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**All roads lead to Nakuru**

At the Lesiolo Business fair on 26th July 2005, the crowds streamed in from as far as Kisii Highlands and furthest corner of Bomet and even from Trans Nzoia—they came in bus loads to see and to meet the suppliers and service providers.

The farmers were drawn from the groups working with KMDP from the Central Rift and South Nyanza region. A few leaders also came from the North Rift and Western Kenya. Farmers from Nakuru who are not members of the KMDP farmer groups also participated. Over 5,000 farmers interacted with 40 exhibitors. A few farmers took time to purchase inputs for use during the coming season while as a group they established contacts with the suppliers to bulk purchase inputs as soon as they sell their produce.

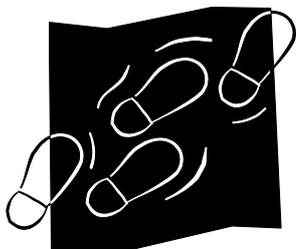
The exhibitors were drawn from the crop protection industry, seed companies, fertilizer firms, machinery companies, financial institutions, millers, cereal traders, petroleum firms and NGO'S as well as other SO7 partners.

The Minister for Trade and Industry, Hon. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi was the chief guest. During his address to the participants, he underlined the importance of self reliance and enhancement of competitive-

ness of the Kenyan farmers as well as the agricultural industries. The Permanent secretary in the ministry of agriculture sent a representative to the fair and in his address welcomed the private sector participation and the focus on trade of cereals. The Provincial Commissioner appealed for support to farmers particularly in opening up market opportunities and linkages.

Dr. Meg Brown, who was attending her last fair this year welcomed the annual event noting that it had become a rallying point for the maize farmers and the many service providers. She appealed for a larger public sector presence that is working closely with the private sector.

Many of the exhibitors were very happy with the numbers and interest generated by the farmers. The machinery exhibitors requested for more space in future to carry out demonstrations of their equipment.



*5000 farmers attended the cereal fair at Nakuru*

**Special points of interest:**

- Minister for Trade and Industry, Hon. Mukhisa Kituyi was the Chief Guest at Cereal Business Fair
- Soil analysis now available at Moi University for farmers

## Tractor clinic—a first for Eldoret

KMDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Private Sector Farm Machinery Dealers organized the first ever farm machinery and equipment clinic at Moi University, Chepkoilel Campus on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2005, in Eldoret.

The objective of the clinic was to bring together tractor owners, farm machinery contractors, machinery operators, farm machinery dealers, petroleum dealers and farmers. They had a desire to exchange views and to learn from each other and to impart knowledge to farmers and operators on proper use of machinery and implements for increased productivity through **preventive** and **curative** maintenance of machinery and equipment and proper calibration of these implements. The farmers and tractor owners benefited from technicians who carried out diagnostic analysis of the equipment brought in by the farmers on condition, maintenance and servicing and prepared a report on what needs to be done to rectify each of the equipment present. By getting farmers to maintain their equipment properly it was envisaged that efficiency in use of the equipment will improve and subsequently the cost of production per unit area of land will be cut down.

Over 800 KMDP farmers from North Rift and Western Kenya participated. They were joined by local farmers from

**“Soil analysis services available to farmers at Moi University”  
Vice Chancellor Prof. Some**

the district including those who brought their equipment to the clinic bringing the total farmer attendance to about 1200. In addition there were students from the University and a local High school who attended numbering to around 300. A total of 14 Farm Machinery Dealers participated.



**Mr. Fergusson (at the centre of the picture in a cap) of Farm Machinery Division explains to farmers what needs to be done to achieve a good seedbed during Ploughing.**

The event was graced by the Vice Chancellor of Moi University Prof David K. Some.

In his address Prof. Some expressed his gratitude for the event noting that tractor and farm machinery owners did not normally receive education on how

best to maintain the equipment to achieve best results. He underlined that often, tractor owners assumed ‘cheap’ was cost saving but

by using poor quality lubricants and counterfeit spare parts they ended up spending more on repeat repairs, delays in carrying out operations and eventual irreparable damage to the equipment. Prof Some welcomed such events to be staged at the University Campus as this would open the university to the community as there was a lot to be learnt and gained from the institution. He also informed that the University was now ready to start giving farmers soil analysis services.

For the first time in the KMDP events farmers were able to see top quality dairy animals and pastures as the university took advantage to display and explain to the farmers about dairying.



**The KMDP team set up a display on conservation tillage and the use of a chisel plough to break the hardpan and to set furrows along which planting can be done.**

## Information Technology for farmers

Kenya Agricultural Commodity Exchange continued with Information Communication Technology (ICT) promotions for more widespread use by clientele during the month.

Unlike in the month of May where they visited all our Market Information Points (MIP) and Market Information Centers (MIC), this time they targeted Chwele and Mumias MIPs on July 1<sup>st</sup>,

Kisumu on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and Machakos on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Field staff were encouraged to promote ICTs especially the Short Message Service (SMS) and the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) since the majority of the farmers live in the rural areas.



**Farmers in the rural areas can use their mobile phones to get prices of commodities.**

## Eating maize in Bomet

Training on Post harvest handling, store management and pest control in stored grains was carried out in Upper Bomet and Nyamira districts to cover the farmer groups in the area from 17th to 22nd July. During the training KMDP engaged a consultant from the University of Nairobi to enlighten farmers on moisture management in grains, fungal growth in grains and the effects and causes of mycotoxins in grains.

Four farmer groups were covered during the four day training as follows

Nyamira Borabu farmers had two sub groups trained:-

- Mwangori farmers group was trained on 18<sup>th</sup> July and 262 participants attended of these 45 were farmers of who 20 were women. There were three schools with 119 young farmers club members who participated in the training of who 98 were girls.
- Kineni farmers subgroup was trained on 19<sup>th</sup> July with a total of 98 participants of whom farmers were 20 among them were 8 women. The students were 78 among them 37 girls.

Bomet farmers from central division had two groups participating

- Njerian farmers group was trained on 20<sup>th</sup> July and had 43 farmers attending among them 17 women.
- Chesoen farmers' project was trained on 21<sup>st</sup> July and had 104 farmers among them 18 women.

During the training farmers were taken through experience learning by participating in grading and sampling maize and also in making compost using farm residues and Effective Micro-organisms.



*Making compost using farm residue.*



*A farmer explains to others how to apply pesticides for storage of maize.*

## Cereal Growers meet ...

July 1, 2005

### Dam-side Field Day

This was a Field Day mainly targeting the small scale maize farmers in the South Rift. In total there were about 2,000 farmers. 60% of the participants were women. 12 private sector players exhibited their products / services. On the site, there was a maize demonstration plot consisting of over 30 different maize varieties.



*A farmer takes notes during the dam-side field day.*

July 22, 2005

### Shimo Ltd Field Day

This was a Field Day mainly targeting the large scale cereal farmers nationally. a total of 230 farmers participated, 36 of whom were large scale. 20 private sector players exhibited their services. These included agricultural machinery distributors, seed companies, agro-chemical companies, post harvest grain handling.

There was a presentation on crop insurance and investment opportunities. The farmers were also updated on the COMESA negotiations.



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**ACDIVOCA-KENYA**

*More money in farmers pockets*

## **Kenya Maize Development Programme**

***More money in the farmer's pocket***

***More food on her table***

***All the kids in school***

***Families free of HIV/AIDS***

***Richer soil, clean water, ample wood***

## **American volunteers in Kenya**

Volunteer Jack Wilkens has been working with a Co-operative Society in Wamunyu, Machakos. His core business has been strengthening their capacity for business planning. Jack came in through the Farmer to Farmer programme.

Volunteer Kenneth Earle spent three weeks in the month of July working with the Kenya Maize Development Programme groups and service providers. His core business was consumer market organization. He consulted with farmers and millers on developing marketing strategies for maize and maize products. He also held discussions on value adding of maize products.



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### **Farmer to Farmer**

Sebastian Oggema, Farmer to Farmer Programme Coordinator lost his mum. She succumbed to a short respiratory illness.