



A quarterly publication

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Word from the Editor

Welcome to the sixteenth edition of Irrigation News. We are grateful to God for the long rains season, which means a lot to the country's water storage and irrigation goals. It is an opportune time to focus on water conservation and efficient irrigation practices due to the increasing demand on our water resources.

In this issue, we have a rich collection of articles on irrigated agriculture in Tana Irrigation Scheme. We also have informative stories on mental health awareness, road safety, seed germination best practices and much more.

As always, we appreciate your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts with us on any of the topics covered in this newsletter. Together, we can make a real difference in promoting sustainable water usage practices.

Thank you for support and interest in irrigation.

Enjoy your reading.

Mr Daniel M. Nzonzo, HSC



Chairman's Note

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Authority on the exemplary performance that saw us being ranked second in the State Corporations category with an excellent score of 1.7729 according to the Report on Evaluation on Performance of Ministries, State Corporations and Tertiary Institutions for the Financial Year 2021/2022. As a result, H.E the President Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD., C.G.H awarded us with a trophy for the excellent performance.

In the third quarter, His Excellency President William Samoei Ruto, PhD, C.G.H, had an extensive tour of Galana Kulalu Food Security Project accompanied by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Hon. Alice Wahome, Governors Hon. Johnson Sakaja of Nairobi, Abdulswamad Nassir of Mombasa, Gideon Mung'aro of Kilifi and Maj (Rtd) Dhadho Godhana of Tana River County. I was honoured to host them together with the Principal Secretary, State Department for Irrigation, Gitonga Mugambi, EBS, Ag. National Irrigation Authority CEO Eng. Charles Muasya and Deputy General Manager, Planning, Eng. Vincent Kabuti, OGW.

Additionally, in the company of Siaya County Commissioner Jim Njoka, Ag. Deputy General Manager, Operations, Mr. Joel Tanui, and other Government and National Irrigation Authority officials, I assessed the progress of Lower Nzoia Irrigation Development Project in Siaya and Busia counties. We addressed all the challenges that were hindering progress of the works especially those related to relocation of compensated farmers and other stakeholders to pave the way for the contractor to continue without interruptions. I was pleased with the progress of the project.

It is impressive how the Authority is putting plans towards the implementation of the presidential directive and delivery of 'The Plan'. The Authority has led several tree-planting initiatives during the quarter to increase the country's forest cover to 30 percent by 2032 from the current 12.13 percent in support of the Forestry and Land Restoration Acceleration Programme launched by H.E. President William Samoei Ruto, PhD. The programme is a response to the ravaging climate challenges and to improve Kenya's mitigation.

As the year progresses well, let us continue with the enthusiasm to deliver on our irrigation mandate.

Hon. Eng. Joshua Toro, REng, MIEK



Word from the Ag. CEO

During the third quarter of the Financial Year 2022-2023, the Authority continued to carry out its mandate as outlined in the law. To guide its mandate, the National Irrigation Authority is guided by four development goals: Sustainable Irrigation Development, Sustainable Irrigation Management, Irrigation Oriented Research, and Governance and Institutional Capacity Development.

Kenya, like other countries across the globe, feels the heat of climate change that, among other threats, has negatively affected agriculture. However, this makes irrigation even more crucial today than before in the search for a food-secure country.

Kenya's irrigation potential without water storage is 1.913 million acres and approximately three million acres of land with enhanced water storage, according to the National Water Master Plan 2030. However, a potential 10 million acres could be irrigated by leveraging more water storage facilities. As a result, the Authority targets constructing more household water pans, community dams, and mega dams to maximize the country's irrigation potential.

To that end, the Authority has built about 35,000 household water pans that produce 48,225,651m³ of water and putting 48,000 acres of land under irrigation, benefiting 21,646 households. In addition, 444 community water pans have been built, totalling about 32,295m³, and putting more than 21,421 acres under irrigation. The Authority has also implemented 240 community-based irrigation projects with a focus on expanding the existing public irrigation schemes.

Additionally, the Authority is on course to implement 17 mega dams through Public Private Partnerships (PPP) to increase the acreage under irrigation. Cumulatively, approximately 670,000 acres have been put under irrigation across the country, but this acreage is expected to grow as the government commits to establishing more irrigation projects.

In collaboration with government ministries, departments and agencies, the Authority is confident of harvesting and storing more water for irrigation by building dams through PPP. Every acre irrigated generates five direct jobs and many more indirectly. Irrigation hastens the transformation of farmer lifestyles by providing food, income, job opportunities, industrial raw materials, and sustainable food production.

It is through such prudent steps that Kenya will soon be food-secure. We are up to the task and are ready to achieve this goal.

Eng. Charles Muasya

The Firstborn: History of Tana Irrigation Scheme



By **George Maina**

Tana Irrigation Scheme is the oldest of the seven public irrigation schemes in Kenya managed by National Irrigation Authority (NIA). The Scheme started in 1953 during the Mau Mau and the Colonial Government fight.

Mau Mau fighters who were believed to be against the colonial rule were captured and used as source of labour to launch various irrigation schemes in Kenya, among them Tana Irrigation Scheme. “The detainees were forced to dig canals from the riverbank to the Scheme land to provide water for irrigation. They worked under harsh conditions and were not allowed to speak to the people in the community who were Pokomos. To ensure this was possible, the British colonialists spread rumours that the Mau Mau ate people which instilled fear among the local residents, but they later came to realise that the information was false, and they started working together with the Mau Mau detainees in the Scheme,” says Mr. Gilbson Mwaura.

The scheme started in Garolo



Kikuyu settlers enjoy a watermelon in Tana Irrigation Scheme on July 1959

where the colonial government requested the then area Chief, Kofa Gavava, and the elders to allow them farm the land and the request was granted. The colonial rulers stationed a machine on the banks of River Tana to pump water to the scheme land.

In March 1959, the Mau Mau detainees demonstrated, opposing the brutality and hard labour they were subjected to in the scheme. They refused to work but the colonialists used extra force them back to the assigned work, insisting that the detainees did not have an option.

“Kenyan soldiers, who were appointed by the colonial rule to guard the detainees went asking the detainees whether they were going to work or not. Those who refused were thoroughly beaten, leading

to the death of 11 detainees,” Mr Chekea Ngatho, a farmer in the Scheme says. This brutal murder made history in Kenya and was rebuked all over the world.

The deaths ignited more demonstrations all over the country to resist the colonialist’s oppression and the detainees were freed and given land to farm on their own. “Those who remained were the first to be allocated farms and then later local people were given farms as well.” says Mr. Mwaura.

In June 1959, European journalists returned to the scheme to assess how those who had been allocated land were farming. The farmers had taken over the Scheme and went ahead to grow crops such as cotton, maize, onions, tomatoes, and spinach which



Farmers cultivating land planted cotton in Tana Irrigation Scheme in July, 1959

earned them livelihood and became a major boost to the economy of the region.

In the early 1990s, Tana River, the Scheme's source of water, changed its course diverting one kilometre away from the pumping machine. The scheme remained without irrigation water for a long time which made the scheme to collapse. This drove farmers away from the Scheme to look for other ways of earning a livelihood.

In 2009, the rehabilitation of the Scheme began led by the government when Mwai Kibaki was the President through the Economic Stimulus Package Programme. The NIA reconstructed and rehabilitated the scheme which saw farmers return.

Since 2010, the NIA in partnership with other private players such as Kenya Seed Company, Simlaw Seeds Company have been providing support to farmers at the Scheme, enabling them to produce crops such as maize, green grams, cotton, rice, watermelon, and onions, thus boosting the food security drive.

The Scheme has a gazetted 12,639 acres, but



L: A Pokomo farmer transplanting rice in Tana Irrigation Scheme in 1955. R: A Kikuyu detainee operating a water sluice gate in Tana Irrigation Scheme in July, 1959

5,000 acres are in use benefiting around 1,450 farming families (households). About 6,000 people depend on the scheme for livelihood as the NIA works to ensure that farmers receive enough water for irrigation by maintaining the pumping station, canals and construction of water reservoirs.

Pictorial of History of Tana Irrigation Scheme



Main canal in 1956.



Tana River bend where pump was stationed in 1956.



A water storage reservoir in 1956.



Irrigation canals in 1959.



Detainees cultivating cotton in 1959.



Detainees inspecting maize and cotton farm in 1959.



Detainees weeding in 1964.



Weighing of pyrethrum in 1964.

Collaborations unlock Tana Irrigation Scheme's possibilities



Farmers in a greengram farm in Tana Irrigation Scheme



By **Brendah Rajwayi**

Tana Irrigation Scheme is the home of crop diversification. It does not only feed your eyes with the beauty of vibrant greens, yellows, and browns of the green grams, sunflowers, and ripe maize blending seamlessly together with the soil, but it also wafts a rich scent of the Komboka rice fields and the serenity it exudes.

This, however, has not always been the case. Crop diversification has been gradually adopted in the irrigation scheme with the aim of solving persistent problems such as limited access to market, credit

and financing, and lack of education and technical skills. Through collaborations with other organizations, the Authority is achieving the diversification goal. These partners include the National Government, Tana River County Government, seed companies, and Thika Cloth Mills Ltd.

The picturesque scene has rolling fields of lush green grams, stretching out as far as the eye can see, every square inch painted with red, blue, orange, and yellow, a reveling beauty of women in the fields. They are dressed in colorful deras, bending over rows of plants, moving with fluid grace as they work, their nimble fingers skillfully plucking the pods from the plants and placing them into picking basins at their feet. All determined to finish harvesting one farm unit and move to the next, they work diligently all the day long for more earnings.

“Other green grams farmers in the scheme are under contract

farming with Simlaw Seeds Company. What that means is that he grows green grams seeds for the company hence not worried about the market,” Mr Kirimi Kirigia, the Tana Irrigation Scheme manager, says. As per the contract, Simlaw Seeds provides the farmers with certified green grams seeds to grow and later buys the crop.

“The National Government through the National Cereals and Produce Board has provided a ready market for the farmers through collaborative contracts,” Mr Kirimi adds. He further echoes that this collaboration has not only provided a market for farmers but also given competitive prices. This has challenged the private sector to offer better prices for the same.

The County Government of Tana River in the Financial Year 2018-2019 funded the farming of commercial maize on 1,000 acres by providing farmers with farm inputs, including certified seeds, pesticides, and fertiliser. Additionally, it facilitated

the preparation of the land, paid the operation and maintenance costs, and bought all the maize upon a bumper harvest of an average of 20-90kg bags per acre at KSh 3,500 per bag against the KSh2,500 that was the market price then. In the subsequent years, it has collaborated with the Authority and farmers to put a total of 3,000 acres under commercial maize and green grams.

Additionally, the Authority collaborates with the county government to build the capacity of farmers and provide them with farm inputs at a subsidised cost. This has seen farmers embrace better farming practices and more efficient farming technologies hence producing more crop at a reduced production cost. This has resulted in more earnings for farmers and created a revolving fund for them.

World Concern, a non-governmental organisation, stepped in to collaborate with the Authority in the growing of sunflower in the scheme in the Financial Year 2021-2022 by paying half the operation and maintenance cost for farmers. Their target was to put 200 acres under commercial sunflower but ended up doing 500 acres under the tall thick-stalked crops flaunting their broad green leaves that provide a backdrop for the sea of wide yellow petals. A vibrant hypnotic sight of sorts.

The crop yielded about 1100kgs per acre in the first harvest and was bought by Rafiki Limited at the price of KSh 55 per kilogramme. After the second harvest, Rafiki Limited bought the sunflower at KSh60 per kilogramme. Currently, World Concern is working on bringing in an oil-pressing machine to curb the challenge of manually harvesting the sunflower.

Concern World Wide on the other hand is collaborating with the Authority to put land under commercial maize production. They have helped farmers to prepare land, supported in operation and maintenance costs and provided certified seeds. In 2021-2022, the organization managed to put 300 acres under commercial maize, helping farmers to harvest 18 to 22 90kg bags per acre and sold the grain at KSh6,000 per bag. In the Financial Year 2022-2023, they are targeting 400 acres under commercial maize and green grams.

German Agro Action has been working closely with the Authority from 2020 to date. They facilitate land preparation, operation and maintenance costs, and provide certified seeds. The farmers collaborating with the German Agro Action, however, have to look for market for their produce found from other partnerships like NCPB. In the current Financial Year, the organization has 160 acres under commercial maize, green grams, pasture, and rice in collaboration with the scheme farmers.

Simlaw Seeds, Monsanto Seed Company, and East Africa Seed Company have also provided a ready market for the farmers. "More farmers have diversified into seed maize farming as compared to commercial maize farming because seed maize fetches better prices at the scheme," Mr Kirigia says. The seed companies have provided market for seed maize as well as green grams.

Komboka rice, a variety developed by KALRO and IRRI in collaboration with the Authority, has been a game-changer in Tana Irrigation Scheme. This rice variety not only yields more bags of rice per acre as compared to the Basmati and IR varieties, but also beats them due to inimitable aroma and irresistible taste. Rice grown in Tana Irrigation Scheme is not short of market thanks to the NCPB and private sector players.

More collaborations with the private sector can see more farmers in Tana Irrigation Scheme start adding value to their crops before selling them. This would not only mean maximising of the raw product but also more money in the farmers' pockets, resulting in economic growth by cutting imports and improving the revolving funds.

As workers tend to the crops, a picture of endless possibilities that could be realised from this irrigation scheme through collaborations emerges. The streams of water flowing through the Authority's canals egg on Tana River County that it will one day be an industrial hub of agricultural production, a vital source of food and resources for many communities and regions, reminding all and sundry of the essential role that agriculture plays.

Tana farmers grow earnings through value addition



Sunflower in Tana Irrigation Scheme



By Ian Murithi

Tana Irrigation Scheme is taking the path of value addition with the goal of giving farmers the very best of returns from their produce through training and partnerships.

Value addition is economically improving a product's characteristics before offering it for sale, usually at a better price. Apart from the improved pricing, value addition increases revenues through volumes since it attracts more buyers and users.

When World Concern came on board last year, they facilitated Tana farmers to put 500 acres under commercial sunflower that yielded

Mr Kirimi Kirigia, the Scheme Manager, Tana Irrigation Scheme

The farmers will get an increase in their income through the value-added sunflower by producing and selling sunflower oil as well as sunflower cakes

averagely 1,100kg per acre which Rafiki Limited bought at KSh55 per kilo.

After harvesting, World Concern donated an oil extractor, a step that is expected to grow their earnings when they take their oil to the market. Once implemented, Mr Kirimi Kirigia, the Scheme Manager, Tana Irrigation Scheme, says, "The farmers will get an increase in their income through the value-added sunflower by producing and selling sunflower oil as well as sunflower cakes. Farmers have always grown their crops to sell them in their

original state but now the narrative will change."

Paulina Mututa, a maize farmer at the Scheme who owns a posho mill in Lamu, says the idea of value-addition is a game-changer. After harvesting, instead of selling raw maize grains, she turns them into flour and packages before selling. The flour is more profitable than selling the maize in its original state and Mututa says she looks forward to the day she will be doing all this from Hola town or more so from the Scheme. Farmers in Tana lease the maize stalks and cobs to livestock keepers who preserve them for use during the dry seasons.

Mr Ramadhan Igu, a maize farmer and Umoja United Farmers' Group chairman at the Scheme, says after harvesting maize, "livestock come in to feast. Other times even outsiders come in from our neighbouring communities to hire the fields from KSh2,000 to KSh3,000." Mr. Mohammed Jare, a maize farmer in Matanya village, concurs.

Halima Koro, a pasture farmer, says a group of 70 women started cropping Sudan grass in 2018 under irrigation. "Pasture has been a good project. When we harvest, we package in bales and sell them at KSh350. From an acre, we get 100 bales and have about 140 acres under pasture."

Farmers migrate to mine ‘irrigation gold’ in Tana



By **Rhoda Mbuvi**



A farmer in his Komboka rice farm in Tana Irrigation Scheme

Can it be labelled the Komboka migration? The Komboka rice variety arrived in Bura Irrigation Scheme then spread to Tana in 2021, becoming the preferred variety in Tana River County. Farmers came in from all walks of life. Neighbors called in neighbors. Relatives asked relatives to join. Acquaintances were not left behind. The chain has brought in an additional 300 farmers in the Scheme to date. Not all the farmers fall under the group that abandoned Pishori farming in Mwea. Others heard there was enough land with reliable irrigation water and left their families to make gold out of mud as is the case with Edwin Mjaka, a farmer cropping green grams on 28 acres.

“I discovered Tana through my brother working in Hola town. I visited the of-

fice here sometimes in November last year, they showed me the land, I made the required payments including the Operation and Maintenance fees and I have not looked back since. I will be harvesting my first crop of green grams in about two weeks and am looking at harvesting 250 bags of 90-kilogrammes, selling at KSh150.00 per kilogramme. You see from dirty soil, there is a lot of gold coming out of it,” says Mjaka.

Paulina Mututa from Lamu County, came to Tana Irrigation Scheme in April 2022. “I came here in April 2022 to try irrigated agriculture. I had done rain-fed agriculture in Lamu for the past 5 years and we had not seen any rains in about three years. I can now

do three seasons in a year. I am in my second crop now, preparing land to crop maize in 35 acres because irrigated agriculture, unlike rain-fed farming, is a sure bet.”

Mr Elijah Nderitu is part of the first group to come to Tana Irrigation Scheme to start Komboka rice farming. “I began this journey with other five rice farmers from Mwea. We were redirected from Bura to Tana with the message that the Scheme was eyeing farmers to commence rice farming. So, we came straight here, met very helpful staff members who guided us, showed us the land, they cleared the Mathenge bushes and the journey continued,” Mr Nderitu said. “In June 2022, I began cropping six

acres from which I harvested 23 100-kilogramme bags per acre, sold at KSh43 per kilogramme,” he adds. Surprisingly, the rice had gained a lot of popularity in Kenya hence they did not struggle with accessing the market.

In the ratoon crop, the yields went up to 33 100-kilogramme bags per acre selling at KSh65 per kilogramme since soil salinity had been dealt with and Mathenge thorns were no longer a threat. He is now doing his second crop, on 20 acres made possible through the proceeds from previous harvests. “The six farmers multiplied in tens. The numbers have grown. Even livestock farmers have joined rice farming and are loving it. In Mwea, you could only do two to three acres but here, there is plenty of land to do more,” he concluded.

Mr Mohammed Jare, a maize and livestock farmer, is one of these farmers now cropping maize on two acres and planning to do rice on three acres. “I have cropped maize on two acres and I am planning to crop rice

on three acres. We have seen our friends doing well in rice farming. We are not used to growing rice but we are learning to do it, of which I am grateful.”

Catherine Kagwiria a farmer from Meru, came to Tana Irrigation Scheme in September 2021 and is cropping 15 acres. In the first harvest, she got 200 100-kilogramme bags selling at KSh43 per kilogramme, then from the ratoon got about half yields selling at KSh 65 per kilogramme. Catherine says rice in Tana is incomparable with Mwea’s. “In Mwea, we used to lease an acre per season, including operation and maintenance fees, at KSh53,000. Here, it is KSh5,900. The yields in Mwea through Pishori is about 25 bags per acre while here it is 33 bags of Komboka rice. The market is ready too,” she said. “The community has welcomed us and we are living with them well”, she added.

Kirimi Kirigia, the Scheme Manager, says in year 2020/2021, 45 acres were put under rice seed and 95 acres under commercial rice. The production cost per acre was KSh70, 000

and KSh60,000 for seeds and commercial rice respectively while the yields were 80 tonnes and 275.75 tonnes in that order, selling averagely at KSh800/kg and KSh45.00/kg with gross returns of KSh64 million and KSh.12, 408,750.00 respectively.

In 2021/2022, both the main crop and ratoon on 1,957 acres gave 7,045 tonnes, selling at average KSh65 per kilogram, giving gross returns of KSh457,925,000. Half-way through financial year 2022/2023, 2,000 acres have given 4,800 tonnes, selling at an average KSh60, giving KSh288 million.



A farmer inspecting his greengrams in Tana Irrigation Scheme



Thiba dam in Kirinyaga County

Olookil water pan in Kajiado County

Kenya's rich investment and growth opportunities in irrigation



By **Daniel M. Nzonzo, HSC**

More than 80 percent of Kenya's land is arid and semi-arid (ASAL), receiving relatively little rainfall. In addition, Kenya falls below the global threshold of 1,000m³ per capita of less than 600m³. As a result, a huge percent of the population experiences water scarcity.

Due to poor spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall

and vulnerability to the effects of climate change, the country has become overly reliant on unreliable rain-fed agriculture. Despite this, farmers continue to use the available water inefficiently due to limited adoption of modern irrigated farming technologies.

Despite water scarcity, 14.3 million acres (10.2%) of Kenyan land is arable, with about 670,000 acres irrigated throughout the country. Kenya's irrigation potential without water storage is 1.913 million acres, but it goes to approximately 3 million acres with enhanced water storage, according to the National Water Master Plan 2030. An additional 10 million acres could be irrigated through water storage.

Throughout the seasons, the

Government has had a keen focus on the agricultural sector that contributes up to 33 percent to the country's GDP and accounts for 40 percent of employment, figures that could rise with increased irrigated agriculture.

The Kenya Kwanza Plan 2022-2027 seeks to increase agricultural productivity through irrigation in order to reduce cost of living and achieve a positive trade balance in the framework of Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). Moreover, the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) aims to increase agricultural output and value addition, improve Household Food Resilience and increase the income of small-holder farmers.

These factors, among others, have established a proper infrastructure for investment in the country's irrigation sector.

The National Irrigation Authority is implementing various irrigation projects in order to contribute to Kenya's Vision 2030 economic and social pillars, The Kenya Kwanza Plan 2022-2027, as well as steering Kenya towards the availability and sustainable management of irrigation water. These projects include the management and expansion of public irrigation schemes, construction of large and small dams, the construction of household water pans, the drilling of boreholes and the installation of water conveyance systems across the country. All of this is done to address food insecurity caused by scarcity and lack of water, as well as to attract farmers to irrigated agriculture, which is more reliable.

Through these projects, the Authority's efforts have increased community access to water and opened up more land for irrigation, thereby supporting livelihoods primarily through agricultural production and animal watering

and contributing to Kenya's food security. However, more needs to be done to hasten increase in agricultural production through irrigated agriculture.

To accelerate irrigation infrastructure development, the Authority has designed several irrigation projects to be implemented through the Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), which has in the past enabled the Government to implement other high-quality infrastructure projects over the years.

About 17 mega dams are on course for implementation through the PPPs to store more water for irrigation and other uses. These dams include Uмба, Thuci, Thiririka, Thingithu, Rwabura, Radat, Olenkirionito, Naromoru, Maara, Lowaat, Kyakivai and Kaiti, Kithinu Multipurpose, Keben, Karemeno, High Grand Falls, Gogo, and Galana among others.

Once complete, they will put another over 928,779 acres under irrigation while more dams are being planned for implementation under PPP with a view to achieve the President's target of 100 dams to enhance water



Center Pivot in Galana Kulalu Food Security Project in Kilifi and Tana river County.

storage and accelerate irrigation expansion in the quest for food insecurity. Detailed information about each of the dams can be accessed via the Authority's website www.irrigation.go.ke.

Other areas for irrigation infrastructure development investment include Community Based Smallholder Irrigation Projects, Farmer Led Irrigation Development (FLID), and Water Harvesting for Irrigation through the construction of more household water pans, and the rehabilitation of small dams and water pans.

Currently, about 2,353 irrigation projects have been developed under the Community Based Smallholder Irrigation Projects. The Authority has completed more than 240 projects, increasing the area under irrigation by approximately 76,000 acres. Furthermore, the Authority has identified a potential 222 projects that could bring about 171,500 acres under irrigation and support more farmers to undertake food production.

Through FLID, farmers lead in improving their agricultural water use through low-cost small-scale irrigation initiated, developed, and managed by them. Rivers, lakes, shallow wells, small pans, and reservoirs are the primary sources of water for this venture. The private sector's assistance in scaling up FLIDs will benefit more than two million smallholder farmers, increasing agricultural output and enhancing food security.

The construction of more household water pans and the rehabilitation of small dams and water pans is a game-changing project that will increase access to irrigation water. Water pans range in size from 1000m³ to 3000m³ and provide supplemental irrigation for approximately a half to one acre farms. It has the potential to irrigate approximately 10 million acres, making it an excellent climate-resilience tool for vulnerable communities. The Authority has completed about 35,000 water pans across 31 counties, resulting in a storage capacity of about 48,225,651m³ of water that is sufficient to irrigate approximately 48,000 acres.

Small dams and community water pans, as opposed to household water pans, are often constructed along natural drainage channels and

have a capacity of not less than 100,000m³, providing supplemental irrigation water for up to 100 acres and useful in watering livestock in other communities. About 3,945 colonial water pans and small dams require rehabilitation. To that end, the Authority has rehabilitated about 450 of them, resulting in a volume of 32,132,295 cubic metres capable of irrigating up to 21,421 acres. The private sector can make a significant contribution by assisting in the construction of new water pans and the rehabilitation of older ones and dams.

Investment opportunities in irrigation are inexhaustible, ranging from infrastructure development and technology, water management systems and innovations, agro-processing, contract farming and marketing. The agricultural sector will greatly benefit from investment in irrigation mostly boosting the country's GDP, creating more employment opportunities and boosting food security and nutrition.

The National Irrigation Authority is committed to this cause through the four pillars of its Strategic Plan: Sustainable Irrigation Development, Sustainable Irrigation Water Harvesting, Sustainable Management, Irrigation Oriented Research and Governance, and Institutional Capacity Development. Additionally, it is willing to collaborate with the private sector to achieve this goal in accordance with the Public Private Partnership Act, 2021 and other relevant regulations.



Household water pan in Laikipia County

PICTORIALS



1. H.E the President William Samoei Ruto, PhD., EGH (centre), Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation CS Hon. Alice Wahome (second right), Principal Secretary State Department for Irrigation Mr. Gitonga Mugambi, EBS, (right) and Governors Hon. Johnson Sakaja of Nairobi, Abdulswamad Nassir of Mombasa, Gideon Mung'aro of Kilifi and Rt Maj Dhadho Godhana of Tana River during a tour of Galana Kulalu Food Security Project in Tana River and Kilifi counties on January 3, 2023.
2. Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Hon. Alice M. Wahome (centre) Principal Secretary State Department for Irrigation Mr. Gitonga Mugambi, EBS, (fifth right) Principal Secretary State Department for Water and Sanitation Dr. Paul Kipronoh Ronoh (fourth right), National Irrigation Authority Ag. Chief Executive Officer Eng. Charles Muasya (second left), development partners, and other leaders from the National Government and National Irrigation Authority during the launch of National Irrigation Services Strat-

egy at Sarova Panafric Hotel on January 26, 2023

3. Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Hon. Alice M. Wahome (second left) National Irrigation Authority Ag. CEO Eng. Charles Muasya (centre), Ag. Deputy General Manager, Operations Mr. Joel K. Tanui (third right) during the launch of Nyanjigi Irrigation Project in Kangema, Murang'a County on March 31, 2023.
4. The Principal Secretary, State Department for Water and Sanitation Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh Paul commissioned a 0.5 acre demo farm set up by National Irrigation Authority at Lodojek Primary School in Samburu County on March 22, 2023 during the 31st World Water Day celebrations.



5. National Irrigation Authority Chairman Hon. Eng. Joshua Toro (second right), Ag. CEO Eng. Charles Muasya (right), Irrigation Secretary Mr. Aboud Moeva (second left) and Head of Monitoring and Evaluation Ms. Julliyane Okello with a trophy for excellent performance in Financial Year 2021/2022. The trophy was issued by H.E the President Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD., EGH to the Authority for scoring 1.7729 under State Corporation category and being ranked second.
6. The Chairman of the Board Hon. Eng. Joshua Toro, REng, MIEK (third right), Siaya County Commissioner Jim Njoka (third left), Ag Dep-

- uty General Manager, Operations, Mr. Joel Tanui (left) Bunyala Irrigation Scheme Manager Eng. Edwin Manyonge (second left) and Lower Nzoia Irrigation Project Manager Eng. Stephen Mutinda (second right) in Bunyala Irrigation Scheme intake during an inspection tour on the progress of Lower Nzoia Irrigation Project in Siaya and Busia counties on February 18, 2023.
7. Ag. Deputy General Manager, Operations, Mr. Joel K. Tanui (in a white cap) on behalf of Ag. CEO Eng. Charles Muasya, leads a tree planting campaign in Lower Kuja Irrigation Scheme together with other officials from the Authority and farmer leaders in the scheme on March 11, 2023.

Staff News



APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to Mr Daniel Atula, Mr Joel Tanui and Eng. Loise Kahiga on your appointments as Deputy General Managers from February 1, 2023 as follows:

Mr Daniel Atula, Deputy General Manager, Corporate Services

Mr Joel Tanui, Ag. Deputy General Manager,
Operations and Irrigation and Management Services

Eng. Loise Kahiga, Ag. Deputy General Manager,
Infrastructure and Irrigation Development Services



BEREAVEMENT

As the NIA family, some of our members lost their loved ones: we condole with them during this trying moment. We pray that God's grace will be sufficient to you and your other family members.

May God's assurance in Psalms 34:18 that says "The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" strengthen you.

May their souls Rest in Eternal Peace.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations, Anne Mwangi for the blessing of a newborn. May she bring a lot of joy and and blessing to your family and may God fulfill His promises through her.



ACHIEVEMENTS

In the quater, the Ag. Chief Executive Officer met all the staff on January 23, 2023 to welcome the team back from the Christmas and New Year's break. He also used the opportunity to present his vision to the employees. Among others, he outlined the following:

- Human Resource keenness to ensure that "Staff come first"
- Delivering on the President's 'The Plan' on water harvesting and irrigation in pursuit of making Kenya food-secure
- Management and staff to work as team and every employee to observe punctuality, individual organization and confidentiality.
- Ensure the staff work in a conducive environment to grow productivity, deliver staff and customer satisfaction.

"water to every irrigable acre"



Mental Health training at National Irrigation Authority Head Office

NIA launches mental health training, advocacy



By **Sharon Makena**

The National Irrigation Authority conducted a mental health training to create awareness among its staff and equip them with skills in stress-management, work-life-love balance, and financial management. On March 8, 2023, Rika Victoria, a clinical psychiatrist from Chiromo Hospital Group, trained 82 employees based at the headquarters in Nairobi.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as the ability

to cope with everyday stresses, work productively and contribute to one's community. It encompasses emotional, social, and psychological well-being. As such, the Authority is keen on setting up structures and systems that contribute to the mental wellness of its staff in order to create an enabling environment for the achievement of its vision: Water to every irrigable acre. "Some of the triggers that can destabilise our mental health are family problems, finances, and lack of a safe space to speak out especially as men," Mr Peter Nguro from the Information and Technology Division stated.

Mr. Kelvin Muriuki, from the Finance Division, added that the pressures to deliver on official assignments could

also hit one's mental health. During the training, Ms Rika addressed stress, the body's physical and emotional reaction to demand or threat, the relationship between stress and mental illness, types of mental illnesses, and healthy coping mechanisms. "The Authority should have more trainings like this. I am currently aware of the status of my mental health and that has given me a better understanding of myself," Robert Maru, from the Finance Division, said.

Other than the training, the Authority has a comprehensive inpatient insurance medical cover for staff that covers, among others, psychiatric, psychological, and psychotic issues. As such, staff struggling with their mental health can seek medical attention and rehabilitation if suffering from cases such as addiction. The Authority also encourages staff to take leave days to prevent burnout and take sick leave to seek help.

“As a first time father, I had a hard time adjusting when I got my new born. I am however grateful that my colleagues stepped in and filled in the gap for me. This not only provided an enabling environment for me to deal but also challenged me to get back on my feet,” Kelvin Muriuki from the Finance Division testifies.

“The Authority is committed to helping staff struggling with mental health. Addiction is one of the mental illnesses that many do not consider as such. For this reason, there is an established Committee for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADA),” said Ms Victoria Aloo, the Chief Officer, Human Resource and Administration, who also the chairperson of ADA Committee.

“ADA Committee is charged with the mandate to help those suffering from addiction to alcohol and/or substance abuse accept the state and smoothen their quest for help,” Ms Grace Gitahi, a member of the committee says. Other members of the Committee are Mr. Peter Birir, Mr. Moses Rukaria and Mr. Tyson Nzaka. Every year, millions of people across the world face the reality of living with mental illness. Mental health is more than the absence of mental disorders. It exists on a complex continuum, experienced differently from one person to the next, with varying degrees of difficulty and distress and potentially very

different social and clinical outcomes.

The workplace can be a source of stress for many people, with long hours, tight deadlines, and high pressure situations. These stressors can trigger mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and burnout. It is, therefore, essential to take proactive steps to promote positive mental health in the workplace.

The Authority is keen on the holistic well-being of its staff to enhance productivity. The creation of awareness has led to the reduction of stigmatisation of staff members struggling with their mental well-being as well as opened them up to places where they can find help. In the Budget of Financial Year 2022/2023, the Government announced a “National Tele Mental Health Programme” to improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services.

For any mental health concerns or queries, you can seek help from any of the listed organisations;

No.	Organisation	Contact
1.	Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation (EMKF)	0800 723 253
2.	Befrienders Kenya	0722 178 177
3.	Niskize	0718 227 440
4.	Oasis Africa	0110 862 23.
5.	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-Kenya (CBT-Kenya)	0739 935 333/ 0756 454 585

Tips for raising healthy rice seedlings



By **Daudi Aleri**

Raising healthy seedlings is key to a successful rice farming.

A recommended rice seedling

should have certain qualities: less than 20cm in height; dark green colour; thick at the bottom; a broad and hard leaf structure; no sign of damage from pests and/or diseases; and, the root should be thick and long but white in colour.

An assessment leading to a healthy rice seedling ought to get the following qualities

right:

Seed quality: It is recommended to use certified seeds because they are free from seed-borne diseases and have high germination rate. In case a farmer is making own grain as seeds, the grains should dry well before storage. The grain moisture content should be less than 11 percent (grains use for consumption should

be at 14 percent). Well dried seeds have a higher germination rate than those with higher grain moisture content. Do not use seeds that are more than one year or less than two months old to increase chances of germination. At less than two months, they do not germinate well due to dormancy (they are said to be asleep). Basmati-370 has a strong dormancy.

Prior to storage, seeds should be treated (dressed) with chemicals so as to keep diseases such as rice blast, brown spot and Bakanae at bay.

Treatment: It is recommended that farmers use certified seeds that are well treated to avoid diseases, including blast, brown spot, and Bakanae. Certified seeds are treated using chemicals prior to storage.

When using seeds that are not treated, they should be treated pre-germination using chemicals or hot water. Some farmers use Jik (sodium hypochlorite). In such a case, farmers should mix 0.2 litres (200ml) of Jik in 20 litres of water and soak seeds for 24 hours and they should not be rinsed before incubation.

1. Chemical treatment (pre-germination): Seeds(15kg) + Water(20 litres) +Jik(0.2 litre) then leave it till is changed



A farmer uprooting rice seed bed in readiness to transplant to the farm

2. Hot water treatment: Soak seeds in water (temperature 60°C for 10 minutes), then wash for three minutes with water of 10-25°C. Do not use wet seeds for this treatment.
- a high germination rate and uniform germination, pre-germination is critical. Soak seeds in water, remove floated seeds after stirring and the dirty one should be rinsed several times.

Seed selection: It is difficult to determine seed viability with the naked eye. Therefore, it is advisable to use the floatation method. When soaking seeds in water for pre-germination, remove floated seeds (empty grains) from sunken seeds (filled grain) because the former have lower germination rate while their growth at the early stages may be disappointing. This selection should be done to both self-produced and purchased seeds.

Pre-germination: To achieve

The sunken seeds should be soaked in water for 24 hours. It is advisable to change water after 10 to 12 hours so as to supply oxygen to the seeds through water. After 24 hours, drain the water and start incubating, a process that runs for 36 to 48 hours, depending on the temperatures. During the incubation, seeds should be covered using a material such as a sack to enhance breathing and protect the seeds from rapid surface evaporation, which lowers the germination rate.

Nursery bed: The preferable width for a nursery bed is 1.0m to 1.2m, which enables farmers to reach the middle of the bed for any operation. Between nursery beds, farmers should create 0.3m (1 foot) path-ways while the length of a nursery bed is at the farmer's convenience.

The required nursery size for an acre is 150m² holding 15-kilogramme seeds sown at 100g/m². The surface of a nursery bed should be flat and smooth so that the seeds can get the right water and oxygen for uniform germination.

If the edge of a bed is too loose, you should give it some days to be firm before sowing. Otherwise, seeds fall off from the edges. To obtain uniform germination, dimples within the bed should be leveled well to avoid submerged seeds. The surface of the bed should be wet and soft enough at sowing so as to obtain a better germination rate and uniform growth.

A nursery bed should be at a higher elevation relative to water level in order to avoid the submergence of beds.

Sowing pre-germinated seeds: The recom-



Line transplantin

mended sowing density for a nursery bed is 100g/m². Assuming that a farmer has 15kg of seeds for an acre, they should prepare 150m² of a nursery bed. In case of limited space, 200g/m² might be an option.

Do not keep pre-germinated seeds for a long time because they are in the process of germination and could easily over-sprout. Over-sprouted seeds break easily during sowing and die. After sowing seeds, press on the surface of nursery bed so as to let seeds enter in the soil. This prevents rapid drying and bird damage.

Covering nursery beds with light materials such as rice straw is also recommended if bird damage is severe. Do not cover with heavy materials. The cover should be removed immediately after germination which starts three to seven days after sowing, depending on the environmental conditions.

Do not apply nitrogenous fertilisers to nursery seedlings because it increases the risk of disease incidence and elongation of the seedlings.

Seedling age: Most rice varieties in Kenya are temperature-sensitive from sowing to harvesting. Older seedlings literally translate into lower grain yields since they are not healthy while younger ones are better. The risk of disease incidence increases if farmers keep older seedlings in the nursery because the population is much higher.

In water saving rice culture, it is recommended to transplant at three weeks while the system of rice intensification, it is recommended to use eight to 14 days old seedlings.

Irrigation Term: Water Reservoirs



By **Johnbosco Obonyo**

Water reservoirs are man-made and are used for collection and storage during times of surplus, such as when it is raining or during a snowmelt. The contents are released during times of scarcity.

The construction of a dam across a river or the excavation of a natural depression in the ground can both be used to create conservation reservoirs. They are often built in regions with natural water flow and regular precipitation to store excesses during wet seasons and released during the dry times.

These reservoirs are purposely meant for supporting the management of water resources, ensuring a steady supply for human needs, and safeguarding the natural habitat. Conservation reservoirs can be used for recreational activities like fishing, boating, and hiking in addition to serving as a source of water for humans and as a habitat for fish and wildlife species.

For the management of water supplies and the preservation of natural environments, conservation reservoirs are a crucial instrument. However,

if not properly managed, they may have detrimental effects, for instance the building of a dam can affect the ecology of a river system and disturb natural water flow. Again, the construction of a reservoir may result in the eviction of residents, the extinction of wildlife, and the destruction of prized natural and cultural treasures.

Reservoirs for conservation are a crucial tool for controlling water. Conservation reservoirs must be properly planned, engineered, and managed to achieve their intended aims while avoiding environmental degradation. This can entail taking steps like timing water releases to follow the natural flow patterns, setting up buffer zones around the reservoir to save wildlife habitats, and collaborate with communities to meet their needs while simultaneously protecting the environment.

In Tana Irrigation Scheme, irrigation water is abstracted from the River Tana at Makere II Pumping Station through pumping method. The water is pumped from the river up

to sedimentation basin, and then, the water is delivered by open channel flow up to the feeder canals in the irrigation fields. From the intake to last irrigation command area, water flows through a distance of 27 km which necessitates construction of night storage reservoirs in some irrigation areas.

This is to allow making better use of water resources with more flexible operation modes. For instance, most farmers do not use the irrigation water at night, so night storage reservoirs are useful to avoid wastage of water. The storage reservoirs also significantly reduce resident time between the pumping station and the irrigation fields, as they are positioned near the farms so that farmers can continue with their irrigation schedules without any interruptions.

Critically, conservation reservoirs are a crucial tool for managing and preserving water resources and can be vital to ensuring there is sufficient water to sustain various uses, including irrigation.



Water reservoir in Tana Irrigation Scheme

Word Search

Try to locate 12 Irrigation Schemes/Projects below:

S	B	T	B	E	S	O	H	N	E	D	R	A	G	I	G
A	U	C	A	W	A	X	S	P	A	C	B	U	H	R	S
H	W	R	E	N	H	C	Y	L	D	Z	U	O	B	O	Q
E	A	L	A	D	A	E	G	O	R	Y	Y	U	S	O	E
R	T	E	I	E	B	N	A	W	L	C	R	D	P	F	E
O	E	A	R	A	U	T	L	E	O	A	G	R	R	P	G
C	R	N	R	D	N	R	A	R	W	Q	V	I	Y	L	E
R	P	D	I	B	Y	E	N	S	E	G	C	V	P	W	E
O	A	O	G	U	A	P	A	A	R	P	M	E	E	L	K
M	N	W	A	G	L	I	K	B	K	A	U	S	R	A	X
O	S	S	T	D	A	V	U	O	U	Y	T	F	K	E	C
S	Q	P	I	R	P	O	L	R	J	K	A	I	E	G	M
O	V	R	O	Y	E	T	A	K	A	I	N	O	R	R	W
M	I	L	N	O	L	F	L	N	N	K	A	T	R	A	E
E	J	O	S	F	A	K	U	M	H	E	W	O	A	I	A
X	K	Q	D	F	U	J	O	E	Q	Y	T	V	Z	G	S

Answers For The Previous Word Search

Eight (8) of the 17 National Values and Principles of Governance as per Article 10 (2) of the Constitution of Kenya.

Z	D	A	K	C	P	Y	A	K	Q	S	V	W	E	O
B	K	P	S	Q	V	N	E	W	Y	D	E	K	Q	N
R	U	L	E	O	F	L	A	W	K	E	Q	I	U	K
J	X	O	I	Y	C	A	R	C	O	M	E	D	I	P
L	K	P	S	N	M	W	B	N	X	Q	I	H	T	W
S	S	E	N	E	V	I	S	U	L	C	N	I	Y	S
I	B	G	N	Z	M	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	V	F
P	S	O	C	I	A	L	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	Y
G	O	O	D	G	O	V	E	R	N	A	N	C	E	H
X	O	T	P	A	T	R	I	O	T	I	S	M	S	I



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One on One



Mr James Kirimi Kirigia

Scheme Manager, Tana Irrigation Scheme

James Kirigia: Optimistic Agronomist Living Life With A Smile



By Johnbosco Obonyo

Tana Irrigation Scheme manager James Kirigia is a seasoned agronomist with a rare sense of humour that enables him to find hilarity in almost every situation and defuse tensions. Holding a Bachelor's degree in horticulture

from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and boasting 18 years in agronomy, he is trained in saline soil management from International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture in Dubai; lowland rice cultivation from Tuskuba Centre (Japan); and, British Agricultural Standards Inspection Scheme certificate

from Real IPM in Thika. Brimming with a positive outlook on life, a quick-witted Kirigia sat down with Irrigation News for a dose of his wit, humour, and wisdom in a lively one-on-one. Here, we share the excerpts.

Who was James Kirigia growing up?

I am a firstborn who grew up in a low-

income household of five children – three girls and two boys - in Giankama village, Mikumbune in Meru County. My parents were farmers who juggled various crops from a tiny half-acre farm. The farm held crops such as tea and coffee and they also leased farms in the forest during the shamba system era in efforts to get enough harvest. I was frequently left

behind to be in charge of my siblings and take care of goats while my parents worked in the fields. They inculcated in me the virtue of hard work, management and discipline at an early age. I appreciate them as my role models.

Best memories growing up?

We often slept hungry with only a cup of sugarless tea to sustain us through the night. But no one could notice because we would gather to sing and rejoice in the Lord. My sisters played the drums and as the tempo rose, we sang and danced. The captivating rhythm, rich drum tones and the cheery harmonies of the family's vocals filled the room with melody connecting us in a unique way. That's how we drowned our possible sorrows and forgot about our empty stomachs.

Your schooling?

I joined Mikumbune Primary School from nursery until Class Eight, then attended Nkubu High School and later the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agricultural and Technology (JKUAT) to study agronomy, specialising in horticulture.

How did you choose agronomy?

At first, I intended to join the military, but at the time recruitment had been suspended. I also wanted to practice law, but I was unable to do so because my Form Four cluster points did not allow. I decided against becoming a teacher and learned about agronomy through a newspaper article. Growing high-value crops for

export to the European market was an emerging opportunity for horticulture at the time. Considering that I was raised in an agricultural household, I decided to major in it with a focus on horticulture. I do not regret this choice.

How did you join the job market?



Water intake for Tana Irrigation Scheme

After high school, I worked as a casual employee of Kenya Breweries Limited before joining university. As we waited to graduate in 2004, my classmates and I looked for manual work in various industries, such as construction (mjengo) as I searched for jobs advertised in newspapers. When we were returning our graduation gowns, Mr Hunja Murage, one of our university lecturers, told us about a flower farm in Nanyuki — Tambuzi Farm — near Naromoru that was recruiting. We applied as a group of five from the same class and we were all hired. I was the head of crop protection department (Irrigation and pest management). Although

the salary was not great, the experience was. We used to make about KSh10,000 a month, but thanks to the guidance from our director, Mr Tim Hobbs, we were able to gain a wealth of valuable knowledge. There was no room for error.

In February 2006, I joined Pendekezo Farms Yatta, a

rehabilitation facility for street girls that relied on farming to sustain itself. I was the farm manager.

While at Pendekezo, I got a call from the National Irrigation Authority (then the National Irrigation Board), asking me to go pick up my letter of appointment as an Irrigation Officer. I had done an interview a year earlier and thought it was a forgone case. Later, I learned they were employing people in phases. After getting the letter, I resigned.

In November 2006, I started working for the Authority and was assigned to the Mwea Irrigation and Agricultural Development Center. I was deployed to Bura Irrigation

Scheme on June 23, 2008 and later to Tana Irrigation Scheme as the manager in 2018.

Tell us your experience in Bura.

The situation was dire when I got to Bura. However, we were able to turn the scheme around thanks to great partnerships between farmers, the Authority, the county administration, and other organisations (Equity bank, NCPB, Kenya seed co. etc). In the 2009/2010 financial year, during the ESP (Economic Stimulus Programme) the scheme fully opened and farmers immediately began to profit greatly from the sale of seed maize, cotton and commercial maize

Previously, some farmers used the maize seeds they were given to make githeri after washing off the pesticides. However, within no time, they were now harvesting maize cobs and sharing with us on our routine extension work. They also built better houses, bought motorcycles and vehicles, a development that gave us a lot of hope and motivation to achieve the Authority's vision of "water to every irrigable acre".

Through what we referred to as 'Mbuzi Culture'— a goat-eating assembly of sorts — networked and had mutual support in both our professional and social lives. Because of the teamwork, we now had information at our finger tips.

Your entry to Tana Irrigation Scheme as a Manager?

When I arrived in Tana Irrigation Scheme in 2018, it was barely operational with only 200 acres under irrigation. We embarked on reviving the scheme by building farmers' confidence through farmer-led initiatives and community-based organisations in the six areas. We worked hand in hand with the CBO leadership as we collaborated to facilitate irrigation. Currently, 5,000 acres have been opened up for farming in Tana Irrigation Scheme.

Challenges along the way?

I was surprised when I received a transfer letter to Bura Irrigation Scheme. I had a young family and my baby was a month old. This significantly affected me. I had to leave them behind and relocate to Bura for my new

position which meant I would only visit them every fortnight since doing it every week was impossible.

Although working away from my family has been difficult, their support has been crucial for me to reach my goals and has been extremely overwhelming. I recall how difficult it was for my son to identify me when I returned home. He would cry when I approached him. So, I would hug my wife first in order for him to accept me. Due to my emotional overload at the moment, I almost made the worst decision of my career, but fortunately I stepped back. The fact that my wife has a good knowledge of the nature of my profession has been encouraging.

Bura was quite hot and dry when I got there. For a while, I thought I would not stay for long at this difficult location, and decided to forgo buying a bed. An improvised bed crushed on me.

Movement from Hola to Garissa was a headache, too, but things have changed with the tarmacking of the stretch. Worse, gunshots could frequently be heard, even during the day, raising serious concerns about the level of security at the time. This restricted our freedom of movement. A disarmament process was completed towards the end of 2009 and the environment is now stable.

We have been successful in resolving the conflicts between farmers and pastoralists by promoting amicable ways of communication and cooperation between the two groups, challenges notwithstanding.

Message to your staff and farmers?

My staff are committed to providing excellent customer service. I urge them to keep up the fantastic job while farmers should continue giving us feedback through our open-door policy. We are committed to supporting the farmers as they work to achieve their goals, including financial stability.

Advice to the youth?

Be patient and pursue your work with passion. Do not idle around. Work towards your goals. Get a mentor.

Parting shot?

Every experience is good when used well.



VISION

“Water to every irrigable acre”

MISSION

“Provide and Coordinate Sustainable Development and Management of Irrigation Services in Kenya”

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