

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF EMBU



③
Hon. Speaker
P/s Approve for
tally in the
Assembly
Ammy/DCCA
04/12/18

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Approval for Kibing
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4/12/18

REPORT OF THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND
COOPERATIVES ON THE NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL
TRADE FAIR, 2018.

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T.N.A.
Ammy/DCCA
05/12/2018

SUBMITTED TO THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF EMBU FOR
CONSIDERATION.

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DLPCs
forward
to
Speaker
4/12/18

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C.C.A.
For further directions
see
4/12/18

NOVEMBER 2018

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PLS Approve for
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report emanates from a tour made by the committee on Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries, and Cooperatives to the Nairobi International Trade Fair, 2018. The report is based on the information gathered by the Committee Members while attending the Fair from 4th to 6th October, 2018.

The Fair is the premier convergence point for trade, commerce and knowledge sharing in both the agriculture and trade sector. Closely linked support services such as Insurance, Finance, Regulators, Transport, Energy, Security and Research complement mainstream Agriculture at the seven day event. Animal husbandry, crop production and value addition feature prominently at the annual event that attracts more than 250 exhibitors and an average of 500,000 visitors.

Over the years, the President remains the Patron of Agricultural Society of Kenya(ASK). Among other support initiatives he attends include the Ministry of Agriculture and other government departments given ASK's socio-economic contribution to the Kenyan economy.

The theme of the 2018 trade Fair was *Promoting Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and Trade*. The Fair offers opportunities for regional, continental and global exhibitors to display and demonstrate their services and products. It also offers visitors an opportunity to meet people from different countries and backgrounds, hence creating a platform for interaction and exchanging of ideas and experiences.

The committee held a meeting to compile the findings from the trade fair on 24th October 2018. It was observed that, the trade fair had numerous exhibitions from agriculture stakeholders across Kenya.

Following the observations made by the committee there is need for the County Government of Embu to endeavor in participating in the subsequent editions of the Nairobi International Trade Fair.

Further to the above, the committee found out that there was need for the department of Agriculture in the Embu County Government to benchmark with the well performing

counties on issues regarding agricultural technology. It was also found out that several agricultural firms had embraced appropriate agricultural technologies in their effort to maximize agricultural production.

In its bid to enhance agricultural productivity the committee recommended to the County Government to start programs of exhibiting products from the county at the local and the national trade fairs as one method of strengthening marketing enhancement.

ABBREVIATIONS

1. A.S.K - Agricultural Society of Kenya
2. K.A.R.I - Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
2. C.A.E - County Assembly of Embu.
3. CECM - County Executive Committee Member
4. S.O - Standing Orders

1.0 BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Standing Order (S.O) No 204 (5) the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock and Cooperatives toured and assessed the exhibitions which were presented at the Nairobi International Trade Fair 2018, and came up with this report for consideration and subsequent adoption by the County Assembly.

1.0.1 MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee on Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries, and Cooperatives has prepared this report pursuant to Standing Order No 204 (5), of the County Assembly of Embu which outlines the mandate of sectoral committee as to;

- (a) Investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;*
- (b) Study the programme and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;*
- (c) Study and review all County legislation referred to it;*
- (d) Study, assess and analyze the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;*
- (e) Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;*
- (f) to vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 185 (Committee on Appointments); and*
- (g) Make reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.*

1.0.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Hon. Elizabeth Ndeleve Kibai | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Patrick Njeru Mukavi | V/Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. John Gichovi Gatumu | Member |
| 4. Hon. Martin Mwangi Kimani | Member |

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| 5. Hon. Salesio Njeru Kimaru | Member |
| 6. Hon. Sicily Warue Mbugi | Member |
| 7. Hon. Benard Nyaga Kandia | Member |

1.1 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Nairobi International Trade Fair was held at the Jamhuri Showground from 1st to 7th October 2018. The Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries and Cooperatives Committee attended the Trade fair, toured several exhibitions and made several observations. It is against this background that the Committee has prepared this report for consideration by the County Assembly.

1.2 OBJECTIVES/TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To learn emerging farming technologies from the Nairobi International Trade Fair 2018 and explore ways and means of establishing the same technology to farmers in Embu County.
2. To learn about emerging trends in dairy and beef farming from across the country and the world at large.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

1. Open discussions between the members and stakeholders of various agricultural exhibitors.
2. Scrutinizing brochures from various exhibitors.

1.4 TOOLS OF REFERENCE

The following tools of reference were used in this report;

1. Brochures from the exhibitors.
2. Profiles from various organizers of the fair.

1.5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The committee wishes to thank the offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly of Embu for their continued support in ensuring that the committee executes its mandate as provided for in the Standing Orders of the County Assembly of Embu (CAE). The Chairperson further thanks the committee members and the secretariat for the effort put in preparation of this report.

1.6 SIGNATURE OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

HON. ELIZABETH NDELEVE KIBAI
CHAIRPERSON SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND COOPERATIVES.

2.0 AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND OF EMBU COUNTY

Agriculture is the backbone and livelihood of the people of Embu County. This sector has employed over 70 per cent of the population and 88 per cent of the households are engaged in agricultural activities. Most of the crops grown are cash crops while others practice subsistence farming. The county heavily relies on agriculture as the source of income for its people and as the economic activity too.

The County is widely recognized for its prowess in the Agricultural sector, boasting about the production of several major cash and food crops such as tea, the famous Arabica coffee varieties, cotton, macadamia nuts, maize, beans and sweet potatoes.

The tea from Embu is one of the finest produced in the world due to the county's altitude and proximity to the equator. It is grown on the slopes of Mount Kenya where there are three tea factories which provide an opportunity in processing and packaging and exporting of the tea.

The famous superior coffee varieties are grown in Embu. The handpicked Arabica coffee has a characteristic taste that give it premium quality according to international standards. There are several coffee factories in Embu County, and the County Government is in the process of putting a coffee mill at Kavutiri in Runyenjes Sub County. This will offer another opportunity to processing, packaging and the export industry.

Cotton is another cash crop that continues to put the County on the cash crop agricultural map. The cultivation of cotton and its value addition has had immense potential for economic empowerment and creation of employment

Macadamia is another cash crop grown in Embu for export. The County leads in the Country as a producer of the macadamia nuts. The industry has provided jobs to more than 200,000 residents of Embu. The potential of the crop is immense in Embu which is a natural habitat of the crop.

Maize and beans are grown in equal measure in the County. The beans are warm-season vegetables and grow with little care. Maize and beans are the resident's staple food.

Other food crops grown in the county include green grams, peas and groundnuts. Livestock farming is gaining popularity with the revival of milk cooperatives and investment by the government and the private sector on milk processing plants. Dairy farming is concentrated in the upper parts of the County while in the lower parts indigenous breeds are reared. The main types of animals reared include cattle, goats, sheep and chicken. Rabbit rearing has also become an attractive venture to the farmers.

The main types of fish in the County include; trout, tilapia, mud fish and cat fish which are available mostly in the hydroelectric dams

3.0 COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

The committee consolidated all the findings gathered by the members in the exhibitions based on the areas of interest.

Crop husbandry

The members observed that there were several crops in the exhibitions from various organizations availed for the trade fair. Some of these crops included different varieties of maize, kales, lettuce, cabbages, tomatoes, bananas, cabbages and onions.

It was also noted that most of the crops displayed were either hybrids or early maturing type and that most of the crops displayed would, if emulated, provide a solution in fixing the problem of food insecurity in the county. It was evident from the members' observations that there was a lot to be learnt in terms of crop husbandry as seen in most of the stands visited.

Animal husbandry

The Committee learnt that most of the animals displayed were raised by use of modern farming techniques. These techniques were being practiced in several parts of the county including KARI, and other established farms and ranches in the country. The members took note of the fact that most of the residents of this county rely on farming as their main source of economic power.

These techniques, if practiced in the county, can go a long way in alleviating the food insecurity problem which has occasionally been experienced in our county. The County Government

has a duty to ensure that it puts in place measures of improving crop and animal husbandry as provided for in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, 2010. The county government can invoke the provisions of this article so as to safeguard her residents from hunger and from any other unforeseen dangers which can emanate from insufficient food in the county.

The Committee also observed several other farm animals being exhibited which included poultry, goats, sheep and pigs. The techniques of breeding such high level breeds can be adopted in our county as a way of providing enough food to Embu residents.

The dairy cows in the exhibition were high yielding in nature. The cows could produce as high as 60 liters of milk a day. The exhibitors informed the committee that these cows can produce that kind of high yield if only the farmers can obtain the right breed of cows

Farm Machinery and appropriate technology

The members were able to see an assortment of farm implements which were showcased. Among the implements which were exhibited was the money maker foot-operated water-pump. The pump was easy to operate and it was able to irrigate up to 1/4 of an acre. The implement is easy to operate and it does not require a lot of energy to operate.

The committee members were informed that even water from a jerry can or from a drum can be used to irrigate a substantively big area. These implements can be properly suited for use by farmers in Embu County. Other farm equipment on display included new models of ploughing tractors, chaff cutters, winnowing machines, weeding machines, and maize threshers, among others.

Dairy farming

It was noted that Kenya has a vibrant dairy industry with an estimated 4% of gross domestic product. The country has a growing demand for milk and dairy products which is driven by expanding urbanization and a rising middle class. Dairy farming can be denoted as an agricultural sector related to long-term milk production. In general terms, milk is processed either at some dairy plant or the farm. However, dairy farms operating commercially are typically referred to as a one-species enterprise. Dairy farms, in developed economies, usually encompass highly productive dairy cows. The common dairy breeds in Kenya are Friesian

Holstein, Jersey, Ayrshire and Guernsey. Presently, the milk produced does not cover the demand which can only be covered through an increase in local milk production.

The Committee members had the opportunity to witness dairy farming at its best and learn from those who are leading in dairy production. There were other species included within the concept of dairy farming, such as milk goats, camels, and sheep.

Beef farming

The members also had the opportunity of witnessing the auction of fattened beef bulls, goats and sheep from across the Country. The bull's varieties ranged from the Hereford, Sahiwal, East African Zebu and the Angus

Bee keeping (Apiculture)

The members also noted that bee farming is a rewarding and enjoyable occupation which has many benefits to farmers and high returns. The bee farms also require little land which does not have to be necessarily fertile. The cost of setting up the farms is also relatively cheap.

4.0 OBSERVATIONS IN DETAILS

The following are the observations made by the committee in details.

1. **THAT**, there were exhibitions of modern farming techniques, methods and implements by various exhibitors. Examples include greenhouse farming, tissue culture and enhanced agri-technology.
2. **THAT**, there were exhibitions of improved seeds of different varieties of crops that can be suited for arid and semi-arid areas.
3. **THAT**, some farmers in Embu are not exposed to modern dairy farming techniques like Artificial Insemination which assist in improvement of indigenous cattle breeds
4. **THAT** there is need to have extension officers in the ward levels to educate farmers on better farming techniques that will lead to better yields and ultimately food security in the County
5. **THAT** some of the farmers in Embu County are not members of Cooperative societies therefore their products fetch low prices in the markets as a result of exploitation by middlemen.
6. **THAT**, 70% of the population in Embu rely on Agriculture as the main source of livelihood. There is need to empower famers in order to attain one of the big four agenda which is "food security"
7. **THAT**, Nairobi and Kiambu Counties had set up exhibitions showcasing various products from the two counties. For Embu County, the County Government did not have an exhibition
8. **THAT**, the Committee could not establish any exhibition from the Department of Fisheries or fish farmers.
9. **THAT**, the department of Agriculture in Embu County has not previously organized for a Farmer's Field Day where farmers can learn on better farming husbandry.

5.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

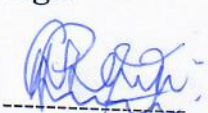





The Committee wishes to present the following recommendations for adoption;

1. **THAT**, the CEC Member for Agriculture should ensure that the farmers in the county are exposed to the modern farming techniques so as to improve food production in our county.
2. **THAT**, the CEC Member for Agriculture should avail subsidized high quality certified seeds to the farmers geared towards increased productivity.
3. **THAT**, the CEC Member for Agriculture should provide the farmers with artificial insemination (A.I) services at an affordable cost to improve their livestock breeds.
4. **THAT**, the CEC Member for Agriculture should ensure improvement in service delivery at the ward levels by extension officers.
5. **THAT**, the CEC Member for Agriculture should put systems in place to ensure that small scale farmers access financial assistance and they join cooperative societies to boost their economic abilities/activities.
6. **THAT**, the CEC Member for Agriculture should ensure that strategies are established to capacity build the farmers for quality farming in Embu County.
7. **THAT**, the CEC Member for Agriculture should allocate substantial amount of money in the departmental budgetary allocations to the portfolio of Agriculture so as to boost agricultural exhibitions.
8. **THAT**, the CEC Member for Agriculture should start programs of agricultural exhibitions to show case products from the county at the local and the international trade fairs as one method of marketing of the locally produced products.
9. **THAT**, the CEC Member for Agriculture should consider empowering farmers on best fish farming methods and build their capacity.
10. **THAT**, the CEC Member for Agriculture should endeavor to organize for Farmers Field Days in Embu County where farmers can be enlightened on emerging farming technologies.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The recommendations in this report were unanimously agreed up on without any dissenting opinion.

The committee therefore urges this assembly to adopt this report and the recommendations therein.

Names	Position	Sign
1. Hon. Patrick Njeru Mukavi	V/Chairperson	
2. Hon. John Gichovi Gatumu	Member	
3. Hon. Martin Mwangi Kimani	Member	
4. Hon. Salesio Njeru Kimaru	Member	
5. Hon. Sicily Warue Mbugi	Member	
6. Hon. Benard Nyaga Kandia	Member	

SIGNED



DATE

28/11/2018

HON. ELIZABETH NDELEVE KIBAI
CHAIRPERSON COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK,
FISHERIES AND COOPERATIVES.

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