

# **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.