DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

The Department of Agriculture is a key department in the county as agriculture remains a mainstay of the majority of the people of Kericho. It is led by the County Executive committee Member Hon. Philip Mason and Chief Officer Mr. Bernard Kirui

Departmental Mandate:

The overall mandate of the Department is to promote:

1. Production of food and agricultural raw materials for household food security and incomes;
2. Establishment of agro-based cottage industries and agricultural exports; and
3. Sustainable use of land resources as a basis for agricultural enterprises.

The department is divided into four sub-departments namely:

I. Crop Development - This involves agricultural engineering services, agribusiness and market information and agricultural extension and training
II. Livestock Production
III. Veterinary Services – This entails disease control, breeding/artificial insemination services and meat hygiene and inspection
IV. Fisheries development – This refers to aquaculture development and extension services.

Functions of the agriculture sub-department include:

i. Formulation and implementation of agricultural legislations, regulations and policies
ii. Provision of Agricultural extension services
iii. Development, implementation and co-ordination of programmes in the Agricultural sector
iv. Regulating and quality control of inputs, produce and products from the Agricultural sector
v. Management and control of pests and diseases in crops
vi. Promote management and conservation of the natural resource base for Agriculture

Functions of the Livestock Production Sub-department include:

i. Management and development of appropriate policy and legal framework
ii. Promote, regulate and facilitate livestock production for socio-economic development and industrialization.

iii. Facilitate increased access to markets for livestock and livestock products

iv. Improve livestock productivity, promotion of value addition through local processing of animal products.

v. Quality assurance for livestock feeds.

**Functions of the Fisheries Sub-department include:**

i. Promote fish production for socio-economic development.

ii. Facilitate increased access to markets for fish and fish-derived products

iii. Improve fishery productivity and promotion of value addition

**Functions of the Veterinary Sub-department include:**

i. Surveying, investigation and diagnosis of livestock diseases

ii. Programming and supervision of vaccinations and other measures for control/eradication of diseases of major economic importance

iii. Control of livestock movement within and across the county borders

iv. Meat inspection to ensure food safety to consumers.

**Key Milestones in the department**

i. 18,464 dozes of high grade bull semen supplied to farmers

ii. Seventy (70) A.I. inseminators engaged

iii. Total of 18,000 dairy animals inseminated

iv. Total of 4,500 farmers benefitted

v. About 15,000 new calves realized

vi. Construction and renovation of 70 Tea Buying Centers

vii. 59,840 heads of cattle vaccinated against East Coast Fever (ECF)

viii. 143 cattle dips rehabilitated

ix. 15,000 litres of acaricides supplied to cattle dips.

x. As a result of the vaccination and dipping services, livestock mortality rate from pests & diseases reduced by 40% and improved productivity in key livestock outputs e.g. milk witnessed

xi. Four milk coolers and one milk pasteurizer procured and installed for five co-operative Societies.

xii. 10 acres of Boma Rhodes fodder bank established at Soin Agriculture Training Centre as a source of seed.

xiii. 1,010 kg of Boma Rhodes seed distributed to the farmers in Sub-counties for pasture improvement.

xiv. 85 Egg incubators distributed to poultry farmer-groups.

xv. Livestock (goats) auction platform established at Barng’oror, Soin ward.
xvi. Sweet potato Pack-house (pre-export processing zone) built
xvii. 400 farmers already growing sweet potatoes for export market.
xviii. 7,800 farmers benefited from subsidized farm inputs
xix. 15,400 bags of subsidized fertilizers accessed by farmers
xx. 1,500 farmers trained on food security initiatives
xxi. 72,417 assorted fruit seedlings supplied to horticulture groups
xxii. Support to establishment of Roret Pineapple Processing Plant.
xxiii. 127,000 coffee seedlings supplied to farmers for expansion
xxiv. Support to establishment of coffee roasting and packaging at Fort Ternan Coffee Milling plant.
xxv. Coffee pulping factory constructed at Blue Hills, Kipkelion.
xxvi. Construction of an administration block and dining complex completed at the Soin Agricultural Training center. Construction of 120-seat capacity classes ongoing.