

# **PRESENTATION ON FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES IN KIRINYAGA WEST**

BY A.R. NJERU

.....  
**D.A.O. Kirinyaga West.**

# MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

## INTRODUCTION

### VISION:

- To be the leading agent towards achievement of food security for all, employment creation, income generation and poverty reduction in kenya. While Agriculture remains a fundermental pillar for sustainable development and Poverty reduction, it continues to face various Challenges.

# CHALLENGES

- Climate change: inadequate/erratic rains/increase in temperatures
- High cost: adulteration and low application of key inputs
- Pest/diseases:
- Over-reliance on maize for supply of carbohydrates
- Low storage: processing capacity farm level 40% loss of agriculture produce
- Inadequate of extension services/research to extension farmer linkages
- Lack of demand driven research

# INITIATIVES PUT IN PLACE

1. Intensified food production/storage campaign during baraza, field days and group training
2. Subsidized price fertilizers available at NCPB- Sagana:  
DAP – at Ksh.2,800, CAN-Ksh.2,000, 23:23:0 – Ksh.2,000
3. Food security programmes targeting ---areas that are vital for food security—
4. Orphaned crops programme



# SORGHUM





# BANANAS, CASSAVA AND ARROWROOTS



# INITIATIVES CONT.

- Water harvesting: construction of water pan in dry areas.
- NAAIP target farmers to increase the application of quality inputs by small scale farmers.
- NMK Up-scaling of projects promoting food security
- Targeted development programmes e.g. SHEP which promote horticultural crops production which has great potential for diversification and contribute to economic development
- Reduction of crop losses: training of post/pre-harvesting handling food safety and quality regulations to be emphasized to ensure market compliance through Eurep-GAP/Kenya-GAP
- Up-scaling of contemporary technologies – e.g. promotion of highland rice (NERICA) that reduce over-reliance on maize for supply of carbohydrates.



Nerica Rice Field day at Joseph mbogo's Farm(Kathaka village)  
KIRINYAGA WEST





# INITIATIVES CONT.

- Intensified campaigns on farm forestry to 10% tree cover to counteract global warming
- Encouraging/supporting farmers groups to establish cereal banks
- Establishment of warehouses for – at NCPB depots to assist in drying storage/selling of grains
- Support to agricultural extension system for advisory/technology transfer services
- NASEP policy – aims at strategy connecting collaborators between research finds and empowerment of farmers.

# CONCLUSION

- Sustainable food security/incomes is achievable if all farmers, extension, researchers and all stakeholders join hands in the campaign to produce enough in one season to last for an year