



N Y E R I C O U N T Y

WEEKLY REVIEW



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Nyeri farmers celebrate KCSAP gains



Agriculture is the main economic stay and backbone of Nyeri County's economy. To this end, the County Government of Nyeri under H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has continued to empower small scale farmers with tools and farm inputs not only to enhance their income but also to improve nutrition in their households. One such means is through the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP), a programme jointly funded by the Government of Kenya and the World Bank. The programme aims at increasing agricultural productivity and enhancing resilience and coping mechanisms to climate change risks

in the targeted smallholder farming and pastoral communities. Further, it enhances achievement of national food and nutrition security as part of the Big Four agenda.

Through this programme, small scale farmers from Mukurweini and Kieni East and West sub-counties, in the five value chains namely: Dairy Cow, Beans, Irish potatoes, tissue culture banana and indigenous chicken have been continuously receiving support to enhance their activities in a bid to improve their lives.

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Edward Mwangi and Mary Waruguru of Eagles Farm in Mukurwe-ini sub-county, where they rear ornamental fish, grow strawberries, English cucumbers and short season vegetables which earn them a decent income.

Edward Mwangi and Mary Waruguru is a couple from Mukurweini Central ward, whose success story clearly depicts the positive impact of KCSAP, since they were engaged in their programmes. According to Mwangi, KCSAP connected their farm dubbed Eagles Farm to water from the Thiha Sagana Irrigation Project after which they have experienced exponential profits as they now just pay a maintenance fee of Kshs. 100 compared to the previous Kshs. 1000 per week to pump water from the river. He expressed his gratitude to governor Kahiga and KCSAP for this action which has notably transformed their lives.

"With a constant supply of water, this has enabled us to successfully grow strawberries which we sell to City Park, rear ornamental fish and make aquariums which we sell at friendly prices. In addition, we have planted short season crops including kunde, mtoos and mrenda, nutritious vegetables which we plant about eight seasons in a year as they have minimal crop failure and a ready market. We have also set up a

greenhouse from the proceeds of this farm where we plant English cucumber which is highly productive earning us a good income," noted Mwangi.

According to Mary, they have also set up dairy cow and rabbit projects and a biogas system which has eased her cooking duties as well as saved on gas and firewood costs in addition to conserving the environment.

"I would like to thank the governor and KCSAP for providing us with a chaff cutter which has eased my work as I don't have to hire a casual labourer all the time. It has also minimized wastage of forage while the excess we store it in form of silage. Currently, I am using the waste from the rabbits as manure for my kitchen garden which was also facilitated by KCSAP," added Mary.

Mwangi called upon the youth to venture in agribusiness as it is a highly profitable venture as long as you are committed to it.

Irish potato value chain

Jane Wanjia the secretary of Makutano Gaturiri SHG in Kieni East sub-county expressed her gratitude to KCSAP and CGN for the support her group has received being one of the beneficiaries in the Irish potatoes value chain. According to Jane, KCSAP supplied them with 800kgs of certified potato seedlings of the Shangi variety which they are planting for bulking. The group members planted the potatoes on a one-acre piece of land and are expecting to harvest at least 7 tones at

the end of January.

She also thanked KCSAP for facilitating them with a service provider who has engaged them day to day on the right practices in potato farming. Further, KCSAP has continued to provide them with the necessary farm inputs including fertilizer for planting and top dressing, for which she was thankful for. Upon harvesting, the group members will share out the seeds which they will then plant on their individual farms and collectively sell the produce leveraging on numbers for good prices.





Lusoi Earth Dam in Kieni East sub-county which was rehabilitated and desilted through KCSAP. Upon its completion, it has benefitted over 800 members. (Below) Kiria Earth Dam in Watuka, Kieni West sub-county which has the capacity to hold water for irrigation for 90 days. Through KCSAP, it was rehabilitated, fitted with solar panels which pump water to a storage water tank which is then distributed to the beneficiaries.

Natural resource management

To deal with the calamity of water shortages in Kieni, KCSAP has rehabilitated and desilted both Lusoi Earth Dam and Kiria Earth Dam in Thegu River ward, Kieni East and Gatarakwa ward, Kieni West subcounty respectively. Upon its completion, Lusoi Earth Dam has benefitted over 800 beneficiaries improving farming activities in the area which has subsequently created employment opportunities and increased income for area residents.

According to Peter Mariga of Lusoi Earth Dam SHG, the rehabilitation of the dam, which has been in existence since colonial times but dried up due to accumulation of silt, has brought forth transformative changes in the community.

"Previously we used to have a lot of conflicts amongst ourselves due to the sharing of water resources which were inadequate,

however, with the rehabilitation of the dam, we now have enough water to feed the community. I

ing season," he noted.

Mariga expressed his gratitude to the governor stating that they

have seen ripple positive effects as a community from this project since it was started in 2019. He also appealed for installation of solar panels to aid in pumping of water to their individual farms unlike now where there are using electric pumps whose emissions is quite harmful to the environment.

Similarly, Kiria Earth Dam chair Ibrahim Ndung'u (*pictured below*) thanked the county government for the rehabilitation and desilting of the dam, which has the capacity to accommodate water for irrigation for 90 days. He also thanked KCSAP for fencing of the dam, rehabilitating the road to a raised platform, construction of solar panels which pump water to the tank also built through this programme. The 225m³ masonry tank ensures water is disseminat-



wish to express my gratitude to Governor Kahiga and KCSAP for this project since now we have enough water for irrigation. For instance, I recently sold a full lorry of potatoes, which was only possible to achieve due to enough water to irrigate throughout the season. This not only earned me a decent income but I was also able to create employment for a number of youth who were involved during the planting and harvest-



ed to beneficiaries' farms at the same level.

"So far 300 members are directly benefitting with water, a coverage of 75 acres and we plan to connect water to 2,500 farmers covering 625 acres to farm potatoes and onions increasing their produce, promoting agribusiness in the area. I wish to express my gratitude to governor Kahiga for this project which is a legacy project that will change the lives of many for generations to come" he added.

Beans Value Chain

In the Beans value chains, KCSAP has provided various farmers with the Chelalang variety which is quite productive. According to Alice Nyambura of Wendani Muringa SHG in Kieni West sub county, she noted that her group which consists of 30 members is

are currently tending to their second season.

"I would like to express my gratitude to the governor and KCSAP team for providing us with this bean variety which is quite productive and good for consumptions as it does not have gas. In addition, we have been provided with farm inputs including fertilizers, pesticides and spray machines. From the proceeds, our lives have changed for the better as we can now cater for our families' basic needs such as paying school fees.

Similarly, KCSAP has promoted nutrition in our households by providing use with kitchen gardens where we get to grow vegetables and rear chickens. It also provided us with tanks which we store water that we use for consumption and irrigation. For these reasons we are truly



from Kiuu in Mukurwe-ini who has been engaged in this contract farming for the last two years. According to Bernard, he has reaped good proceeds from this type of farming as he gets good produce from his one-and-a-half-acre piece of land where he has planted beans of the Chelalang variety. He also thanked KCSAP for providing them with arrow roots which he rotates with the beans to minimize infestation of pests. However, he called upon farmers to form a marketing group where

they can sell their sweet potatoes collectively to avoid exploitation from middlemen or even carry out value addition.

"In Ujamaa area, it is partly semi-arid, hence I am grateful to KCSAP for providing us with adequate water through the Thiha Sagana Irrigation Project and extending both the main intake and pipes which has ensured constant supply to all beneficiaries," added Bernard.

Governor Kahiga has urged farmers to continue forming groups so as to benefit from this programme which is notably changing lives. KCSAP is implemented in 24 counties with Nyeri County being awarded the best in implementation of its activities; on both efficiency in implementation of project activities and sustainability measures for the last three years running.



forever grateful to KCSAP seeing that the programme has changed their lives for the better. The group was funded with Kshs 1.15 million which they have used to fund several of their projects including buying and planting of the beans whereby each member plants on at least half an acre. The members have already reaped profits from their first batch and

grateful since uplifting the lives of women equals to uplifting the community and this change is clearly visible," added Alice.

Furthermore, KCSAP has connected farmers with service providers such as Egerton who have contracted farmers to plant certified beans for bulking. One such farmer is Bernard Maina



Service Delivery

Nyeri cabinet reshuffle



H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga together with members of the County Executive Committee members during a press conference at Townhall grounds.

Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

To promote enhanced operational efficiency within the County Government of Nyeri, H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has made the following changes to his cabinet.

Beth Karimi takes over the Department of Lands & Physical Planning as CECM following her resumption to office after her leave has ended.

Robert Thuo will take over the Department of Health Services in Acting Capacity. The CEC will also remain in charge of the Department of Finance.

Margaret Macharia will remain in acting capacity in the Department of Public Service and

Sanitation while still holding her substantive position as CECM Education and Sports.

Both Dr. Kwai Wanjaria and Dr. Rachel Kamau who served the Health Services docket have left to pursue personal interests. We are cognizant of the fact that they did their best for the period they served and laud them for their services.

The County Government has since advertised to substantially fill the positions of CECM Health and CECM Public Service and Sanitation.

Governor Kahiga also made other changes in the docket of Chief Officer, Lands & Physical Planning where the Chief Officer Hannah

Maranga has left to rejoin the Kiambu County Government where she holds a substantive post. In her place, Beatrice Koech will step in, in acting capacity until the position is filled in.

The governor called upon CEC Beth and Beatrice to prioritize the completion and transfer of existing bus stages and traders to the new ultra-modern bus park at Asian Quarters and ensure a smooth and seamless roll over.

Health Chief Officer, Mr. Adan Aden, who has vast experience in dealing with traders will remain a key and focal person in this exercise. He has previously been instrumental in the trans locating of traders in both Karatina and

Chaka markets, which was very successful. To this end, Governor Kahiga directed that Mr. Adan and the Municipal Board Chairman Jeremiah Ichaura to co-chair the transitional committee until the exercise is over.

The governor also reiterated his call to all his members of staff to redouble their efforts in service delivery to local wananchi and to do so justly and freely. He emphasized on the importance of coordination of all County Government of Nyeri's activities even as the country heads into an election-eering period.

Education

VTCs managers consultative meeting



Story & Photo | Sam Gitonga

The Department of Education, Science and Sports and the HR Directorate officers led by the CEC Margaret Macharia held a consultative meeting with VTCs Managers and Instructors at Wambugu Farm.

They discussed how to revitalise the sector and improve on the enrolment of more students in order to bring the realisation of a wealthy county, where graduates will be able to employ themselves.

Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) nowadays are key in ensuring sustainability and self-employment amongst the youth.

Therefore, the youth are encouraged to enrol in taking courses that they will use to self employ themselves or to reinforce their current businesses through value addition.

Nyeri County has 39 VTCs and around 2,000 students where in the Last year exam series, about 900 students were registered for KNEC and NITA exams.

The County Government of Nyeri continues to engage the youth in empowerment programs including the internship programme whose fourth cohort has already been recruited.

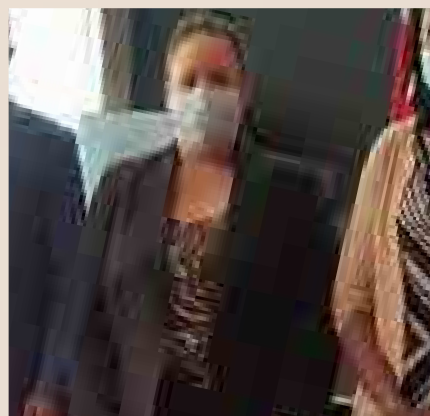


Health

The 2nd Cuban doctor is here

The Department of Health Services is pleased to welcome the 2nd Cuban doctor, Dr. Yanet Teresa, who is a vascular surgeon. This comes a month after Dr. Julio Alexander, who is a Nephrologist reported in the County.

Dr. Yanet will be helpful in improving accessibility to specialized surgical services as well as support the College of Surgeons



for East, Central and Southern Africa (COSEC-SA), which is a training program at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital, where the senior surgeons in the Department train other upcoming surgeons.

The Cuban Doctor, Dr. Yanet Teresa was received

at the County Department of Health Offices, by the Chief officer Health Services, Mr. Ibrahim Adan, the County Director Health Services, Dr. Nelson Muriu, accompanied by Dr. Pauline Kamau, who is the Medical Superintendent at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital.

Empowerment

Socio-economic empowerment through bee-keeping

The County government of Nyeri through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in collaboration with a National Government project SIVAP - Small Irrigation and Value Addition Project is giving out modern bee-hives to farmers' groups.

The Department received 150 Langstroth hives and 50 cab hives from SIVAP making a total of 200 hives to be distributed for free to 7 groups within the county that had floated proposals to undertake such activities.

This is in support of the Big 4 agendas on Food and nutrition security and Manufacturing through honey value addition. Each group shall receive between



Some of the beehives which Governor Kahiga distributed to farmers in Mukurwe-ini.

20 - 30 modern beehives hives. The County Government of Nyeri did not purchase the hives but is committed to support Nyeri farmers through collaboration with

key stakeholders in order to uplift their standards of living.

For individual farmers who would wish to buy the modern hives for establishment of their own apiar-

ies they can buy from companies based in Nairobi and Thika at a cost of Ksh. 6000- 6500 for the Langstroth hives and Ksh. 10,000-12,000 for cab hives.

Induction training for Nyeri newly recruited officers



Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga presided over the induction training for the newly recruited officers in

the County Government of Nyeri at Wambugu ATC Farm.

The training which is being conducted by the Department of County Public Service Management will cover

the areas of: Structure of the County Government, Human Resource Policies and Procedures, Social Security, Psycho-social Wellness and Code of Conduct.

Governor Kahiga called upon the officers to perform their duties diligently and to remain committed in their service delivery to the citizens who are of most importance. He also reminded them to remain accountable, transparent and have integrity as they work towards the realization of the county government's goals and objectives.

The 45 officers have been posted within the Governor's Office, the Department of Transport & Infrastructure and the Department of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries in a bid to fill the skills gaps within these offices.

Consultative meeting

COG high end consultative meeting on matters Health



Governors during a high-end consultative meeting on matters health where they deliberated on health-related issues at the county and national level.

Story & Photo | Kenneth Ngatia

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga joined the Health CS Hon. Mutahi Kagwe and his counterpart Governors led by the CoG Chair H.E Martin Wambora for a consultative meeting where they deliberated on Health related issues at the county and national level.

During the meeting presided over by CoG Health Committee Chairman Prof. Anyang' Nyongo, they discussed policies that will

enhance affordable and quality healthcare to all citizens.

While presenting his proposal, Governor Kahiga stated that there is need to ensure that medical workers are well trained, a move which will definitely contribute to better health services. On the same note, Health CS lauded the recent move to allow counties to procure drugs and other supplies from other licensed agencies other than KEMSA.

"To ensure quality health services,

public health facilities need to be well equipped and staffed; which will subsequently ensure that the cost of treatment is affordable; therefore able to compete with private facilities. Currently, the National Government is drafting a policy which will bring about standardization of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) across all health facilities in Kenya," CS Kagwe added.

To this end, the governors called upon the National Government

to increase the percentage of funds to counties since Health is a devolved function and yet receives only 15%. They also pointed out the need to develop a policy that will oversee the rollout of inter-county transfer of health workers, revival of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), close collaboration with the national government and other stakeholders plus ensure health systems in place are working efficiently and effectively.

There was also a call to bring counties together through the existing economic blocs and take advantage of each other's strong areas in matters health.

It is worth noting that during the recently concluded Devolution Conference in Makueni County, Nyeri County was recognized as one of the counties which made quick Economic Recovery interventions during the Covid-19 pandemic. Nyeri has also been recognized among other six counties that have rolled out the County Health Fund that ring-fences funds generated by the health facilities in order to cater for primary services.

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Training

Induction training for county and sub-county alcoholic drinks regulation committee

Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga inaugurated the induction training for the county and sub-county drinks regulation committee at Wambugu Farm.

The core mandate of the Alcoholic Drinks Regulation Committee is to control and manage the consumption of Alcoholic Drinks owing to the fact that the drinks are potentially dangerous to our people. The Committee consists of 30 members consisting of men, women, youth and Bar Owners Association representatives from the eight sub-counties.

The 30 officers will be trained on the Nyeri County Alcoholic Act, Public Health Act, Nyeri County Finance Act in regard to alcohol licensing, Physical Planning Act and Civic Education.

Some of the other responsibilities of the committee include:

- To receive, recommend and approve applications for Alcoholic drinks licenses in accordance with the law.
- To protect the health of the Community in light of the dangers of excessive consumption of alco-



Some of the committee members during the induction training at Wambugu farm. (Below) Governor Kahiga (in a red coat) take a group photo with the newly appointed Alcoholic Drinks Regulation Committee members who are mandated to control and manage the consumption of alcoholic drinks.

holic drinks.

• To protect persons under the age of eighteen years from the negative impact on health and social development as a result of exposure to alcoholic drinks especially through advertisements and also by preventing them from accessing alcohol drinks.

Governor Kahiga called upon the Committee Members to remain fair in execution of their duties, to be vigilant and adopt effective

measures to eliminate illicit alcoholic drinks through illicit manufacturing and counterfeiting. In addition, he called for utmost integrity by the members through following the due process of the law when licensing.

The governor noted that the County Government in collaboration with NACADA has set up a state-of-the-art rehabilitation center at Ihururu in Dedan Kimathi ward. The 100-bed capacity cen-

ter will help addicts recover from substance abuse addiction, help them to heal physically, spiritually and mentally on issues related to addiction as well as help them re-integrate back to the society. Further, the directorate has organized a volleyball tournament in all the sub-counties geared towards creating awareness on responsible drinking.



Health

Diabetes & hypertension support groups receive NCD kits courtesy of Medtronic labs

Courtesy of Medtronic Labs, 30 NCD kits were issued to organized groups of people living with Diabetes and Hypertension from across the county. The Kits comprised of; BP machine, Glucometer, Strips, Alcohol Swabs, Weighing scale, Tape measure, Heightometer and a Back Pack.

Chief Officer Health Department, Ibrahim Adan thanked Medtronic Labs for their efforts in empowering the community in prevention and management of Diabetes and Hypertension. He reiterated the commitment of Nyeri County under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga to work in partnership with Medtronics Labs and other partners to improve the quality of health.

Medtronic Labs has been one of the fore front partners in the fight against the burden of NCDs and especially Diabetes and Hypertension. They have played a major role through conducting free screening services to the public, community engagement, issuance of equipment as well as capacity building for CHVs and Health care workers.

Agriculture

CoG consultative meeting on Agriculture & Cooperatives' reforms

Story & Photo | Kenneth Ngatia

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined colleague governors led by CoG Chairman H.E Martin Wambora and other stakeholders during a consultative meeting on Agriculture and Cooperatives sector reforms.

The meeting chaired by Agriculture Committee Chairman who is also Kiambu Governor H.E James Nyoro deliberated on the various projects, policies and legislative instruments that are being implemented or developed in the sector for better service delivery across all the 47 county governments.

While making his contribution, Governor Kahiga outlined that there is a need to localize the national cooperatives that are currently run by the national government.

He further added that there is need for clarification of agricultural roles for both the county and national gov-

ernments.

"I wish to call upon the implementation of the coffee and tea bill so that our farmers can realise maximum profits which will improve their living standards and transform their lives," said the Governor.

The governors also lamented that the current 16% VAT tax imposed on dairy farm products and equipment is too high and should be reverted back to zero percent.

Other key points raised included; value addition on farm products, removal of tax on pesticides, developing and maintenance of international markets, enhancing of fluid collaboration with national government and sponsors, formation of County Disaster Management teams and the need of counties to set a plan that will see them pull resources together.


COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI
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All applications (hand delivered or through post office) should be received on or before 20th January 2022 at 5.00pm

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- Any communication from the County Public Service Board SHALL be through the above address and cellphone.
- The County Public Service Board does not charge for any of the recruitment exercises, including shortlisting and appointment. Any request for payment or favor should be reported to the police or to the County Public Service Board. You can use our cellphone numbers: 0745342000

Agriculture

Distribution of chicks to Mukurwe-ini SHGs

Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga issued out 4, 500 indigenous chicks to Mukurwe-ini self help group members at Wambugu ATC farm.

The chicks have been procured through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries as a means of empowering small scale farmers by providing them with a source of income as well as promoting nutrition in their households.

Governor Kahiga noted that the County Government is committed to promoting such programs which are geared towards promoting economic sustenance of local mwananchi and will look into up scaling the same for instance



through providing farmers with incubators empowering them to be local chicks suppliers.

Nyeri Speaker Hon. John Kaguchia thanked the governor for this program which has significantly im-

proved the lives of Nyeri farmers.



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FROM 17TH JANUARY
TO 6TH FEBRUARY, 2022

H.E MWALIMU MUTAHI KAHIGA
GOVERNOR, NYERI COUNTY

#KabaMwalimu

Health

Inspection of projects in Mukurwe-ini Hospital

Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga together with Nyeri Speaker Hon. John Kaguchia inspected new projects in Mukurwe-ini Hospital.

They inspected the new oxygen plant at the hospital which was constructed at a cost of Kshs. 70 Million. This is one of the biggest plants in the county. The facility has a capacity of pumping 540 liters of pure oxygen per minute. The facility also can refill oxygen cylinders while supplying to the other outlets.

The County Government of Nyeri recently allocated Kshs. 2.5 Million for the purchase of oxygen meters to kick-start the operations at the plant. The county now has over 200 gas cylinders for the public medical facilities.

The Department of Health has further allocated Kshs. 10 Million for upgrading of the out-patient facility. The Governor and the Speaker also inspected a computerized state-of-the-art autoclave shredder machine (incinerator) which is a boost to the medical facility. New laundry machines have also been acquired at the hospital.

Governor Kahiga also interacted with patients and assured them of better services in future.

Partnership

A group photo of Governor Kahiga (in red tie) with the team CGN and Biogas International Limited after the signing of MoU on waste management, recycling and environment conservation.

Partnership between CGN and BIL in waste recycling

The County Government of Nyeri under the leadership of H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga is committed to creating spaces that will guarantee people's prosperity in a secure, healthy environment, with a high quality of life.

To this end, it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Biogas International Limited (BIL) for collaboration on waste management, recycling and environment conservation in Nyeri County.

This move will see BIL recycling and re-purposing waste produced at the Karatina market with the end goal being creating a zero waste scenario and rendering landfills obsolete. To achieve this, the organization will set up a recycle market, train county staff and garbage collectors on the

use of the same and sensitize the public on renewable energy with a focus on waste management.

In the recycling market, as opposed to trucking tons of waste from estates, market places, street corners etc to centralized dumpsites, the technique used proposes setting up modular compact large capacity waste management facilities where large volumes of organic waste are generated. These facilities will recycle and re-purpose all of the waste materials, with nothing remaining requiring that would have required dumping. For instance organic material will be separated and repurposed into fertilizer, reusable materials will be sold on to mainstream recycling industries and SME's re-purposing materials while the

remaining totally unusable materials incinerated and heat recovered used commercially.

This partnership will not only lead to conservation of the environment but will also create a circular economy through job creation as the organization will source labour locally as well as promote entrepreneurship.

Governor Kahiga assured the organization's team of total collaboration from the county government urging the organization to roll out its activities even to other markets such as Chaka market.

Biogas International Limited is a renewable energy company with interests in biogas production, solar energy- PV and thermal, trash sorting & recycling and perm culture agricultural practices.