



# Improving rural livelihoods through fish production



The CAS Ministry of Agriculture, Hon. Linah Jebii Kilimo, PS SDFA&BE Prof. Micheni Ntiba hand over pond construction materials to smallholder aquaculture farmers in Kirinyaga County in August 2020.

## About Aquaculture Business Development Programme

The National Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) of the Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) is located at the IFAD Building in Nyeri County. The Programme is working with fifteen (15) counties to promote commercial aquaculture farming. It is Programme is a partnership between the Government of Kenya (GoK) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), aimed at increasing incomes, food security and nutritional status of poor rural households involved in aquaculture ventures. The lead implementing agency is the State Department for Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Blue Economy.

The total Programme cost is \$143.3 million (Ksh14.9 billion) consisting of IFAD loan (\$67.9 million), GoK Counterpart funding (\$31.4 million), Beneficiary contribution (43.6 million) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (\$400,000).

The Programme is building on the successes made under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) of 2009-2013 aimed at increasing small-

holder aquaculture fish production through targeted support for input supply, fish production, post-harvest management and related activities. This saw an increase of fishponds from the initial 4,742 to 69,998 in 219 constituencies, increased fish production from aquaculture from 4,220 MT (worth KSh1 billion in 2009), to 48, 801 MT (worth KSh.17, 460 billion) in 2015 and provided employment to over 100,000 farmers, short-term employment to over 1,000,000 million youths and indirect employment for over 500,000 other Kenyans.

The range of benefits span from targeted support in smallholder aquaculture production, support for enterprises in the fish value chain to improvement of livelihoods of rural communities. Nyeri County the has rare opportunity to revive aquaculture farming through interventions ABDP brings.

## How ABDP is Organised

To achieve its objective, ABDP is organised into two components:

The first component, “Smallholder aqua-

culture development”, aims to raise efficiency, profitability and sustainability of ongoing and new aquaculture activities in smallholder farming systems with associated nutrition activities to improve diet quality and food security of the rural community. This will be by providing technical advice to smallholder aquaculture producers on site selection for ponds, pond construction, seed selection and stocking density, pond fertilisation, fish health, record keeping, savings, financial literacy, business management skills, collective marketing, quality standards and food safety, value addition and processing; and offering small grants to support purchase of inputs for production based on felt needs of the producer. The component will promote income-generating activities for youth in Aquaculture Support Enterprises (ASEs) for non-producers of fish and the disadvantaged groups by improving their access to resources and productive assets.

The second component, “Aquaculture value chain development”, aims to improve efficiency of the whole aquaculture value chain. This will be implemented by providing contracts to Public-Private Producer Partnerships aiming at orchestrating the establishment of a commercially viable and market-driven private sector comprising small and medium-sized aquaculture producers and entrepreneurs. The component will promote proposed business plans with competitive advantages that either have an integral role for small holder producer or can be shown to benefit small and micro-scale operators. It will also enhance aquaculture sector enabling environment at policy level and support services by upgrading public infrastructure services such as extension services, aquaculture research and fish health surveillance services.

## Target beneficiaries and Programme stakeholders

The beneficiaries for the Programme include women, youth, landless and other disadvantaged groups. The Programme is using a poverty target-

ing criteria and social inclusion strategies to ensure an all-inclusive beneficiary group.

The target direct beneficiaries are 35,500 households (213,000 individuals assuming an average of 6 persons per household) engaged in aquaculture, participants in off-farm income generating groups related to the Sub-sector, and producers and labourers working within and for integrated aquaculture businesses.

On the other hand, the indirect beneficiaries include the public and private sector entities that are capacitated by the Programme as a means to reaching the rural target group as well as members of communities that are not directly receiving training or support from the Programme but will benefit from the opportunities that the new economic environment will create. The rural communities and schools will benefit from the nutrition and other initiatives in the Programme Counties.

The Programme is working with a several stakeholders in its implementation. These include, but are not limited to:

- Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) - Kenya Fisheries Service (KFS), National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA) and Water Resource Authority (WRA),
- County Governments
- Research Facilities (KMFRI and Universities),
- Training Institutions (Sagana and RIAT),
- Veterinary Department/ Facilities,
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- Small holder Aquaculture Farmers,
- Private Enterprises including such as banks, insurance companies etc

## Nexus of Big-4 Agenda and Agricultural & Economic Growth

Under the leadership of H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, the government is working towards achieving the Big Four Agenda to spur economic transformation and positively impact lives of Kenyans and fast-track the realisation of the Kenya economic blue print – the Vision 2030.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives is at the centre of the National goals given the important role it continually plays in achieving the food and nutritional security in the Country. Some of the initiatives the Ministry has undertaken is launching the “Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2018-2022” that is expected to achieve 100 percent food and nutrition security, contribute to a healthy nation, employment and wealth creation through support to manufacturing and growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

As a Programme, supporting smallholder-based aquaculture enterprises, especially farmers in the rural areas, is a key priority. This is to support them as primary producers to continue with their cardinal role of food supply.

The GoK, with the support of IFAD, is implementing ABDP in line with the Big Four Agenda with the aim of:

- Benefiting smallholder farmers,
- Developing agricultural value chains,
- Stimulating growth in rural areas through provision of sustainable livelihoods,
- Generating youth employment opportunities,
- Sustainably deal with effects of climate change and
- Contributing to better management of natural resources.



The PS, State Department for Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Blue Economy, Prof. Micheni Ntiba, (Ph.D., DBA, CBS) arrives at Green Hills Hotel, welcomed by Deputy Governor of Nyeri, County Commissioner and the Deputy County Commissioner of Nyeri during ABDP launch.



The IFAD Country Director and Head of East Africa and Indian Ocean Hub, Ms. Esther Kasalu-Coffin delivers her speech during ABDP launch.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

## Fisheries and Aquaculture as a key Agricultural sub-sector

The Government of Kenya launched a large-scale aquaculture support programme under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) during the period 2009 – 2013 to promote smallholder aquaculture fish production through targeted support for input supply, fish production, post-harvest management and related activities. The ESP achieved a rapid expansion in the productive infrastructure in the Sub-sector, including regions of the country with little history of fish production or consumption.

However, despite several years of ESP implementation, the corresponding aquaculture value chains are not well articulated to-date. The major weaknesses are in the following areas:

- Provision of good quality fish feed and seeds,
- Technical services provision
- Processing and value addition capacity building,
- Poor linkages between producers and other actors across the value chain.

At the onset of Devolution in 2013, the challenges in fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector exacerbated as the functions were transferred from the National to County Governments. Some Counties have since then streamlined aquaculture into their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP), making the Sub-sector a priority for investment.

Today, the County level extension services on fisheries and aquaculture are barely functional because of: **inadequate skilled extension service providers, lack of mobility, and lack of resources needed for effective service provision.**

## Potential of Fisheries and Aquaculture sub-sector

There is already a significant gap between the projected demand and national fish production – 250,000mt in 2014, currently expected to increase to 360,000mt/year by 2025 – resulting in a continuous decline in per capita aver-



The CS Ministry of Agriculture, Hon. Peter Munya launches sixteen (16) ABDP vehicles for use by Meru, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Kakamega, Migori and Homa Bay Counties on May 16, 2020. The CS was accompanied by Prof Micheni Ntiba, PS SDFA&BE and CAS Hon. Lina Jebii Kilimo.

age consumption and rising prices. Consumption of fish in Kenya has dropped in recent years to 4.5kg/person/year compared to a global average of 20 kg/person/year. **This indicates a huge consumption gap and a potential market for the Kenyan fish farmers.**

## Government Interventions to challenges in the Fisheries and Aquaculture sub-sector

In April 2019, the Government of Kenya, through the State Department for Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Blue Economy, with support from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), launched a Ksh14.9 billion Programme dubbed – **Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP)** to support aquaculture farming in 15 Counties with high aquaculture potential, i.e. Nyeri, Meru, Kirinyaga, Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Kajiado and Machakos in the Central/Eastern Region, and Kakamega, Migori, Homa Bay, Busia, Kisii, Kisumu and Siaya in the Western Region.

**ABDP presents great opportunities for over 35,500 households (213,000**

**beneficiaries)** who include smallholder aquaculture farmers, input suppliers, aggregators (Independent Aquaculture Aggregators), processors through Public-Private-Producer-Partnerships (PPPP). The interventions under ABDP will include:

- Support to County-level extension service provision,
- Supporting smallholder aquaculture farmers with some inputs and in rehabilitation/construction of production units,
- Capacity building for aquaculture value-chain players,
- Completing the missing link between producers and markets for farmed fish,
- Creating structured markets and institutions in the aquaculture value chain (Smallholder farmers are being organised into Smallholder Aquaculture Groups (SAGs)),
- Making the Mini-fish Processing Plants in the Counties (Meru, Nyeri, Kakamega and Migori) the Aquaculture Business Hubs,
- Dedicated support for over 5,500

youths through Aquaculture Support Entreprises (ASEs) through MSMEs related interventions, and

- Dedicated support for over 63,900 women to form viable enterprises.

## What does the Programme mean to Kenyans?

The Programme has a variety of benefits for the entire Country. Some of these include:

- Support for smallholder fish farmers to reinvigorate fish farming from subsistence to commercial levels. The Programme estimates direct beneficiaries to be over 213,000 (including Women and Youth).
- Better aquaculture value chain development by supporting players in the aquaculture value chain, including youths in transport and retail enterprises in fishing.
- Market for commercial fish farmers through the Mini-Fish Processing plants located in Nyeri, Meru, Kakamega and Migori Counties.
- Support to the aquaculture farming community to learn and adopt

climate smart technologies and to improve marketability of fish.

## Key Achievements to date

**a) National launch and start-up workshop:** The National launch for the Programmes was done in Nyeri on April 25, 2019 while the start-up workshop was conducted on April 25, 2019.

**b) Stakeholders sensitisation on ABDP implementation:** The Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) is conducting sensitisations to Counties and other stakeholders to help in accelerating the implementation of activities

## Conclusion

The Programme will empower rural smallholder aquaculture farmers to improve their incomes, nutritional status and hence improve their livelihoods. In so doing, it will benefit a mass number of farmers and other stakeholders. The implementation activities are aligned to achieve the Government Big Four Agenda on Food and Nutritional Security.



The PS, State Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Blue Economy, Prof. Micheni Ntiba, the Governor of Nyeri County, H.E. Mutahi Kahiga and the Deputy Governor Nyeri County, Dr. Caroline Karugu, had a happy moment during the launch of ABDP at Green Hills Hotel, Nyeri.



The Governor of Kisii County, H.E James Ongwae with the ABDP PCU after a successful stakeholder sensitisation in Kisii on January 22, 2020 at Kisii ATC.