INTER-COUNTY DIALOGUE: THE CASE OF AGRIBUSINESS IN SIAYA COUNTY

By:
Hon. Philgona Ooko
CECM – Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation and Fisheries
1.0 Overview of Agriculture Sector

• The Department comprises of Directorates of Crop Management, Livestock, Irrigation, Veterinary Services and Fisheries,

• Implementation of projects is based on a number of thematic areas that are aimed at improving food security, incomes and employment opportunities,

• The ultimate objective is enhancement of food security and household’s income improvement,
2.0 Key Achievements under Devolution

1.0 Thematic areas under Directorate of Crop Management:

• 1.1 Farm mechanization – A total of 4,800 acres were ploughed at a subsidized rate of Kshs 1,850 per acre from the commercial rate of kshs.3,500 per acre; with about 4,000 farmers benefitting,

• 14 Tractors and assorted implements were procured and 31 private tractors were hired, 6 AMS tractors were rehabilitated,
Farm Mechanization
1.2 Purchase of certified Seeds and Fertilizer

- In 2013/14, about 64 metric tons of certified maize seed were procured for farmers worth Kshs. 10M,
- In 2014/15, about 26 metric tons of certified maize and 0.8 metric tons of sorghum seed were procured for farmers worth Kshs. 4.88M,
Certified seeds distribution
1.3 Development of Irrigation Infrastructure

• 9 micro-Irrigation projects underway across the County covering 100 acres of land,
• GIZ Kenya in collaboration with County Government implementing Lower Nzoia Irrigation and an Irrigation demo site established at Siaya ATC.

1.4 Strategic Grain Reserve and Marketing Strategy

• A total of 4 community cereal banks were established,
• 1,946 bags of cereals was mopped from farmers for centralized storage to be used as strategic reserve and stabilize prices in the local market during shortage periods
2.0 Thematic areas under Directorate of Fisheries

2.1 Fish Sanitary facilities project:

- 4 Fish Landing Bandas, 1 Omena Store and 13 Toilets completed at various Fish Landing Sites at a cost of Kshs. 10,9 Million.

- Other 2 Fish Landing Bandas are at advanced levels of construction (at a cost of Kshs. 2.36 Million) while construction 6 others are about to commence at different landing site (at a cost of Kshs. 6.2 Million).
2.2 Promotion of Aquaculture & fish capture

- 30,000 fish fingerlings restocked into Lake Kanyaboli at a cost of Kshs. 1.5 Million.

- As support to fish farmers, Procured 1.7 metric tons of fish feeds at a cost of Kshs. 1.5 Million (being distributed to 20 farmers per ward in all the 30 Wards in the County).
2.3 Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance

- Removed 1,876 assorted destructive fishing gears from Lakes Victoria and Kanyaboli,
- Conducted Election for 80 Beach Management Units (BMUs) aimed at streamlining fisheries resource management at BMUs level,
- 2 canoes and outboard engines are in the process of being procured for use by 2 BMUs (Gudwa and Uhanya) for patrol and related activities,
3.0 Thematic areas under Directorate Livestock Development

• **3.1 The Poultry Production Project**

• Technoserve together with County have supported about 30 groups with more than 10,000 birds for breeding and production,

• In 2014/15, the County has purchased 500 month old chicks and by end of April, 4,000 more will be purchased,
• 3.2 Dairy Development and improvement
  • 650 dairy animals were purchased by partners (with County purchasing 27),
  • 35 more are will be purchased before June 2015,

• 3.3 Small Stock improvement
  • 2,700 dairy and 200 meat goats were distributed to over 200 groups by Plan International,

• 3.4 Pig Production
  • 50 breeding sows and 2 boars were distributed to Nyagoma Community Group by the Western Kenya and Flood Mitigation,
  • Have since multiplied to over 100,
4.0 Thematic areas under Directorate of Veterinary Services

4.1 Disease Control:

• In 2013/2014 Financial Year, veterinary vaccines worth Kshs.6.3M were purchased for control of notifiable diseases.

• These vaccines included: Foot and Mouth Disease, New Castle Disease, BlackQuarter and Anthrax, Rabies, Lumpy Skin Disease, Infectious Bursal Disease, Fowl Pox and Fowl Typhoid.
Disease Control
4.2 Meat Hygiene/Meat Inspection Services

• Currently 24 Slaughter facilities are operational with 2 facilities (Nyang’oma and Akala) opened in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

• There are three new facilities under construction i.e. Ndere, Bondo and Yala,

• 22,000 Cattle, 1200 Shoats and 1090 pig carcasses were inspected during the 2013/2014 Financial Year
4.3 Artificial insemination/Animal Breeding

- This is currently provided by private Artificial insemination Service Providers,
- A community Artificial Insemination Scheme was started in Ugunja in 2013/2014 Financial Year..
- In the 2015/2016 Financial Year dormant A.I programmes in AlegoUsonga, Rarieda and Bondo will be revived.
- Bull Scheme/Superior Bulls will also be introduced to supplement Artificial Insemination.
4.4 Vector Control

• There are 234 Livestock Crush pens in Siaya County for spraying cattle to control ticks, Tse-tse fly and other ectoparasites. Out of these, 211 are active where 48,744 heads of cattle, 3,462 (Shoats) were sprayed.
• Screening of cattle and humans for trypanosomiasis infection was carried out in January and February 2015.
• A total of 1010 people and 5,837 cattle were sampled in Sakwa.
• 500 litres of acaricide has been supplied for spraying of cattle.
• In 2013/2014 Financial year, Segere Dip was rehabilitated and is currently functional.
• 2 other dips (Kadenge and BarKanyango) are due for rehabilitation through the assistance of Dominion Farms.
Community Crush pens
Other Key Achievements (Cont…)

• Establishment of Agriculture Development Fund

• Establishment of modern cotton Ginnery in Rarieda and two fruit processing plants at Alego Usonga and Bondo Sub counties.

• Developed a Draft Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill.

• 30 Agricultural Extension Officers were Trained as ToTs for Horticulture, Aquaculture, supported by GIZ Kenya under ATVET/CBET Initiative,
3.0 Challenges in the Sector

Food insecurity in the County is linked to:

• Inadequate Use of Inputs,
• Application of Poor Agricultural Technologies,
• Low Purchasing Power,
• Poor Infrastructure – cold storage, market facilities etc,
• Very low staff level hence poor extension outreach,
• Low sub sector investment levels in various enterprises,
• Drought of 2014/15 - led to loss of approximately 1500 heads of cattle, 500 heads of sheep
• Shortage of animal feed resources
• Environmental Degradation and,
• Inaccessible Farm Roads.
Poor infrastructure
4.0 Strategies for Revitalizing the Sector

✓ Increase area under irrigation,
✓ Increase fertilizer and certified seed use by enhancing farm input subsidy and credit schemes,
✓ Improve grain storage practices and marketing through promotion of appropriate on farm storage of produce and community cereal banking,
✓ Improve adoption of agricultural technologies among the farmers by triggering demand for the technologies through extension and training,
✓ Double the number of existing livestock in the county through up scaling improved livestock breeds,
✓ Promotion of fish farming as alternative income generating activity,
✓ Strengthens the existing cooperatives and other marketing infrastructures,
✓ Provision of post-harvest facilities.
✓ Provision of vaccination, diagnostic and treatment services