Meet at Neema Abattoir, one of the KMT partners in the Livestock Processing work. Photo: Neema

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KMT Partners with Isiolo County

Isiolo Governor, Hon. Godana Doyo (left) and KMT’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Paul Wanyagah during an MoU signing at the KMT offices in Nairobi. Photo: George Mbithi | KMT

Partnerships remain key in KMT’s implementation efforts. We achieve sustainable systemic change and transformation in the sectors we are working in through partnerships with businesses and governments, both national and county.

We have been working with Isiolo County to sustainably transform the Livestock Sector in the county. Livestock is the main source of income for over 90% of the residents of Isiolo County, like in the rest of the larger Northern Kenya Region. This month, we formalised our partnership with the county government by signing an MoU. Find out more here.

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Partner Profile: Neema Abattoir

In its commitment to engage private operators to transform markets, KMT is engaging Neema Livestock & Slaughtering Investment Limited in its Livestock Processing work. The company has recently opened an ultra-modern abattoir in Karobangi Nairobi, that is expected to solve pastoralists perennial livestock market problem.

Neema abattoir has the capacity to process up to 7000 small ruminants and 1000 cattle per day. It is constructed on 3 acres of land, with another 13.5 acres to be used for livestock holding.

Read what Citizen News wrote about the opening of the abattoir here.

You can also watch this video by NTV or this one by KBC to see how Neema plans to address pastoralists challenges to improve household income, health status and boost food security.
Bio pesticides restore farmers smiles

Eunice belongs to a Group of 500 small scale farmers in Mitooini village, Central Kenya. Amongst other crops, the Group has jointly been growing french beans for the export markets.

Recently, the Group lost over Ksh. 450,000 that they had invested in producing french beans. Why the big loss? An importer rejected the Group’s french beans citing presence of excessive pesticides residue, which is against the set international standards.

Just like majority of smallholders, Eunice’s Group has not received training on best practices in regards to pesticides use for export markets – nor do they have information on available non-residue inputs, and where to source them. After the loss, the farmers were discouraged. They were no longer sure of which direction to take to earn a living, as commercial horticulture production is their main activity.

KMT Inputs Team is engaging with Finlays’ Dudutech (Finlays bio-pesticide division) to train smallholders and introduce their bio pesticide through agro-dealers. A range of activities are being explored to benefit over 500 farmers within the one year pilot.

We recently facilitated engagement between Dudutech and Mitooini Farmers Group, and we expect that Eunice and her Group will realise better sales.

French beans farming is an attractive commercial venture for smallholders in Central Kenya.

Equipped with training and access to quality inputs, each Group member has potential to produce up to 250 kgs of produce, getting a revenue of KSh. 15,000 from a quarter acre per planting cycle.

Giving Farmers a Voice

Smallholder farmers in Kenya have for the longest planted fake and low quality crop seeds. They purchase these from agro-dealers, but they never have a way of voicing their disappointment. They quietly face the consequences, further endangering Kenya’s food security.

KMT has been in a search for a solution that ensures voices of smallholder farmers are heard and their feedback properly incorporated towards quality crop seeds.

The result of this search is the Farmer Feedback Loop (FFL), aimed at providing an avenue for farmers to air their grievances on matters seed quality, as well as to provide an opportunity for County Governments, through the extension officers, connect with their County farmers.

The FFL service enables farmers to send a text message to their County Government with their complaint(s) on fake and low quality seed issues through an advertised short code number. The county government in turn contacts the farmer and in most cases physically visits them to listen and resolve their complaint(s).

Over 160 crop seed related complaints were received in Kericho and Uasin Gishu, where the FFL was piloted. The County Agriculture Officers proactively engaged farmers who sent their queries and/or complaints by calling them directly or sending them an sms with the names and/or contact details of the ward Extension Officer for follow up. For farmers who sent queries on the type of seeds they should plant, a message was sent advising them to visit the MbegaChoice website.

A process evaluation survey carried out in the two counties shows that 78% of users of FFL service were contacted by the county government within 24hrs of their sending a message. 90% of surveyed farmers who didn’t use the FFL service were likely to use the service in future; 95% of both users and non-users would recommend the service to other farmers.

The FFL is currently being rolled out in Embu and Makueni Counties.
Lack of water is one of the world’s most pressing issues. Today, 1.2 billion people – almost a fifth of the global population – live in areas of physical water scarcity. A further 500 million people are approaching this situation.

Water Services providers often face a financing challenge undermining their reach of the many unserved and underserved citizens. Our Water Sector Team developed the Sustainable Water Fund (SWF) to help tackle this financing challenge.

Tachasis Water and Sanitation Company (TAWASCO) in Nandi County, one of our partners in the Water Sector, has already sighted fruits of the Output Based Grant. The water provider has laid a 3.24KM pipeline to serve more than 300 households with clean drinking water.

“The expansion will see us reach the un-served zones in Koiken and Kipyaa,” says Ms Catherine Ogoti, Technical Manager, TAWASCO.

Stella Kones, a resident of Koiken, is pleased that soon she will have water at her doorstep. She says “Having water at my doorstep will definitely help me save the 3-4 hours I spend fetching the precious commodity daily.” She says that her dairy cows’ yield reduces every dry season due to the distance of up to 5km they have to walk in search of drinking water. The evidently jubilant mother of four says “My boys will have more time to study instead of fetching water and taking the cows to the stream.”

TAWASCO’s expansion is expected to continue, as the firm is planning to construct a water kiosk to serve at least 2000 un-served consumers.

Regional Dairy Conference held in Nairobi

Our partner in the Dairy Work, Technoserve, helped organize the 11th Edition of the African Dairy Conference and Exhibition. The Annual exhibition has over the years proven to be the leading Dairy industry-defining event of the year in Africa and beyond.

Participants in this year’s conference; drawn from farmers, processors, input suppliers, service providers, milk traders, financial institutions, and dairy hubs; had the opportunity to network and access new innovations over the course of three days.

In a bid to ensure sustainability of the important event, players in the dairy industry funded this year’s edition. Read more about the exhibition here.
New Arrivals

Ali Hassan Mohamed joins KMT as the Livestock Director. He has over 34 years of experience in the Livestock Sector, both in the public and the private sector. Ali Hassan is a former Chief Executive of the Kenya Meat Commission, Program Manager FARM Africa, and recently the General Manager Neema Export Slaughter House.

Susan Kambo is the new Head of Human Resources and Admin. She has worked in the HR field for over 10 years, and has a wealth of knowledge gained from both the Public and Private Sectors.

Also joining KMT is Joseph Muhwanga, Climate Lead. In the last eighteen years, Joseph has engaged in livelihood security, climate smart agriculture, sustainable natural resource management, disaster risk reduction and resilience building both at national and regional level. He previously worked with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Alex Mureithi joins KMT as a Business Analyst. Mureithi has worked for over 10 years in accounting and financial analysis. He has previously worked with AC Nielsen, Neuberger Berman, Blockbuster Inc and Ernst and Young LLP in the USA.

KMT also welcomes Michael Kamau, who’ll work in our Agricultural Inputs Sector. Michael has 12 years of experience in the agricultural sector, mostly in farm input development and marketing. His previous engagements include Technical Manager at Bio-Medica Laboratories Ltd and Country Manager of Kencrop Kenya Ltd.

Kenya Markets Trust (KMT) uses innovative mechanisms to catalyse and influence change in market systems through partnerships in the private and public sector. We work with businesses to influence commercial practices and with the government to influence policy and regulation. This is geared towards creation of better performing market systems that are inclusive and create wealth for all, particularly those at the base of the pyramid.

We highly value your feedback, so please write to us at comms@kenyamarkets.org for any comments and suggestions you may have on this newsletter.

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