022). Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) is a 5-year programme (2017-2022) with a budget of KES 110,309,200 supported by Government of Sweden and European Union, National Government and County Government of Siaya to the tune of KES 70,309,200, KES 12,500,000 and KES 27,500,000 respectively.

The County Government has further invested in human resource and office accommodation in the Programme. As a matter of principle, ASDSP II Siaya operates through collaborations with Departmental Directorates (Crops, Livestock and Fisheries) and partnerships with Agricycle Global, Word Vision Kenya, Retail Pay, Young Women Connect And Sauti East Africa to achieve the four 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 as well as gender and social inclusion of women and youth. The programme is on course and has reached 12,528 VCAs (F5434,

Y2748, M 4346) improving their income, nutrition and food security through capacity building concepts and innovation grant proposals.

At the County level, it is managed by the County Programme Secretariat (CPS) which has been responsible for its successful management. The programme is steered by County Agricultural Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM). This newsletter therefore is to show case some of the implemented technologies and innovations by value chain actors through Service providers to create awareness and build confidence among all the stakeholders. This is also to congratulate Calvin Awora, our Departmental Communication Officer and the County Programme Secretariat on the development of this newsletter.

County Programme Coordinator

Mr. Kenneth Owuor

ASDSP II Siaya has come a long way to have reached 12,528 VCAs (F5434, Y2748, and M 4346) through capacity building by 32 service providers out of which 23 are from private sector and 9 from the public sector spread geographically in all the 30 wards of Siaya County.

Out of the Value Chain Actors reached, mango has 3,156 (1,334 males, 696 females and 1,126 youths), Indigenous chicken 4,723 (1,358 males, 2,263 females and 1,102 youths) and Fish; 4,649 (1,471 males, 2,176 females and 1,002 youths) trained on 70 innovations and 69 technologies (65 Climate Smart Agricultural and 4 green Growth Technologies) to increase productivity through capacity building concepts and innovation grants using need-based problem-solving interventions approach.

Through “know your numbers initiatives”, the programme is working with

5,445 VCAs of which 2,181 (654M, 1,091F, & 436Y) are keeping records (Grapa Farm and Nature land group) , 1,287 (386M, 644F, & 257Y) implementing business canvas (Ugambe Ochonga Women group & Usenge Women Group), 1,904 (657M, 852F, & 395Y) implementing simple business plans (YEPO youth group & Kobiero Youth Group) and 73(53M, 11F & 9Y) are implementing comprehensive business plans (Upendo SACCO and Omuma Farm). During the period under review, some of entrepreneurial skills both hard and soft skills were imparted to 5,903 VCAs. Two cooperatives taken through the ‘My-Coop Model Approach’ to improve their marketing roles.

To improve market access and skill development, a total of 20 market informers have been trained and 45 market information packages disseminated. Five students on attachment have been taken through skill-based learning by being attached to identified and willing entrepreneurs.

The programme has supported Agriculture Policy, Root and Tubers Strategy, Mechanization Strategy, Grant and Subsidies Bill, Soil Management Policy, Youth in Agribusiness Strategy, support to CASSCOM Bill and regulations formulation, support to 6 partnership negotiations, holding and participating in 12 field days and exhibitions, 127VCA on field training sessions, 47 workshops and 4 business pitching events. It has a robust monitoring and evaluation through County Monitoring, Agriculture committee, Social Audit Teams and County Programme Secretariat as hallmark of the programme.

The major setback has been COVID 19 pandemic that slowed down our implementation. This therefore is to welcome you to this programme newsletter and you are free to air your views for future engagements.

SPEECHES

Chairperson Indigenous Chicken

Platform *Mr Adede Fredrick*

Indigenous Chicken Value Chain Platform gives an edge in providing value chain actors with a platform to share progress, challenges and key intervention areas for support in order for the businesses in chicken be productive. The platform has a total of 4,723 (1,358 males, 2,263 females and 1,102 youths) value chain actors across all the enterprises in the chicken value chain. The platform has member represented from Siaya Poultry Incubator Operators which comprise of 32 members, Siaya Feed Millers that promote traceable formulated feeds with 17 members and Siaya County Agro-Dealers Association that brings 98 private agrovet dealers one umbrella. The platform also has representatives from Chicken Champions across Sub Counties who produces month old chicks and table birds, vaccination teams that ensure vaccination regimes are followed, processors, traders and transporters.

The indigenous chicken value chain is moving forward on product development through slaughter slab being constructed in Rarieda and the one being installed in Gem. This in deed will be a game-changer in accessing markets for the chicken producers in Siaya County and beyond. ASDSP and other players such as Heifer-Hatching hope, MESPT, North Gem Programme, KCSAP, GIZ, RTI, UCRC and Plan International have played a vital role in exposure of businesses that are done through trade fairs, linkages and pitching events. These businesses have generated a total of up to KES 2.47 Billion. Cost of feeds has been on the rising trend and through ASDSP, some of the women and youth led producers organization have been supported with innovation equipment to increase productivity.

SIAYA AGRI-VALUE CHAIN INCUBATION & INNOVATION CENTRE (SAVIIC)

For every successful business, one must have a positive mindset. This mindset creates an individual value that gives intrinsic drive contributing towards commercialization of the business. Siaya Agri-Value Chain Incubation & Innovation Centre (SAVIIC) offer mentorship and coaching business opportunities for entrepreneurs/enterprises that require growth or start-ups. SAVIIC has faced an upward face lift through its mandate of incubating agri-business and this has been done through recruitment and incubating 14 mentees through service providers who have graduated and currently running and managing their own businesses. As a business service provider in ASDSP, SAVIIC invested KES 1,450,000 and was able to enhance capacities of various organizations. These organizations included; Sparrow Processors, SIFUMAs Women CBO, Gem Youth Vaccination Group, Blood Sisters, BEDO Agrovet, Green Heroes CBO, RABO, Upendo FSA, Maningi Enterprises, Juvarih Holdings, Nyapoto, Banga Farm, Kevin Service Sprayers and Becca Poultry Farm. All these institutions were incubated on business aspects depending on the needs, which involve training, exchange visits and linkages for both financial services and product development services at Agriculture Technology Development Centre (ATDC). Currently SAVIIC is incubating 10 organization at on farm level including YEPO, Future Makers, Grapa Poultry Farm, Natureland Youth Group, Sustainable Agriculture Youth Group, Nammy Dexotifiers, West Ugenya Agripreneuers Youth, Obwombe Enterprises, Omuma Enterprises and Abedo Women Group. SAVIIC is re-branding into both incubation and innovation Centre that will enhance on-farm models for hands-on experiences for youths and women.

Fish value chain platform chairman

speech *Mr. Samuel Okello*

Fish value chain is a broad sector with various enterprises including fingerling production, feed formulation, pond and cage fish production, fresh fish and processed fish and trading with transportation cutting across on these enterprises. Involvement of the ASDSPII has facilitated the formation of value chain platforms that comprise the establishment of Siaya County Fingerling Producers Association, Siaya feed millers Association and fish cage farmers Association. These platforms established has sailed fisheries deliverables to higher levels. This converts to increase in employment, income generation and improved diet to siaya people and beyond.

As a platform we engage with 4,649 (1,471 males, 2176 females and 1002 youths) value chain actors with women and youth being the majority. But even with this the value chain is still a barren market with supply of fish still below 40% for supply and demand. Therefore, more actors/investors/donors have started showing interest in the value chain opening grounds for more training Good Management Practices and interventions in the fish value chain. Some of the challenges comprises the high cost of inputs used in feed formulation.

On behalf of the fish actors, I must thank partner programs that contributed to the several milestones in fish including ABDP, KCSAP, Livestock and Veterinary services directorate, MESPT, GIZ, Fisheries directorate and above all I appreciate the programme for initiating innovation grant which blends well with the software.

Mango VCP - chairman *Mr Alloice Owino*

It's another opportunity that mango value chain platform highlights some of our achievements realized through the ASDSPII interventions in the county.

Our 7 Service Providers have trained 3,156 (1,334 males, 696 females and 1,126 youths) actors along all the nodes. Institutionalization of 24 mango seedling nurseries into an organization out of which 8 nurseries were certified which producing 32,000 seedlings worth KES 8,000,000 yearly. Supported pruning and spraying of 8900 mango trees earning the spray teams 1,335,000 yearly. Mango traders sold 2,311 tons of mango worth KES 69,330,000 yearly and processors managed to earn KES 138,600,000 through juices, jams, wines, cakes and flakes.

Market linkages, management and capacity building were emphasized through the year. Pest and disease infestation was a major challenge experienced and therefore I thank all the players including Crops directorate, HCD, KEPHIS, ATDC, KIRDI and all Value Chain Platform members and all the value chain actors for your support.



Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo
County Executive Committee
Member, Department of Agriculture,
Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries



Mr. Charles Siso
Chief Officer, Department of Agriculture,
Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries.



Kenneth Owuor
County Coordinator, Agriculture Sector,
Development Support Programme
(ASDSP II)



Susan Aruwa (Retired)
Value Chain Development Officer
Fish, Mango and Indigenous Chicken



Mark Omollo Oganyo
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer



Aggrey Obamba.
Policy Institutional and Capacity
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Stephen Otieno Oketch
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Rose Kwanda
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Margrate Atieno Aloo
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Samuel Otieno
Driver



Lilian Arara
Support Staff



Julius Huma
Intern



Alice Adhiambo
Intern



Christine Atieno
Intern



Derrick Onyango
Intern



Calvin Awora Ndolo
Communication Officer/
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SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO KENYA DIGNIFIES SIAYA COUNTY IN ASDSP II IMPLEMENTATION 14TH JULY 2021

H.E the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya Hon. Caroline Vicini has noted that Siaya County is at the fore front in implementing the ASDSP II programme towards food security and improving Actors' incomes.

While on an evaluation tour yesterday to value chain actors, the Ambassador expressed her delight in view of women and youth inclusiveness in income generation ventures. She added that the Swedish Government is largely mainstreaming youth and women participation in all its programmes and Siaya County has greatly responded to the call with great impetus.



Siaya County Governor, Cornel Rasanga Amoth with H.E the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya Hon. Caroline Vicini at County headquarters

"Its marvelous to see income generating enterprises within the value chains of Fish, Mango and Indigenous chicken. This is an indication that extension and linkages through different platforms is improving livelihoods for the poor in the society", said Ambassador Vicini.

During a courtesy call in his office earlier in the day, H.E the Governor Cornell Rasanga Amoth, the County Governor appreciated the Swedish Government for its overwhelming



H.E the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya Hon. Caroline Vicini is taken round a fish Banda in Lwanda kotieno

investment on mindset change for residents to practice in commercially oriented Agriculture.

He assured that his Government will ensure that the 110 Million invested over a five year period since 2017 obtains the stipulated value.

"With effective commitment and accountability of these resources, we will be able to measure its impact that will live beyond the test of time for the people of Siaya", said Governor Rasanga.

The County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo on her side outlined

"With effective commitment and accountability of these resources, we will be able to measure its impact that will live beyond the test of time for the people of Siaya", said Governor Rasanga.

the many successes that has been achieved since ASDSP II inception and this includes reaching out to 10,135 value chain actors against a target of 14,078, development of 3 Strategic Integrated Value Chain Action Plans, created partnerships that has enhanced market access, development of Innovation proposals for Value chain actors and ensuring linkages among different players.

She further urged all development partners to continue complementing each other in achieving set objectives within the Agriculture Sector.



H.E the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya Hon. Caroline Vicini being interacting with mango traders and mango processors at Siaya ATDC

ASDSP II AND JOOUST TIES IN WITH WEIHENSTEPHAN TRIESDORF UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES (HSWT GERMANY) ON RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT



Team from JOOUST and Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT) poses for a photo at the edge of the lake enjoying the cool offshore winds, and in the other photo the visitors are being shown fish cage fabrication site.

Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) in collaboration with Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science & Technology (JOOUST) has in the past week hosted Weihenstephan Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences from Germany that has a mandate to enhance incubation concept through Agribusiness hubs, students' entrepreneurial skills development through hands-on attachment/internship to host entrepreneurs and exchange programmes on sustainable region development.

The visit which was meant to identify possible areas of collaboration involved field engagement with the potential host entrepreneurs such as Maningi Enterprises (Indigenous Chicken Value Chain), Cosade CBO (Fish Fingerling Production by use of sex reversal hormone technology through greenhouse innovation initiative), Vemric Enterprises processing rastineobola Argentea(omena)(Char Freshy Omena Processing Plant) and Lwanda Kotieno (Blue Economy Enterprises thus fish cage farming innovation).



The visitors from JOOUST and Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT) are sensitized by Mr. Aggrey Obamba (ASDSP II fish specialist) on the blue economy activities in the lake taking place in Luanda Kotieno beach. The commercialization aspects of fish business is at the core.



“At the university, we are focused on enhancing collaborations with institutions such as JOOUST and their partner organization ASDSP II to ensure that we upscale from lecture series of our students to value chain actors/ farmers who are key in providing hands-on experiences and exposure on the real agribusiness. At Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT), research, transfer of knowledge and technology are extremely important and we are implementing this through Food Start-up Incubator that focuses on business angle, acceleration programs, product development and start-up funding for the potential entrepreneurs”, said Joachim Weber, the delegation team leader.

Also present was chairperson Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management Department at JOOUST, Dr. Alice Nakhumicha who emphasized that their institution is working closely with ASDSP II on research, technologies and attaching students for industrial field activities on skill development.

“We also recognize the importance of ASDSP II programme in providing technical knowledge to value chain actors which has given our students a platform to integrate their knowledge during industrial field attachment. This programme has an incubation center which gives it an edge in collaboration with JOOUST and Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT) on coaching and mentorship”, she echoed.

ASDSP II Coordinator Kenneth Owuor acknowledged that Implementation of innovations support, research & development on technologies and partnerships with research Institutions such as JOOUST are key activities towards achieving the implementation of ASDSP II outcome areas.

The Coordinator also highlighted that Siaya Agri-Value Chain Incubation Centre (SAVIC) has spearheaded implementation of the programme and has provided the unique initiative which is in tandem with Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT) that also has Food Start-up Incubator.

SIAYA COUNTY CASSCOM DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 – 2025 AND BILL DEVELOPED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

The County Government of Siaya through the Department of Agriculture has today concluded the development of its first ever draft County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 and Bill to guide the spirit of consultation, coordination, cooperation and collaboration in the Agriculture Sector.

Supported by ASDSP II and RTI International, the two day validation exercise of the drafts is envisaged to have given birth to documents that will minimize duplication of efforts and misuse of resources through joint perusal of effective development of the Agriculture Sector.

Speaking earlier today during the closing of the workshop at MillsView Hotel in Kisumu, the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries, Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo appreciated all the players that have walked through the whole process of the documents' development.

“Your efforts and expertise have given birth to documents that will live beyond the current leadership to strengthen Agriculture related activities in our County. We believe that the entire CASSCOM

stakeholders, the cabinet, County Assembly and the people of Siaya will finally approve of these documents' when tabled before them”, she said.

On his side, Mr. Charles Siso the Chief Officer for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries noted the documents as tools for resource mobilization, vital for any implementation process.

Also present was the RTI International Nyanza regional Policy Coordinator Beatrice Kirui who affirmed their commitment to working with the County Government to ensure the Committee formations are domesticated at the Sub County and Ward levels.

County ASDSP II Coordinator, Kenneth Owuor on the other hand stated that the programme's support to CASSCOM still stands as long as ASDSP II exists. Mr. Owuor is confident that with such kind of established structures, CASSCOM will live to operationalize Agricultural Objectives outlined in the County CIDP, Vision 2030 and Big 4 Agenda.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.



Department of Agriculture workshop at MillsView Hotel in Kisumu on County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 and Bill

CASSCOM APPROVES ASDSP II ONE YEAR EXTENSION

Amidst the delay in funds disbursement and disruption of calendar of activities by the Covid 19 pandemic, County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) has approved a one-year Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP II) extension to ensure set objectives are met.

This short fall has in turn led to low uptake of innovation due to high cost of implementation and delay in procurement due to delayed procedures. There is also lower uptake in integration of climate smart Agriculture and green growth on environment, climate change and biodiversity.

Speaking during a periodical CASSCOM meeting early this year, the CECM for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock & Fisheries, Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo appreciated ASDSP II for the exemplary performance they have realized despite all the notable challenges. She promised to advocate for faster release of funds to ensure that pending activities are accomplished by the end of the extended one year.

The ASDSP II Coordinator in his response thanked the team and gave an assurance that well-coordinated intervention strategies shall be set to ensure value chain actors benefit from the program.



County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) meeting at Distinction Gardens 2021

ASDSP II SIAYA BREAKS THE ICE ON MARKET ACCESS

9TH SEPTEMBER 2021



In what is seen as a way of stabilizing the development of Agribusiness and facilitation of trade in Agricultural value chains through digitization, this past week has seen the formalization of a working mechanism between ASDSP II Siaya and Retail Pay Limited, the technology provider.

Pursuant to a series of laid down objectives, the partners will collaborate on the deployment of Retail Pay's Cultivate Platform. ASDSP II Siaya County contact channels and E – Extension materials will be shared on Retail Pay's cultivate platform including any value chain actor, primary producer or value chain actor data in the possession of ASDSP Siaya.

According to Eugene Nyamunga, the Trade Facilitation Lead, the Retailers' App which is available on play store helps you to receive goods in your outlet and manage your inventory so as to plan ahead for new stock.

"The app also helps to restock products, adjust prices and edit product details anytime", he added.

Speaking during the ceremony at his office, Mr. Charles Siso, Chief Officer for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries welcomed the initiative that will stand out towards ensuring that local produce get prompt access to markets.

Mr. Siso was also optimistic that this collaboration will go a long way in ensuring access to credit facilities by exploring more option in capacity development of value chain actors.

ASDSP II County Programme Coordinator, Mr. Kenneth Owuor noted that Retail Pay has come in at the right time to address the very centre of its value chains development through ensuring access to market information, aggregation of their produce and also ensuring that the programme delivers on its key outcome areas.

By Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.



CANADIAN MAYOR HAILS SIAYA'S POTENTIAL IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

9TH MAY 2022

Andrew Prokop, His Worship the Mayor of the Canadian Town of Taber being through the sparrow processors products.

"I see many great things here. I see Agripreneurs with great expertise and I believe that with just a little reinforcement, the underlying potential in upgrading small scale farmers to commercially oriented mindsets can be realized at great levels", said Andrew Prokop, His Worship the Mayor of the Canadian Town of Taber.

The mayor who is on a week – long tour of the County was speaking while he visited sparrow processors – an award winning Juice processor whose success has majorly been attributed to the County Government through Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II and Siaya Agri Value Chain Incubation Center

He was inspired by efforts being made by women and young individuals in ensuring that they make a decent living through value addition in different products such as Mango, Oranges Jackfruit, Hibiscus, pineapple, pineapple, bananas, Passion, paw paw and even tomatoes.

"This is very inspiring. I believe that when relevant stakeholders come together to strengthen their capacities, I replica of this

can be realized in various value chains herein creating direct and indirect employment", he added.

Mr. Prokop further visited Ajigo and Ndunya Irrigation sites in North Sakwa and South Uyoma respectively where over 30 acres of farm land is under irrigation.

He acknowledged the County's zeal in making residents realize the importance of natural water resources like Lake Victoria for more than just fishing.

The two are part of nine other schemes initiated by the County Government to irrigate crops that for a long time had produced low yields because of over reliance on rain – fed Agriculture.

The mayor who was accompanied by his Chief Financial Officer Mr. John Orwa, a Kenyan will today visit Bondo town market and Bondo slaughter house then later sign a formal agreement twinning the two towns of Bondo in Siaya, Kenya and Taber in Canada.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

DRAWING A LINE FOR ENHANCED IMPLEMENTATION OF ASDSP II BLUE PRINT (SIVCAP)

15TH OCTOBER 2021

Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) Secretariat are committed to accelerating implementation of Strategic Integrated Value Chain Action Plans of Fish, Indigenous Chicken and Mango Value Chains in ensuring that Value Chain Actors' interventions are achieved.

The Mid-term Review findings and recommendations, Revision of Annual Work Plan and Budget 2021/2022, Gender and Social Inclusion Action Plans, E-commerce and review on progress tracker will be key towards the final stretch of the programme's lifeline.

Speaking during the CPS stimulation meeting in the past week, Kenneth Owuor ASDSP II Coordinator said, "There is need ensure that we implement the actions areas to ensure that recommendations made during the Mid Term review are met. This will spur the commercialization agenda which will ensure the four outcome areas, eleven output areas and thirty three indicators are achieved for the benefit of the 14,078 value chain actors targeted in Siaya County".

He also insisted that visibility of ASDSP II as a programme need to be felt by partners, collaborators and stake-

holders within the agricultural sector Monitoring, Evaluation and Communication Officer, Mark Omolo emphasized on the need of both qualitative and quantitative data which gives effectiveness and efficiency in tracking the value chain actors progress across the four outcome areas.

Also present was Stephen Oketch, Business Manager Siaya Agri-value chain Incubation Centre who said, "Market access still forms the centre of value chain development and provides the pull factor for ensuring continuous growth of the value chain. E-commerce under ASDSP II website on market information provides a platform for marketing of products". He also emphasized that SAVIC will ensure that digitalization of market information is accessed and utilized by the value chain actors.

Other emphasis were on dissemination of ASDSP II programs, collaboration with development partners, stakeholders and agricultural sector programs and projects for sustainability of Value Chain Platforms and Value Chain organizations in Siaya County.



Service providers recapping on Mid term review findings on October 2021 at Kowiny resort

SIAYA COUNTY UNVEILS A FOOD SAFETY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

13TH AUGUST 2021



Institutionalization workshop for food safety operations by County Government of Siaya in collaboration with ASDSP II Siaya

In a bid to institutionalize food safety operations, the County Government of Siaya in collaboration with Micro Enterprises Support Trust (MESPT) through the Green Employment in Agriculture Programme (GEAP) has today established a County Food Safety Committee.

The Committee consisting of stakeholders from both private and public sector chaired by the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries with CECM Health as the Secretary will develop coordinated mechanisms and coordinate development of legislations aimed at addressing food safety issues at the County level.

"This system will ensure healthy competitions, established traceability systems, coordinated operation of food business operations and improved food safety standards", said CECM for Agriculture Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo as she gave her address.

Also present was the Chief Officer for Agriculture, Mr. Charles Siso who stressed the need to map the designed Poultry and Aquaculture Action Plans with specific timelines and follow up mechanisms if the successes of the committee are to be favorably ranked.

In her remarks, Doreen Kinoti, the GEAP Programme manager mentioned their commitment to capacity build value chain actors across all segments of the two value chains in a bid to increase productivity herein open markets for farmers and private sector actors.

"The five year programme running from January 2021 is envisaged to reach over 40,000 beneficiaries, disburse around 4 Billion to farmers and create a 6 Billion sales turn over", she

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

VALUE CHAIN ACTORS SENSITIZED ON DIGITAL MARKETING



ASDSP II Value chain actors being sharpened by Retail Pay's Cultivate Platform as a way of stabilizing Agribusiness Development and Trade facilitation through Digitization/E-marketing

Over 50 Fish and Mango Value chain actor representatives supported by Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) were yesterday sharpened on Retail Pay's Cultivate Platform as a way of stabilizing Agribusiness Development and Trade facilitation through Digitization.

This comes just a month after the two organizations penned an understanding that will see Retail Pay deploy their Cultivate Platform using contact channels and E – Extension materials from ASDSP II.

While giving her address, the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo lauded the commitment of the two organizations in getting to work right after signing a binding agreement.

“Apart from just offering digital solutions to marketing, the engagement among value chain actors in this platform offers linkage opportunities that will in turn boost their operations”, she added.

Also present was the Chief Officer Mr. Charles Siso who urged the two entities to continue deploying the platform to more actors so that Siaya becomes a vibrant Agricultural economy through higher earnings herein transforming people's lives.

“I find this as an opportunity for all stakeholders and value chain actors to shape Agribusiness in Siaya County”, said Mr. Peter Okumu, Cultivate operations lead as he stressed that such a good initiative can only be successful if passionately embraced by the relevant players.

On his part, Mr. Kenneth Owuor, County ASDSP II Coordinator indicated that the specific value chain platforms will act as sprouting zones for this initiative. This sentiment was reiterated by Mr. Samuel Okello (Fish Platform Chair) and Newton Obado (Mango Platform Secretary).

EAST GEM FIELD DAY ENCHANTS RESIDENTS TO HEIGHTEN AGRIBUSINESS

17TH FEBRUARY 2022

The County Department of Agriculture through Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) in partnership with the Platform Organization has urged Siaya residents to make it a habit of engaging in commercially oriented Agriculture for improved livelihoods.

During an Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship Expo yesterday at Barkalare in East Gem, Value chain actors were treated to various exhibits from the County Department of Agriculture, YARA fertilizers, Ugunja Community Resource Center amongst others where learning and exchange of ideas proved worthwhile for the course.

In his remarks, Stephen Okech, BDO ASDSP II/SAVIC business manager, underscored the fact that the programme contributes to the transformation of crop, livestock and fisheries production into commercially oriented enterprises that ensure sustainable food and nutrition security and incomes with a purpose to develop sustainable priority value chains for improved income; food and nutrition security.

He further encouraged producers to employ modern and climate smart technologies to improve farm incomes that can sustain livelihoods and encourage the youth to engage in the sector.

The BDO acknowledged the souring fertilizer prices and encouraged farmers to embrace integrated soil fertility management practices e.g. use of compost in order to manage production costs for increased yields.

Mr. Stephen Oketch also stressed the importance of record keeping for enhanced Agribusiness Management. In addition, he urged residents to make use of the Intervention oriented ASDSP II Programme if they are to acquire the necessary skills to improve their agribusiness ventures to desirable heights.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.



VCA displaying input used in feed formulation for fish and chicken as an innovation to improve quality of feed during a field day in Gem.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SKILLS IS KEY FOR SUSTANABILITY OF YOUTH-LED ENTERPRISES IN SIAYA COUNTY



Patrick Maina, Digital Literacy trainer taking sensitizing youth representatives on digital literacy skills at Candela Hotel in November 2021.

Thirty Four youth representatives from various groups undertaking agribusiness ventures across the Six sub counties attended a 5 day workshop on Financial Inclusion and Digital Literacy from 22nd – 26th Nov 2021 at the Candela Hotel, Siaya Township Ward to enable them build their business management skills and access youth friendly financial products from Equity Bank courtesy of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through Integrated Country Approach (ICA) project in collaboration with the County Government of Siaya through ASDSP II.

ICA is a four – year project initiated by FAO aimed at creating more and better employment opportunities for youth in rural areas and Agri – food systems aligned to Mango, Avocado, Poultry and Fish value chains. The training on Financial Literacy will improve the capacity of rural young women and men in entrepreneurship and open ways of accessing affordable finance from Equity Bank thorough the Young Africa Works Kenya program. Equity Group Foundation, the social arm of Equity Group Holdings seeks to empower young SMEs through provision of financial literacy; entrepreneurship education to enable them expand their business skills.

Speaking during the official opening of the workshop, the County Director of Agriculture, Mr. Vincent Okoth highlighted that for a very long time, agriculture has been viewed by Youths as a form of punishment and tidy job and its in this respect that such trainings are organized by the Department in collaboration with development partners to transform their social, ethical, emotional, physical and cognitive competencies to be able to be part of the development agenda.

“As a Department we have also prioritized in the development of youth agribusiness enterprises through rolling out of Siaya Youth in Agribusiness strategy 2022-2027. Our youth in Siaya are very creative, innovative, spontaneous,

experimental and resourceful therefore we envisage a youthful agricultural sector in the near future”, said Mr. Okoth.

In addition, Mr. Okoth stated that FAO – ICA is one of the developing partners spearheading the youth agenda in the county through capacity building and material support to enhance business expansion among the youth in agriculture. He also emphasized that Training on Financial and Digital Literacy is a process but we must make sure that we implement the skills through proper record keeping and development of viable business plans which can become vital documents in accessing loans from financial institution such as Equity Bank for business expansion.”

Judy Maina, Integrated Country Approach Project Coordinator, reiterated FAOs support to improving young peoples’ access to productive resources such as access to finance and adoption of digital technologies that enhance the attractiveness of the Agribusiness sector to the youth. “Facilitating youth access to information enhances farm productivity, enable agricultural innovation, access to markets and financial services. Finally, the tech-savvy youth can leverage their digital skills to providing information and communication services to older farmers herein bridging different dimensions of digital divide”, she echoed. Also present was ASDSP II Coordinator Kenneth Owuor who insisted that self-employment for a youth is the focus of ASDSP II program and other organizations/partners. He also emphasized that mentorship and coaching through Siaya Agri-Value Incubation Centre will provide the drive in enhancing self-employment for youth –led agri-enterprises across the four prioritized value chains.

The facilitators included: Equity Bank Agribusiness experts, FAO and Digital Literacy trainer Mr. Patrick Maina. Also in attendance was the County Agribusiness Officer, Sarah Mango.

RESIDENTS URGED TO UNDERSTAND SIGNIFICANCE OF WORLD FOOD DAY AS SIAYA CELEBRATES 17TH OCTOBER 2021



Precila Robert an ASDSP Service provider displaying her mango processed products during the world food day celebrations

“As the population keeps growing, there is greater need for increased production to meet the need for nutritious food that should be done sustainably for ourselves and for future generations to come”, said Dr. Elizabeth, County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries.

Dr. Odhiambo was speaking yesterday at Siaya Institute of Technology as Siaya County joined the rest of the world in commemorating the historic event with the theme being, “Our actions are our future: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life”.

Dr. Odhiambo further stated that the department is committed to supporting the farming fraternity in combating the impacts of climate crisis that has led to reduction in yields.

Hosting the memorable event was Mr. Daniel Randa, Siaya Institute of Technology principal who recognized the

importance of such a day whose significance is to increase capacity and develop understanding of residents in giving exclusive input on production so that the benefit is extended to many others who lack food.

He emphasized that Agriculture has major economic strength and that is why the institution has prioritized Agricultural courses so that the Agricultural mindset of the community is transformed.

County Director of Agriculture, Mr. Vincent Okoth on his part appreciated all partners and stakeholders who have ensured effective and efficient service delivery to the farming community with much being realized and will continue to be realized.



MS Millicent Ochieng mango fruit trader displaying and shelling her products during world food day event 2022

“Collaborations with stakeholders and partners like IPNI, MESPT, FAO, SIDA, IFAD, World bank, RTI and many others has definitely ensured that the department is on track in supporting the 2030 agenda through transformation to ensure efficient, inclusive and sustainable Agri – food systems for better production, better nutrition and better environment”, he added.

Finally, Dr. Goudian Gwademba, Area Manager Welthungerhilfe stated that the foundation for all Agricultural activities being the soil, key focus should be on its rehabilitation so that there is increased and sustainable productivity.

“Let's all be passionate at what happens within our farms”, said Dr. Gwademba

By, Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

SIAYA COUNTY YOUTH AGRIBUSINESS STRATEGY EARMARKED TO SPUR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

17TH DECEMBER 2021



MCAs from Siaya County Assembly during sensitization on Siaya County Youth Agribusiness Strategy 2020 – 2024

“We are now optimistic that with this formal guideline, it will now be easy for the County Government and any other stakeholder to directly address challenges affecting the youth in Siaya”, said Hon. Willis Ochieng, County Assembly of Siaya Agriculture Committee Chairperson.

The MCA was speaking earlier today during a sensitization of members of the County Assembly select committees’ representatives of Siaya County Youth Agribusiness Strategy 2020 – 2024 where he appreciated all the stakeholders like FAO, ASDSP II, RTI, GIZ and others for collaborating with the County Government in developing the landmark document.

The Yimbo West legislature further called on the executive to fast track its official enrollment so that the process of transforming youth perceptions towards being able to take advantage of the vast Agricultural Sector investment opportunities is hastened. Hosting the MCAs at the Candelala Hotel, the CECM for Agriculture, Food Security, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries, Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo indicated the continuous need of

empowering a youth with requisite knowledge, skills, attitude and practice as stimulant to tripling the contribution of the Agriculture Sector to the annual GDP and consequently ensuring that the majority of the unemployed youth are economically engaged.

According to the County Agribusiness officer, Sarah Mango, the strategy seeks to facilitate institutions to offer skill based Agricultural training, strengthen Agricultural youth based organizations, capacity build youth on good agricultural practices and also provide supportive framework for starting, growing and establishing youth owned Agribusiness.

***“The youth have a tendency to adopt new tools and technologies, drive for quick results and hunger for generating livelihood supporting incomes.*”**

We therefore envisage a transformed youth generation in the near future”, said Mr. Kenneth Owuor, County ASDSP II Coordinator.

By, Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

THERE IS NO LESSER STAFF IN ASDSP II SIAYA

11TH NOVEMBER 2021



A periodic meeting by the Chief Officer Mr. Siso with ASDSP II CPS and its support system that also include the Accountant, Auditor, Examiner, Procurement Officer and Communication Officer.

“Your joint efforts and energy motivates us to commit and fully involve ourselves in the implementation process”, said Mr. Charles Siso the Chief Officer for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries.

Mr. Siso was speaking yesterday in his office during a periodical meeting with Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) County Programme Secretariat and its support system that also include the Accountant, Auditor, Examiner, Procurement Officer and Communication Officer.

“Its through empowerment that the County Programme Coordinator has been able to get the most from his staff hence the successes that can be attributed to each and every one of them”, he added.

On his part, Mr. Kenneth Owuor, the Coordinator stressed on team work as the main factor that has played a part in achieving more than 72% of its set targets so far. He further thanked the Executive through the Department of Agriculture for ensuring a conducive environment that has enabled them serve the value chain actors with ease. He concluded by stating that their business as a programme is to serve the value actors therefore input from any angle is highly welcome.

“Through the programme’s support, Value chain actors have been able to realize that their enterprises are businesses and not hobbies. Actors also continue to be incubated by Siaya Agri – Value Chain Incubation Center (SAVIC) towards the realization of an Agribusiness environment in the value chains of Fish, Mango and Indigenous Chicken Value Chains”, said Mr. Steven Oketch, Business Manager at SAVIC.

By, Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

INNOVATIONS OUTSMART TRADITION IN NORTH SAKWA FARMERS FIELD DAY



Good crop protection was focused on during a field day led by Mr. Charles Siso, Chief Officer for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries yesterday at Ajigo, North Sakwa Ward

Good Agricultural practices and promotion of conservation Agriculture was the focus area during a field day led by Mr. Charles Siso, Chief Officer for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries yesterday at Ajigo, North Sakwa Ward.

A series of demonstration platforms and speeches pivoted on a central theme; **PRACTICING CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY** were strung out over the course of the day to promote new practices and bring recognition to successful farmers like Peter Wambi whose farm played host to such a memorable event.

The collaborative effort between the County Government of Siaya through the department of Agriculture and other partners like ASDSP II, KCSAP, Western Seed Company, Royal Seed, Syngenta, Continental Seeds, Tsavo Seeds, Advanta, Toothpick, Great Lakes, Spray Service Providers and Tansu Limited were at it to attend to farmers' skill gap areas.

In his address, Mr. Siso applauded the safe biological technologies he had witnessed that if adhered to by key players who are the farmers, then food insecurity will be a thing of the past.

He assured that a continuous partnership with various development partners will ensure farmers keep receiving farm inputs, extension and have access to a conducive environment that will ensure smooth operationalization of Agricultural activities. Area MCA Hon. Lorna Adida who was represented by the P.A Mr. Antony Willis said that a total of 1 Million had been allocated in this financial year to promote sunflower and soya beans production in an attempt to put money in people's pockets.

The Chief Officer was also accompanied by Susan Aruwa, ASDSP II Deputy Coordinator whose presence seemed necessary in encouraging potential value chain actors to view fish, mango and indigenous chicken value chains as business ventures.

By, Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

SOUTH GEM PLAYS HOST TO A LAND MARK CASSAVA FIELD DAY

18TH NOVEMBER 2021



Mr. Bolo County Director of Fisheries visiting Exhibitors' stands during a Cassava field day in South Gem, Gem Sub – County

The County Government of Siaya in Partnership with Ugunja Community Resource Centre (UCRC) has today conducted a Cassava field day in South Gem, Gem Sub – County as a way of promoting the crop's adoption for increased food and incomes.

Over 100 value chain actors in attendance had the opportunity of learning more about the crop, value addition opportunities, its viability in the region and why it should be promoted.

"Because it has traditionally been a crop of the poor, expanding the market for cassava can bring direct economic benefits to those who need it most", said Japheth Bolo, County Director of Fisheries.

Mr. Bolo who was also the Chief Guest encouraged all stakeholders like UCRC, the GFA (soil rehabilitation), Young Women Leaders Connect (advocating for Women Empowerment) and Agricycle Global (Marketing) to work closely with the County Government in ensuring that locals produce enough to eat and sell surplus for income generation purposes.

Accompanying him was Kenneth Owuor, ASDSP II Coordinator who strengthened the idea of promoting the crop's production since it's a raw material for animal feeds like fish, one the value chains that the program is promoting together with Mango and Indigenous Chicken.

Eunice Akinyi, a member of Faulu Self Help Group who was the host farmer encouraged residents to consider growing the crop which grows on marginal lands, requires little water, pesticides and fertilizer.

By, Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

ASDSP II SIAYA SERVICE PROVIDERS GEARED TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE WORKING FORMULA

7TH DECEMBER 2021



A group discussion during the service providers sustainability meeting at Kowiny resort

Thirty two Service providers within the Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) have been urged to operate with least dependence on the programme or any other external programmes if they are to ensure sustainability of their Value Chain Actors (VCAs).

This comes at a time when the five year programme has just one year left and its envisaged that the impacts created will live beyond the test of time. Speaking yesterday during a one day workshop at Kowiny Guest House, the Chief Officer at the Department of Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries, Mr. Charles Siso appreciated the service providers in the Value Chains of Fish, Mango, Indigenous Chicken and other supporting value chains whose impacts on the ground are being felt beyond Siaya.

“Its in this respect that we’ve been able to reach over 10,000 VCAs which is commensurate to about 75% of the work done so far. ASDSP II Siaya is a brand and we would like to continue

experiencing its magic even after its folds tent”, he said.

Mr. Kenneth Owuor, the County Programme Coordinator mentioned that he expects a continuous work flow even if there are financial constraints within the programme.

“We facilitate you to do what you always engage in on a daily basis so if you stop, then it means you are not in business”, he added.

Mr. Owuor further stated that he will be keeping a close eye to ensure progression because that is the only way sustainability will be ensured.

Also present was Mr. Stephen Oketch, Business Manager at Siaya Agri – Value Chain Incubation Center who urged the service providers to utilize VCAs organizations, ensure more youth engagement, fast track promotion of green technologies and most importantly ensure that actors view their enterprises as businesses.

By, Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

KWALE LAUDS PROMOTION OF INDIGENOUS CHICKEN VALUE CHAIN IN SIAYA

30TH MARCH 2022



ASDSP II CPS and VCAs visit / Benchmarking at MANINGI enterprises during exchange visit to Siaya

ASDSP II Kwale County Coordinator, Ezekiel Beja and Francis Kangumu, the County’s Livestock Director yesterday led a team of 20 value chain Actors to benchmark at MANINGI Farm in Rarieda, Siaya County to have piece of the enormous knowledge in the Chicken Value Chain.

As indicated by Mr. Beja, Siaya County is an icon in implementation of the programme’s objectives hence the need to travel all the way, specifically at Mr. Edwin Ogolla’s farm.

Mr. Ogolla, the farm’s Director who was very hospitable showed them his three modern digital incubation machines that can incubate over 5800 eggs a month.

Another learning point was a brooder separated into three floors, each with a capacity to brood at least 1000-day old chicks.

Finally at the farm, the team was taken to the farm’s milling machines and Mr. Ogolla reveals that making his own feeds is cost effective considering the number of birds in the farm.

“Seeing is believing and indeed we are impressed and full of knowledge to take back home”, said Mr. Kangumu.

On their way out, the team visited Luanda Kotieno Beach Management Unit where the taste of Lake Fish and Char Freshy (deep fried fresh salted omena) left a mark worthy of a comeback.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

SIAYA VALUE CHAIN ACTORS AVAIL THEIR ASDSPII EQUIPMENT SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 30TH MAY 2022



County Director of Agriculture, Vincent Okoth presiding over the launch of a Feed Miller for Madeya Abedo Women Group in Gem Sub County.

“With the feed miller given to us by ASDSPII, we are now saving Kshs.20 per kg on feeds and even earning extra revenue from selling it to the community. We are actualizing the programme’s trainings on food formulation towards ensuring that we produce at least 3.5 tons of feeds in a month”, said Mary Odhiambo, Chairlady at Sifuma Ratado Women Group in West Ugenya.

Mrs. Odhiambo was speaking earlier last week during the Value Chain Organizations’ Innovation Equipment Launch witnessed by the Programme Coordinator Mr. Kenneth Owuor, CECM Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo and Chief Officer for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries, Mr. Charles Siso.

At Aluru Village in East Asembo, Omia Malo Agroforestry group (Shed net beneficiaries) through their Chairlady Hanna Auma confirmed that at the end of the next harvesting sea-

son, they are sure of making over Kshs.400,000 from a well-managed orchard of 150 mango trees.

“By next week, we are equally going to make about kshs.100,000 from a sale of 10,000 grafted mango seedlings”, she added.

The exercise is indeed bearing a revelation that the value chain actors earned the equipment and that they are on course in unlocking impediments to increased productivity.

The peak of all launches was witnessed in Sidindi by Abedo Women Group whose blast off turned out to be a field day with several exhibitions from the County Government, value chain actors, KALRO, Abedo Agroveter, Pannar, Jenga Feeds and many others.

“We chose to make it this big because the community needed to be sensitized on the need to be onboarded into the programme for worthy interventions in Fish, Mango and Indig-

enous chicken value chains. The training we have received on formulation, vaccination, general management, record keeping and most importantly this Feed Mill donation is not something to be hidden under the table”, said Lorna Awuor, Chairlady at Madeya Abedo Women Group.

Over 30 groups have been earmarked for Innovation Equipment support even as the few who have benefitted are expected to proceed with community launch

By, Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

SIAYA VALUE CHAIN ACTORS AVAIL THEIR ASDSPII EQUIPMENT SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 5TH NOVEMBER 2021



Philip Oketch, Indigenous chicken lead service provider capacity building the youth during 'The Siaya Youth in Agribusiness Climate Change and Innovation Conference and Exhibition' at the ACK Siaya compound in November 2021

“We want young people to know and appreciate that Agriculture actually represents a world of unlimited opportunities for development and exploitation of modern innovation and technology”, said Anne Nyaga, Chief Administrative Secretary (C.A.S), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries & Cooperatives.

The CAS was speaking recently during 'The Siaya Youth in Agribusiness Climate Change and Innovation Conference and Exhibition' at ACK Cathedral which was organized by The Platform Organization in partnership with the County Government of Siaya through Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II).

Other Organizations present were Siaya Institute of Technology, Western Seed Company, Tsavo Seed, YARA Fertilizers, AVEPO Smart Farm and individuals farmer organizations whose presence proved worthwhile in knowledge sharing, networking and harnessing of capabilities to support each other in Agribusiness growth.

Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo, the CECM Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries on her part acknowledged their concern as a Government on the growing youth population which exerts more pressure on our economy and environment.

She said that 'The Siaya Youth in Agribusiness Strategy' which will be launched later this month outlines specific areas and priorities for all stakeholders towards addressing the challenges that hinder young people from engaging in Agriculture.

“Within the Department, there are a wide range of youth targeted programs like ASDSP II, KCSAP and ABDP which directly empower young Agripreneurs and create employment opportunities along Agricultural Value Chains”, she concluded.

By, Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya

SIAYA COUNTY YOUTH IN AGRIBUSINESS STRATEGY 2022 – 2027 LAUNCHED 24TH JUNE 2022



The County Government of Siaya is now the second nationally and first County in the western region to domesticate the national Youth in Agribusiness Strategy.

Its launch yesterday at Siaya Institute of Technology comes at a time when over 124,000 out of a possible 340,000 youth are unemployed, 88% of them are living in rural areas and Agriculture is contributing 20 billion to the County GDP against an attainable 1.5 trillion.



National Youth in Agribusiness Strategy domestication and launch in Siaya County at Siaya Institute of Technology.

Its against this and several other backdrops that this strategy comes in to support innovation, attract and sustain employment opportunities for the youth through active engagement in Agribusiness.

Madam Rebecca Amukhoye – CEO Micro Enterprise Support Programme Trust (MESPT) who graced the occasion defined the strategy as one that will harness the youth bulge and manage the obstacles that hinder their engagement by enhancing skills, positive attitude, increasing investment opportunities and positioning youth organizations to participate economically towards increased productivity. She further described this as a framework for the County Government and other stakeholders to engage meaningfully in a more strategic manner to be able to achieve the set objectives.

Accompanying her was the County Secretary, Joseph Ogutu who affirmed the County's commitment in entrenching the strategy into planning documents such as the CIDP, annual workplans and budget for successful implementation.

"The 4.2 billion required to implement the strategy sounds too much but a multisectoral approach in resource mobilization shall ultimately ensure the desired objectives are met with ease", he concluded.

"I wish to acknowledge the technical experts whose tireless efforts have made the development of this strategy a reality. Much appreciation goes to out Government programmes and partners, especially ASDSP II, GIZ, KCDMS/RTI and FAO for facilitating the formulation process". Said the CECM for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries, Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo.

She also thanked all the stakeholders like Self Help Africa, MESPT, ASDSP II, ABDP, KCSAP, GIZ, KCB and others for supporting the land mark launch.

By, Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

SIAYA CAGE FISH PRODUCERS LINKED TO ASSURED KAKAMEGA FACTORY MARKET

Over 50 cage fish producers from Bondo and Rarieda yesterday sealed a marketing deal with Kakamega fish factory courtesy of Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP II) Siaya.

With a potential of over 5.2 Billion turn over in a year, fish value chain is viewed through the prism of economic transformation lens to have a great potential to turn livelihoods and steer value chain actors towards commercialization hence the need for such forums.

for all fish producers which has been a missing link for commercialized fish producer.

He indicated that the plant has a capacity to process 20 metric tonnes of fish per day and it would provide a ready market for farmers in the 14-member Lake Region Economic Block (LREB). DAS Group Kenya Limited invested over Sh40 million to upgrade the facility with a cold chain that can hold 30tons to meet all the requirements for it to export fish to the much-coveted European Union (EU) market.

various value chain organizations/enterprises to spur the commercialization agenda”, said Mr. Stephen Oketch, SAVIC Business Manager.

Finally, Mr. Samuel Okello, Siaya Fish Value Chain Platform chair expressed his regards to ASDSP II and the Kakamega team for availing an opportunity that indeed market access can be made easier when jointly combated. On behalf of the team, he indicated that the team will definitely deliver without failure.



“We want you to increase your production so as to sustainably meet your end of the bargain with the Kakamega Fish Factory. We are indeed happy to have played a part in this promising functional linkage”, said Mr. Kenneth Owuor, County ASDSP II Coordinator.

Donald Mabeya, Operations manager at DAS Group Limited said that Kakamega Fish Factory under DAS Group Limited through Public-Private Partnership with Kakamega County is offering assured and reliable market

“Kakamega Fish factory offer a price range of 200gm-300gm at KES 270, 300gm-400gm at KES 280 and KES 300 for above 400gm for fish producers with future plan of establishing 3 cold chain in the entire 6 Sub Counties of Siaya”, he echoed.

“Market is the centre of value chain development, but the marketing system provide a need for business management, development contractual agreement and digital tracking of the business that Siaya Agri-Value Chain Incubation Center(SAVIC) offers to

PLENTY OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AS SIAYA MARKS FISHERIES DAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2021

The County Government of Siaya has today joined the rest of the world in commemorating World Fisheries Day to highlight the critical importance of small scale fisheries communities in ensuring food and nutrition security through sustainable healthy practices.

While giving her address at Mahia Fish farm, Siaya Township Ward, Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo, the CECM for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries explained the importance of this day as one that brings together all stakeholders to learn, discuss and forge way forwards that ensure production beyond subsistence.

She also acknowledged the important roles being played by various programmes in the department like Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) which took the centre stage in organizing the function and are currently advocating for small holder aquaculture production, ASDSP II (Capacity building) and KCSAP through their input grants.

In addition, Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo called upon fingerlings producers to step up like the day's host farmer, Dr. Osodo since that is the genesis of the whole value chain.

"Special thanks to ASDSP II for their advocacy role in ensuring that we now have six certified fingerlings producers in Siaya and Indeed I am confident that the number will keep growing", she concluded.

Accompanying her was the County Director of Fisheries Mr. Japheth Bolo who mainly urged farmers to ensure good stocking capacity, proper feeding and quality fingerlings if they are to maximize on production and favorably compete against the ever increasing population.

Mr. Bolo also appealed for women and Youth to fill the value addition gaps because the opportunities are overwhelming.



Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya

SOUTH GEM PLAYS HOST TO A LAND MARK CASSAVA FIELD DAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2021



Mr. Bolo County Director of Fisheries visiting Exhibitors' stands during a Cassava field day in South Gem, Gem Sub – County

The County Government of Siaya in Partnership with Ugunja Community Resource Centre (UCRC) has today conducted a Cassava field day in South Gem, Gem Sub – County as a way of promoting the crop's adoption for increased food and incomes.

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Mr. Bolo who was also the Chief Guest encouraged all stakeholders like UCRC, the GFA (soil rehabilitation), Young Women Leaders Connect (advocating for Women Empowerment) and Agricycle Global (Marketing) to work closely with the County Government in ensuring that locals produce enough to eat and sell surplus for income generation purposes.

Accompanying him was Kenneth Owuor, ASDSP II Co-ordinator who strengthened the idea of promoting the crop's production since it's a raw material for animal feeds like fish, one the value chains that the program is promoting together with Mango and Indigenous Chicken.

Eunice Akinyi, a member of Faulu Self Help Group who was the host farmer encouraged residents to consider growing the crop which grows on marginal lands, requires little water, pesticides and fertilizer.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya

FISH FARMERS SUPPORTED WITH 200,000 FINGERLINGS TO BOOST FISH PRODUCTION FOR ENHANCED FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY



Fish VCAs supported with 200,000 fingerlings to boost fish production for enhanced food and nutritional security assisted by ASDSP II Service Provider.

The County Government of Siaya through the Directorate of Fisheries recently distributed about 200,000 fingerlings across 6 dams, Yala Fish farm and Lwanda Kotieno Beach Management Unit in order to enhance production and restoration of fish stocks for improved income and diversified healthy diets in the County.

Fishery development being one of the key goals embodied in the Big four agenda and Siaya County Integrated Development Plan 2018-2022, the County Government has been tirelessly supporting fish farmers to correct the decrease in fish consumption per capita from 6.0 to 4.5 kg.

Speaking during fingerling distribution exercise, Assistant Director of Fisheries, Mr. Emman Otieno stated that the fingerlings have been provided by County government of Siaya to support fish producers in order to improve their economic activities around Koga, Futro, Uranga, Nyalnawe, Sandhoff and Kalejuok Dams including fish cage businesses along Lake Victoria.

“This initiative also aims to restore the dwindling number of fish within these dams and lake. For Yala Fish

Farm, it has been supported as one of the centers for capacity building potential and practicing fish producers with new ideas and skills on fish business which is one of the growing industries in Siaya County”, he added.

Mr. Otieno further stated that the Directorate of fisheries under the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has been in the forefront to enhance the commercialization agenda of the fish business among the value chain actors. This has also been boosted by various programs and projects within the county such as Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II), Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) and Aquaculture Business Development Program (ABDP) to spearhead provision of need based interventions and material support to fish value chain actors.

Also present during the exercise was Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Martin Dobi, Mr. Angelo Ogola (Procurement Officer) and Stephen Oketch (Siaya Agri – Value Incubation Center).

SIAYA AQUACULTURE FARMERS RECEIVE FINGERLINGS DONATION TO BOOST PRODUCTION

4TH NOVEMBER 2021

Earlier today, Mr. Titus Kilonzi, Director of Administration State Department of Fisheries and Blue Economy, on behalf of the Permanent Secretary received and led the distribution of fingerlings donated by Victory Farm.

Over 100 selected farmers across the County benefitted from 100,000 certified tilapia fingerlings to enhance Fish production for health and wealth as advocated by Aquaculture Business Development Programme.

“Private investments are coming in strongly to compliment the effort of the government through various programs under the Fisheries Sector. Together we will continue expanding aquaculture and increase productivity to remedy fish deficit in Kenya”, said Mr. Kilonzi

Speaking at the event, Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries CECM Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo noted that the deficit recorded in aquaculture represents a concern and an opportunity thus with careful management of resources and respect for the environment, we can produce beyond subsistence.

She further called upon farmers to emulate model farms like VICTORY because bridging the County deficit for fish and fish products cannot be by accident.

“We have qualified technical personnel and Capacity building programs

like ASDSP II within our department to take us through all the development process in all segments of the Fish value chain”, said Dr. Odhiambo.

Chief Officer, Mr. Charles Siso acknowledged that provision of fingerlings is a step towards closing down the deficit as it will increase production of fish thereby enhancing growth and sustainability among the players.

“We are optimistic that this will also be a sign to the 17 and potential fingerlings producers in Siaya to increase the bar from 3 Million to over 17 Million seasoned production because the demand is screaming”, he echoed.



On behalf of the County Government, the CECM for Agriculture, Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo receives fingerlings donated by victory farm to the siaya fish farmers

OMUMAS' FARM IN UGENYA STOCKED WITH OVER 4,000 FINGERLINGS



Aggrey Obamba, Fish inspector, assisting in the stocking liner fish pond with fingerlings from great Lake hatchery at Omuma Fish farm

Omumas' Farm in Lifunga Village, Ukwala Ward in Ugenya Sub – County will in the next six months reap big from fish harvest after stocking two ponds with 4,620 fingerlings yesterday.

According to Aggrey Obamba, Fisheries Officer, proper fingerlings, proper feeding and skills is going to ensure that the farm achieves a lot.

“Putting into consideration possible mortalities, the farm can still manage 2,000kg that can earn about Kshs.700,000 at the end of the season”, he added.

The farm's C.E.O Thomas Omuga is particularly grateful to Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) for their procedural capacity building through the fisheries officer and Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) for donating a pond liner. Mr. Omuga is appealing to ABDP to continue with the same pace so that they can be able to stock their remaining two ponds.

“Our quest for success is greater than any obstacle that might impede the farm from meeting its objectives”, says Mr. Omuga

Also present was the Farm's Director, Emily Omuga who also appreciated ASDSP II for other interventions in Indigenous Chicken through capacity building her staff on Bio – Security, Vaccination, disease control, business planning and general farm management and this has impacted positively on production in the last month.

Witnessing the occasion was Mark Omollo (Monitoring, Evaluation and communication), Steven Oketch (SAVIC Business Manager) and Samuel Okello (Aquaculture Association of Kenya)

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR PEACE ORGANIZATION (YEPO)

Markets are key part of the production and productivity of the value chain. Youth Empowerment for Peace Organization (YEPO), a youth group which came together to promote chicken production and youth advocacy on cross-cutting issues such HIV/AIDS awareness and drug abuse has ventured into mango flakes/drying business for export market due to assured market through ASDSP II partnership with Agri-cycle global. Before intervention, utilization of local mangoes was limited thereby reducing its marketability and increasing the post-harvest losses which stand at 45% .This group of young value chain actors had no additional revenue stream in mango processing business and this was a clear business opportunity to tap on. The group has processed 106.3kg of dried mango and 125 kgs of jack fruit translating to KES 92,500 with one kg purchased at KES 400 by Agri Cycle Global. This is an assured market due to joint market signed agreement by both Agri Cycle Global, YEPO youth group and witnessed by the County government.



SPARROW TROPIQUES in Siaya Township (Juice Processors)

Currently, the group produces 2000 litres of fresh mango juice and mango wine by order valued at KES 220,500 per month and assets valued at KES 338,000. The daily sales range between KES 1000 - 2000 with a monthly profit of KES 75,000 and a per capita

income of KES 625. The business has two permanent employees and 3 casuals all youths. Currently the business sells its products at its retail outlet and offices within Siaya Township.



MANINGI ENTERPRISES in Chianda, Rarieda (Poultry and products)



From initial production of 3tons of feeds per month to currently 80tons per month, Maningi generates between KES 1,000,000 - 3,000,000 per month.

Maningi Enterprises currently supplies 3000-day old chicks (DOCs) and 2000-Month-old chicks to poultry producers through ASDSP. The enterprise is a registered member of AKEFEMA and Siaya Poultry Incubators Operators. The enterprise sells a minimum of 3,600 table birds per month generating a revenue of KES 2,520,000. The enterprise has been linked to Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture and supplied a month old chicks and feeds worth KES 1, 250,000 in 2021.



Currently, Maningi Enterprise has invested KES 3,434,000 in Egg incubation center with five solar powered incubators, KES 1,000,000 in table and layers housing and KES 3,642,000 in feed milling business. The business generates a total of KES 2,931,800 monthly with KES 792,000 from DOCs, KES 648,800 from table birds & eggs and KES 1,122,000 on feeds business.

CHAR FRESHY' product in Luanda Kotieno (Omena Processors)

Vermic Enterprises Limited has invested over KES 5 million in terms of fixed assets with monthly recurrent expenditure of KES 150,000. This plant has a capacity of processing 20 tonnes per month of clean, hygienic and well packed products of Char's freshy with the current production at 3.2 tons generating KES 2,400,000 per month. These products are KEBs certified and can be traded within and outside the county and country.



The plant also employs 6 casual women and 2 youths that ensure the products are processed, packed and ready for transit

The company has secured a contract to supply 1000 cartons to USA by end of May 2022.



LAKE WATER SHRIMP (OCHONG'A) providing solution to feed millers



ASDSP II is bridging this gap by aggregating ochonga women group, providing market information and linking these Ochong'a traders to Siaya County feed millers and off-takers (mainly from Thika-Kiambu County) who takes one kilo of ochong'a at KES 33 from KES 20 that was being offered by the brokers.

Misori Feeds under Maningi Enterprise, one of the feed millers in Siaya County, has offered contract to 10 women along Misori Beach to supply ochong'a quarterly to the Misori Feeds. Mr. Edwin Ogola Director of Misori Feeds says that in the last quarter alone, he has spent KES 805,000 in purchasing 24,394 tons of Ochong'a from women trading along Misori BMU through contractual agreement. This is a clear indication that Ochong'a is one of the main ingredient that cannot be assumed in formulating quality feeds. The annual demand for the Ochong'a stands at 75,000 tons against a supply of 13,333 tons monthly.



The power of aggregation, market information and linkage provided by ASDSP II has greatly contributed towards empowering and increasing sales of these women who were vulnerable victims against 'sex for fish' practice since men are the ones that go to lake to capture Ochong'a. Women now have their own engine boats and employing these men in acquiring this rear commodity found in Lake Victoria.

BENCH MARK YIELDS ENTHUSIASM AS MACHAKOS ASDSP II VISITS SIAYA



Machakos ASDSP II CPS visits char fresh at Lwanda Kotieno beach in siaya

As part of an initiative to identify value chain development support and learning gaps, Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) Machakos County has recently visited Siaya, one of the top performers in the programme implementation.

The two day exercise was centered on field visits so that knowledge sharing would be straight forward therefore Ramba Fruit Mango processing plant in Rarieda, Omuma Investment Farm in Ukwala and Lwanda Kotieno Beach couldn't have served the purpose better. Others included Siaya Agri – Value Chain Incubation Centre, Agriculture Technology Development Centre and Maurice Agutu Mango Orchard in Bondo.

According to Regina Kavuthu, ASDSP II County Coordinator Machakos, Siaya is a model County and conceptualization of the programme is at a very high level.

“We have learnt a lot and my team will now go back and implement these high opportunities that are available for take up”, she said.

On the other side, Kenneth Owuor, Siaya County ASDSP II Coordinator confirmed that the visit has equally exposed some gaps which will require immediate interventions hence the essence of such exchange programmes. He said that even as they are pleased of the 72.3% implementation so far, there is still plenty of work to be done within the available timelines.

ASDSP II is one of the programmes under the Department of Agriculture with the aim of transforming Crop, Livestock and Fisheries production into commercially oriented enterprises that ensure sustainable food and nutrition security.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock & Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

ASDSP EMBU APPRECIATES SIAYA'S MILESTONES IN INDIGENOUS CHICKEN VALUE CHAIN

“Today, we've had the opportunity to blend social media messages with real implementation in the field. ASDSP II has had one of the most vibrant communication messages hence the need for us to come down here to see for ourselves”, said Stella Ng'ondi, Embu County Programme Coordinator, yesterday in Rarieda Sub - County.

Mrs. Ng'ondi was leading the Embu County Programme Secretariat to bench mark on various intervention measures that are particularly impacting livelihoods within the indigenous chicken value chain.

At Maningi Enterprises with an investment of over 8.5 million, the team appreciated the business opportunities from Input supply to marketing, all in one farm.

“This is beautiful. I am pleased to see an incubation center with solar powered incubators. The fact that an actor is successful in every node within the value chain is worth an applause”, said Pauline Mureithi, Business Development Officer, Embu ASDSP.

Additionally, the team was taken to Madeya Abedo Women Group in Sidindi, Vermic Enterprises and Luanda Kotieno BMU in Rarieda Sub – County for insights in processing and importance of well-coordinated structures for enhanced market access.

On behalf of her team, Mrs. Mureithi appreciated the fact that they had a lot to take home and take into consideration while administering their future activities. She also promised to take seriously communication functions because it's a lifeline to bringing more actors on board to benefit from the programme.

Finally, Siaya ASDSP II Coordinator, Kenneth Owuor thanked the team for choosing Siaya and believing in its prosperity. He indicated that his team had also picked up a few learning areas which shall be significant in future implementation processes.



ASDSP Embu CPS inspecting a feed miller for Madeya Abedo Women Group in Gem Sub – County.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES KEY TO AGRIBUSINESS GROWTH 15TH SEPTEMBER 2021



Thomas Omuma has leading his farm staff to Maningi enterprises led director Mr. Edwin Ogolla for bench marking

Around 20 Indigenous Chicken value chain actors were yesterday privileged to attend a business exchange learning experience programme through the ASDSP II mentorship program cutting across the three value chains (Fish, Indigenous Chicken and mango) in Rarieda Sub County at Maningi Enterprise farm which owes much of its success from the ASDSP interventions.

The aim of this initiative is to help actors transform their enterprises into business ventures and aid them to know how to achieve a quality feeds through feeds formulation, customer preference on different products as well as get linkages on how to market their produce for growth and sustainability through learning from a fellow chain actor.

“We need to cut costs of production to realize profits in our Agribusiness ventures”, said ASDSP II Coordinator Mr. Kenneth Owuor as he further urged actors to take into consideration making formulating their own feeds to realize this dream.

Speaking at the forum, Stephen Oketch, Business Manager at SAVIC noted that actors needs to develop a business plan to be able to have a clear road map of their business for commercialization in agribusiness sector.

“A good Value chain Actor should know the production cost of their produce in order to understand if its making profits or incurring losses.”

He emphasized. He further went onto encourage them to produce for the market to achieve better results.

Mr. Edwin Ogolla, a major beneficiary of the program who deals with improved indigenous poultry, feeds milling and cattle dairy farming played host to value chain actors from Ugenya, AlegoUsonga and Bondo sub counties and urged them never to think about giving up even when their incur losses. He said that thing might look so cossy at his farm but the going has not been a walk in the park as he has had to endure losses of upto 1200 chicken at ago.

He challenged actors to consider producing soya beans, sunflower and yellow maize rather than invest the money elsewhere when there is ready market in his farm.

Learners appreciated being exposed to best feeding methods, safest methods of warming birds and how to control diseases that could hinder growth of their enterprises.

Mr. Ogolla thanked members of ASDSP II, service provider Mr. Phillip Oketch and other value chain actors for embracing such an initiative that can prove to be great game changer.

Also present was Prof. Watako (JOUST), Mark Omollo (M & E and Communication) and other service providers.

ASDSP II SIAYA ENGAGES YOUNG COSULTANTS TO ACCELERATE INDIGENOUS CHICKEN PRODUCTION

Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) Siaya yesterday signed an agreement with Meaky Green Groceries and Farmers service Center (MGFSC) for purposes of strengthening production and commercialization agenda in the Indigenous Chicken Value Chain.

Specifically, over 300 Indigenous Chicken producers are expected to be trained on biosafety and business planning by June 2024 when the programme folds tent.

“Through well-coordinated structures, adoption of technological advancements and passion, we expect to exceed our expectations therein network our actors, link them to markets, finance and also reliable extension services”, said Kenneth Owuor, County ASDSP II coordinator during the ceremony at MGFSC headquarters in Ugunja.

On behalf of MGFSC, Melvin Otieno – Programme Manager assured their commitment to provide services majorly in Sidindi, Ugunja and Ugenya to ensure that the regions equally step up in contributing to the County's economy especially in the Agribusiness field.

The partnership shall also include capacity building on other supporting value chains like cassava whose farm yields are raw materials to the highly valuable chicken feeds.



ASDSP II Siaya and Meaky Green Groceries and Farmers service Center (MGFSC) displays a signed working agreement

NO SOIL, NO GROWING SEASONS. JUST ADD WATER AND TECHNOLOGY

8TH JULY 2022



Hydroponic as used in supplementing chicken feed

Meaky Green Groceries and Farmers service Centre (MGFSC) in collaboration with ASDSP II Siaya yesterday conducted a training on hydroponics farming to about 100 Poultry producers within Ugunja and Ugenya sub counties to help bridge the gap on high feed prices.

Hydroponics farming is a technology of preparing livestock feeds in a soil less structures by making efficient use of water. This globally tested and proven technology is prepared using sorghum, barley and wheat as primary planting materials.

The hydroponics are rich in vitamin A, vitamin E, vitamin Thiamin, biotin, free folic acid and anti-oxidants. The mentioned nutrients are required periodically at different stages of livestock growth.

Meaky Green Groceries and Farmers service in collaboration with ASDSP are keen in implementing technologies that will help Farmers reduce cost of production since cost of livestock feeds have drastically increased due to the high cost of accessing the

raw materials.

Mary Leah - Agribusiness Coordinator (MGFSC) assured farmers that Meaky Green Groceries and Farmers service Centre will provide an alternative solution to Poultry farmers by initiating and implementing climate friendly and affordable innovative technologies that will help reduce cost of feeding. This will be done through of training farmers to make their own feeds using locally available materials by taking into consideration nutrient requirements in the feeds.

She also appreciated ASDSP for their technical support in ensuring successful engagement with the farmers.

Also present was Christine Ochieng field representative at Siaya Agri Value Chain Incubation Center (SAVIC) who explained the significance of ASDSP II through SAVIC in ensuring that actors increase their productivity and access the market with maximum benefits. She said added that the long journey is only possible through minimizing the cost of production which is being sorted out with partners such as Meaky Green Groceries.

ASDSP II VIHIGA VISIT TO SIAYA PROVES WORTHY 30TH MARCH 2022



Vihiga CPS Visit at Bora feeds in Yala

Siaya County plays host to ASDSP II Vihiga County for purposes of gaining a different perspective of Indigenous chicken value chain development.

The visitors who include the County programme secretariat and value chain actors were taken to Tangla farm in Ugenya, Omuma farm (Ukwala), Wigot Butchery in Ugunja, Abedo Women Group (Malanga), Obwombe Farm (Gem) and Bora Feeds in Yala.

The visit certainly availed a new standardized set of processes and metrics such as identification and capacity building of lead actors to act as role models to the upcoming.



Vihiga CPS Visit at Obwombe Chicken Farm

STRENGTHEN YOUR STRUCTURES; INCUBATOR OWNERS TOLD 5TH APRIL 2022



Innovative plastic Brooder made from locally available materials shown to incubator owners at Maningi Enterprises, Rarieda Sub – County.

Siaya Incubator Owners have been urged to strengthen their organizations and build communication within themselves in a bid to promote the local economy.

This comes at a time when the Chicken Value Chain is viewed with a potential of making good money to the Actors yet there is overdependence on external sources for inputs such as quality fertilized eggs.

Speaking yesterday during a periodical meeting with the players, ASDSP II Coordinator, Kenneth Owuor urged the over 30 incubator owners drawn from across the County to extend a good working relationship even with other stakeholders to complement the capacity building being done by the programme if they are to enhance their enterprises further.

“It’s through such meetings and relationships that you create hence forth that will enable you to strengthen business ties and ultimately promote each other’s businesses. We have the potential to minimize over dependence on external input suppliers”, he added.

Mr. Stephen Oketch, Business Manager at SAVIC noted that about 176 individuals own over 1000 incubators (with over 75% hatchability percentage) in Siaya thanks to the interventions being made by the programme. He however cautioned against reluctance and instead compelled them to position their businesses strategically to do major businesses including with the Government. Mr. Oketch indicated that this is only possible through upgrading their existing organizations to registered businesses and even adhering to tendering requirements.

Led by Mr. Philip Oketch, Lead service provider in the Indigenous Chicken Value Chain, actors were taken through brooding management, Incubator Management, Incubator cleaning and innovations on solar incubators.

KITUI JOINS OTHER COUNTIES IN SHOWERING PRAISES AT ASDSP II SIAYA 18TH NOVEMBER 2021

“The implementation of Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) in Siaya County is immense and I believe this is because of systematic coordination between the Programme Secretariat, Value Chain Actors (VCAs), County Executive and County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee, said Mr. Eliud Ndemange, Kitui County ASDSP II Coordinator.

Mr. Ndemange was speaking during a two day visit to Siaya that ended yesterday where they had a one on one interaction with Indigenous Chicken and Fish VCAs to share and learn.

The Kitui CPS had the best in field when they visited Sparrow Processors, Dawo Chicken Farm, Omuma Investment Farm, Wigot Chicken Butchery, Future Makers Youth Group, Maningi Enterprises, Lwanda Kotieno BMU and even Kango Kajaramogi for a little bit of recreation.

In his manifestation, Mottat Njoroge, the Kitui Value Chain Development officer confirmed that they had seen more than they had anticipated hence the reason as to why other Programme implementing counties visit Siaya so regularly.

He added that they had been touched on the management’s coordination, successful aggregation of VCAs, Involvement of women and youth into the programme, high level value addition, adoption of climate smart technologies and most importantly the transformation that had been made in the lives of the VCAs.

Finally while launching Siaya’s ASDSP II brochure that outlines its intervention areas, it was agreed by the Kitui Programme Coordinator, Kenneth Owuor (Siaya Coordinator), Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo (CECM Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries) and her Chief Officer Mr. Charles Siso that the two counties will continue to engage and realize possible collaboration areas because that’s what the programme advocates for.



Kitui CPS at Future Makers Youth Group with Samuel explaining the rearing of Black soldier fly as a supplement protein to chicken

ASDSP II CPC AND INDIGENOUS CHICKEN LEAD SERVICE PROVIDER, PHILIP OKETCH INSPECTING EGGS FERTILITY AT OBWOMBE CHICKEN FARM 29TH APRIL 2022



Free Vaccination Launch by The CECM Agriculture, Dr Elizabeth Odhiambo and Kenneth Owuor (Coordinator ASDSP II)

Over 200 Indigenous Chicken producers yesterday benefited from free vaccines and training courtesy of a partnership between the County Government and ASDSP II through Innovation support.

This comes upon a realization that a majority have been losing their birds because of disease infestation herein reducing productivity rates.

Leading the exercise was the CECM responsible for Livestock and Veterinary services, Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo who appreciated the need for such an exercise which made producers realize that there are various diseases that need timely vaccinations unlike the norm with most of them who exercise untimely vaccinations against Newcastle only.

Dr. Odhiambo encouraged them to defy all odds and capitalize on the existing demand by producing not less than 200 birds per farm.

“Unlike the 2.6 million birds we are currently producing in Siaya, the market demand stands at 3.5 million annually. This therefore means that we need to vaccinate our birds as per

the given schedule and ensure high class biosecurity measures if we are to reduce losses and produce beyond subsistence”, she said.

Confirming the free vaccines that had been availed to farmers, the County ASDSP II Coordinator said that this is a move to act as a wake-up call to producers who are still experiencing heavy losses and are doing little to salvage the situation.

Mr. Owuor hopes that henceforth, the number of actors coming for vaccines at the office and seeking intervention-oriented extension will rise for purposes of increasing productivity levels in the County.

Value chain actors that attended the workshop can now identify the symptoms, vaccinate against or treat Marek, Newcastle, Gumboro, Fowl pox, Fowl Typhoid and worms. Being role models and spreading the gospel will equally be significant in arresting disease outrages.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

INDIGENOUS CHICKEN

OBWOMBE FARM CAUTIONS ON FEEDING ‘TIME BOMB’ AS PARTNERSHIP WITH ASDSP II KICKS OFF

4TH NOVEMBER 2021



ASDSP II CPC and Indigenous Chicken lead service provider, Philip Oketch inspecting eggs fertility at Obwombe chicken farm

Habil Odimbo, Director at Obwombe Enterprises Limited in Malanga, Gem Sub – County has called on the Government and private sector to uphold strong collaborations geared towards ensuring reduced feed prices.

Speaking yesterday during a partnership Genesis with Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II), Mr. Odimbo revealed how feed prices has tremendously heightened production costs herein affecting market prices.

“Feeds prices have made the cost of producing one egg to as high as Kshs.12. We are now forced to sell a crate at Kshs.320 from Kshs.250 in 2015 yet we are still not making descent profits.

In addition, Mr. Paul Oketch, the farm’s Acting Managing Director urged local farmers to consider producing raw materials like sunflower, cotton, yellow maize, soya beans, etc because they can be assured of a market from local Millers.

Also present was the County ASDSP II Coordinator, Kenneth Owuor who welcomed the proposed partnership with close focus on agreed action points that will see the farm benefit from intervention based capacity building.

Obwombe’s main stay is the production and sales of table eggs to consumers through a chain of distributors and retail shops. It’s also investing in Women and Youth through progressive wholesome mentoring program.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

KWALE LAUDS PROMOTION OF INDIGENOUS CHICKEN VALUE CHAIN IN SIAYA

ASDSP II Kwale County Coordinator, Ezekiel Beja and Francis Kangumu, the County's Livestock Director yesterday led a team of 20 value chain Actors to bench mark at MANINGI Farm in Rarieda, Siaya County to have piece of the enormous knowledge in the Chicken Value Chain.

As indicated by Mr. Beja, Siaya County is an icon in implementation of the programme's objectives hence the need to travel all the way, specifically at Mr. Edwin Ogolla's farm. Mr. Ogolla, the farm's Director who was very hospitable showed them his three modern digital incubation machines that can incubate over 5800 eggs a month.

Another learning point was a brooder separated into three floors, each with a capacity to brood at least 1000-day old chicks.

Finally at the farm, the team was taken to the farm's milling machines and Mr. Ogolla reveals that making his own feeds is cost effective considering the number of birds in the farm. "Seeing is believing and indeed we are impressed and full of knowledge to take back home", said Mr. Kangumu.

On their way out, the team visited Luanda Kotieno Beach Management Unit where the taste of Lake Fish and Char Freshy (deep fried fresh salted omena) left a mark worthy of a comeback.

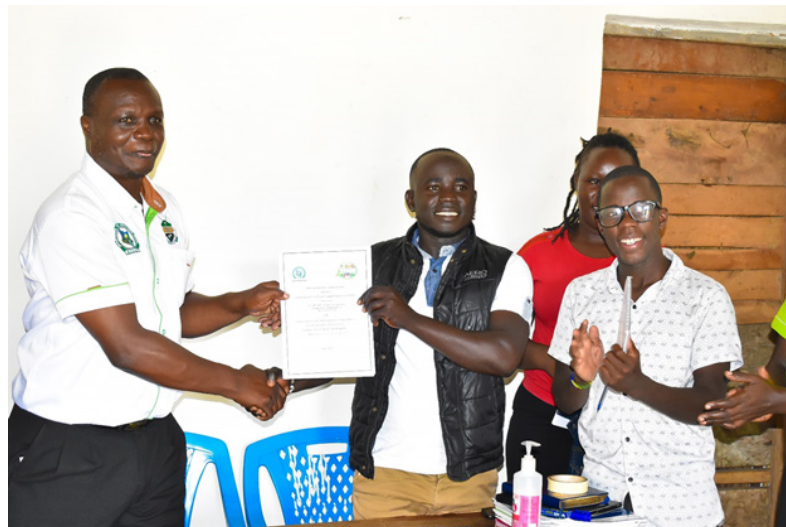
Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock & Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.



ASDSP II CPS and VCAs visit / Bench marking at MANINGI enterprises during exchange visit to Siaya.

ASDSP II SIAYA ENGAGES YOUNG COSULTANTS TO ACCELERATE INDIGENOUS CHICKEN PRODUCTION

1ST APRIL 2022



Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo CECM Agriculture at Mrs. Margaret Nyandong Tree Nursery in Alego Usonga

Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) Siaya yesterday signed an agreement with Meaky Green Groceries and Farmers service Center (MGFSC) for purposes of strengthening production and commercialization agenda in the Indigenous Chicken Value Chain.

Specifically, over 300 Indigenous Chicken producers are expected to be trained on biosafety and business planning by June 2024 when the programme folds tent.

"Through well-coordinated structures, adoption of technological advancements and passion, we expect to exceed our expectations therein network our actors, link them to markets, finance and also reliable extension services", said Kenneth Owuor, County ASDSP II coordinator during the ceremony at MGFSC headquarters in Ugunja.

On behalf of MGFSC, Melvin Otieno – Programme Manager assured their commitment to provide services majorly in Sidindi, Ugunja and Ugenya to ensure that the regions equally step up in contributing to the County's economy especially in the Agribusiness field.

The partnership shall also include capacity building on other supporting value chains like cassava whose farm yields are raw materials to the highly valuable chicken feeds.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock & Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

SIAYA NURSERY PRACTITIONERS COMPELLED TO CERTIFY THEIR FARMS

1ST APRIL 2022



Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo CECM Agriculture at Mrs. Margaret Nyandong Tree Nursery in Alego Usonga

Mango Tree Nursery owners in Siaya have been urged to certify their farms so as to be able to diversify their latitude of opportunities.

Speaking yesterday at Margaret Nyandong Tree Nursery in Alego Usonga during the sensitization of about 30 Nursery practitioners drawn from across the County, Florence Khaemba, Horticultural Crops Directorate (HCD), Kisumu Station Contact person mentioned that it's through adherence to the recommended standards that we can be able to be self-regulatory and ensure that the market is flawed with clean seedlings.

"You are all welcome to utilize our services so that your enterprises can be able to operate as full competitive businesses", she concluded.

Also present was ASDSP II County Coordinator, Kenneth Owuor who termed the meeting as an opportunity for the practitioners to take stock of their milestones and be able to fill gaps going forward.

He further urged more people to certify their farms and increase the number from the current eight to over 20 by the end of this month.

Members were equally taken through tendering opportunities/requirements and also on economies of Nurseries as a way of transforming their current mindsets.

Mr. Simeo Gombe, Chairperson of Mango Tree Nursery Practitioners appreciated the efforts by the County Government through ASDSP II in ensuring that the Mango Value Chain is indeed a business across all nodes.

He indicated that they will stand strong as a team beyond ASDSP II's lifetime so that the Vision lives across generations.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock & Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

DISABILITY IS NOT AN IMPAIRMENT IN AGRIBUSINESS

25TH APRIL 2022

About 50 people living with disability drawn from across the County have in the past week been trained on fruit processing Courtesy of a collaboration between the County Government and ASDSP II Siaya.

The inculcation which involved drying of Mango, Jack fruit and Pineapple using solar dehydrators was meant to create awareness on an income generation opportunity with guaranteed markets of their dried fruits in the USA through Agri Cycle Global.

The Chief Officer for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries Mr. Charles Siso in his address noted that the group faces some of the greatest prejudice and exclusion especially in the agriculture field yet they can actively and evenly compete with everybody else.

"We have identified processing as a node in the Mango value chain where you can do value addition in the prime season and shift to Jack fruit and pineapple in the off season. We are equally encouraging you to suggest other possible intervention areas across the sector for diversification purposes", he added.

Also present was Mr. Sylvestre K'okoth - Deputy Director for Education, Youth affairs, Gender & social services who expressed his delight to such initiatives that are meant to empower special interest groups.

He further stressed the need of all sectors to prioritize budget and decision making geared towards empowering such special men and women in the society.



People living with disability drawn from across the County being trained on dry fruit processing at Summit Hotel

On his part, the County ASDSP II Coordinator, Mr. Kenneth Owuor stipulated that this is in line with the programme's yardstick on priority to special interest groups in value chain development.

He said that they are still exploring more interceding areas which might include involvement in indigenous chicken or input support as long as they become useful members of the society.

With gratitude, Mr. George Ochieng, Siaya Disabled People Organization (SIDIPO) Youth Coordinator acknowledged the rare gesture which he believes will definitely shape their mindset towards Agribusiness involvement for livelihood transformation

WEST SAKWA FIELD DAY EXPOSES FARMERS TO CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

1ST APRIL 2022



Great Lakes Fish Farm displaying fish and fisheries products during a field day in West Sakwa, Bondo Sub – County

In adherence to Covid 19 regulation protocols, Farmers in West Sakwa Ward, Bondo Sub – County were yesterday hosted at Tuzzler Progressive Farm on a field day aimed at inculcating the spirit of embracing climate smart Agriculture for increased productivity and improved livelihoods.

The initiative by the County Government of Siaya through the Department of Agriculture, Food, irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries saw through a partnership with Pioneer seed, Tsavo Seed, YARA fertilizer, Farm to Market Alliance, Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) and Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) whose exhibitions and knowledge sharing proved timely amidst the Covid 19 pandemic that has also contributed to the dwindling food stocks in the County.

Speaking during the activity, Mr. Charles Siso the Department's chief officer and chief guest noted the upsurge of food insecurity that is intensified by Agriculture's extreme vulnerability to climate change.

"Climate change's negative impacts are being felt in the form of increasing temperatures, weather variability and more frequent extreme weather events. This has reduced crop yields,

nutritional quality of major cereals and lowering livestock quality", said Mr. Siso.

He urged residents to embrace technology seeking knowledge first, using the right seeds and timing their production cycles if they are to produce enough to eat and sell.

Mr. Siso further encouraged residents to make use of departmental counterpart funded projects like ASDSP II and KCSAP in extension and input supplies respectively so that their potentials are enhanced.

Hon. Maurice Osewe Aringo, the area MCA and host farmer indicated that he hopes his venture in Agriculture acts as an example to the people he leads so as to massively practice Agriculture both in small and large scale as long as it's sustainable. He encouraged County extension workers and all relevant stakeholders to heart fully engage their subjects in fighting hunger and poverty in Siaya County.

The area legislature's farm plays host to dairy production, horticulture, cereals, oil crops, pastures, bee keeping, pig farming, poultry production, tuber crops and farmyard manure management systems.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock & Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

MARKETING OF SPRAYING SERVICES TURNING AROUND AGRIBUSINESS IN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES IN SIAYA COUNTY



Mango Sprayer Service Provider at work spraying mango orchards against pests and diseases

Increasing productivity in mango value chain has highly been contributed by spraying service providers within the county. Majority of mango seedling practitioners and producers in the past have experienced an increase in various pests and diseases thereby leading to low production which resulted to low volumes of mango and mango products traded within the various markets in the county and beyond.

ASDSP has identified, capacity built and aggregated various young sprayer service providers; who were aggregated Sprayers Service Providers (SSP) and linked to AAK for certification to bridge this gap. Marketing of spraying services to both mango seedling practitioners and producers was key in unlocking the potential of mango value chain.

Amos Nandi, a Mango producer in Alego Sub County in South East ward said, "In the past I have seen dwindling levels in mango fruit production from 7 bags to half a bag per season due to much fruit abortions and disease infestations. I started spending a lot of money buying pesticides which couldn't save my mango business. Through ASDSP II Mango Value Chain platform meeting, this was an area of discussion and emphasis that needed immediate intervention and I was linked to one of the Sprayer Service Providers. Now I can project a potential increase in mango production this season."

Kevin Okoth, one of the SSP under Alegem aggregated group has expressed his delight for the market linkage done by ASDSP II. He said, "The Spraying Service business require market link which within a short period, referrals by other fruits producers will increase since it is a demand business that go beyond mango trees. Currently am managing 56 farms and I have pruned 365 trees and spread 1120 trees in the past two months generating KES 92,500."

FOOD SECURITY MITIGATION PROJECT GETS GOING IN SIAYA

12TH AUGUST 2021



The County Department of Agriculture and APNI team after the day long deliberations on Food security mitigation measures

About 3,500 vulnerable farmers of Maize and beans are expected to benefit from a donor funded project through extension and quality seed support within the next nine months.

The Food Security Mitigation Project will be implemented in East Ugenya, North Ugenya, Central Gem, West Gem, North Gem, South East Alego and Siaya Township Wards in Ugenya, Gem and Alego Usonga Sub Counties.

Speaking during the project launch yesterday at Distinction Gardens, the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Food, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo was humbled by the determination of the County Government in partnership with various development partners to think about a very timely project amidst a pandemic that has exaggerated food insecurity in the County. She further noted that this will enhance extension services at the grassroots and even uplift the capacities of the vulnerable households that have been shaken by the current situation. "We would want to take stock at the end of it all and hope that people's lives will be transformed towards sustaining the ever growing population in Siaya", she added.

Dr. James Mutegi, a senior program manager at African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI) explained that the project developed by APNI and funded by USAID through AGRA is meant to enhance resilience of smallholder farmers to Covid 19 disruption by facilitating access to farm inputs, digital information and advocate for conducive policies through the County Government.

He added that the project will particularly offer solutions to food insecurity situations of both climate change and covid 19 risks in collaboration with all relevant partners.

Training of Village Based Advisors will commence immediately to pave way for the preceding implementations to take shape.

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock & Fisheries, County Government of Siaya.

CONTAINING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT TIME BOMB IN WESTERN KENYA



Agriculture contributes to 25 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), 65 percent of exports and employs approximately 60 percent of the total labor force in Kenya yet according to Kenya Youth in Agribusiness Strategy 2017 – 2021, only 10 percent of the youth are directly participating in the sector.

At the same time, 39 percent of the youth population are currently unemployed in Kenya, with Western region attributing to a good number according to the Census data released on February last year.

Tertiary institutions have over the years imparted competency through attachments in relevant public departments. More recently, government has introduced internship program in the public sector to enhance skills and competency development.

Also, GIZ supported Agri – Jobs 4 Youth initiative has been implementing in Bungoma, Kakamega, Vihiga, Kisumu and Siaya Counties since 2020 in addressing Youth unemployment by focusing on Skill based trainings and strengthening the private sector.

Institutions such as Sigalagala National Polytechnic, Sing'alo Institute of Science and Technology, Ramogi Institute of Advanced technology, Friends college kaimosi and Siaya Institute of Technology were picked to spearhead this project through supporting their capacities in offering Agricultural courses.

Students from such institutions would then proceed for attachment at various selected reputable farms through linkages within the Agriculture Sector Network (ASNET) to acquire relevant skills that shapes them effectively for

employment and even start their own enterprises.

On farm trainings ensures access to technologies, some of which might not necessarily be available in their colleges. These include drip irrigation systems, overhead sprinklers, silage making, mechanized milking, Biogas, on farm feed formulation, record keeping, Eggs incubation, brooding, vaccination, Aquaculture and general farm management.

“My experience at Avepo Smart farm has shaped my mindset beyond working to get employed”, narrates Caroline Anyango, a student of Siaya Institute of Technology.

Apollo Blunar from Sigalagala National Polytechnic in Kakamega attached at Evans farm reiterates the same sentiments with much appreciation to ASNET for making it easier for him to get exposed to modern technologies at limited costs. He particularly points out Mechanized milking, a technique he has come to master to perfection, long after theoretically learning it in class.

On the other hand, local farms are equally proud to be part of an initiative to breed local skills that will be a market changer in transforming employment in the Agriculture Sector. Christopher Ongote, Managing Director at Munongo Farm in Vihiga is highly appreciative of the two students he has helped nature and is even willing to have them back when they finish school to help him in general management and record keeping. He attributes his own success as a farmer to consistency and persistence, something that he envisages will be inculcated to the students through this game changing opportunity.

“My experience at Avepo Smart farm has shaped my mindset beyond working to get employed”

Other Organizations like Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) are such that is loudly advocating for youth empowerment through different interventions in innovation equipment support, linkages to various service providers and skill-based capacity building which is very relevant in this aspect.

Up to date, over 20 students has benefitted from industrial attachment thanks to ASDSP by getting exposure to Siaya Agri Value Chain incubation Center (SAVIC) and accessibility to agri – food companies.

“The students have obtained skills in a number of technologies, machine and equipment operation and Agriculture best practices in indigenous chicken, Fish, Mango and other supportive value chains. I believe that with continuous support from the Government and other relevant partners, students will continue to benefit at very low costs”, said Kenneth Owuor, ASDSP II Coordinator

SIAYA MARKS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY WITH FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE



Deputy Director for Education, Youth affairs, Gender and social services, Mr. K'okoth Sylvestre addressing the youth at Siaya County Club during the World Youth day celebrations 2021

As Siaya joined the rest of World today in celebrating International Youth day, the youth have been urged to view Agriculture as a field of opportunities if we are to put up with the current economic shortcomings.

“This year’s theme: Transforming Food Systems; youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health should be a message to the young people that the success of such a global effort cannot be achieved without their meaningful participation”, said Mr. John Adede Director for Youth Affairs

Deputy Director for Education, Youth affairs, Gender and social services, Mr. K'okoth Sylvestre highlighted that the youth can move mountains yet they have refused to do so.

“The youth have to step up strongly

and take their seats in the society”, he added

Mr. K'okoth further mentioned that that its important to take note of all the guidelines as per this year’s theme and practice it in our daily endeavors because that is the only way we can take stock and acknowledge the importance of such historic days.

Representing the department of Agriculture was Sarah Mango, County Agribusiness Officer who highlighted that the Department was in the process of enacting Youth in Agribusiness Strategy, trained staff on championing change among the youth, developed proposals for resource mobilization and partnered with various development partners like ASDSP, KCSAP, ABDP, GIZ, among others to champion the youth Agenda.

She acknowledged that although there are challenges, there exists different opportunities in Input supply, marketing, transportation and processing that doesn’t really required on farm activities for them to explore with a positive mindset.

“If all the available resources and opportunities were to be fully utilized, the Agriculture sector would employ the 38% unemployed youths, contribute to 61% of the County’s economy and earn up to 1.5 Trillion yearly”, said Ms Mango.

The youth have to step up strongly and take their seats in the society”,

AGRICULTURE GAVE ME A DESCENT LIFE AFTER EMPLOYMENT: GEORGE



Sega fruit tree seedling nursery

There is a perception among a majority of citizens that riches doesn't come through formal employment but rather through self-businesses.

George Ngira, former prisons farm manager to some approves of this notion because he's indeed a living manifestation.

By the time he retired about seven years ago, he had a simple family house and more than an acre of land. He had an open tree Nursery with less 1,000 trees but with requisite skills gathered from training and experience from his former work station.

The resident from North Ugenya in Ugenya Sub – County then opted to concentrate his energy in the tree Nursery, after all he had very limited options.

In 2014, he supplied CARE Kenya with upto 7,000 fruit tree seedlings and earned Kshs.200,000, a major motivation that propelled him to venture into a field he had never thought of its worth.



"Not undermining indigenous trees, there is need to promote rearing of fruit trees because even as we conserve the environment and provide shades in our homes, this other package comes in handy with food and nutrition security", said Mr. Ngira.

From that time upto date, Gerge has grown different fruit tree varieties in his farm ranging from Apple, Lemon, Mango, Paw Paw, Plum, Pear, Mulberry, Apricot and even peaches.

He says that before selling the seedlings, he has to make sure that indeed they can do well. This way, he's almost sure of not getting any complaint from his customers.

"The constant demand of tree seedlings has made me to work harder because I am assured of a market. I get clients from as far as kakamga because of my rare apple seedlings", he added.

In addition, Gerge is a beneficiary of capacity building on certification, business planning, record keeping and market linkages through Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II).

Through his group (Ugenya Fruits and Tree Nursery Practitioner), majorly consisting of women, he can now put his ready seedlings insider a shed net Courtesy of ASDSP II.

"We have utilized this shed net for two months now and I can confirm that our seedlings are not safer from natural and unnatural predation. Even if my seedlings take longer to find a market, I am certain of having them stay fresh and free from any kind of wilt", he says.

George is appreciative of this intervention and hopes to upgrade his income from Kshs.150,000 to 250,000 on seedlings alone.

He is also capable of making not less than 1 Million per season from the sale of his various fruit species.

George is equally a proud mentor of his other 8 group members who he trained on grafting and are also earning decently from this field of Agroforestry. The group which is duly registered by the social services department has saved Millions of shillings which they invest and also loan out and favorable interest rates to aid in respective development ventures.

Even though the farmers' proximity to town and poor roads formerly posted as an obstacle, his prowess has since made this a fairytale and customers has very limited options in terms of going to his home for clean seedlings. "I now own a bigger descent house and more than 2 acres of land inclusive of several other Agricultural ventures like chicken production, thanks to my Nursery", he concluded.

I WILL SURELY MAKE MILLIONS FROM FRUIT TREES

– SAYS HANNA 28TH MAY 2022

Aluru Village, East Asembo Ward in Rarieda Constituency plays host to a true definition of return on good investment.

Hanna Auma Ochieng, a young mother of two and her husband Maurice Ochieng started a tree Nursery in 2007 with less than 1,000 tree seedlings just to put into practice what they loved. At this point in time, the husband engaged in casual works and small-scale farming to fend for the family.

Coping up was so much of a struggle because they could not get enough to smoothly run the family, leave alone making savings for future planning.

In 2015, the GIZ through Welthungerhilfe trained them on the importance of Fruit trees for increased incomes. They further built them a shed net with wooden stands and this a major turning point for such a determined family

The Ochiengs had an increase of seedlings stocking from 1,200 to 3,000 and the number kept on increasing because of consistent demand from the community.

Even though getting the much-needed seeds was quite hectic at first, the young couple were determined to keep pushing because they knew they had a market – a village whose tree cover at that point in time was way below. “We had to go as far as Ugenya to get the seeds but when we got back home, we made sure that we planted every variety so that in future, getting the seeds wouldn’t be a headache”, she says.

As they kept on growing, they saw the need to have a group hence the birth of OMIA MALO AGROFORESTRY GROUP which was duly registered by the social services in 2015.

Hanna is particularly grateful to Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) having considered their group to benefit from a shed net with metallic stands through the Innovation Equipment Support.

She says that the support has come in handy with intervention-oriented training on certification and Proper



Omia Mualo fruit tree seedling nursery under innovation shade net

Nursery Management that has transformed their perspectives on how to effectively run their enterprise.

“The assured market linkage through ASDSP II has given my group members the morale to start their own enterprises and for us it comes as a wake-up call because we have now planted 100 mango trees in our 2-acre piece of land”, she added.

She’s optimistic that in the coming week, they will make Kshs.100,000 from the sale of 10,000 seedlings and about Kshs.400,000 per season from the sale of Mango fruits.

“I recently turned down a Kshs.20,000 paying job to concentrate on my family business because I have a promising future in Agriculture”, says Mr. Ochieng

They both confirm that they have a home, can take their kids to school and even feed themselves with ease, thanks to their heartfelt indulgence in Agriculture.

“Our group members have eventually embraced self-employment because we are proudly their role models. We are genuine income generators through Agriculture and we hope to diversify to indigenous chicken production so that we have a taste of riches in this lifetime”, she concluded

SOARING FISH DEMAND TURNS JOAN'S DREAMS INTO A REALITY AFTER RETIREMENT

As demonstrated by Joan Okumu of Mwang' Farm in Sigomere, Ugunja Sub – County, Fish farming is very profitable. As in other types of Agriculture, the level of profit is seldom excessive. Here is her story on how this venture can be a very good retirement enterprise



Launch of predator kit innovation equipment supported by ASDSP II at Mwang fish farm in Sigomere

Even as wild fish stocks keep dwindling due to population pressure, there is increased interest from communities that never ate fish before because of its nutritional value. In fact, job opportunities have equally declined because there are too many boats chasing very few fish.

This is a situation that kept ringing in Joan's mind even as she tried to assert her mind on a probable enterprise to engage in after retirement.

In 2010, she attended an Aquaculture training in Sagana Courtesy of the Ministry of Agriculture and apparently, this was the wakeup call she really needed.

"The training was very vital because I finally understood the logistics of fish farming and most importantly its nutritional and economic benefits. What I didn't like is how much the residents of Kirinyaga were gradually embracing Fish farming and even selling it to my County, a place that has traditionally been regarded as a fish hub", she says. In the same year, the woman in her early 70s was a beneficiary of the Government supported Economic Stimulus program where she had her first 300 sqm fish pond built, stocked with 1000 fingerlings and enough feeds provided to support the first cycle.

"After about 8 months, I did my first sale and got close to Kshs.150,000.

Its at this moment that she set up a hatchery, bought a pellet machine and a small feed miller to give fingerlings production a head start.

"As long as it was promising, I wasn't afraid of trying. I can actually confirm that from that point up to date, my energy has been more concentrated on the fingerlings business because the production costs are lower, the demand is overwhelming and the money is pleasant", says Joan

Joan is calling upon the Government to subsidize Agricultural inputs and upscale extension with focus on raw materials such as soya beans, cotton, sunflower, yellow maize, etc that are being used by feed millers. This way, feed prices will go down and ultimately fish prices.

I was so excited and committed to plough back because the venture promised to be more viable than my previous job", says Joan.

The former prisons warden who retired in 2014 built six more ponds and stocked all of them with 1,000 fingerlings each hoping to make a fortune from them because even as she retired, the soft-spoken lady had plenty of unfulfilled accomplishments.

"I wanted to buy a car since I was getting old and needed to make my movements more convenient. I also had a home but there are a number of adjustments such as tiling and installing a ceiling board that I still needed to work on. And guess what, I did it", she explains as she smiles steadily.

In addition, Joan became part of Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) and has since received trainings on business planning, feed formulation, record keeping, certification and opportunities available in different nodes of the Fish value chain.



Together with her group members who are also fish farmers, Joan is offering free fingerlings to community members who would wish to venture into fish farming because she believes there is still a very big gap to be filled in the interest of making Siaya a Fish secure and commercially oriented County.

"I now make up to Kshs.80,000 a month on fingerlings and the demand still outshines my capacity by far. I urge my community members to embrace fish farming because the world needs it, we have a favorable climate, endowed with natural water resources and several wet lands favorable for this venture", she explains.

Her major cry is now on insecurity but ASDSP II through Innovation grant support has come in handy to provide a predator net which he believes will reduce cases of predation. Finally, she commends ASDSP II for their exemplary work through capacity building, something that has transformed livelihoods for those who have taken in seriously. She's calling upon the County Government and relevant stakeholders to strengthen extension by ensuring there is enough human resource and facilitation for maximum outreach.

HOW THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF SIAYA KEPT MY POULTRY FARMING DREAM ALIVE



Mr. Edwin Ogola, Director Maningi Enterprises explains to visitors on Incubators operationalization

It takes you slightly over one hour to drive at moderate speed to Chian-da area in Rarieda, Siaya County.

We arrive at the home of Edwin Ogola, just a heartbeat away from the expansive Lake Victoria. It is a complex of a kind; one gate that ushers you into his home, but from 2015, the same home has steadily grown into an amazing poultry and dairy farm. And thus Maningi Poultry and Dairy Farm, the company where he is a Director and proprietor.

But it is poultry farming that so much at his heart, as we would find out during our thirty-minutes interview. “Welcome home my sons,” says 69 years old accountant who until 2007 when he retired was at Audit Department at Central Bank of Kenya.

He then starts to explain how from balancing books of account, he ended up into dairy and poultry farming:

“I would buy chicken in Eldoret like all Nairobians and urbanites going to their rural homes would do. But sometimes I would fail to eat all the fowls that I bought, and I would leave the live ones at the hands of my then

farmhand Martin Adege, who is now one of my ten staff when my leave expires,” says Edwin.

But Martin was never in a hurry to slaughter the chicken left, in as much as he had a free will to do so. Instead he would rear them, and when his boss showed up next, they shall have reproduced enough to eat.

“And that is how the idea of rearing chicken came about and we started small. Not sure if we could ever get to where we are right now,” say Edwin, who now makes yoghurt from home with milk from his seven dairy cattle. It was in 2015 when the County Government of Siaya organized a training for farmers rearing indigenous poultry.

“The County Government of Siaya in conjunction with Agricultural Sector Development Support Program, ASDSP, literally showed me and tens of us the way. It was a detailed training particularly incubation, which was a knowledge we all lacked, and had greatly affected our output,” he says.

But the region is prone to power blackouts, making it a big gamble to rely on electricity for incubation and

hatching of the eggs. He says they experience 10 to 16 blackouts every day. There is also the risk of power surge that destroys the equipment.

“Once again Siaya County Government in partnership with ASDSP mobilized 32 poultry farmers in the region for a training on climate smart agriculture. The end product of this were solar powered incubators and hatchers. With this, my main supply of power is solar, with Kenya Power electricity being a back-up,” he says. We start from where it all begins; his first generation improved kienyeji chicken that he sources from a reliable supplier in Eldoret.

“If you want to have a self-sustaining chain of production, then make sure you get first generation layers, both male and female, instead of buying eggs that could be older than seven days from the day they were laid. That would be catastrophic,” he notes, adding that self-reliance is a key component of this trade.

As we speak, he says that there are 800 layers, and nearly the same number that have hit 18 months and have to be culled since beyond eighteen months, productivity goes really down.

We head to incubation center where we have three modern digital incubation machines that combined can incubate 5800 eggs in a month. But with a 2000 capacity hatcher, all he needs to do is to put them in a sequence of four days from the first incubator.

“Incubation takes 18 days after which they are transferred to hatcher for 3 days bringing the cycle to 21 days. So in slightly over a month we can hatch 5800 chicks,” this is no mean feat. He has a brooder separated into three floors, with each floor having a capacity to brood at least 1000 day old chicks. But it is from day one chicks where the return on invest-

ment starts.

“Most of our customers from within and outside Siaya County prefer 28 days old chicks, compared to day olds because of how brittle their lives can be. But we sell all the way from day olds to five month old chicks,” he says.

And just don't ask him who supplies him with chicken feeds because he does the milling by himself. He just doesn't stop there, he goes ahead to sell from chick marsh, layers marsh, to other poultry farmers from within and outside Siaya county.

Agriculture, Irrigation, Food, Livestock and Fisheries County Executive Committee Member Dr Elizabeth Odhiambo says that the county government is working round the clock to ensure that there is an attractive environment for those who wish to venture into poultry production.

“Right now we have a gap when it comes to refrigeration mechanism in times of glut in production. But the other side of this is that it is an opportunity for investment so that the market prices do not fluctuate so much to the detriment of the farmer,” she said.

Edwin has already set the stage by having his own milling plant, something that may need to be emulated. “We have been encouraging poultry farmers to avoid selling whole live chicken. Instead deep fry and sell the chicken in parts so that people can take them as snacks or go and eat at home,” says Dr. Odhiambo.

Dr. Odhiambo believes that once the Agriculture Input Grants and Subsidy bill which is before the County Assembly of Siaya is passed into a law, then the cost of rearing poultry shall have dropped significantly, as this will as well bring more farmers on board.

THE SILENT MILLIONS AT LUANDA KOTIENO BEACH



A rear gesture of fish cages in the lake and cage fabrication as an innovation

Dickens Otieno, the Secretary of Luanda Kotieno Cooperative society stares steadily at over 480 cages and points out at a fortune that has transformed the lives of fisher men, fish mongers, fabricators and several other individuals living around the beach.

He is a little bit economical on the extent at which the fish business has transformed his personal life but he's definitely ready to talk about a co-operative society that he has led for more than 15 years now.

“Luanda Kotieno Fish Producers and Cooperative Society in Rarieda Sub - County was started in 2017 to solve marketing challenge experienced by the fish producers and capture fish traders along Lwanda Kotieno Beach”, he narrates.

The ‘Mkubwa size ndogo’ as he describes himself further states that the society had management issues arising from mistrust to poor record keeping which forced membership to reduce from 114 to 97 by the year 2012 but through Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) – SAVIC interventions on ‘my coop package’, the cooperative has been revived and strengthened with a focus on business and good governance for enhanced productivity.

“Currently the society has a membership of 203 with 837 cages along the beach. The fish produced from an average cage size of 6m X 3m is

669.6 tons per production cycle and 253 tons of capture fish annually. This generates KES 276,718,000 annually which directly benefits He also explains that the society has received numerous supports from different players including the County Government and Kenya Climates Smart Agriculture Project that has distributed feeds, cages and even fingerlings to help spur production for purposes of meeting the roaring market demand that currently stands at 4,134 tons annually.

“These interventions, not excluding the unmeasurable capacity building by ASDSP II, fish business along the beach has attracted different players totaling to 2,145 actors in the industry ranging from traders, producers, cage fabricators, fish cage feeders, aqua shops investors, transporters with an investment over 750 million” says the outspoken secretary.



Dickens affirms that the cooperative has put various measures to ensure progression into the future through focusing on establishing their own fingerling hatchery due to demand of quality fingerlings, utilization of aluminum cages to reduce environmental pollution from metallic cages, Installation of CCTV to enhance security issues and having a cold storage facility to store fish for good prices.

He finally calls upon investors to consider the promising Luanda Kotieno for the realization of mutually promising economic potential.

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESSFUL FISH FARMING ACCORDING TO SAMUEL



County Fish Inspector Mr Aggrey Obamba superintending on Fish Health at Ngolo Fish farm North Gem

Meet Samuel Okello, Chairperson Aquaculture Association of Kenya – Siaya branch and Fish value chain platform who is leading by example in portraying the full potential of fish farming for food security and income generation purposes. We meet him at his farm in Gem Sub – County for an interview and this is what he had for us.

Question: Tell us in details about your Fish Enterprise and how you started it?

Samuel: After retirement from public service, I decided to go settle at home in the year 2009. I then dug a trench to divert water that for a long time had flooded my farm after which I left for the city to attend to some other engagements. When I came back after a while, I noticed some fish inside the trench and decided to fish them out to satisfy my curiosity. I got about 22 table size pieces, ate two and sold 20 at Kshs.2000 to my neighbors herein my interest in fish farming was nurtured.

In 2010, I was enrolled to the Government supported Economic Stimulus Project where I was trained, dug for a pond, stocked with 1000 fingerlings

and given feeds to support the first cycle. After about 8 months, I managed to sell 700 pieces at Kshs.105,000 and was then motivated to construct an additional pond which I stocked with 1000 fingerlings.

The spark into fish farming was increasingly becoming unnoticeable when in the year 2019, I was elected chairperson for fish value chain platform after a series of engagements by the Directorate of fisheries and interactions by other players in the value chain. My business has grown hence forth and I am now a fingerlings producer with clients as far as Fish cage farmers in Lake Victoria.

Question: What is your motivation in this line of work?

Samuel: Like any other job, this is where I now find my daily bread, dress my family and even pay their school fees. I can also confirm that the returns are decent, probably even Better than my previous job.

Question: Do you have any kind of training on Aquaculture and where did you obtain it from?

Samuel: Right from the year 2010, I have received trainings at different in-

tervals by different organizations on pond construction, pond fertilization, stocking, feeding, feed formulation and predator control. These organizations are the County Government, Food & Agriculture Organization, Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP), Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP), Millennium villages and of course my college in Riat.

Question: Giving details, how has the County Government through ASDSP II made interventions into your business?

Samuel: I have benefitted from ASDSP II through the trainings mentioned above and others such as Business planning, record keeping and marketing. Actually, my client base has greatly grown during my interactions with their service providers and other actors who we have networked with, of course through the same institution. As we speak, I can't comfortably meet all my demands because its enormous.

Question: Approximately, what are your profit margins in the different segments you involved in?

Samuel: I thank God because averagely, I get around Kshs.50,000 monthly from fingerlings and Kshs. 100,000 after 6 months from table size fish. Its quite evident that there is more money in fingerlings than waiting upto 6 months to match what I get in fingerlings production after just two months and majorly this is because of high cost of feeding. Much of my energy has now been diverted to fingerlings production and the other bit is just to supplement my yearly returns.

Question: What other organizations/individuals has impacted on the growth of your business and how?

Samuel: My family, especially my wife is a better record keeper so she's been very supportive in that end, including feeding my fish when I am not around. Without family support, running a

successful enterprise within your farm can't be easy. ABDP has equally supported me with a predator control kit to help control the number of predators that mess around with my fish.

Question: How has the business impacted on your personal life and that of the community?

Samuel: apart from comfortably meeting my family needs such as food, clothing and paying schools fees, I am paying the same school fees to two other kids nearby as a measure of giving back to the society. I have about 5 casuals whose pay I believe is of great importance to their families so by default, a number of my community members' lives are impacted either directly or indirectly.

Question: Any challenges? And how do you anticipate to curb them.

Samuel: I intend to buy more predator control kits and even install CCTV cameras to help control the reptiles and human beings who are a major danger to my fish. Feeds are equally expensive and of the poorest qualities all over. I intend to buy a small feed miller in the near future and start milling my own.

Question: Any advice to the youth and women who would also love to rise through the ranks and shine in your line of operation?

Samuel: There are plenty of opportunities in this sector and one major component to kicking it off is 'MIND-SET CHANGE'. Upon this realization, the County Government and other relevant partners who are very much ready to support women and youth will definitely find no obstacle in capacity building them towards greater heights. So there is no any other way apart from first having the right mentality

THE REVELATION OF SIFUMAS RATADO WOMEN GROUP



CECM Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo accompanied by the ASDSP II Coordinator, Kenneth Owuor being taken through the ingredients of feed formulation during the launch of innovation chopper grinder in Gem Sub – County

“At the time my group was formed in the year 2020, I used to live with y chicken. It was every living thing for himself and I was just comfortable with that”, says Mary Odhiambo, Chairlady at SIFUMAS RATADO women group in West Ugenya.

Mary further states that farming in general was more of subsistence and the main reason as to why they even joined hands was to table bank and probably just have a social welfare to keep them moving.

Indeed the table banking has been more than successful and their savings are admirable. Members can be loaned as much as Kshs. 250,000 depending on their shares.

After several interventions by various stakeholders including ASDSP II with capacity building especially in the field of Agriculture, these women started rearing chicken and those that lived with their owners actually found themselves in structures built specifically for them.

Each group member has at least 50 birds and those with greater foresight has even diversified to dairy, horticulture and even pig farming, thanks to start up capitals from group loans.

“There are also 1,200 birds owned by the group and the local hotels are our main customers who pick them once

they are about 3 – 4 weeks old”, she added.

Out of their 46 members, 20 are youths and the number according to the chairlady has been necessitated by their desire to earn a decent living and ultimately feel useful to the society.

“They are proud of themselves and I can confirm without doubt that the youth who are not part of us have borrowed a leaf from their hard work and have started their own ventures in the smallest of ways”, she says.

Mary shows us a feed miller which she says was a donation from ASDSP II on the belief that their efforts are promising and the equipment would then unlock a stumbling block (expensive feeds) that has in recent times increased the cost of production.

“We now save up to Kshs.20 per kg and we are grateful. As we progress, we are going to actualize contractual farming on raw materials so that in the long run, we reduce the cost of feeds even farming by having easier access to Soya beans, sunflowers, yellow maize and others”, Mary says with great confidence.

She confirms that their number one customers are the group members and the community have very limited option as to whether to buy their fairly priced feeds or go to the agrovets for low quality expensive feeds.

Finally, Mary is calling upon the Government to intensify extension because it's a major catalyst to ensuring that Siaya is food secure and commercially viable.

The County ASDSP II coordinator explains that he's pleased by the involvement of Women and Youth in Agribusiness therein the need to complement extension with innovation grant support to steer up fish, mango and indigenous chicken value chain development.




THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF SIAYA

PRESENTS

LAUNCH OF SIAYA COUNTY YOUTH IN AGRIBUSINESS STRATEGY - 2022




Empowered Youth gainfully engaged in the agri-food sector

CHIEF GUEST: MADAM REBECCA AMUKHOYE
CEO MICRO ENTERPRISE SUPPORT PROGRAMME TRUST

At Siaya Institute of Technology

CALL US (0726039782)
EMAIL: CDASIAYA@GMAIL.COM

JUNE 23




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AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME PHASE II (ASDSP II) SIAYA.

Capacity developers and mentorship of value chain actors Would like you to join in celebrating all the hardworking Kenyans from far and beyond this

LABOR DAY



1ST MAY, 2022





AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME PHASE II (ASDSP II) SIAYA

Wishes you a

HAPPY MADARAKA DAY



LIBERTIES AREN'T GIVEN, THEY ARE TAKEN. THIS IS THE LESSON WE LEARN DURING MADARAKA DAY.






AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME PHASE II (ASDSP II) SIAYA

PRESENTS

VALUE CHAIN ORGANIZATIONS INNOVATION EQUIPMENT LAUNCH





CHIEF GUEST: CHARLES SISO - CHIEF OFFICER AGRICULTURE, FOOD, IRRIGATION, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

FROM 9AM

All are invited

- OMIA MALO AGROFORESTRY GROUP IN RARIEDA (25TH MAY 2022)
- SIFUMA RATADO WOMEN GROUP IN WEST UGENYA (26TH MAY 2022)
- ABEDO WOMEN GROUP IN SIDINDI (27TH MAY 2022)








AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME PHASE II (ASDSP II) Siaya

Wishes you

HAPPY EID AL ADHA



Accelerating implementation of Innovations

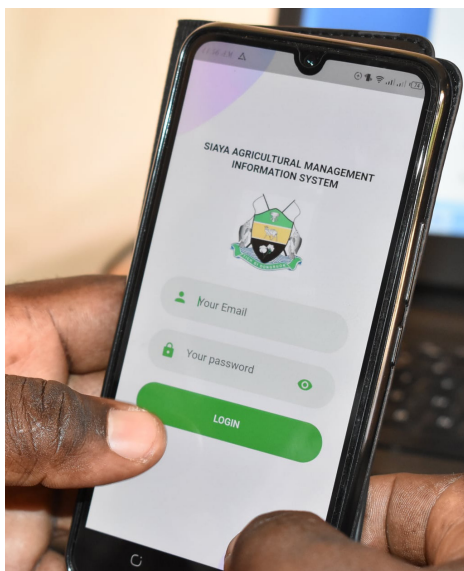
WELFARE



16th FEB 2022 – Bar Kalare, East Gem: Agribusiness & Entrepreneurship for Sustainability workshop & Expo



29TH MARCH 2022: Visit by ASDSP II Kwale County specifically on Indigenous Chicken Value Chain to witness the remarkable interventions that have been made by Siaya so far



02/03/2022 at Marais Suites: Sensitization of County Department of Agriculture Senior Management on Siaya Agriculture Management Information System (SAMIS)



03/03/2022 at Marais Suites: Discussion of draft Siaya County Grants and Subsidies Regulations

THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN MANGO VALUE CHAIN IN SIAYA COUNTY

The Mango is one of the high value horticultural crops termed as the King of fruits. The major varieties suited for Siaya includes; Ngowe, van dyke, tommy Atkins, apple, Kent and Keith. Local mango varieties which are more fibrinous has been found to be more suitable for dried mango products for export market. Mango value chain production contribute into commercially oriented enterprises that ensure sustainable food and nutrition security and incomes.

- SIAYA Nurseries Practitioners Association comprising of 24 practitioners' operators was formed with the support of ASDSPII to raise high quality of grafted mango seedlings suitable for Siaya County agro ecological zones.

- With the support of ASDSPII, 8 seedling nurseries have been inspected by HCD and certified in compliance with the regulation for the authorization of fruit tree seedling nurseries and one certified by KEPHIS.

- Through capacity building has imparted knowledge resulting to producing 32,000 high quality mango seedlings that are suitable for the Siaya County Agro ecological zones.

- With the help of the sps facilitated the formation of Siaya Mango producers' champions comprising of 38 producers resulting into 2311 tons of mango produced

- Has imparted knowledge to 3,156(1,334 males, 696 females and 1,126 youths) Value Chain Actors across the mango VC.

- Has imparted knowledge resulting to production of 32,000 high quality grafted mango seedlings, sold 2,311 tons of mango.

- Has imparted knowledge to pruning and spraying service providers enabling them to work on 8,900 mango trees enhancing productivity to the producers.

- The ASDSPII innovation support to the SSPs, VCAS and VCOs from the innovation fund in terms of knapsack sprayer pumps, cooler boxes, pruning saws and shade nets has led to increase in productivity across the mango Value Chain.

- Service providers on processing working for the program has empowered 210 mango processors across the county in innovation mindset ending with dried mango for export, mango Wine, mango Juices and mango cakes.

- The refurbished mango processing factory in Ramba to value add Siaya mango to absorb the excess mango fruits getting spoilt during glut is a way forward.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN FISH SIAYA COUNTY

- The construction of the mega fish processing factory by the world bank in luanda Kotieno BMU to aggregate, value add and export siaya fish to the European countries is believed to make fish to be gold of the day because of the revenue expected. The factory will process approximately 400,000 Kgs of fish every day.

- Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University Science and Technology is one of the research institutions partnering with ASDSPII in matters innovation. There is established state of the art aquaculture hub at the university with a hatchery that can produce up to 36million fingerlings in a year and out of grower tanks that can produce approximately 600 MT per annum.

The sector faces few challenges. Namely, inadequate finance to facilitate the activities and untimely fish price fluctuations that affects the trade nodes.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN INDIGENOUS CHICKEN VALUE CHAIN

1. Formation of Siaya Poultry Incubator Operators (SPIO) who produces 52,000 day old chicks per month.

2. Spurring traceable feed production through Siaya Feed Millers who produces 800 tons annually with a total of 17 feed millers' capacity built on feed formulation and all have their products certified by KEBS.

3. Capacity Building of chicken champion organizations per sub – county which are able to produce 2.65 million birds annually ranging from month old chicks and table birds with vaccination teams as supporting structure to reduce mortalities.

4. The indigenous chicken value chain is moving forward on product development through slaughter slab being constructed in Rarieda and the already install slaughter slab in Gem. This in deed will be a game-changer in accessing markets for the chicken producers in Siaya County and beyond.

5. Trade has been improved through formation of Sub County based traders' organizations and processors' organizations who are able to trade on 2.12 million birds annually.

6. The program has supported some of the women and youth led producer's organization with innovation equipment through innovation grant to increase productivity.



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