



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF SIAYA

Department of Agriculture, Food Security,
Livestock and Blue Economy

FISHERIES DAY SPECIAL EDITION



THEME:
CAST THE NET



H.E Governor James Orenge invites you
for World Fisheries Day celebrations
At Liunda Beach, Bondo Sub County

Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 9am

ACTIVITIES

FISH PARADE | BOAT PARADE | BOAT RACING | EXHIBITIONS

Partners



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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REMARKS BY H.E GOVERNOR JAMES ORENKO DURING WORLD FISHERIS DAY 2023 CELEBRATIONS



World Fisheries Day, celebrated on November 21, is dedicated to highlighting the critical importance of healthy ocean ecosystems and to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world. World Fisheries Day also explores finding solutions to the increasingly interconnected problems that the world is facing to follow sustainable models of our ocean ecosystems. Lakes Victoria and Kanyaboli form the main natural fisheries resource in Siaya County accounting for

over 95% of the annual fish production by weight. The annual fish production from the lakes stands at about 30,000 metric tons earning the fishers over 4 billion Kenya Shillings annually. Basing on a boat census of 2020, Siaya waters of L. Victoria has 14,708 fishing crews (using 5,090 crafts) going to the lake daily for fish.

The County's portion of Lake Victoria enjoys high suitability for farming fish in cages. As at December 2022, there are about 7000 fish cages in the county of varying sizes and capacities. From the foregoing therefore, it is evident that the fisheries resources of Siaya County underpin the livelihoods of many residents in-terms of food and employment directly and indirectly through the

allied industries and support services.

Siaya also has a total of 84 Beach Management Units (BMUs) as co – managers in management of the capture fisheries resources, Liunda BMU being one of them.

Let us mark this day by celebrating all our fishers and all sector players as we work, in togetherness, towards sustainable management and development of the Blue Economy resources of this county.

Fish farming is one of the Key components of our Economic transformation Agenda that we'll continue to support in order to increase our income generation.



Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Blue Economy.

REMARKS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, LIVESTOCK AND BLUE ECONOMY



Siaya has a high potential for culturing fish ponds and cages. Fish production from ponds alone stand at 180 metric tons valued for over KES 38 million (based on the year 2022).

The theme of the World Fisheries Day 2023, 'CAST THE NET' is inspired by the passage from the Gospel of John (Jn 21:6) inviting all Christians to pray for fishermen and their families. In the wake of climate change crisis, we collectively have a responsibility of caring for our natural resources.

The work of fishing is very valuable but very strenuous, wearisome and often socially unrecognized. As we celebrate this day, it is important to put our role as stewards of God's creation first. Our activities must not compromise availability of fish for the future generation.

Fishing practices that destroy the fish habitat, fishing for juvenile fish or using unauthorized means must be discouraged as a way of ensuring sustainability of this resource. It is also an opportunity to focus on other livelihood options as a safety net to the increasing demand for nutritious food. World fisheries day 2023 therefore serves as a reminder on environmental sustainability, climate change, pollution and overfishing and provides a forum for learning mitigation measures with a view to guaranteeing sustainability of the resource.

As we continue to advocate for safe fishing and putting in place measures to help increase fish production, value addition is also on the top of our agenda. Fish processing industries such as Lwanda K'Otieno fish processing plant in Rarieda Sub - County is opening a new field for the profitable utilization of by - catch and low - value fish catches. Since these products are high - value fish - based coated products, the economic activities can offer good dividends to everyone in the production and distribution network.

K'Okoth Sylvestre - County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Blue Economy

REMARKS BY THE CHIEF OFFICER FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, LIVESTOCK AND BLUE ECONOMY



As we celebrate this World Fisheries Day, we acknowledge that Fish farming is a demanding career, full of hard work, with plenty of challenges to put food on our tables. It doesn't go without mentioning of the current change in climatic conditions, increased production costs and rising population that continue to make the business

even harder. We say a big thank you to the fishers who continue to make it happen and contribute to our county figures.

Its with profound Joy that the Directorate of Fisheries now boasts of 42 fisheries staff, thanks to the latest requirements that will continue to ensure that all farmers in the County are attended to at an individual level. We are committed to continuously look into their welfare, provide an enabling working environment and offer regular training for enhanced skills which would directly be impacted to fishing communities' investments

My appreciation also goes to our Beach Management Units who have independently operated as co - management partners in sustainable utilization of fisheries resources by playing roles in routine management of fisheries and among other roles envisioned for them to play including prohibition of illegal fishing practices To our valued Partners including World bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Swedish Government, Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations the National Government and several others, thank you for your time, attention and commitment to ensuring livelihood improvement along the fish value chain. We are looking forward to achieving the true economic and industrial revolution with you on our side

Elizabeth Adongo - Chief Officer For Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Blue Economy



Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Blue Economy.

THE LUXURY OF AFFORDING A PLATE OF OMENA AS 'TOUGH TIMES' CONSUME KENYANS

The surging cost of living in Kenya has impacted many lives, causing businesses to shut down or downsize to remain afloat, hoping for miracles to resuscitate the economy. One of the wailing voices is that of Eunice Akoth, a Siaya resident whose omena business is on the verge of collapsing after 14 years.

The last time I visited Uhanya Beach in West Yimbo, Bondo Constituency, I bought a 2kg tin of Omena at KES 150. Unfortunately, this isn't the case today because the cost has risen to KES 250. According to Eunice, Uhanya Beach is historically known as one of the best omena-producing areas, but business has since turned tables.

"I now wake up at 4am unlike 5:30 am in the past so that I don't fail to get something from the fishermen whose hands are also tied in terms of meeting the demands of hundreds of women in need of the small fish", Eunice said.

The shortage of omena has reduced the supply and increased the demand. Eunice explains that the current omena crisis is brought about by the rising human population depleting the small fish stocks. The presence of big fish feeding on the smaller ones like omena has also threatened their existence.

Eunice further states that unpredictable rainfall patterns

have also affected the drying of omena, forcing them to post losses. She had to reduce her capital from KES 20,000 to KES 7,000, reducing his profits from 3,000 to 1,500 or 2000.

"I thank God I am still able to feed, clothe and pay school fees for my children but at this rate, I am compelled to utilize this enormous water resource (Lake Victoria) to venture into vegetable farming", she added.

Conslata Nabwire, the secretary at Uhanya Beach says that on average, she records about 250,000kg of omena valued at KES 25 million. Her sentiments are echoed by the chairperson of Liunda Beach in Central Sakwa, Bondo

Constituency, John Nyapota whose major concern is largely on the alarming rate of Tilapia deficiency

John believes that venturing into Cage Fish farming will help navigate through the crisis to meet the market demand, even as the citizens hope prices of crucial commodities like fuel will reduce to keep their businesses moving.



Eunice Akoth, Omena Trader at Uhanya Beach, Bondo Constituency whose business has gone down due to depleting stocks

Department of Agriculture, Food Security, Livestock and Blue Economy.



Explaining the health benefits of Omena including regulation of blood sugar levels, lowering risks of stroke and strengthening of Bones and teeth, Eunice Akoth, the Omena trader at Uhanya Beach says that many people think omena is bitter and cant eat it hence missing out on a lot.

She gives me a recipe that you should also try out, you might just have a change of mind.

INGREDIENTS

500 gms of Omena, Hot Boiled water, 2 tomatoes, 2 medium onions, 2 royco cubes, Dhania, Garlic, Ginger, Cooking Oil, Pepper (Optional) and Salt.

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Sort Your Omena to remove dirt
2. Soak your Omena in Hot water for about 30mins
3. Meanwhile prepare your ingredients
4. After 30 minutes, drain that water and let it stay for 5 minutes to remove excess water
5. Put Oil in your pan and allow it to become smokey hot
6. Add your Omena and on medium heat, let it fry until it becomes golden brown. Once in a while slowly turn them
7. Once it has become brown, add your onions, fry them until it becomes translucent
8. Add Garlic and Ginger. Fry them for a minute then add salt and Royco then mix
9. You may now add pepper, dhania stems and tomatoes and allow them to cook until soft
10. Allow it to simmer on low heat and finally garnish with Dhania
11. Enjoy with warm Ugali and vegetable

Writer: Calvin Awora - Communication in-charge, Department of Agriculture, Food Security, livestock and Blue Economy.

COOPERATIVE SOCIETY, THE FUTURE OF FISH VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT IN SIAYA

The Siaya County Fish Farmers and Processors Cooperative Society, revived early this year under new management, is expected to play a significant role in assisting the fisher folks in alleviating poverty through high production and profitability.

According to the chairperson, Samuel Okello, the cooperative will help members access quality, affordable inputs and markets to boost their income. He explains that alleviating the existing challenges will allow fish farmers in Siaya County to meet the county's capacity of producing 990 metric tons annually.

"The Society with approximately 500 members on board is currently engaging the County Government of Siaya through a proposal, for potential support with six fish cages that can hold upto 35,000 fingerlings." Says Samuel Okello. "Our first stop will be at Uhanya Beach where we hope to harvest 73.5 tonnes of Tilapia in one season of 9 months", he adds. Samuel is confident that the society will earn at least KES 33 million a year from such an investment. He says this will be the baseline to a 'BIG' cooperative that will not only serve farmers' interest but also become a SACCO where members can invest in and earn

dividends. The current minimum share capital of the society is KES 2,000.

"Cage fish farming contributes 7/8 of the total annual fish production in Siaya making it the most viable and environmental friendly fish - culturing venture to invest in as a Cooperative", says Mr. Okello

He further challenged pond farmers to capitalise on their resources to increase productivity.

John Sewe, the chairperson of the supervisory committee of the ambitious cooperative society, confirms that members have previously benefited from a KES 105 million worth of fish feeds and fingerlings from the County Government of Siaya and Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP), as a way to cushion fish farmers against the high cost of production.

"Additionally, Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme Phase II (ASDSP II) which played a key role in awakening the sleeping giant has spent a lot in capacity building members on various skills that results to fish value chain development. They have also provided innovation grant support to various enterprises that needed unlocking to be in business", says John.

John says that they are currently in a recruitment and funds drive from external sources, including the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF). The Cooperative Society is expected to build sustainable communities by supporting economic growth and reducing risks that encompass production processes.

Photo Caption: Siaya Fish famers and processors Cooperative Society annual general meeting earlier in February 2023

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Samuel Okello, Chairman of Siaya Fish famers and processors Cooperative Society addressing members during an annual general meeting in February 2023

Writer: Rakesh Peter - Communication in-charge, Department of Lands, Physical Planning, Surveying and Housing.

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