



KENYA AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

**BACK TO OFFICE REPORT ON THE MULEMBE FM AGRIBUSINESS FORUM HELD AT
BUKURA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE 23RD FEBRUARY 2018**



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Summary

A team from KALRO Headquarters comprising the Head, Technology Packaging and Outreach, Head, Outreach Services, one personnel from Library and Information Services and one photographer, attended an Agribusiness forum held at the Bukura Agricultural College (BAC), Kakamega on 23 February 2018. This followed an invitation to the DG, KALO from BAC. The KARO HQ team partnered with a team from KALRO Kakamega, led by the Centre Outreach and Partnerships Officer to participate in the event. The forum was organized by the Mulembe FM in collaboration with the Bukura Agricultural College and ran from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm with a registered attendance was 3090 persons and 26 exhibitors. Mulembe FM interviewed exhibitors on their displays and presentations, on voice and video recordings. The occasion was graced by Dr. Grace Chirchir, the Director Agribusiness and Value Addition, Ministry of Agriculture, Nairobi, who was conducted by the Chairman of the Board, Bukura Agricultural College, Hon. Dr. Noah Wekesa and the College Principal. It wss noted that there is an ever growing number of players in the Agriculture sector, with varying needs and expectations. This offers both challenges and opportunities to KALRO and the premier Agricultural research organization in Kenya. KALRO was awarded a certificate of participation as recognition of participation and partnership.

Visit to KALRO Kakamega

The KALRO HQ team visited the NRRI Kakamega on 22 February 2018 and was welcomed by the Acting Centre Director and the Centre Outreach and Partnerships Officer (COPO). After welcome and introductions, the team was conducted on a familiarization tour of the Institute's facilities. After the tour, the team held a brief meeting to strategise for the Agribusiness forum and visit to BAC visit later that day.

Mulembe FM Agribusiness Forum

The Agribusiness Forum was organized by the Mulembe FM and BAC. The head, Technology Packaging and Outreach interacted with the KALRO Kakamega Centre Director and the Centre Outreach and Partnerships Officer to facilitate the participation of KALRO in the event. The KALRO team visited the College Principal on 22nd February to pay a courtesy call and also as to make arrangements for the teams requirements for the participation in the Forum on the following day. The Mulembe FM had invited a panel comprising the County Chairman, Agricultural Committee and some members to answer questions fielded by farmer, on agricultural issues in the county. This dialogue was conducted in vernacular, the language of the Media Station and the local people. The exhibitions consisted of invited participants showcasing and marketing various products as outlined below. Media coverage was conducted by the Mulembe FM and the KALRO team did record the event in still and video format. The KALRO stills and video coverage will be used for posting in the KALRO website and used in various KALRO reports and publications.



Preparation for exhibition



Attending to visitors at KALRO stand

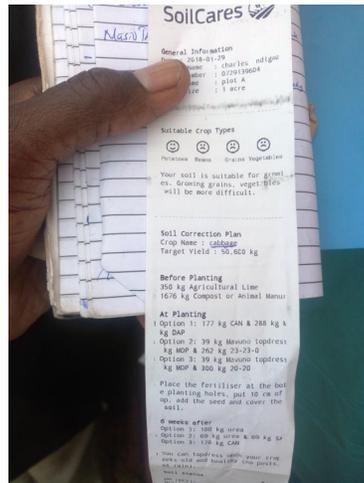


Forage, feed block, brooder and pamphlets at the KALRO desk

Twenty six registered exhibitors took part in the event. Participants comprised CBOs, entrepreneurs and representatives of multinational corporate firms. The KALRO team shared a tent with BAC and JKUAT, located strategically at the entrance to the Forum.



Brooding day old chicks



Soil analytical services



Water pumps

Event participants:

1. Bukura Agricultural College: Exhibiting various student agricultural projects – banana propagation box, fish farming; value addition – groundnut products, fruit juices and yoghurt; animal health; small scale mushroom production.
2. JKUAT: Represented by two students demonstrating the use of rainfall modelling to assess the hydrological impacts of climate change with a case study of Mt. Elgon sub-watersheds, using the SWAT model.
3. Mumias Sugar Company: An agro processing firm and producer- showcasing various sugar cane varieties and husbandry comprising cane planting methods and ratooning.

4. Davis and Shirtliff: Water pumps supplier– exhibited various types of water pumps and accessories– with different power sources - electric, combustion engine driven and solar powered. Types included submersible and surface and pumps for various purposes including agricultural (irrigation) commercial (mining and swimming pool) and domestic (roof tank booster pumps).
5. Monsanto: Agro input supplier– exhibited and sold high yielding, biotic (MSV and GLC) and abiotic (drought) tolerant Dekalb brand maize seed.
6. Nasio Trust: A healthcare provider– showcasing *spirulina* and *cyanobacteria* extracts as super food supplements for better health.
7. SoilCares: A private firm providing digital precision on farm soil analytical services and correction plan for various common crops.
8. Bukura Agricultural Training Centre: A farmer and stakeholder agricultural training institution– showcased agricultural practices (conservation agriculture) and farm produce (sweet potato).
9. Organix Limited: An agro- input supplier– exhibited and availed for sale organic farming products which included plant protection and plant growth promoting products.
10. Kuku chick: A private firm dealing in and promoting an improved poultry breed (Rainbow roaster chicken breed) for meat and eggs– exhibited improved chicken breed, brooders, chicks and demonstrated vaccination and raising of day old chicks.
11. Mobisol: A private firm providing alternative power solutions– Exhibited solar panels, solar powered home appliances and energy saving charcoal jikos.
12. Kenter Farm Incubators: A private firm– promoting and servicing small to large scale fully automatic incubators egg incubators.
13. Kenya Seed Company: A State Corporation Supplying seed– exhibited and marketed maize and bean seed for the Kakamega region.
14. Agricultural Technology Developments Centre: A State Corporation focusing on innovations in mechanization– showcased and demonstrated various mechanized units for small to medium scale land preparation, spraying, planting, animal feed processing and commodity processing for value addition. The units can be availed on order.
15. West Kenya (Kabras). A private sugar company with out grower farmers– Exhibited recommended sugarcane techniques, micro propagation of sugarcane for seed multiplication and by products of sugarcane.
16. GIZ: A development partner– showcasing an energy development programme involving promoting the use of alternative energy sources (solar) and energy saving cooking appliances.
17. Mulembe FM: The co organizer of the event promoting sustainable agribusiness.
18. Norbrook: A multinational veterinary pharmaceuticals provider – exhibiting and promoting animal health care products.
19. Toyota Group: A multinational firm– exhibiting farm machinery, vehicles and blended fertilizer (Baraka fertilizer)
20. KALRO: KALRO Kakamega showcased improved poultry breeds and their husbandry from hatching to housing, Crop and forage varieties planting materials for the region including maize, beans, sweet potato and Guatemala grass. KALRO Knowledge Information and Outreach Unit: exhibiting Vision and Mission and the Map of KALRO institutes countrywide and showcased technologies from various KALRO institutes in the form of brochures displayed and availed for sale; the website and demonstration videos were also displayed.
21. Others: Assorted entrepreneurs and CBOs; showcasing a variety of herbal plants, herbal plant extracts (neutraceuticals) small farm equipment (chaff cutter/ hammer mill), solar panels and solar powered devices and publications on the same.



Motorised mould board plough



Value addition equipment



Combined planter and sprayer

It worth noting that except for Norbrook with animal care products, there was no exhibition on cattle or small ruminant husbandry or draught animal power, despite the obvious presence of these practices in the region.

The event attendance was noted to be high with majority being students from surrounding learning institutions. Of the 3090 persons registered, 758 were individual farmers (650) and self help groups (108). The chief guest was Dr. Grace Chirchir, Director Agribusiness and Value Addition, Ministry of Agriculture, Nairobi. She was conducted on a tour of the exhibitions by the Chairman of the Board, Bukura Agricultural College, Hon. Dr. Noah Wekesa and the College Principal, among others. KALRO participation was acknowledged a certificate of participation was awarded in recognition of participation and partnership.



Panoramic view of the Forum

Conclusions

The event could be rated as successful since, apart from the high attendance recorded it addressed food security though improved productivity; home improved livelihoods through value addition and reduced drudgery; environment conservation through organic farming and conservation agriculture, alternative power sources and

reduced use of non renewable energy sources. From the number and variety of participants it is evident that there are an ever increasing number of players in the agriculture sector, at various levels, whose varying interests, needs and expectations may have to be taken into account if the primary producer, the farmer is to receive the right information for sustainable production and food security. This is both a challenge (in terms of competition) and opportunity (for partnerships) to KALRO as the premiere agricultural research institution in the Country. With so many players, the issue of correct and ethical practices may emerge. It is also probably high time to look at the small scale farm as a unit and address the needs of that unit rather than address the commodity value chain, because that farm unit determines what happens in the commodity value chain. KALRO Kakamega is worthy of commendation as it had to and did participate in three events on that same day.

Acknowledgement

The authors hereby take this opportunity on behalf of the Head, KIOU to thank the Director General for facilitating this activity and especially having come at such short notice.