



Newsletter



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Revolutionizing Fish Farming: Christopher Muriithi's Journey to a Thriving Hatchery in Kiamwigwi, Mathira East Sub County



Story by Governor's Press Unit | Compiled by Osoro Mosioma

ABDP and Nyeri County Government Collaboration Boosts Aquaculture

The County Government

of Nyeri, in partnership with the Aquaculture Business Development Program (ABDP), is transforming the fisheries sector by equipping local farmers with the resources, training, and technical expertise needed to thrive. This initiative is strengthening food security and creating sustainable economic opportunities for fish farmers.

One such success story is

Christopher Muriithi, a 69-year-old farmer from Kiamwigwi, Magutu Ward, Mathira East Sub-County, who has defied the odds and built a thriving fish hatchery.

Turning Challenges into Opportunities

For years, Christopher struggled with inconsistent

supply of quality fingerlings, often waiting over six months to restock his ponds. The high cost of fingerlings and fish feeds made matters worse, threatening the survival of his fish farming venture.

Determined to find a lasting solution, he took matters into his own hands. "When I couldn't find quality fingerlings, and sometimes none were available at all,

I decided to create my own hatchery," says Christopher. With the support of ABDP and the Nyeri County Government, he established a hatchery capable of accommodating up to 18000 fingerlings, ensuring a steady and high-quality stock for his ponds and other farmers in the region.

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How Nyota bean is transforming lives in Kieni

(PARSA)
It has many declared benefits as compared to the other bean varieties such as it has a short maturity period.
It has a lot of protein, fibre, iron, high fibre that protects from osteoporosis.
It develops 42000 pods per plant - 25-30 more pods per plant with 3 grains per pod.
It takes a shorter...

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Nyeri intensifies Primary Health Care Services

Embracing Technology: The Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) for Efficiency and Sustainability

To maximize productivity and ensure a high survival rate of fingerlings, Christopher has adopted the Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) in his hatchery. This modern, water-efficient system allows him to filter and reuse water, reducing waste and maintaining optimal water quality for the fingerlings.

“With the RAS system, I don’t have to worry about water shortages or poor water quality affecting my fish. It keeps the environment clean and ensures that my fingerlings grow healthy and strong,” he explains.

By using RAS, Christopher (*pictured above*) has experienced several benefits:

- Reduced water consumption, making the hatchery more sustainable.
- Better fish health, as the system removes toxins and maintains oxygen levels.
- Higher survival rates, since fingerlings thrive in a controlled environment.
- Lower disease risk, as RAS minimizes exposure to contaminants.

ABDP Program Coordina-



tor Maureen Gathigia states, “RAS is a game-changer for farmers like Christopher. It enhances fish farming efficiency while conserving water, which is crucial for long-term sustainability.”

Innovation in Cost-Effective Feeding Solutions

Beyond securing a reliable supply of fingerlings, Christopher has also tackled the high cost of feeds, a major challenge for many fish

farmers. With guidance from ABDP Program Coordinator Maureen Mwangi, he began incubating Daphnia worms from elephant waste as a sustainable, high-protein food source for his fingerlings.

“The incubation process takes just two weeks, meaning I have a constant supply of feed for my fingerlings,” explains Christopher. Even better, the elephant waste is sourced for free from nearby parks, making this a cost-free, highly effective feeding solution.

According to Maureen Mwangi, “This innovative approach reduces production costs while promoting sustainable fish farming practices. It’s a game-changer for small-scale farmers like Christopher.”

Thanks to the profits from his fish farming venture, Christopher has been able to construct a well fitted with a submersible pump to supply water for both his fish farm and household. This investment has greatly improved water reliability, ensuring a constant supply for his RAS

system and ponds.

But his impact goes beyond his farm. “During the dry season earlier this year, I was able to supply water from my well to my neighbors when they were struggling with shortages. It feels good to not only improve my farm but also help my community,” Christopher shares. This initiative showcases how economic empowerment through aquaculture can have a wider social impact, promoting resilience in rural communities.

A Vision Beyond His Expectations

Christopher’s resilience and innovation have propelled him beyond what he initially envisioned. “From my vision board, I’ve already achieved more than I had anticipated by now. Despite the challenges, I remain steadfast because I believe fish farming is the best venture,” he says.

He also expresses gratitude for the unwavering support from the county government. “I sincerely appreciate the County Government of Nyeri for supplying me with fish feeds and delegating extension officers to help me in my venture. I am especially grateful to Governor H.E. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga for his dedication to ensuring that farmers like me thrive.”



Creating Economic Opportunities for the Youth and Women

Christopher's success is not just personal—it is positively impacting the local community. He supplies fish to youthful fishmongers, both male and female, who sell to students from a nearby university. This has created employment opportunities, empowering young people to earn a living through fish trading.

Christopher Muriithi's journey is a true testament to resilience, innovation, and the power of strategic support. His ability to turn obstacles into stepping stones showcases how investing in technology, sustainable feeding methods, and alternative income streams can revolutionize small-scale fish farming.

The County Government of Nyeri and ABDP remain committed to expanding these efforts, ensuring that more farmers increase productivity, enhance food security, and contribute to economic growth.

Empowering the Youth Through Aquaculture: Rahab Wanjiru's Success Story

ABDP and Nyeri County Government Fuel Youth Economic Growth

In a bold move to empower youth and create sustainable livelihoods, the Aquaculture Business Development Program (ABDP), in collaboration with the County Government of Nyeri, has invested Ksh 3.6 million into Aquaculture Support Enterprises (youth groups). This funding aims to boost youth involvement in fish farming and related businesses, ensuring that aquaculture becomes a viable and profitable venture for young people in Nyeri.

One remarkable success story of this IFAD-supported



initiative is Rahab Wanjiru (*pictured above*), a 30-year-old fishmonger who has turned her passion for fish trading into a thriving business.

From Fishmonger to Culinary Expert

Rahab sources her fish exclusively from ABDP-supported farmers, ensuring that she gets high-quality, fresh produce straight from local hatcheries and fish farms. But she doesn't just

sell raw fish—she cooks and prepares them using different recipes, offering ready-to-eat meals that appeal to a diverse range of customers.

“This business has changed my life. I am now able to sustain myself and my family, something I never imagined possible before,” Rahab shares.

A Game-Changer for Economic Empowerment

Thanks to the ABDP and

Nyeri County Government's intervention, Rahab has grown her business into a stable and profitable venture, allowing her to expand her customer base and generate consistent income. Her success highlights how strategic investments in youth enterprises can drive economic independence and transform lives.

According to the County Program Coordinator, “Youth engagement in aquaculture is not just about employment—it's about building sustainable agribusinesses that contribute to



food security and economic resilience.”

Rahab's journey is just one of many, proving that with the right support, skills, and funding, young people can thrive in the aquaculture sector.

As more youth like Rahab tap into the opportunities created through ABDP funding, Nyeri County is witnessing a dynamic shift, where young entrepreneurs are embracing fish farming, creating jobs, and strengthening the local economy.

The County Government of Nyeri and ABDP remain committed to expanding these opportunities, ensuring that more young people unlock their potential and build successful enterprises in the aquaculture value chain.

In the last one year, the Department has distributed over 500,000 fingerlings in collaboration with ABDP.

The County Government of Nyeri in collaboration with ABDP, under the Programme Business Grant Window, called for proposals for interested enterprise and farmers' groups along the aquaculture value chain. The successful groups received Ksh. 8.12 M to be used to implement the proposals. This will empower youths and fisheries groups (SAGs, ASEs and FFs) to enhance food security and generate wealth to our farmers through direct and indirect employment.

Recently, a capacity building workshop on grant implementation was held with the 10 groups (8 ASEs and 2 SAGs) that have received grants at Wambugu ATC. They were trained on financial management, procurement process and record keeping training. The participants were able to understand how to implement the grants as indicated in their proposals.

The county Government of Nyeri remains committed to supporting and strengthening the aquaculture value chain as a growing, promising sector to our communities.

Governor meets with Health CS



Story & Photo - Joseph Wambugu

In his capacity as Council of Governors (CoG) Vice Chair, H.E Governor Dr. Mutahi Kahiga joined CoG Chair H.E FCPA Ahmed

Abdullahi, EGH, and other colleague Governors during a consultative meeting with Health CS Hon. Aden Duale and other stakeholders on the emerging issues in the health sector. During the meeting held at CoG headquarters, Nairobi,

discussions were centred on:

- Implementation and roll out of the Social Health Authority.
- Digitalization of Health.
- Transition of the Universal Health Coverage Staff to Permanent and Pensionable terms.

- Implementation of the Building Resilient and Responsive Health System Strengthening Project.
- Payment of Community Health Promoters.
- Distribution of the AT-Scale Equipment to Counties.

- Implementation of the summit resolutions among others. The Council commits to ensuring that all Kenyans can access affordable and equitable healthcare.

CoG Presents Intergovernmental Relations Bill



Story & Photo - Joseph Wambugu

The Council of Governors,

led by Vice-Chair H.E. Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga PhD., EGH and Whip H.E. Stephen Sang, appeared before the National Assembly

Committee on Regional Development & Devolution to present the Council's position on the Intergovernmental Relations (Amend-

ment) Bill, 2024. The Council emphasized the need to anchor its Secretariat into law and called for the strengthening of the

Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) as the implementing agency of the Summit.

Nyeri Health Managers Quarterly Review Meeting



Story & Photo - Kennedy Karanja

H.E Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga officially opened the Quarterly Review Meeting for County, Sub-County and Hospital Managers in the Department of Medical Services and Public Health. The meeting aimed to review and evaluate progress on various building blocks, share experiences, innovative

practices, and foster cross-learning among facilities. Guided by the WHO health systems building blocks, the review focused on key pillars including Service Delivery, Human Resources for Health, Health Infrastructure, Health Financing, Health Information Systems, and Leadership & Governance. A major highlight of the meeting was to assess the impact of Health

Service Fund at Health facility level. Some of the notable achievements in the last quarter through HSF support include:

- Increased investment in green energy at hospitals and rural health facilities
- Borehole drilling and LPG installation in hospitals
- Renovation and face-lifting of rural health facilities
- Installation of the Hospital Management Informa-

tion System (HMIS)

- Increased allocation of medical supplies
- Improved response to medical emergencies
- Increased SHA claims by our dispensaries and health centres.
- Weekly outreaches/inreaches using the beyond-zero Van
- Increased outpatient utilization in Mt Kenya and Mukurweini hospitals.

The Governor commend-

ed the health managers for their dedication, which continues to reflect positively in Nyeri's health indicators. He reaffirmed the County Government's commitment to strengthening the health system through enhanced infrastructure, investment in human resources, and improved medical equipment.

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Health Officers undergo Event-Based Surveillance Trainings



The Department of Medical
Story & Photo - Catherine Muthoni

Services and Public Health, in collaboration with Amref Health Africa Project THRIVE has been conduct-

ing a series of trainings on Event-Based Surveillance (EBS) for Community Health Assistants (CHAs),

Sub-County Medical Officers of Health (SCMOHs), Sub-County Community Health Focal Persons (SC-

CHFPs), and Public Health Officers (PHOs).

The training aimed to strengthen the county's capacity in early detection, reporting, and timely response to unusual health events at the community level. Participants were equipped with practical knowledge on identifying signals, verifying alerts, and taking prompt public health action—key components in preventing and controlling disease outbreaks.

The Department reaffirmed its commitment to working with partners to enhance health system resilience and ensure community safety through robust surveillance mechanisms.

ABDP Grant Implementation Capacity Building Workshop



Story & Photo - Samwel Gitonga

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2 SAGs) that have received grants at Wambugu ATC. They were trained on financial management, procurement process and record keeping training. The participants were able to understand how to implement the grants in their propos-

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NYERI COUNTY 6TH FESTIVAL AUDITIONS

Pictorial



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Pictorial

