

KENDAT



*Unlocking Potentials of
Farming Communities*



KENDAT **2023-24** NEWSLETTER

WORD FROM THE CEO



Farmers in Kenya, just like many farmers in most developing countries in the world depend heavily on “cheap” farm-level operations. Thinking of farm-level transportation, donkeys play a critical role because they provide cheap and reliable transport in all seasons of the year. This is one of the reasons why donkeys in Kenya must be protected, treated well and most importantly recognized by all stakeholders as key drivers in the national economy, an economy that is driven by smallholder farmers. The ongoing bush slaughter of donkeys to service the donkey skins demand for China is unwarranted and should be stopped to save our smallholder farmers from the agony of losing all their donkeys. Donkey numbers have continued to decline and if the donkey skins trade continues, the farmers will not have any donkeys to use in their various farm-level operations. The Government should stop and make illegal the trade of donkey skins in the country.



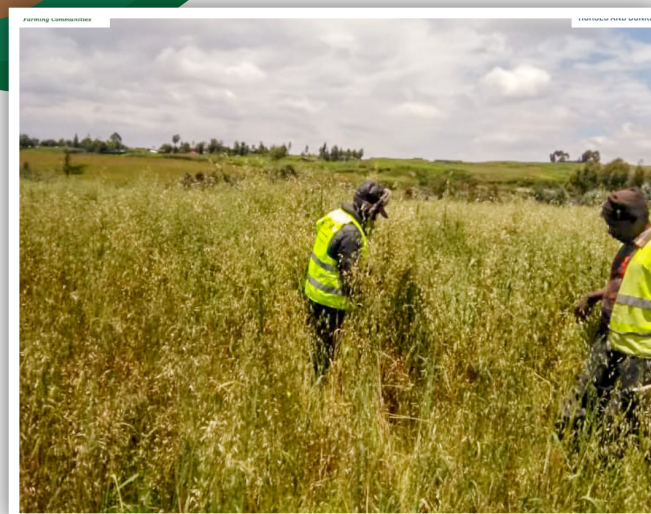
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

RESILIENCE BUILDING AND LIVELIHOODS

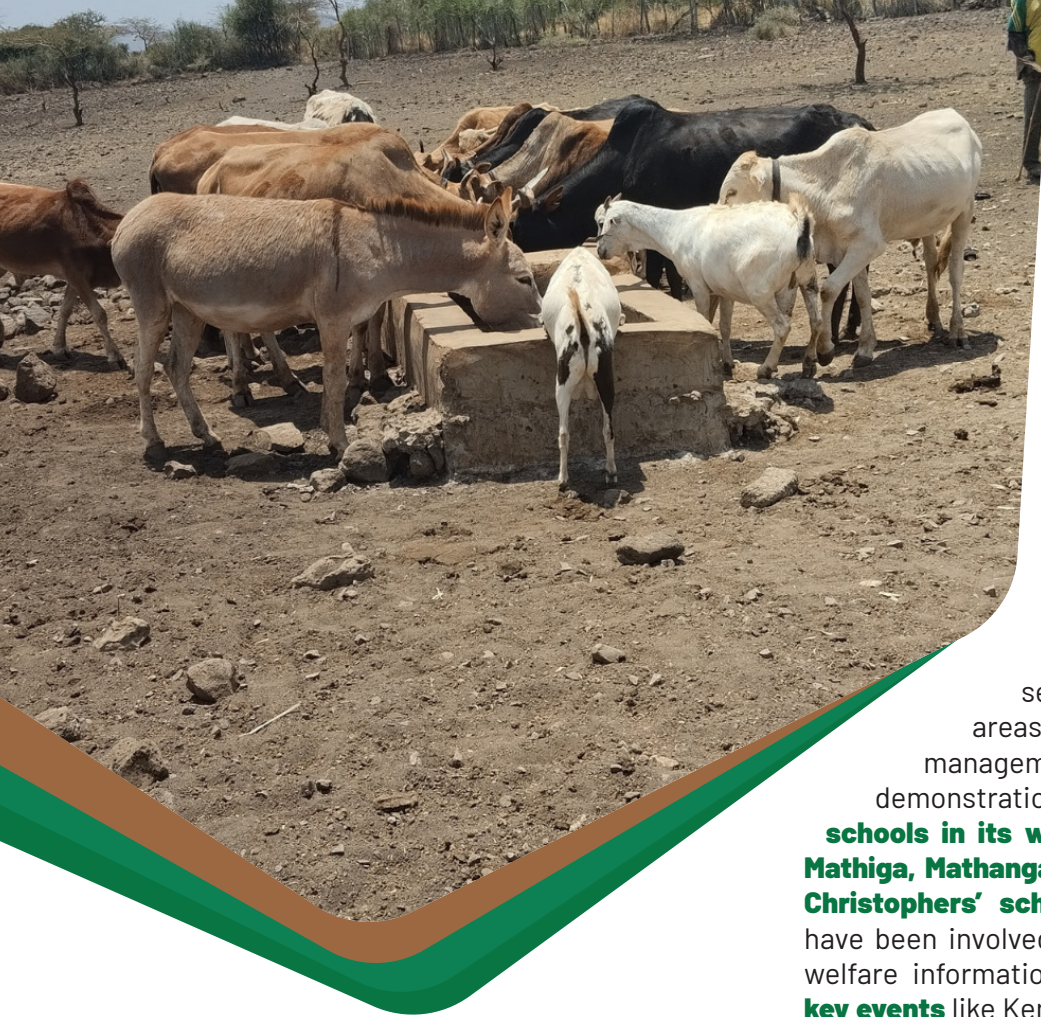
KENDAT implements projects in ASAL areas that experience low rainfall to cushion farmers and their livestock against drastic climate changes while protecting their livelihoods. Fodder production and conservation is one of the projects that communities have been supported with for resilience building. Kamarandi Farmers Self-Help group in Tharaka in Tharaka Nithi County is a group that has been supported with training on fodder production. The group has also been supported with the best fodder seeds to grow for fodder production.

DIVERSIFICATION OF LIVELIHOODS

Training sessions have been conducted in **Kithirune, Gitimbine**, and Mumui on how to identify a market gap in their respective communities, how to come up with a project, and how to do resource mobilization and financial management. Various groups have come up



with projects that are aimed at improving the member's livelihoods with Naari Tunza punda embarking on tree growing project, Mbuuri in Tigania doing goat farming, Mazingira group in Mumui venturing into poultry farming while other groups are doing credit and saving. These projects will improve the donkey owners' income and also improve donkey welfare through a kitty that every individual group is supporting towards donkey welfare.



SENSITIZATION ON DONKEY WELFARE

KENDAT aims to inculcate a behaviour, practice, and attitude culture that fosters compassion and humane practices for donkeys and other animals. The donkey owners/users are trained on donkey handling and restraint, parasite control, hoof care, appropriate tethering techniques, seeking farriery services from trained farriers, seeking vet services for their donkeys from the trained local service providers (LSPs) in their areas, and home-based wound management through practical demonstrations. KENDAT has worked with **7 schools in its working areas i.e. Nguka, Thiba, Mathiga, Mathangauta, Miugune, Gathuine, and St. Christophers' schools targeting 145 pupils** who have been involved in the dissemination of donkey welfare information in different capacities **during key events** like Kenya Music Festivals, Madaraka Day celebrations, KALRO report launch, National Donkey Day celebrations as well as marking the World Environmental day.

RENOVATION OF WATER POINTS TO PROVIDE DRINKING TROUGHS FOR LIVESTOCK

KENDAT supports communities in the ASAL areas by renovating and rehabilitating existing water points to provide drinking water troughs for livestock, including donkeys that carry water from the water points to the homesteads. Mazingiza Self-Help Group in Mumui, Tigiania in Meru County has been supported with the rehabilitation of the water point at Mumui Chief's camp to provide enough drinking water space for their donkeys and other livestock.



SERVICE PROVISION

KENDAT has been progressively transitioning from free services offered by its staff to currently engaging animal health practitioners (AHPs) in private practice within the donkey-owning communities. The promotion of the adoption of paid services has been instrumental in the strategy for project sustainability. **11 community-led field days** have been carried out with **4 being in Embu County, 4 in Kirinyaga County, and 3 in Meru County**. These field days have enabled the **direct linkage of 14 animal health practitioners** to donkey owner's groups and consequently reduced the time taken for the response to clinical cases and improved the animal welfare aspect. This has further helped in the adoption of better and quality husbandry practices with ectoparasite control, sheltering, handling, and tethering being in the lead. To enhance the continuity of these services, **24 joint communities and county-led vaccination clinics** have seen **352 donkeys** attended to within **Embu and Tharaka County**. These further have been supportive in the mentorship of **16 Animal Health Practitioners** who are already under the animal health monitoring framework (**AHMF**) with a



further

12 engaged

for future training and absorption into the mentorship program. **2 institutions** have been progressively engaged

to provide support materials on equine medicine and allied scientific materials. The collaborative efforts to work with the learning institutions and establish a working relationship through an MOU have been commendable with AHITI Ndomba and AHITI Kabete. Discussions have been initiated for a working MOU with Tharaka University on how to support equine medicine training in the institution. Agrovets play a vital role in the animal health system by providing veterinary drugs, and professional advice to farmers as well as forming a strong referral system with professionals in the field. **27 Agrovets** have been mentored out of which 6 have been recruited into stocking equine-friendly pain relievers. This will promote the use of equine-friendly medicines and pain relievers within the areas where they operate. In addition, the Agrovet will act as a focal point in dispatching information on donkey welfare to donkey owners and AHPs. Rabies being a zoonotic disease, KENDAT in partnership with Meru Tornado Animal Clinic held a Rabies Week function within the clinic grounds in Meru town that was

culminated by **World Rabies**

Day on the 28th of

September. The exer-

cise witnessed **23 donkeys**

that were walked into the clinic for rabies vaccination and deworming. This was necessary since the

donkeys in town pose a public health

concern as they interact with the general public since they ferry products from the farms to the town. The donkey owners were also sensitized and trained on zoonotic nature and the importance of vaccinating their donkeys against rabies.

ADVOCACY

Illegal bush slaughter of donkeys has been on the rise. This has been a thorn in the program since it had put a lot of effort into curbing donkey bush slaughter. However, **community and law enforcement sensitizations** have been done which has seen several criminals associated with the trade arrested. This has also made communities and law enforcers more alert to any suspicion of vice in their locality. Some policy-makers have also threatened to re-open donkey abattoirs despite the ban on these donkey abattoirs by the High Court. In Kirinyaga County, the process to review how far the animal welfare bill went in terms of drafting and tabling has been revived. The Kirinyaga Animal Welfare bill was drafted, reviewed, tabled and



JE, WAJUA KUWA WAZEWA **KUCHUKULIWA HATUA KISHERIA** **KWA KUMUUMIZA PUNDA?**

CAP 360

Anayepatikana na hatia ya kumdhulumu Punda anaweza kupigwa faini ya elfu tatu ama kifungo cha miezi sita ama yote mawili.

PENAL CODE

Anayepatikana na hatia ya kumdhulumu punda anweza kufungwa kifungo cha miaka kumi na nne.



**UKIPATANA NA PUNDA ANAYE
DHULUMIWA, PIGA SIMU KWA KSPCA
KWA NAMBARI 0733 571 125**

assented to by the governor in 2017. The agricultural committee has however vowed to review the bill again and pass it for implementation. In Meru County, **the county assembly legal representative has reviewed the already drafted bill and guided the process to table the bill to the assembly through the agricultural committee** which is ongoing. In Tharaka Nithi County, **the county assembly legal representative has drafted an animal welfare bill that is to be presented to the Agricultural Committee** through the **Chair** to be tabled in the assembly and the process is still ongoing. The program has also been involved in the **Court Users Committee(CUC)** in Kirinyaga County with the main issue of animal welfare being raised. KENDAT implements its programs through community structures i.e. community groups, donkey champions, and community-based organizations(CBOs). It is through this that the Association of Donkey Owners (ADOK) was formed for communities to have a harmonized forefront in driving change in donkey welfare and especially advocating for a

total ban on Donkey Hide Trade. Donkey hide trade (DHT) and bush slaughter have been on the rise in the recent past. Perpetrators of the vice are smuggling donkeys from the neighbouring counties of Narok and Bomet for slaughtering in the bush in Ndeiya, Kiambu County. The program has been working closely with law enforcers (ACC, Chiefs, and Police) in Kiambu and some parts of Nairobi County to curb this trade by arresting and rescuing donkeys. The rescued donkeys are then taken to the anti-stock Theft unit (ASTU) at Rwamburi temporarily and later moved to KSPCA sanctuary in Naivasha awaiting court orders for rehoming. The community around Ndeiya where the donkey bush slaughter has been happening has been silent about the vice and to some extent accepted the vice. This led to the program putting up strategies for community sensitization and since the unearthing of the vice, three community sensitivities have been done in the form of Barazas where ACC and Chiefs were present. Two more sensitizations will be done in the next two months. ADOK leaders in Kiambu, Embu, Kirinyaga, Meru, and Nairobi have been sensitizing donkey owner groups to join the association as well as sensitizing them on donkey welfare. These communities have begun to sensitize other donkey owners as well as the general public on donkey welfare issues. These communities have also been carrying out **surveillance** in their communities **so as to whistle-blow on donkey theft** as well as emphasize the need for **the protection of donkeys** in their respective areas. Following remarks by certain government officials on the possible re-opening of donkey abattoirs and the recent cases of donkey slaughter in Kiambu county, **200 donkey owners in Meru and Kirinyaga** counties led by their ADOK leaders held peaceful demonstrations to air out their stand on not re-opening the abattoirs in order to protect their livelihoods. These demonstrations were also amplified by different media houses i.e. Inooro Tv and FM, Citizen TV, and Weru TV.

PICTORIAL

01. Peaceful demonstrations in Kirinyaga County **02.** Mbeere South SCVO participated in the National Donkey Day activities **03.** Women in Tharaka using locally available sisal to weave baskets **04.** KENDAT, ADWOK and BEA gifting the CECM Agriculture Nyandarua county **05.** A donkey owner reading a flier on ectoparasite control during a donkey clinic

