

### In This Issue

**Pg. 2** Improving Agricultural Productivity and Resilience to Climate Change

Pg. 3 Promoting affordable innovations for small scale farmers

**Pg. 4** Climate smart agriculture for communities' resilience in Kajiado

**Pg. 5** Global warming is posing a risk on food supply in Kenya

Pg. 6 & 7 HYDROPONIC: Alternative Fodder Production Technology

Pg. 8 The Farmer Field School: A Human Empowerment

Pg. 9 Organic Farming in Action

**Pg. 10** Empowering Farmers through Agribusiness

Pg. 11 KeFAAS Highlights

Pg. 12 KeFAAS Editorial Policy





Climate change, global warming, these are the current buzz words in the agriculture sector.

griculture has always been, and is likely to remain, an important component of the global economy. However, the negative effects of climate change are threatening agricultural production, with the effect being felt more across Africa and other developing nations, where millions depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Many of these countries are vulnerable to the increasing temperatures, variable rainfall,



Impact of drought due to climate change

drought and floods. This scenario tells us that, for the AEAS providers, business as usual is not an option.

Extension service providers need to ensure that they provide technical knowledge, skills, management and information services that smallholder farmers need to improve their livelihoods in the rapidly changing global climatic conditions. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is an approach

seen as a solution to help transform agricultural systems to promote food security under the new reality of climate change. It is an approach that combines practices, technologies, services, processes and institutional arrangements that sustainably increase productivity, support farmers' adaptation and resilience to climate change, and where possible, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

KeFAAS, as an umbrella organisation of agricultural advisory services (AAS) providers is playing a key role in empowering its members by developing their capacities to offer relevant and appropriate extension services to farming communities. To many, entering a sustainable development path for agriculture seems like an uphill challenge. We believe that it is feasible as seen from the success stories featured here.

Editor

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## IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE USING LANDPKS MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

#### By Sharon Anyango—ATPS

oday, advances in technology and innovation are paving way for the creation and invention of new tools for different sectors of the economy. In the agricultural sector, there has been the development of new and innovative mobile applications (apps) that can generate information and knowledge on agricultural production. Many of the apps are proving to be game changers and are contributing significantly to transformation in the agricultural sector.

The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) and other partners have developed a system for sharing sustainable land management information known as the LandInfo mobile technology application, a trendsetting app that is sending a wave of excitement to farmers.

LandInfo is a community-driven app that produces accurate soil and climatic information that empowers farmers, extension agents, and land use planners in decision-making regarding agricultural production, land use management and climate resilience. Individual producers can use the app to answer questions about sustainable land management options while policy makers can aggregate data across larger areas without losing key pieces of information such as presence of small, highly productive or vulnerable sites within the region.

The app enables farmers to quickly access climatic and soil information, and interpret them in the context of local conditions and values, including crop preferences; with knowledge on annual average rainfall and temperatures. Farmers are also able to plan their farming enterprises adequately to avoid losses due to climate variability and hence improve agricultural productivity and climate change resilience.

Last year, the ATPS received the Wazo Prize in the prestigious Climate Information Prize Award. The award was in recognition of the LandInfo app as one of the most suitable apps for collecting reliable climate information for improved decision-making in agriculture. The app is available on google play store and it is free to download. LandInfo app has been successfully used by farmers in Samburu County, Kenya and its associated conservancies with initial focus identifying and prioritizing areas for restoration of perennial grasses while in Namibia the Ministry of Lands focused on resettlement with initial focus on crop production potential of agricultural areas.

ATPS has been building capacities of farmers and extension agents in Kenya to deploy the LandInfo app in their management of their farmlands. Last year, the ATPS



Farmers and Extension Agents learning how to use the Landinfo aPP

received a seed grant from African Forum for Agricultural Services (AFAAS) to train 50 farmers and extension officers in Nkubu, Meru County. The aim of the workshop was to capacity build extension officers and farmers on the use of the LandInfo app to enhance decision-making on agricultural production, land-use management and climate change resilience. In addition, it created a forum for networking and discussion on integration of LandInfo app into agricultural practices in the region. In partnership with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Authority (AFFA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, ATPS conducted an initial training of 100 Technical Advisors on the use of the LandInfo App. This training activity is set to be conducted in 9 additional counties over the course of the year.

ATPS is a member of the Kenyan Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (KeFAAS) which is an umbrella body of AFAAS whose mandate is to promote partnerships of agricultural advisory services among its members in order to improve service delivery to farmers. The ATPS continues to solicit for more support from donors so that it can continue to outscale the use of the LandInfo app in Kenya and also in other countries in Africa.

For more information visit our Website on; http://www.atpsnet.org/

### By Silvia Mburugu - CIKM KeFAAS

eFAAS transformative agenda is pegged on its objectives, and one of them is to identify and upscale best practices and innovations in extension service delivery. Seed Savers Network is a KeFAAS member that has come up with innovative measures to promote biodiversity in crop production and ecological farming. The organisation is working with smallholder farmers to improve seed access and agro-biodiversity conservation. The network headquarters is in Gilgil Sub-county, Nakuru County and has worked with over 50,000 farmers across Kenya. Its programs include seed production and saving at farm level, climate smart agriculture, capacity building and advocacy for food security.

Smallholder farmers face reduced income due to drought, diseases and pests; and land degradation, forcing them to struggle to find the best and affordable agricultural inputs to address these problems. In addition, these farmers livelihoods are affected due to overuse of inorganic fertilizers. In Africa, these are some of the challenges that prevent smallholder farmers from improving production and gaining competitive access to markets.

In view of this, Seed Savers Network has embarked on promoting the use of liquid organic fertilizer that enable small scale farmers to produce vegetables in improved multi-storey and hanging gardens which require up to 50% less water. These technologies are ideal for farmers with small pieces of land and especially for urban and periurban farming. Different crops can easily be intercropped in these these gardens.

The aim of making liquid manure is to quickly provide a crop with adequate natural plant food during the growing season. Liquid manure is ready for use after two or three weeks compared to six weeks or more for compost. The liquid manure which is made from bio-slurry or animal manures supplies nutrients fast. It is also ideal when plants are grown using the improved technologies indicated above.

## How to make liquid manure

You will need the following materials and equipment;

- Manure (bio-slurry, chicken, rabbit droppings or a mixture)
- A container (drum or half a drum). Bucket for small quantities
- Strong gunny bag, rope and pole.

## Procedure

1. Put the farm yard manure in a strong gunny bag at the rate of 50 kgs of manure for one drum of water. Fill it in such way that it can be tied at the top.



Farmers following keenly demonstrations on how to make the liquid manure.

2. Suspend the bag containing manure in the drum full of clean water. The bag should be tied securely with a rope and suspended on a strong pole placed across the top of the drum.

3. Cover the drum to prevent excessive evaporation.

4. After three days and every other day thereafter, stir the liquid in the drum by by lifting the bag several times using the pole.

5. After fifteen days the water will have turned blackish and most of the plant food (nutrients) in the manure will have been dissolved in the water.

Remove the bag and dilute the contents of the drum with clean water at the rate of 1:2 (one part of the liquid manure or plant tea add two parts of clean water). Spray the mixture on the crops base avoiding the leaves.



Country Focal Person (CFP) viewing demonstrations on how seed Savers Network prepares the liquid manure.

By Noah Lusaka - ALIN

he Emaiyanata Self Help Group is located in Lenkobei village, Shompole East location of Kajiado County. The group, composed of 21 women and 2 men have decided to beat all odds to empower themselves economically through practicing climate smart agriculture. This was after realizing that keeping livestock alone is becoming more risky due to rainfall variability and erratic patterns being experienced in recent times affecting access to sustainable water resources, pasture and food production.

In 2014, the group was identified by the Arid Lands Network (ALIN) in partnership Information with Act.Change.Transform! (Act!) for capacity building on climate smart agriculture to enhance the communities' resilience to impacts of climate change while improving food security at household level. "As women in this arid region of Lenkobei we sat down and decided to engage in crop farming to supplement our livestock which often succumb to drought hits," says Sipion Ene Leketony, a member of the group. With financial support from the embassy of Sweden and the United Kingdom Agency for International Development (UKAID), ALIN supported the group in establishing a solar powered drip irrigation system for horticultural production covering one and half acre farm.

The farm is supplied with water from Nguruman Hills. To ensure water availability throughout the planting season, the group members dug a water storage pond with capacity of over 150 cubic metres. The members also fenced their farm to keep off marauding livestock and wildlife.

#### Setting up the drip irrigation system

The group members were trained on setting up the drip irrigation and management of the system in October 2014. During the training sessions, a 5,000 litres water tank was mounted on a firm metal platform with an elevation of three metres above the ground bringing about enough pressure to irrigate the land. The members dug trenches to lay out the water piping system on the one acre farm that was subdivided into 8 smaller plots and each plot installed with a gate valve for controlling water during irrigation. The drip irrigation tapes were then connected to the water pipes and laid throughout the one acre piece of land where one raised bed had two drip tapes. The final stage involved mounting the water storage tank. The group then planted at the wetted soil zones tomatoes covering four blocks and onions and kales on the other four blocks. The members intercropped fruit trees that include passion fruits, pawpaws and mangoes.

#### **Impressive results**

During the season October 2014 to February 2015, the group members harvested for the first time plenty of tomatoes and onions. They had a ready supply for their families. "For the first time this year, we enjoyed our Christmas because we just harvested onions and tomatoes from our own farm! We also sold to the local market and people could buy directly from our farm. Initially everybody used to get vegetables from Olkramatian 12km and Shompole 24km away and only on market days". Remarked Saalo the chairlady of the group. In October 2015, the group harvested plenty of passion fruits of which they sold and consumed at family level. The group members and communities around the project have really learned a lot on crop farming using irrigation, application of manure, crop protection, harvesting and marketing. They expect in the next 2 years to start harvesting mangoes.

Among the challenges facing the group is reduction of water supply during severe droughts and occasionally there is a breakdown within the water supply system from Nguruman hills.



Look! Here is our Tomato harvest!

## **GLOBAL WARMING IS POSING A RISK ON FOOD SUPPLY IN KENYA**

By Minnie Mbaabu and Emily Kariuki, Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)



Farmers tending to potatoes at one of Sokopepe's demonstration farms at Kiolo Kiolo village village in Meru

he World Meteorological Organisation announced in January that 2016 was the hottest year since record keeping began. The year continued the trend of increased warming experienced in the world since 1970s.

Global warming is now a reality that Kenyans have to contend, having to deal with increased temperatures, decreasing rainfall trends, frequent flooding and increased droughts.

Due to human activities such as burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, use of fertilizers containing nitrogen and increased livestock keeping the amount of Greenhouse gases (GHG) increase into the atmosphere leading to global warming.

Kenya has an ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) even though its contribution is a mere 0.1 percent of the total global emission. Most of the emissions come from land use practices. For instance, converting a forestland into agricultural land will reduce the (GHG) sinks provided by the forest and increase emissions from agricultural activities such as methane produced from rice plantations.

The country is now mainstreaming the NDCs adaptation and mitigation measures in the planning processes at national and county levels. The country has embraced a low emission and climate resilient development pathway by seeking to undertake an ambitious mitigation that would reduce its GHG by 30 percent by 2030.

The effects of global warming have largely affected the agricultural sector in Kenya. The country relies heavily on rain fed agriculture and other natural resources which are vulnerable to impacts of climate change. With reduced rainfall, the rainwater is not sufficient to sustain crops up to their maturity, adversely affecting crop growth and quality and livestock health. Where farmers practice irrigation there has been a decrease of water in the rivers due to low rainfall and the crops cannot survive.

Weeds and pest become more prolific, some of which harbour plant diseases which in turn affect the availability and price of agricultural products as well as the costs of doing business.

Unpredictable changes in climatic patterns disrupt planning for agricultural activities. Changes in timing of long and short rains make it difficult to plan for planting and harvest times. This causes lower yields and greater food insecurity.

Global warming has also affected livestock because extreme weather events such as drought deplete pasture and water. This leads to decrease in morbidity, mortality and productivity of the livestock especially in arid and semi -arid lands.

Agricultural sector is one of the main emitters of GHG and therefore farmers should be sensitized on the ways to mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions through climate smart practices. Some of the mitigation measures include limiting use of fire in clearing the land, agroforestry and conservation tillage, biogas production, water harvesting and drip irrigation, introduction of drought resilient crop varieties and many more.

The Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) provides climate information that could guide the farmers in planning on what to plant in relation to the impending climate changes and livestock keepers in planning how to supplement pasture that might be depleted in dry season or plan the movement of livestock.

Read more on: http://www.meteo.go.ke/

### By Daphne Muchai—KENAFF

enyan farmers experience the challenge of accessing affordable high quality feeds. This in turn results to low value products from livestock therefore limiting their market potential and productivity. Farmers are now embracing the use of hydroponic technology.

Hydroponic technology is the art of growing crops without soil. The key advantages of this technology are that fodder is produced within a week, minimal space is utilised while conserving water through recycling and it minimizes labour intensive activities.

The technology that was developed many years ago is gaining momentum and recognition in Kenya as an affordable and sustainable method of fodder production by small scale farmers. Apart from fodder production, other horticultural crops like tomatoes, lettuce, spinach and carrots as well as fruits like strawberries and any short term crops can be grown using hydroponic technology. For livestock, fodder can be grown for cattle, poultry, shoats, pigs and any other grass eaters. The main feedstock used for hydroponic production are barley, sorghum, wheat and maize. Hydroponic fodder increases digestibility from 30% to 95% compared to other fodder options for ruminants.

#### **Steps in Growing Hydroponic Fodder**

The main requirements include; a shelter, photochemical hydroponics trays, seeds, water and hydroponics nutrients.

#### **Hydroponic Housing Unit**

The structure can be constructed using locally and inexpensive materials or alternatively an existing room can be converted into one. Then reclining/slanting wooden shelves are put in place which are then lined with polythene sheeting to avoid soaking the wood that can cause rotting. Alternatively, aluminum sheets can be used which does not require polythene cover. Other materials include; Iron sheets for roofing, shade nets for the walls, timber and nails. The floor should be concrete or covered by a polythene paper.

#### **Seed Preparation**

- Weigh the seed required for the specific tray in use. For example, 2kgs of seed is sufficient for a 4 feet tray.
- Soak the weighed seeds in a bucket or any suitable container for 4 hours. Soaking for more than 4 hours, lowers seed viability.
- Drain all the water and incubate the soaked seeds in a container covered with a perforated lid for 48 hours. The perforations allow air flow. During the incubation, keep the seeds moist by sprinkling water at least once a day, avoid excessive water.
- 4. Clean the trays with a bleach or a soap thoroughly before placing the seeds.
- Spread the germinated seeds evenly on the tray, being careful not to damage the roots. The trays should be perforated on the lower side to allow free flow of water during watering.

#### **Tray Management**

1.Do not ruffle the seeds once planted .

2.Water three times daily. Where possible, hydroponic solution can be used, though pure water can be used. the entire period from incubation to harvest should not exceed 8 days. After 8 days, the nutritive value of the feed decreases sharply. The irrigation water can be recycled at most 3 days, after which it should be changed . Do not use the water used in soaking the seeds, as this will increases chances of fungal growth!



A farmer attending to his fodder trays

## Continued from page 6

## Hydroponic Unit Management

1. Clean the floor daily with a bleach to avoid fungal growth. Keep the floor dry at all times.

2. Clean the containers and gutters that collects drained water weekly.

3. Have specific shoes for working in the unit.

4. Have a doormat that contains a disinfectant

## **Temperature Management**

The ideal temperature is 21°C. This can be maintained by:

1. Increasing watering times to more than 3 times a day

2.Use a 50% black shade net, to prevent direct sunlight, flies and dust from getting into your feed

3.Build tall units with a height of 3m (10ft)

4. Align the unit East to West when constructing to avoid too much direct sunlight

5. Avoid plastic/polythene roofing as used in the green houses. Instead, use iron roofing, makuti or thatching grass.

## **Getting Rid of Fungus**

1. Ensure the trays have a gentle slope so that there is free flow of water.

2. Maintaining cool temperatures by following the measures given above.

3. Have a concrete or polythene covered floor, change water every three days to avoid development of scum which can block the perforations on the trays that helps in draining the water.

4.Do not lift the fodder-mat unless when harvesting.

5.Do not irrigate your fodder with water used to soak the seeds.

6. Thoroughly clean the trays with a bleach or soap before planting. Keep the door closed as much as possible to keep off insects and dusts

7.Clean weekly the gutters and buckets used to collect water draining after watering

## In the next issue, we shall take you through feeding different livestock using hydroponic fodder!

![](_page_6_Picture_22.jpeg)

Ready fodder for feeding animals

The Technology is cheap to adopt, ensures high yields and fast growth of plants, and eliminates soil-borne diseases.

By: Amb. Benjamin Mweri and Edwin Adenya—FAO Kenya

he Farmers Field School (FFS) approach was innovated by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through a regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) project in South East Asia, in the 1980's. It was developed for smallscale rice farmers to investigate and learn for themselves the skills required for and the benefits to be gained from the introduction of IPM.

Through FFS the farmer has an opportunity to make a choice in methods of production through a discovery based learning approach. The method borrows heavily from the age-old dictum that people usually remember 20% of what they hear, 40% of what they see and 80% of what they discover for themselves. One farmer (the host) in the group usually offers land for use as the school and in some cases; the group hires a piece of land for the same.

In the FFS, the principle of Agro-Ecosystem Analysis (AESA) is used, with the specific methods of peer group interaction and assessment, transects, observations, drawing and quantification of pests and disease incidence, to train the farmers as autonomous Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practitioners. The farmer is encouraged to discover solutions to his problems through field trials and observations thus enabling the farmer to make final decisions on how best to solve his/her farming problems. The school involves 25-30 farmers in a given locality with a common problem or goal who come together and receive extension package at the FFS once a week for a given crop/livestock cycle. The knowledge so acquired is passed on to the community by graduating farmers who practice it on their farms.

The FFS are organized around a season-long series of weekly meetings focusing on biological, agronomic and management issues. The farmers regularly conduct agro ecosystem analysis, identify problems and then design, carry out and interpret field experiments using IPM – non-IPM comparisons. In addition, the FFS also includes a significant focus on group and individual capacity building. The longer-term empowerment goals of FFS seek to

## The main features of FFS.

Field is primary resource.

- Participatory discovery learning process where farmer participation is enhanced.
- Hands-on experience sharing i.e. experience forms and the basis for learning.
- Capacity building and empowerment.
- Stakeholder ownership on the process, content and knowledge derived.
- Covers entire production cycle or key steps in the management practices of the crop livestock systems.
- Can handle multiple technologies and support services simultaneously.
- It is group-based, with in-built flexibility.
- Curriculum is dictated by the specific production system, and priority problems and the local conditions of the farmer groups.
- If properly implemented, enhances farmer to farmer extension of technologies and information.
- Adopted from Anandajayasekeram et al (2001).

enable graduates to continue to expand their knowledge and to help others learn and organize activities within their communities to institutionalize IPM practices.

The FFS approach in Kenya has been adopted to suit the country's diverse agro-ecological systems. This adaptation is through a wide range of crops and livestock enterprises and non-farm interventions such as reproductive health.

Kenya boasts of a seasoned team of FFS master trainers that have trained, established and backstopped field schools globally. Some of these countries include Afghanistan, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Namibia, Mali, Mauritania and Zambia. The key to increasing farm productivity and improving national food security lies in the ability of farmers to select, adopt and apply farm technologies, which are productive,

![](_page_7_Picture_21.jpeg)

FFS presentation session in Samburu County

#### By Mrs. Mary W. Karanja - MoALF

alome Njeri, a smallholder farmer in Karirikania village in Kuresoi North, Nakuru County tried a number of farming practices in an effort to get better harvests but her yields kept dwindling year after year.

Like most conventional farmers, she ploughed her twoacre farm, applied a little compost manure and synthetic fertilizers then let her crops grow. She could only manage 11 bags of maize which was quite low compared to the money she spent buying inputs.

Salome was first trained by Network for Eco Farming in Africa (NECOFA) on organic agriculture back in 2004 and she started a small kitchen garden before extending the practice to the entire farm. In addition to organic farming her group,Utugi Self Help group, was also trained on table banking and harvesting and drying of Mau Forest stinging nettle. Since then Salome has been practicing organic farming for over a decade by applying the principles such as composting, integrated pest management and crop

![](_page_8_Picture_5.jpeg)

Salome giving lessons to visitors in her farm

rotation. These practices have enabled her to produce healthy food for her family, cut down on production costs, enhance soil fertility and conserve the environment.

Salome farms in her 5 acres where she utilizes organic principles. Crops in her garden range from fruit trees,

vegetables, medicinal herbs and she utilizes useful plants like Mexican marigold, black jack, stinging nettle and aloe vera to make natural pesticides.

Her garden serves as a training centre for community groups and visitors who visit her place to learn about organic farming. She is currently the chairlady of Furaha self help group which engages in various income generating activities such as table banking, leasing out chairs and tents and farming. In addition, she engages about 200 community groups within the sub county on organic farming.

#### Farm competition

In October 2015, a competition among farmers was conducted by five organizations namely; Pelum Kenya, NECOFA, MEAP, ARDAP and Baraka Agricultural College to determine the most innovative farmer along parameters such as crop diversity, water harvesting, family involvement, soil fertility management, initiatives to learn and share knowledge, agro forestry, animal husbandry, among others. Salome's garden emerged the best and she hosted World food day celebrations which was graced by the Nakuru County Director of Agriculture, farmer groups, local leaders, schools and community members.

The garden has opened a host of opportunities for her such as trips to Italy in collaboration with NECOFA/Slow Food central rift convivium, learning workshops with Pelum Kenya, United Nations among others. She has become a farmer champion and advocate, and was recently elected as the farmer representative in Kuresoi North Sub county potato board.

Salome and her group members proudly earn income from their organic farms, through selling of potatoes, garden peas and assorted vegetables. They sell locally and also to outside markets especially Nakuru and Nairobi Counties. Through their hard work they have improved their household's living standards and empowered themselves financially, socially and economically.

Farmers should always practice crop rotation and intercropping in order to utilize their lands properly. (Molly, Kenya)

### By Olivia A. Nyaidho — DIG project coordinator

eet Sabina, a beneficiary of Development in Gardening (DIG) Farmer Field School program and the training on production scheduling. Sabina graduated from DIG Mobile Farmer Field School in July 2015 and is still going strong!

Gaining and applying the skills learnt from Farmer Field School program, she chose to plant coriander as her crop enterprise. She makes over Ksh. 3000 from her small garden of 15m by 10m every week. She uses raised beds which ensures efficient use of the land, right plant population, mulching and use of farm yard manure. She also learnt how to keep farm records and this has enabled her to evaluate the profitability of her crop enterprises.

She also undertook a training on production scheduling, where she decided to pick on coriander as her crop enterprise for the January- March season, which are usually the dry months of the year and coriander supply is low and therefore sells at a higher price and indeed she made it. She sells to traders from home and at times takes to Ranen and Rongo markets which are 2 km and 10 Kms respectively away from her home.

Sabina has 3 children in secondary school and has been able to pay their school fees with ease unlike before when her children would be sent away for days unless she sought funds from relatives and friends. In the just concluded second term, she was able to pay for each of her children Ksh. 9,000.

The family has also been able to save money, Sabina's husband Mr. Onyango Ongoro who has been very

![](_page_9_Picture_7.jpeg)

Sabina in her coriander garden

![](_page_9_Picture_9.jpeg)

Sabina hosted farmers from Homa Bay County

supportive to Sabina recently started saving money with Equity Bank on a weekly basis while Sabina saves with her women group. Sabina compares what she gets from coriander in the small piece of land and says there would have been no better use of the land especially during the dry spell when all the farms are fallow. Coriander is ready for harvesting after one month.

Sabina and her husband have plans to schedule production of coriander in a more sustainable way, they have coriander ready for August and September market when it is expected to be dry again. They would wish to put up a shade net and drip irrigation where they will plant the coriander so that their plants are not affected by changing weather condition. In January- February 2017 Sabina made sales worth Ksh. 26,000 from coriander and had expenses were worth Ksh 5000.

The family remains a role model in her community and visitors come from far and wide to learn. In June and July 2017 Sabina hosted three groups of farmers from Homa Bay and Siaya Counties who came for benchmarking.

Sabina ends by saying 'from this small piece of land, I have employed techniques learnt from DIG and I have been able to feed my family better and pay school fees with ease for three of my children in secondary school.'

# **MOVING FORWARD: KEFAAS IN ACTION**

he Country Forum has started rolling out its activities to the counties in line with its broad objective of
contributing to the development of improved extension and advisory services for improved agricultural productivity; and food and nutrition security in the country.

It is in this regard that the Forum organized two trainings in Machakos and Nakuru Counties to sensitize registered and potential members on KeFAAS objectives, Virtual Social Network Platform (VSNP) and content management. The potential members were encouraged to register both as individuals and organizations. The sessions were attended by 25 and 19 participants respectively.

In addition to the above two trainings, KeFAAS also trained its members on monitoring, evaluation and learning to enable them harmonize their practices, documentation, reporting and sharing of experiences. At the same session, the members endorsed the formation of thematic working groups to spearhead implementation of Forum activities.

## Other ongoing activities include:

- Issuance of membership certificates
- Write shops for resource mobilization
- Registration of new members
- Registration of AFAAS Extension Week

# Winners of the KeFAAS competition for Content Creation

KeFAAS content creation competition invited the following categories of entries from members;

- Audio clip: Success story, case study, Training and support (10 minutes long)
- Video clip: Success story, Training and support, case study (7–10 minutes long)
- Print Media: An article of 300- 500 words with a photo
- Social Media: Interactive blog/Vlog, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest

Three categories were received and judged by the editorial committee and marks awarded. The under listed organisations and contents were the winners in each category. The committee recommended an award of US\$ 100 for each winner and the tying entries to share the award.

Category	Member Organisation	Title of Content	Link
Social Media	ALIN	Laikipia Rural Voices	laikipiaruralvoices.blogspot.co.ke
	Access Agriculture	agtube	www.agtube.org
Video clip	Access Agriculture	Making Yoghurt at Home	accessagriculture.org
Print	ALIN	ALIN Publications	www.alin.net

Are you in Rural Advisory Services or Extension Services?

If yes, register as a stakeholder/member today!

Visit www.kefaas.org or contact Silvia through 0720991074

Email kefaas2015 or info@kefaas.org

# **EDITORIAL POLICY**

AgLINK is the official newsletter of the Kenya Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services. In pursuant of the organization's Strategic Plan and in cognizance of the objective of mass communication within and outside the KeFAAS mandate, the editorial board of AgLINK establishes the following editorial policy:

## GENERAL

AgLINK shall ONLY carry content that satisfies the following tenets:

Be exclusively devoted to agriculture and related sciences and practices thereon.

- 1. Observe, adhere and preserve the editorial principles of objectivity, fairness and correctness.
- 2. Be apolitical.
- 3. Publish regularly at intervals of 3 months; 4 issues a year
- 4. Maintain openness and freedom from the influences of particular member or section of membership.
- 5. Pursue unbridled integrity in the choice of articles and in the cost of publishing the newsletter.

## **Overall Content Consideration**

**Themes:** It should be based on KeFAAS overall thematic areas of focus that include Agriculture, Climate change and Environment, Market information and much more.

**Diversity**: The editors will be alert to the need for articles from diverse agricultural practices and themes from the largest possible environment in the arid/semiarid, arable and fishing communities.

## PARTICULAR

- 1. AgLINK shall comprise 8 general editorial segments as follows:
- 2. An editorial
- 3. Articles and photography/illustrations on agricultural trends and emerging innovations
- 4. Agricultural and ICT technologies
- 5. Success Stories in Agriculture and related sciences
- 6. Member News & Reviews
- 7. Reader Feedback Forum
- 8. Addresses

## **Editorial Team**

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![](_page_11_Picture_26.jpeg)

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