

7-13 August 2023

Booming hotel business at the coast ahead of August holidays



Guests play water volleyball at the Travellers Beach Hotel in Mombasa yesterday. Hoteliers in Coast region are anticipating a booming August holiday season amid and increase in early bookings ahead of the closure of schools.

KEVIN ODITI | NATION

quiring knowledge and skills on how to harvest the insects in the wild, produce and process them into high protein feeds," Impact's Isiolo County Director Mali Ole Kaunga said.

The official said the project also seeks to promote use of biopesticides instead of chemicals and insecticides in control of insects, saying, pesticides used in spraying the locusts had a negative impact on the environment.

Mr Benjamin Galwaha from Laisamis in Marsabit County is among locals who have been trained by Icipe on rearing insects, said the project will go a long way in cushioning pastoralists through access to cheap pellets for goats, cattle and fish.

"It will encourage many people to venture into poultry farming as an alternative source of livelihood," Mr Galwaha said.

During the launch of the project in Isiolo, Deputy Governor James Lowasa called for measures to be taken to ensure cultural beliefs do not erode the expected gains.

"While the initiative is not in tandem with our cultures, the interventions are timely and adequate sensitisation must be done so that our people embrace the change," he said.

Mr Lowasa was accompanied by County Assembly Speaker Mohammed Roba Qoto, County Secretary Dade Boru, Trade Chief Officer Lucy Kaburu and her Medical Services counterpart Abdurahman Ibrahim during the event that was held at the Royal Acacia area.

Mr Dade said the county government will support the initiative. Some 1,000 cricket rearing experts and 400 desert locust collectors will be trained in the four counties with 4,000 households expected to earn extra income from locust harvesting.

This comes at a time when swarms of mature adult desert locusts have been sighted in Sudan. Last month, the Food and Agriculture Organisation said the locusts were also scattered on the Nile valley (Dongola to Atbara), Atbara River (Kassala) and the Coast.

The UN agency in March this year handed over a spray aircraft procured with financial assistance from US and Denmark as well as the Mastercard Foundation to strengthen its capacity in combating the pests.

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Initiative The project is underway in four counties to control desert locusts

Locusts, anyone? Icipe serves up handy meal for dry areas

New technology will process insects into food for human and livestock consumption

BY WAWERU WAIRIMU

Counties in arid and semi-arid (Asal) areas stand to benefit from a new technology developed to process insects such as desert locusts and crickets into food for both human and livestock consumption.

The technology developed by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (Icipe) targets mass rearing of edible insects and processing them into products that fortify animal feeds, offering an alternative to costly feeds at local agrovets.

More than \$200 million was spent in tackling the 2019-2021 desert locust invasion, with the funds mainly used to procure insecticides, vehicles, spray equipment and pay staff involved in surveillance and control.

More than 200,000 hectares in the over 20 affected counties was sprayed with the United Nations agency saying the interventions protected loss of 4.6 metric tonnes of cereals and 900 million litres of milk across the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

Dr Chrys Tanga, a scientist in charge of Icipe's Insects for Food,

Feed and Other Uses (Inseff) programme, said technology provides a biological and environmentally friendly way of dealing with future locust invasions by turning the insects into flour, animal feeds and organic fertiliser.

"Insects are among the richest sources of nutrients; they contain, among others, fat, iron and zinc," Dr Tanga said.

The technology is in use in Isiolo, Marsabit, Laikipia and Samburu counties under the auspices of the three-year (Beat the Locust) project that is being implemented by the Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (Cordaid), Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (Impact) and Icipe.

200,000

Area, in hectares, that was sprayed with insecticide in a bid to eradicate desert locusts in over 20 affected counties during the 2019-2021 invasion.

The project is funded by the Netherlands Postcode Lottery (NPL). Apart from offering alternative ways of controlling desert locusts, it offers training on how to produce insect-based protein products and promote them as additional sources of nutrition in Asal regions.

"Communities can diversify into poultry farming after ac-

Daily Nation (Kenya), Published 7 August 2023

Kenya to invest in agricultural research to improve its yields

While Africa holds immense food potential, it is still the top continent with highest food needs while a huge percentage of its people are undernourished. To mitigate this, there have been efforts to include new methods to increase its farm yields

by William Muriigi
@millymuri1

Africa's lack of innovative and transformative policies that ensures access to agricultural technologies and markets continues to affect its food production and its plan to eradicate poverty through farming.

Santiago Alba Corral, Director of Climate Resilient Food Systems Division at Canada's International Development Research (IDRC) says the continent lacks proper mechanisms that make agriculture a path to poverty eradication and securing food needs of vulnerable population in Africa. "Investing in smallholder food production and reduction of post-harvest loss is one of the most effective ways to decrease poverty and meet the food security needs of vulnerable populations. That is why the overall objective is to identify effective interventions that can reduce food loss waste on the continent as well as push for research and funding," Alba says.

Africa's food potential

Cabinet Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock Development Ministry, Mithika Linturi says that science, technologies, and innovations are increasingly becoming key in the agricultural sector because the size of available land to produce food has been decreasing and water levels are also declining. As mitigation, Linturi says the focus should now be on how to produce more food, with less land and water, while conserving the environment at the same time.

"The continent has enormous agricultural



potential. Agriculturalists believe that about 65 per cent of the arable land left to feed the nine billion people in the world by 2050, are in Africa. This is an immense potential that must be unlocked at all costs," he says.

He says it was time for people to shift their mindset and consider agriculture as business and one way of achieving that is by investing in agricultural research. "Research must take preeminence as a business perspective. Policymakers too must change and develop policies that will use technologies to scale up production," he says. Available research shows that one in four of Africa's 856 million people are undernourished, making Africa the world's most food-insecure region despite the enormous potential for agricultural production on the continent.

Research funding

Globally, Africa has the most undeveloped arable land. To harness these opportunities, there is need for radical changes on policies that give farmers access to new technologies to enhance their food production and markets for their produces. According to Linturi, agricultural research should also show how its input is going to ensure that poor

Africa lags behind in adopting technologies.



Santiago Alba Corral



Eleanor Dean



Dr Beatrice Muriithi

farmers benefit from technical change and how deliberate enactment of public policies to reduce adoption costs faced by farmers is critical. The focus must also be on creating markets for farmers, taking into cognizance the whole value chain, and investing in new product development to add value to crops.

Apart from that, Linturi says focus should also be on the use of innovative finance instruments to reduce the risks financial institutions face in lending to agriculture. Solving this financial imperative will help drive the uptake of products of agricultural research, raise returns to agricultural research investments, and drive sustainable growth of the agriculture sector.

Agricultural financing

Science and technologies alone are not enough. We must also fix financial markets to make science work for food production. No challenge is greater for research in Africa today than how to support farmers to adapt to climate change. Climate change is likely to reduce yields of crops, livestock, and fisheries, and lead to a decline in farm output, farm incomes and increase poverty and vulnerabilities," he says.

To complement those efforts, Linturi says National governments, development finance institutions and donors should increase support for agricultural research because more research programs that focus on climate-smart agriculture are now crucial in the face of increasing climate variability.

According to Santiago, more funding for research is needed because it is only through research and innovation that Africa can

unlock its potential to not only feed itself, even with a growing population, but also to become a net exporter of food, contrary to its current status where it imports food.

"More funding should be available for research work in Africa if the continent wants to have a resilient, equitable, and sustainable food system. If more funding goes to research work, this will foster innovation, generate evidence-based solutions, and nurture local research capacity," said Santiago.

On her part Eleanor Dean, General Manager, Outreach and Capacity Building, at the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research says that by investing in cutting-edge research and technology, researchers will be able to develop and disseminate innovative farming practices tailored to Africa's unique conditions.

"From drought-resistant crops to precision agricultural techniques, and gender-responsive innovations for smallholder producers, these advancements can significantly increase productivity and resilience in the face of climate change," says Dean.

Existing gaps

And as the calls to invest in research get more louder, one challenge that has always faced this recommendation is the implementation of the existing researches whose findings are possible solution to our struggling food insecurities.

Dr Beatrice Muriithi, a researcher from the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (Icipe) says that data unavailability in food systems is a big challenge and that is why as a continent we are yet to improve the food value chain. Muriithi says the huge gap is majorly caused by lack of platforms where researchers meet and showcase their works to policy makers. She says, such platform will give the research an opportunity to shape the policymaker's perspectives, thereby influencing their mindset during policymaking process. She says another challenge that has been affecting research sector in Kenya is lack of adequate funding. This then prevents researchers from sharing their findings as well as implementing their recommendations. "Most of the research studies done, especially in Kenya are donor funded and they usually have a timeline. Once that timeline lapses researchers usually have no funding to continue with that work. That is why we keep our outputs and our data since we are not able to take that work to the next level," says Muriithi.

"Most of the research studies done, especially in Kenya are donor funded and they usually have a timeline. Once that timeline lapses, researchers usually have no funding to continue with that work. That is why we keep our findings," Muriithi says.

People Daily (Kenya), Published 8 August 2023

An Rsif funded project close to bearing fruit

A Kenyan researcher embarked on transforming banana stem biomass into low-cost sanitary towels. With the help of Rsif and other donors, cheaper sanitary towels made from seaweed and banana stem will be produced.

- <https://nation.africa/kenya/news/education/dr-jacqueline-kisato-affordable-eco-friendly-sanitary-towels--4327980>

Scaling of the honey sector

One of the important initiatives for integrating Ethiopia into regional and international commerce networks has been highlighted as the strengthening of the expanding honey sector. The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) partnership and the Ethiopian government engaged *icipe* to help them find solutions to address the productivity issues beekeepers were facing.

- <https://trade4devnews.enhancedif.org/en/impact-story/integrating-ethiopia-regional-and-global-trading-systems>

Social Media

icipe
@icipe

@icipe was pleased to host Wambui Chege, Director, Agrifood Systems & Climate, @MastercardFdn, who recently paid us a visit and interacted with some of the Centre's #research and development work.



11:58 AM · Aug 7, 2023 · 418 Views

The Crawford Fund
@CrawfordFund

👋 Dr Fathiya Mbarak Khamis, Senior Scientist at @icipe, will join the us at the Crawford Fund session on Solutions for Resilient Food and Nutrition Systems Off-Farm: Food Loss and Waste in a Circular Economy.

Looking forward to the #23cfconf! 🌱 bit.ly/434gevD

1:21 AM · Aug 9, 2023 · 1,081 Views

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Our #insectoftheweek, #Megaprosternum sp., is a living embodiment of flatness. It is a rare genus with only 3 known species but has a very wide distribution. Megaprosternum species are gregarious parasitoids. Read more: icipe.org/news/insect-we...
#Insects @Sida



11:14 AM · Aug 7, 2023 · 256 Views

ezeziel ombi katana
@monrel10

Agriculture it is the backbone of Kenya. You are all welcomed this Thursday at mtwapa KALRO grounds from 9:00 am entry is free for farmers

@BarakaFmKe
@MombasaCountyKe
@icipe
@advanta
@MadvocateCbo
@KCCGP

12:52 PM · Aug 8, 2023 · 54 Views

RCMRD @RCMRD_

#RIC2023 Happening now under Biodiversity and Blue economy thematic group - Faith Ashiono from @icipe shares on how to implement an insect and EO-based biodiversity indicator for Uganda. 🌿🦋



icipe and 2 others

3:48 PM · Aug 9, 2023 · 622 Views

Johan Sävström @SciComJohan

Forskning på @icipe utvecklar helt organiska bekämpningsmedel mot skadeinsekter. Det görs genom att studera sjuka eller döda insekter och sen massproducera vad de inte tål. Forskaren Komivi Akutse visar en behållare med biobekämpningsmedel. #Forskningssamarbete @Sida

Translate Tweet



4:49 PM · Aug 10, 2023 · 5,864 Views

Biovision Foundation @FutureForAll

🥰 Ethiopia's Mango Project: In just 2 years, 170K+ resistant mango seedlings sold to local farmers, boosting harvests & reducing losses. With partnerships like @icipe, we're cultivating more than trees! biovision.ch/wp-content/upl... #FoodSystems #Agroecology



AFSA and 3 others

11:24 AM · Aug 10, 2023 · 282 Views

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