



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

KVDA

KERIO VALLEY
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

NEWSLETTER



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Table of Contents

The Chairman, Board Of Directors..	2
Message from the Managing Director.....	3
Editor's Note.....	4
KVDA signs MoUs	5
Empowering Kerio valley farmers through value addition.....	6-7
Mitigating water scarcity in KVDA project area.....	8-9
KVDA sweetens life of bee farmers.....	10-11
KVDA changing the face of WeiWei division.....	12-13
KVDA pioneers desert farming using centre pivot technology.....	14-15
Diversifying income streams in pastoralist communities.....	16-17
KVDA races to plant 6 million trees in North rift.....	18-19
Pictorials.....	20-21



VISION

A prosperous, Green and Conflict Free Society.

MISSION

To promote Conservation and Sustainable Management of River Basin Based Natural Resources through Integrated Development for the Improvement of Livelihoods

MANDATE

To undertake River Basin Conservation and management through integrated river basin based development programmes with the key objective of propelling development to improve the regions per capita income.

Message From The Chairman, Board Of Directors

Mr. Mark Chesergon



The strategic objective of KVDA is to transform the region's economy through prudent management of resources for economic prosperity.

The Authority has aligned its programs mainly towards food security, environmental conservation, water accessibility as well as value addition for sustainable development and in its existence KVDA champions for peaceful co-existence among the communities in

the region.

As KVDA we have adopted a participatory and integrated approach in implementing development plans aimed at addressing socio-economics challenges facing the region.

In our transformational agenda, the Authority has been collaborating with key stakeholders who include host communities, county governments and development partners thus promoting planning, implementation and evaluation of the projects and programs.



As KVDA we have adopted a participatory and integrated approach in implementing development plans aimed at addressing socio-economics challenges facing the region.



Message From The Managing Director

Mr. Sammy Naporos



KVDA's area of coverage is endowed with natural resources that include breathtaking landscapes, water, vast forest cover, renewable energy sources, wildlife and mineral deposits.

The Authority is mandated to undertake River Basin Conservation and Management through Integrated River Development Programs with the key objective of propelling development and improving the Regions per capita income.

However, despite these enormous resources, the region is 80 percent arid and semi-arid making it water stressed which has exacerbated resource based conflict among the communities.

KVDA over the years has surmounted some of the challenges in the region transforming livelihoods for food security and income generation activities for sustainable developments.

Going forward, we endeavour to achieve more of the developmental needs of the Kerio Basin through effective and efficient service delivery.

Our inaugural newsletter shares some of the livelihood schemes the Authority has undertaken and their impact on the socioeconomic development among the communities in the region.

Enjoy your reading.



Going forward, we endeavour to achieve more of the developmental needs of the Kerio Basin through effective and efficient service delivery.



Editor's Note:

After a painstaking effort, we are delighted to bring to you our trailblazer Newsletter -KVDA Newsletter- shares some of our achievements. At the onset we express our unqualified appreciation to the management for their Cooperation and participation that made the publication of this newsletter a success.

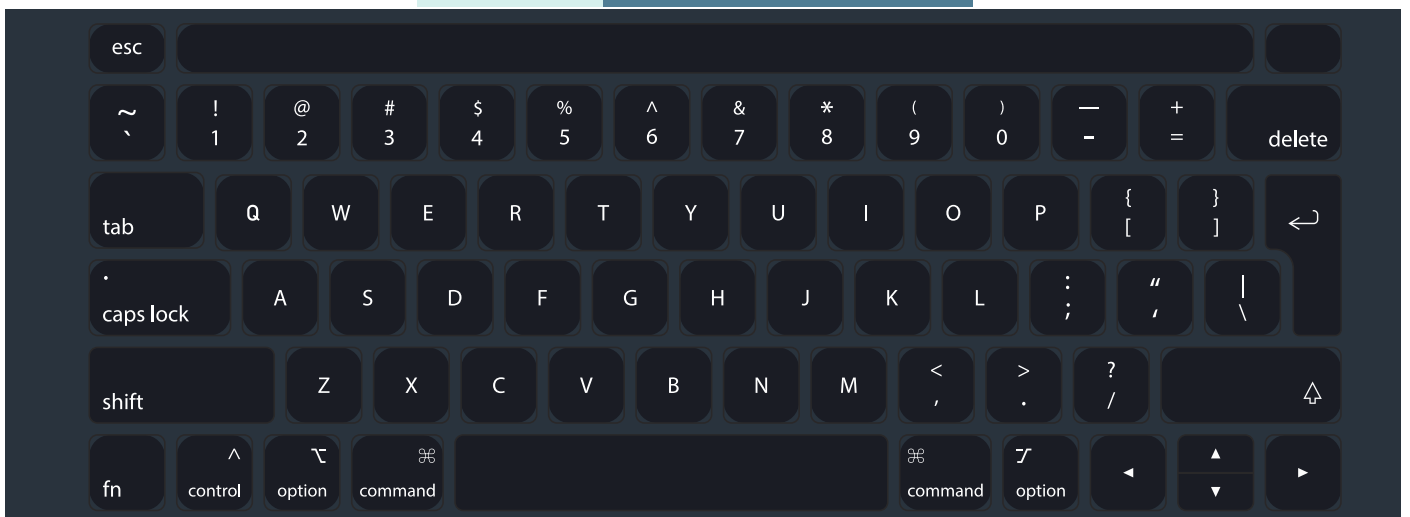
To C.Chemitei, F.Kibor and G. Gichuhi, your invaluable input in the production of this issue cannot be gainsaid.

In this captivating maiden issue we bring to you a sample of KVDA impactful projects that affirms our commitment to change the region's landscape of grandeur and prosperity.

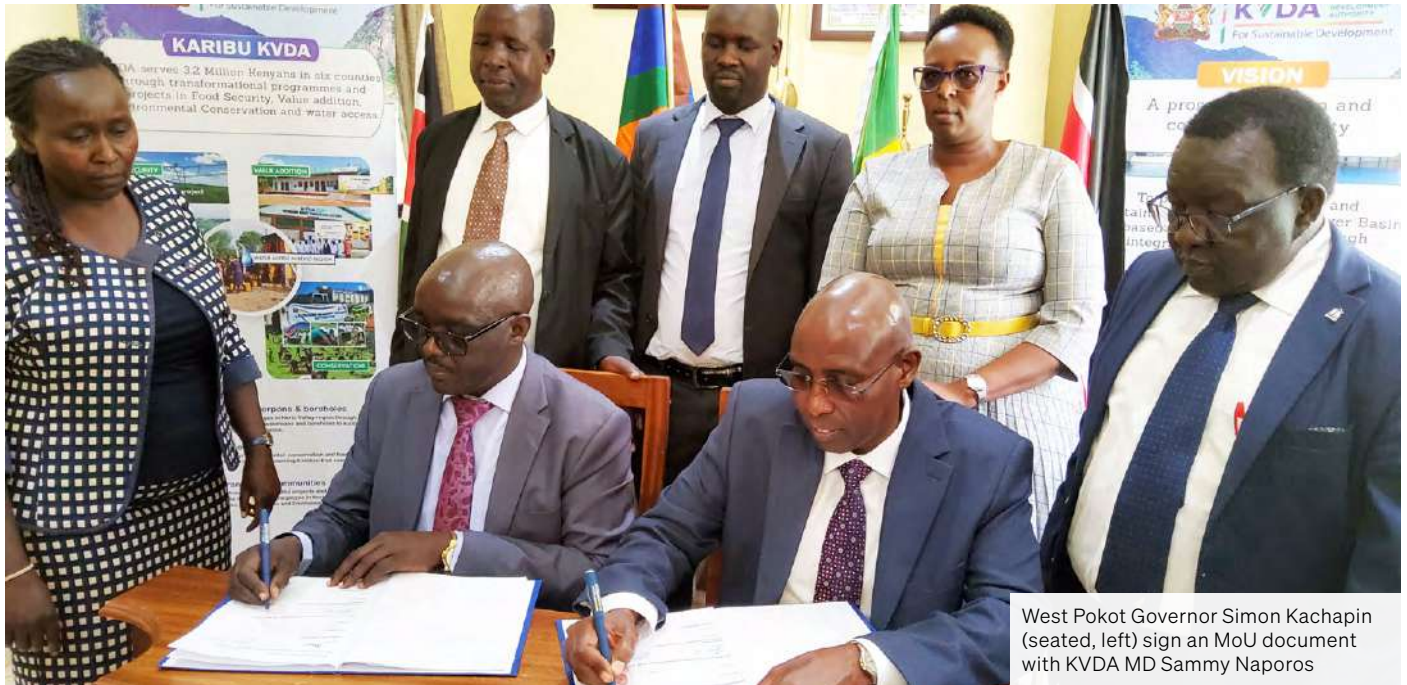
The exciting and insightful articles herein serve to showcase the region's potential which is precursor of the immense resources which needs to be harnessed and exploited for socioeconomic transformation despite the ensuing volatility in the region and the harsh weather conditions.

Most sincerely, we welcome you to create time and catch up with our stories captured herein.

Welcome



KVDA signs MoUs on sustainable development programs



West Pokot Governor Simon Kachapin (seated, left) sign an MoU document with KVDA MD Sammy Naporos

Communities in the North Rift are set to enjoy better returns on their investments after Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) and County Governments in the region entered into a five-year agreement to exploit value chains in a raft of development programs.

The programs focuses on promotion of beekeeping value chain, livestock and pasture seed production, climate smart agriculture, fish farming, climate change mitigation, water projects, peace initiatives and undertaking resource mobilization programs.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) leverages on sustainable project development and resource mobilization by exploring the shared competencies of the parties. This is expected to lead to successful implementation of well-designed and resourced programs.

The MoUs will see the devolved units and the Authority undertake joint development programs within their respective Counties. Already Baringo and West Pokot County Governments have since signed the MoUs with KVDA.

KVDA Managing Director Sammy Naporos stated the collaboration will accelerate development and avoid project overlaps in service delivery.

“Through this collaboration, locals will diversify their income generating activities

thus providing alternative sources of income to vulnerable groups like youth and women. It will involve specific initiatives including the establishment of mango orchards, tree nurseries (carbon trading) and pasture seed production. These initiatives will go hand in hand with joint peace initiatives,” said the MD.

Mr Naporos said the initiatives will alleviate water scarcity through the sustained construction of water projects in water stressed areas hence effectively fight food insecurity and improve the communities’ nutrition.

“Also we have rolled out sustainable conservation efforts which involve distribution of fruits and tree seedlings to farmers for environmental conservation as well as income generation,” he said.

KVDA Board Chairman Mark Chesergon said the Authority’s main mandate is environmental conservation, along the Kerio valley basin and thus working towards achieving the Presidential on 10 percent national tree cover by 2032.

Baringo Governor Benjamin Cheboi hailed the deal as an avenue for wealth creation noting it will eventually improve on the livelihoods of locals residents and the county Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

“The MoU is to help us partner to ensure the livelihoods of the population is improved. The MoU has a component of peace initiative which is very critical because insecurity

in this region has led to life and property loss as well as underdevelopment,” he said.

He added, “The programs to be initiated will involve diversification and this will lead to many sources of diversifying the income generating activities. The value chains in livestock, fish, beekeeping and horticulture will be greatly improved.”

The governor disclosed that from Lake Baringo fishing, locals make an annual return of over Sh 800 million though the sector is largely underutilized.

“The value chain in fish will be tapped and the return from fish farming will increase considerably just like the bee keeping which is also central to my administration. Bee farmers earn about Ksh1 billion annually and through the partnership we will quadruple the production because we now focus on export markets,” he said.

His West Pokot counterpart Simon Kachapin said the MoU will promote the existing beekeeping value chain as well as improve food security through Weiwei and Lomut irrigation scheme.

“KVDA has been a great partner since 1979 and has done a lot in West Pokot. With the MoU, we shall fully exploit the value chains of several resources in the county as well as explore more. The locals stand to benefit a lot from the collaboration,” he said.

Empowering Kerio valley farmers through value addition



KVDA made ready to drink mango juice.

Farmers in Kerio valley are now enjoying better mango returns after Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) constructed and installed Ksh123 million processing plant for value addition of their fruits.

Previously, the farmers have been making huge losses due to perennial marketing woes aggravated by a poor road network linking the mango-producing zones of Endo, Sambirir and Aror wards to the markets.

It is estimated that 1,000 ha are under mango plantations in the Kerio Valley with an average density of 45 to 50 mango trees

per hectare. This translates to a projected annual mango yield of 9-10 tons per ha with each mango tree producing between 800-1000 fruits per season at peak production.

Middlemen have had a field day buying the mangoes from desperate farmers for as little as Ksh100 per net instead of at least Ksh1, 000.

The factory is located at Tot in Elgeyo Marakwet County and it has the capacity to process 500,000 litres of mango juice annually but this capability is limited by the quantity of mangoes grown by the farmers. The Authority purchase mango fruits from

farmers who are mainly from women and youth groups, supplying a total of 110 tons valued at Kshs 5 million per season.

“Our aim is to cushion farmers against losses by adding value to their fruits and ensuring that they meet international standards so that they can earn more income. The challenge is now on the farmers to increase their products by planting more varieties of high-quality mangoes,” said KVDA Managing Director Mr Sammy Naporos.

Since its establishment in 2019, the factory has fostered strong partnerships with local mango farmers, fostering a collaborative and



Tot Mango Factory

Ksh 123 million

(KVDA) constructed and installed Ksh123 million processing plant for value addition of their fruits

1,000 ha

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500,000

The factory is located at Tot in Elgeyo Marakwet County and it has the capacity to process 500,000 litres of mango juice annually

mutually beneficial relationship.

“The factory has created 200 new jobs directly and indirectly among the locals through the value chain and better utilization of land resource. It has increased household income of approximately 20,000 farmers from sale of mango fruits. Mango value chain has empowered the community in a big way,” said Mr Naporos.

The MD said Kerio valley has huge potential in horticulture and the Authority is focused at tapping it to offer the population an alternative livelihood other than livestock keeping.

Pius Kipkeu another farmer concurred; “I am among the pioneers of mango farming in Kerio valley but for all the decades in the farm, my life has never changed for

the better. This factory is a Godsend to us because we shall receive better returns for the yields and turn around our lives.”

He said the challenge is upon the farmers to increase the acreage under the fruits to ensure the factory operates at maximum capacity even at off-season.



Cabinet Affairs PS Idris Dokota center flanked by Elgeyo Marakwet governor Wisley Rotich, KVDA MD Sammy Naporos and the Board at Tot Mango factory



The newly constructed Yokot dam which was commissioned by H.E Dr. William Ruto (Inset)

Mitigating water scarcity in KVDA project area

With 80 percent of the region being arid and semi-arid, the Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) has constructed small dams, water pans and boreholes worth Ksh550 million in the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

The projects spread across Turkana, West Pokot, Baringo, Samburu and Elgeyo Marakwet counties are aimed at mitigating the water challenges in the region.

Erratic weather patterns has made the search for water an arduous task because the local communities have been forced to spend an entire day trekking tens of kilometres in search of the precious commodity.

Ordinarily, the locals rely on holes dug in dry river beds commonly known as laggas, but due to the prolonged drought getting water in them is risky because the sand might cave in leading to a disaster.

KVDA Managing Director Sammy Naporos said disclosed the Authority is constructing 25 water projects across the region where some have already been completed and are already in use. The water projects will benefit more than 50, 000 households as well as 500, 000 livestock and agricultural use.

“What we have done is a drop in the ocean. We are focused at building resilience and improve their economic wellbeing of the communities which has been exacerbated by climate change,” observed the MD.

The Chief Executive Officer noted the locals have also been trained on crop farming and have since planted a variety of vegetables such as kales, spinach, coriander, tomatoes, capsicum and kunde which offer sustainable food and generate income.

“It is encouraging to note that communities around the projects have teamed up to establish kitchen gardens in order to fend for their families. We intend to alleviate water

Ksh 550 million

KVDA has constructed small dams, water pans and boreholes worth Ksh550 million in the 2024/25 fiscal year.

25

The Authority is constructing 25 water projects across the region where some have already been completed and are already in use.

scarcity to effectively fight food insecurity and also offer the locals an alternative to the big stock and minimize resource based conflict,” he said.

For instance, at Noontoto village in Samburu county, there is an increasing shift from



Camels drinking water at Namalacha borehole in Turkana County

traditional livestock keeping to horticulture after the Authority constructed a 40, 000m3 dam that now supply water to over 3, 000 households as well as 50, 000 livestock and wildlife.

The landscape is changing following mushrooming farms around the water projects growing various crops for both subsistence and commercial purposes.

Kimia Lolmeweti is among pioneer crop farmers in his Noontoto village who has turned his one acre plot adjacent to the dam into a lush horticulture farm.

“As a community, we have never ventured into crop framing because we are used to pastoralism due to the prevailing climatic conditions which favors livestock keeping. But after KVDA constructed the dam, we embraced crop farming and it is proving to be a fruitful venture,” he stated.

Mr Lolmeweti said the area was good for crop farming but lack of water discouraged many farmers from the venture and opted for livestock despite the erratic weather patterns that has resulted in numerous deaths.

The farmer sells the produce to traders in Maralal town and the neighbouring Kisima trading centres.



Baringo North MP Joseph Makilap (left) and KVDA Board Chairman Mark Chesergon quench their thirst at the newly commissioned Kalabata borehole in Baringo



Livestock quenching their thirst at Nkutoto Arus borehole in Samburu County



Left Mark Chesergon and right MD Sammy Naporos after commissioning Nkutoto Arus borehole

KVDA sweetens life of bee farmers

Feeling the anguish of bee farmers over poor honey prices, Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) entered into an agreement with farmers' groups to sell their honey to the Authority at competitive prices and rescue them from exploitation by middlemen.

KVDA buys 130 tons of semi-processed honey from farmers worth Ksh 44.2 million annually. And to improve on honey quality and quantity, the Authority also modernized beehives away from the traditional log hives farmers were used to, as well as capacity building farmers on good bee husbandry.

The farmers now have embraced the use of Kenya top bar hives and langstroth which are easier to handle when harvesting and carries huge quantity of honey.

To ensure the honey meets high quality standards and for value addition, the Authority constructed a processing plant at Rokocho in Elgeyo Marakwet County which has a capacity of processing 150 tons of honey annually.

KVDA Managing Director Mr. Sammy Naporos said the Authority is the largest purchaser of semi-processed honey from the Kerio valley region and have stabilized the prices thus ended exploitation by middlemen.

"Our focus now is to process over 130 tons of honey an equivalent of Ksh 44.2 million that goes directly to farmers who are mainly women and youth groups for the sustainable development at the household level," said the MD.

He said the Authority is promoting beekeeping as an alternative to livestock, which are susceptible to drought and cattle rustling which is rampant in the region.

"Bee keeping in Kerio valley is favourable due to the prevailing ecological conditions among them the availability of acacia trees. Big stock like cattle, camels and goats are susceptible to erratic weather with farmers likely to lose big numbers but with bees, two weeks of rain is enough for flowers to regenerate and a farmer will be able to harvest honey within a period of 90 days," stated Mr Naporos.



Acacia honey dripping from a comb

At Kodich farmers' cooperative society in West Pokot County, women own over 1,000 Kenya top bar beehives which they harvest honey then semi process before selling to KVDA.

Some of the women groups practicing beekeeping and are selling honey to KVDA are Nakwijit, Kapele, Chelelochkan, Pamba Mutyo, Nguritukeya and Achawa B.

Lucy Lodungu from Achawa B women group said to ease their work in processing raw honey, they have invested in an extractor machine-a device that uses centrifugal force in squeezing honey out of the combs.

Ksh 44.2million

KVDA buys 130 tons of semi-processed honey from farmers worth Ksh 44.2 million annually

"We came together as a group and engaged in beekeeping as a source of income away from the traditional cattle keeping the region is known for. The venture is now offering hope and emancipation for rural women in this region," she said.

Ms Lodungu noted with the honey, which



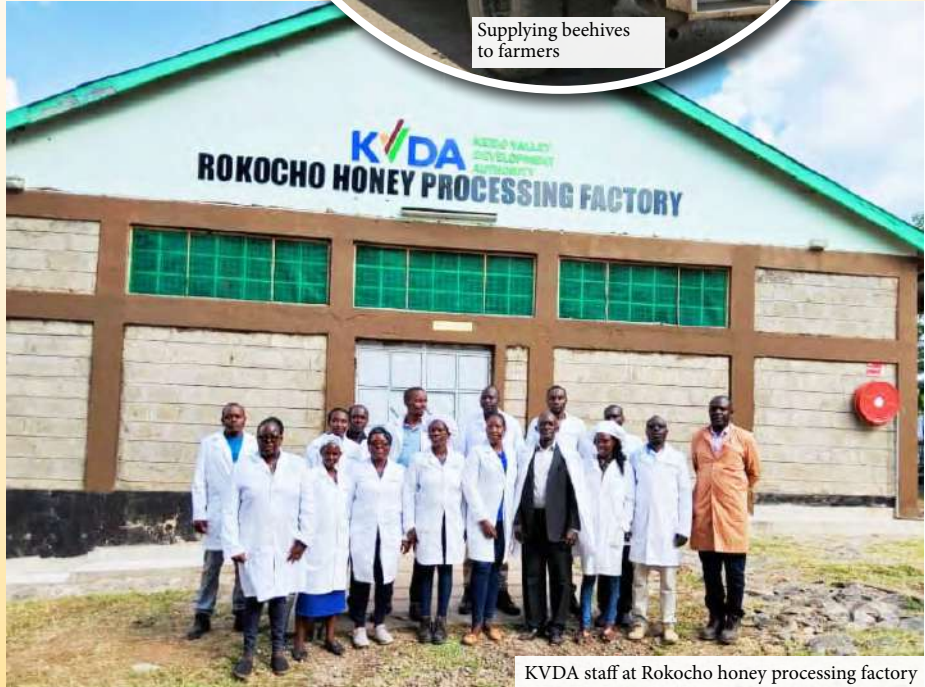
A bee sucking nectar from an acacia tree flower



Supplying beehives to farmers



KVDA made Kenya Top Bar Hive



KVDA staff at Rokocho honey processing factory

150 tons

The Authority constructed a processing plant at Rokocho in Elgeyo Marakwet County which has a capacity of processing 150 tons of honey annually.

is harvested every three months, they have managed to provide food for their families, educate their children, built better homes making life comfortable and ventured into transport.

“Honey from this region is famed, and we always get buyers from as far as Mombasa and Nairobi flocking here for the Acacia honey. The downside was the price. The traders used to purchase the product at less than sh 100 per kilogram and at times took months to pay us but KVDA has come

in a big way and alleviated the problem,” she recalls.

John Lotip, the area village elder, said through beekeeping women are now the breadwinners in the region and the socio-economic status has tremendously improved, thanks to beekeeping.



Lush maize field at Weiwei irrigation scheme in West Pokot

KVDA changing the face of WeiWei, West Pokot County

At the heart of Sigor constituency, West Pokot County, sits the vibrant Weiwei irrigation scheme which has become a beacon of socioeconomic transformation in the semi-arid region. The field was initially a no go zone because armed bandits marauded the region killing and maiming locals.

The otherwise fertile soils were turned into battle grounds forcing the residents to flee the area in fear of the attacks leaving the region desolate and locals sunk into poverty.

And in 1986 through Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA), a joint collaboration between the Governments of Kenya and Italy signed a bilateral cooperation protocol and established a 70-acre furrow irrigation

project that acted as a demonstration and research farm.

Fast forward, the scheme is now lush with an array of crops raking in over Ksh 100 million annually for the local community who practice irrigation farming in a 275-hectare field clustered under Phase one and Phase two. The scheme directly benefits 225 households which translate to 1,640 persons at an average of eight people per family.

There is also an upcoming phase three covering 325-hectare field and it will benefit 325 households who will directly farm the scheme for food production and it will bring a total of 600 ha under irrigation.

The farmers plant maize seed twice a year and yields are sold to seed producing companies including the Kenya Seed, Western

Seed and East Africa Seed Company. The fields also are now lush with short season crops for subsistence and commercial farming which include millet, sorghum, sun flower, green grams, water melon, paw paws, mangoes and fodder among other crops.

The scheme covers Korellach, Sangat, Ptokou and Takar sub-locations with an approximate population of over 20, 000 people that have directly and indirectly benefited from crop farming and fish farming which is steadily picking up.

KVDA Managing Director Mr Sammy Naporos hailed the project as a game changer in the region since it is the foundation of peaceful co-existence, food security, increased literacy levels and a vibrant economy.

“By large extend the region has been trans-



Farmers sorting out the maize

Ksh 100 million

Weimei irrigation scheme is now lush with an array of crops raking in over Ksh 100 million annually for the local community who practice irrigation farming in a 275-hectare field

seed maize farming fetches better prices because of contractual farming.

“This scheme is a steady source of income for my family which we use to pay for our subsistence utilities and also improve our livelihoods. We are grateful KVDA initiated the project and brought water for irrigation,” she said.

Mr Daniel Lokwaki, a reformed rustler turned farmer, reminisces how the area three decades ago, was a battlefield.

“Life was hard and poverty and hunger was the order of the day. But when furrow irrigation was initiated by KVDA, the community began planting sorghum and millet for food and sale through ancient barter trade,” he recalls.

He said alternative crop farming became a source of livelihood besides the conventional livestock rearing which was always a commodity of war.

“Crop farming became our turning point and we expect things to get better with the expansion of the scheme. Everyone is optimistic of improved economic growth with the implementation of the third phase, more households are going to get farms hence increased production, more labour opportunities and business,” observed Mr Lokwaki who grows green grams.

The project was recognized for empowering the community and being the best in desertification control and food security from the United Nations Environment Project in 1999.



A maize seed processing machine at Weimei farm in West Pokot county

formed into a vibrant economic zone owing to income accrued over time from sale of the crops which is mainly through contractual farming. As KVDA we offer technical support to the farmers on crop farming besides growing crops in our 70-hectare farm which also acts as a demonstration plot,” he notes.

The Chief Executive Officer added, “This is one of the successful projects where residents have benefited immensely. The money accrued from the farm has gone a long way in improving the livelihoods of the locals

and also their nutrition.”

He said the irrigation project has enhanced agricultural diversity and ultimately revolutionized infrastructural and general economic development in the region.

“Our main goal is to improve household incomes in Kerio Valley and the nutrition of the people. This will enhance cohesion among the different communities thus help in opening up the region for economic transformation,” he said.

Helen Chebokinor, one of the farmers said



Thriving Sorghum crop at Napuu Irrigation scheme

KVDA pioneers desert farming using centre pivot technology

At Napuu village, 5 km East of Lodwar Town, Turkana Central Constituency in Turkana County sits an oasis in the desert-Napuu water aquifer (underground water). Studies have shown Napuu and another aquifer in Lotikipi have a potential of over 230 billion m3 of water.

However, Turkana county experiences extremely high temperatures and low rainfall throughout the year thus favours little crop farming especially rain-fed.

In 2016 KVDA pioneered desert reclamation at Napuu after establishing a thriving 150 acre farm thanks to four boreholes at Napuu aquifer which irrigates the farm through a centre pivot technology.

The farm acts as a demonstration plot

to encourage locals embrace crop farming through capacity building and also it is a farmland to the locals for food security and sustainable livelihoods in the area.

KVDA Managing Director Sammy Naporos said to operationalize the project, the Authority installed a 250KW solar grid at Napuu II farm to ensure its sustainability.

“The overall goal of the irrigation scheme is to demonstrate that no one should die from hunger in Turkana because there is huge agricultural potential for food security. The project is also aimed at boosting the socioeconomic wellbeing if the local community,” he stated.

He said there is great potential in using solar powered aquifer water for irrigation under center pivot technology and annu-

ally produces 450 tons of an assorted food crops worth over Ksh 42 million.

“The project has mitigated food insecurity, alleviated poverty and provided employment for youth and women. The local community also enjoys water supply for human and livestock consumption,” said the MD.

The farm is lush around the year with maize sorghum, green grams, cowpeas and water melons which harvested for substance and the surplus is sold in Lodwar, Kakuma, Lokichar, Kitale, Eldoret and even in Nairobi.

“The project is practicable and sustainable as it relies on renewable green solar energy for pumping and running the entire Centre Pivot System. The project has an excellent return on investment especially if high valued crops are grown,” said Mr Naporos.



Napuu irrigation scheme under centre pivot.

2016

In 2016 KVDA pioneered desert reclamation at Napuu

230 billion

Studies have shown Napuu and another aquifer in Lotikipi have a potential of over 230 billion m3 of water

250 KW

KVDA installed a 250KW solar grid at Napuu II farm to ensure its sustainability.



Solar farm at Napuu irrigation scheme in Turkana County

Ms Paulina Abon'g, the farm's chairlady said the project initiated in 2016 has changed the locals' mindset from being traditional pastoralist to agro-pastoralists.

"The locals' mindset is now changing and it is encouraging to see them practice crop farming. To some extent the hunger pangs that characterize the region have been mitigated in some way and if such projects could be replicated across the county we would be food sufficient."



Centre Pivot Technology at Napuu Irrigation scheme Turkana County

Diversifying income streams in pastoralist communities

In a move aimed at diversifying livelihood schemes for pastoralist communities in the region, the Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) embarked on an ambitious plan to restock Turkwel dam with 1 million fingerlings.

The multimillion project being implemented in phases is aimed at giving the local communities an alternative to pastoralism which is widely being practiced. The fish farming will supplement the lo-

cal's nutrition and spur wealth creation.

Already the Authority in collaboration with University of Eldoret have restocked the dam with 200,000 fingerlings which when harvested is expected to fetch over Sh20 million.

On daily basis fishermen sell at least a ton of fish to fishmongers on the shore of the dam earning about Ksh100,000 thus boosting the local economy.

KVDA MD Sammy Naporos said the project is a three-pronged approach de-

signed at increasing household incomes for communities living around the dam and in line with government policy of Blue Economy; they want to mainstream fish farming as an alternative source of livelihood as well as offer food and nutritional security for the locals.

“We plan that in the next two to three years, the dam will produce over 100 metric tons of fish and will rival Lakes Turkana and Victoria in fish supply. This will be in a big way offer an economic alternative to



KVDA MD Sammy Naporos in a (white cap) leading in restocking of fingerlings in Turkwel dam.

the residents who entire depend on livestock keeping as their economic mainstay,” said the MD at the dam during the stocking exercise.

He said locals have been trained and sensitized on fish rearing and they have gone further to ensure they form beach management units (BMU) to help in regulating and enforcing laws in regard to the dam use.

“Large stock known to the pastoralist communities is being affected by climate change leading to escalation of resource based conflicts. Fish will for sure sustain the economic livelihoods of the communities especially on sustainability of household incomes and food supply,” he said.

He said the region, for ages, has been notoriously known for deadly bloodletting which continues to rob hundreds of lives and property as result of cattle rustling and banditry.

“We need a paradigm shift over the over-

200,000

KVDA in collaboration with University of Eldoret have restocked the dam with 200,000 fingerlings which when harvested is expected to fetch over Sh20 million.

Ksh100,000

On daily basis fishermen sell at least a ton of fish to fishmongers on the shore of the dam earning about Ksh100,000

reliance of livestock keeping which has been blamed for the raids and as KVDA we are advocating for fish farming and bee keeping as an alternative. Locals are receptive to the venture,” he said.

He said University of Eldoret is aiding them in research and in supply of the fingerlings as well as in technical support.

Riting BMU chairman Mr Lopuo Lotingwang, said apart from the restocking they have also been given four boats and safety jackets which has encouraged many locals to embrace fish farming.

“This is a game changer in this region in regard to peace and development because since the first restocking almost a decade ago, the majority of the youths are now in the lake. We have witnessed significant reduction of cases of raids and banditry along the Kitale-Lodwar highway. The ongoing skirmishes are now along the border areas only,” he said.

Mr Joseph Siwa, a local chief, said crime has been reduced by the dam restocking and with the more fish in the water, many people will embrace fish farming.



A panoramic view of Turkwel arch dam inset fish harvested from the dam.





KVDA staff tending assorted tree seedlings at Chepsurur Tree nursery in West Pokot county

KVDA races to plant 6 million trees in North rift

The Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) has stepped up its conservation efforts across the region’s six counties to restore the degraded environment.

The rampant degradation has been blamed for receding water sources and perennial disastrous landslides and worsened climate change effects.

The Authority is projecting to plant over 6 million tree and fruit seedlings across Turkana, West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Uasin Gishu, Baringo and Samburu counties by June 2024.

KVDA has already planted over 1.5 million tree and fruit seedlings in the past four months in fulfilment of President William Ruto directive that the country’s national tree cover should be at least 15 billion trees by the year 2032.

In the conservation approach, the Authority wants to mitigate the effects of climate change, improve household income through

1.5 million

KVDA has already planted over 1.5 million tree and fruit seedlings in the past four months in fulfilment of President William Ruto directive that the country’s national tree cover should be at least 15 billion trees by the year 2032.

the sale of fruits, and bolster food security and nutrition at the family level.

KVDA Managing Director Sammy Naporos, stated the conservation plan will also see the rehabilitation of Turkwel dam catchment area to check on the siltation of the water reservoir and rehabilitate the region’s escarpment which is always prone to deadly landslides.

“We have over 6 million trees and fruit seedlings spread across our various nurseries and this is what we are supplying to the earmarked schools and individual farmers. Initially our was to rehabilitate the gazetted

forests including the Cherangan’y, Kipkabus, Kaptagat among others but we have realized livestock grazing destroys the seedlings thus reversing the gains made,” said the MD.

He added; “In West Pokot we have already planted 260, 000 trees as well as 4, 000 avocado seedlings which were distributed to 50 learning institutions and local farmers. In Uasin Gishu we planted 200,000 trees in 100 schools across Kesses, Soy and Kapseret constituencies.”

The same strategy have been replicated in Turkana, Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo and Samburu counties where the latter will benefit from a 1 million tree nursery to be established in Maralal town.

The CEO said that they want to economically empower locals through provision of mango and avocado seedlings and ensure they do not entirely depend on the forests because overreliance of the same as had a negative impact.

“In our approach we are focused at conserving the environment which has unfor-



KVDA staff at Tot fruit nursery in Elgeyo Marakwet County



School greening programme in West Pokot County



Tree planting at Kipkabus Forest



Tree planting exercise in Elgeyo Marakwet County

tunately been highly degraded because of unchecked exploitation for charcoal, timber among other products now resulting in climate change. The fruit seedlings besides conserving the environment have economic value to the community,” he noted.

The MD said there is a strong link between food security and environmental destruction and an economically empowered community will result in a protected environment and forests.

“The program is an advocacy

to boost forest cover being implemented as a permanent solution to disasters in the degraded mountainous areas to prevent future landslides and play a major role in risk reduction,” said.

“Most of the rivers draining to Kerio-valley River emanate from Cherangan’y and Kaptagat ecosystems and having adequate water in the rivers means support to livelihoods. Over the years the volumes of the water have been receding due to environmental destruction,” he said.



women at a green grams farm in Lomut irrigation scheme



Nootoo water project Samburu County



Mango seedling at Tot nursery



KVDA MD Sammy Naporos (left) and board chairman Mark Chesergon commissioning Samburu regional office



Baringo governor Benjamin Cheboi (left) and KVDA MD Sammy Naporos display a signed copy of the agreement flanked by officials from the two units



KVDA team join KFS officials and learners in a school greening programme in West Pokot



Senior management team after a team building session in Kisumu



A group of Samburu women watering vegetables in one of the kitchen gardens they established after KVDA commissioned a water borehole in the area



Treasury PS Dr Chris Kiptoo (right) and KVDA MD Sammy Naporos among other dignitaries at KVDA Kerio roses nursery in Uasin Gishu County



The women harvesting pasture seeds in KVDA Chemeron farm in Baringo county



KVDA Managing Director Sammy Naporos join pupils Noontoto primary school, Samburu County, in a tree planting exercise at institution



ADDRESS

K.V.D.A Plaza,
P.O Box 2660-30100
Oloo Street,
Eldoret

CONTACT

Telephone:
+254 (053) 206 3361-2

EMAIL

info@kvda.go.ke

For more information, kindly follow us on:

 @kvda254    @kvda_ke  kvda.go.ke