

An initiative is strengthening food security and creating sustainable economic opportunities

Revolutionizing Fish Farming:

Christopher Muriithi's Journey to a Thriving Hatchery in Kiamwigwi, Mathira East



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 decid-

ed 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.

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 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 Coordinator 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.

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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, 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 econom-

ic 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 Count 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 vale chain as a growing, promising sector to our communities.



The Mega Graduation Ceremony: A first of its kind



Nyeri Governor H.E Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi, PhD., presided over a mega graduation ceremony, a first of its kind in Nyeri County, for the 1,619 graduates from the 26 Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) across the eight sub-counties in Nyeri County. This was a celebration of one of the success stories between the County Government of Nyeri and the support from Public Private Partnership. All the 26 VTCs greatly benefitted from this collaboration with Kenya Commercial Bank Foundation's support through the KCB 2jiajiri Program. Through this program, the

VTCs have benefitted from training on technical skills to enable them to start their businesses. This partnership focuses on vocational training centers (VTCs) across Nyeri County. The County Government of Nyeri contributed 50% of the sponsorship fees, and KCB Foundation contributed the 50 % balance. The program offers full scholarships for technical courses, which include motor vehicle mechanics, electrical installation, hairdressing, and beauty therapy among others. In the graduation held at Dedan Kimathi Kamukunji grounds, Nyeri town, a total of 250 trainees were awarded

with start-up toolkits. This joint program has sponsored 1619 trainees. This includes 728 females and 891 males. The number of the trainees graduating is as follows;

- ICT/Computer Operations - 45
- Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy -394
- Plumbing - 388
- Electrical Wiring - 255
- Fashion and Design - 112
- Building Technology/Masonry - 78
- Motor Vehicle Mechanics - 88
- Carpentry and Joinery - 21
- Welding and Fabrication - 50
- Food and Beverages Pro-

duction - 162

- Solar Photovoltaic - 7
- Shoe Making - 19

To support the VTCs, the County Government of Nyeri employed 83 instructors on permanent terms. In addition, this Financial Year 2024/2025, another 20 instructors have been recruited on contractual terms. In terms of financial support, this current financial year, 2024/2025, the County Government transferred a grant of Ksh. 15 million that was distributed to all the VTCs based on the trainees' enrollment. The graduates should know that graduation is not the end of government support as

they enter the labour market. The County, in partnership with the National Employment Authority (NEA), has worked to inform VTC managers about job opportunities both locally and internationally. Governor Kahiga also encouraged all to log in to the NEA website and register in case of any arising opportunities as one can also apply for government tenders to manufacture and supply goods and services through Access to Government Procurement Opportunities. He also wished all the graduates success in all their future endeavors.



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KISIP II Conducts M&E Exercise in five Settlements



The Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Program 2 (KISIP II) through the National Project Coordinating Team (NPCT) conducted a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation exercise in four settlements in Nyeri County. Guided by the Project Manager Joseph Mwangi,

the delegation included representatives from the County Project Coordinating Team (CPCT), Gath Consulting Engineers, Losai Management Ltd., and High Point & Pinnie Agency Limited. During the visit, the NPCT team commended the County Government of Nyeri for

their strong partnership and proactive approach in facilitating the project's implementation, which was under KISIP II component 1.2 – Infrastructure upgrading for infrastructure facelifting. The team assessed ongoing works in Chorong'i and Kiamwathi settlements in Ruring'u

Ward, Kiawara settlement in Rware Ward, Mweiga Settlement in Mweiga Ward and Ihwagi in Iria-ini ward. These settlements were set to benefit from significant infrastructure upgrades under the program, including:

- Construction of tarmac roads with integrated drain-

age systems

- Installation of street lighting, footpaths and high masts
- Improved sewer and water connections
- Installation of a dumpsters, among others.

These improvements aligned with KISIP II's core objective of enhancing access to basic services in informal settlements. The program, jointly funded by the World Bank, the Government of Kenya, and development partners, built upon the successes of KISIP I by expanding infrastructure development and institutional capacity building for sustainable slum upgrading nationwide. The site visit demonstrated the program's commitment to transparent implementation and quality assurance as it worked to transform living conditions in participating urban informal settlements.

Routine inspection of the ongoing KISIP II Main Works

The Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Program 2 (KISIP II) County Project Coordinator, Beatrice Koech led the County Project Coordinating Team (CPCT), Gath Consulting Engineers, Losai Management Ltd., and High Point & Pinnie Agency Limited for a routine site visit to monitor and evaluate the progress of the KISIP II Main Works. The teams visited Chorong'i

and Kiamwathi Settlements in Ruring'u ward, Nyeri Central sub-county, Kiawara in Rware ward, Nyeri Central sub-county and Mweiga settlement in Mweiga ward, Kieni West sub-county. The settlements were expected to benefit from infrastructure upgrading including but not limited to; construction of tarmac roads with efficient drainage systems, street lights, footpaths, seamless



water connections through trunk and consumer connections, solid waste management by installation of dumpsters in-line with the KISIP II primary development objective of improving access to basic services in informal settlements. KISIP 2 was a development project financed by the World Bank, the Government of Kenya and other development partners whose objective was

to systematically scale up the work of KISIP I and reach more settlements and population through the provision of basic infrastructure such as high masts, upgrading of access roads, water and sanitation services, footpaths among others in participating urban informal settlements and to strengthen institutional capacity for slum upgrading in Kenya.

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How Nyota bean is transforming lives in Kieni

(PABRA). 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, zinc, iron, high fibre that protects from constipation.
- It develops many pods per plant - 25 or more pods per plant with 5 grains per pod.
- It takes a shorter...

Nyeri Posts Outstanding Performance at 10th KYISA Games

The Kenya Youth Inter-County Sports Association's (KYISA) main objective is to promote and develop sports talent among young people, foster national cohesion and peace through competition at the grassroots level. KYISA also aims to identify and nurture young athletes, providing them with opportunities for growth and recognition, ultimately contributing to a

stronger and more unified nation. During the awarding ceremony that also marked the conclusion of the KYISA 10th edition, 2025 competition in Home Bay County, Nyeri County was proudly recognized as the women's football team received the award for securing 4th place in the hotly contested matches. While speaking during the clos-

ing ceremony, the CECM Esther Ndung'u commended the KYISA committee for organising the games. She also urged Counties to continue upholding the integrity of KYISA by not fielding ineligible players as the main aim was to tap talents from the grassroots, nurture and support them. Throughout the games period the Nyeri team displayed a spirit of dedication,

sportsmanship, and camaraderie. Congratulations to all the participants and winners. We look forward to continuous scouting for players, more engagement and inspiring performances as we endeavour to empower our youth through nurturing and development of talents.



Nyeri Youth Sector Working Group visits Finance CECM

Department of Finance, Economic Planning & ICT CECM Robert Thuo accompanied by Chief Officer Dr. Michael Gacheru played host to the Nyeri Youth Sector Working Group.

The Group's visit was a follow-up to a previously submitted petition to the Department of Finance, Economic Planning & ICT, focused on the enhancement of youth inclusivity in the budget-making process and public participation of the Nyeri Program Based Budget 2025/26.

Facilitated by Joan Wambui, Lerwis Brown Mathenge, and other passionate members, the Nyeri Youth Sector Working Group was established on 3rd April 2025.

The youth-led advocacy initiative operates under the Leadership and Governance thematic area of the Nyeri Youth Development Policy. With a membership of 30 vibrant youths from across the Mount Kenya region, the group has championed the implementation of the Youth Development Policy—placing particular emphasis on civic education, youth engagement in budgeting, and the advancement of youth-serving programs.

The meeting sought to amplify that mission by exploring how youth voices can be more meaningfully included in public finance discussions, and how they can exercise



their rights and responsibilities within Kenya's budget-making ecosystem.

Key agenda items included:

- The structure and stages of the budget-making process.
 - Mechanisms for public participation—including accessibility, transparency, and effectiveness.
 - Youth issues as outlined in the Youth Development Policy.
 - Strategies for embedding youth priorities into ward-based development projects.
- The Department delved into the legal and structural

frameworks that shape public finance and development planning in Kenya.

The Kenyan Constitution (2010) and the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act of 2012 were cited as cornerstone documents for understanding how public resources are managed across national and county governments.

The PFM Act specifically mandates transparent, accountable, and efficient financial practices—including budgeting, procurement, and reporting.

Of equal importance was the Nyeri County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP)—a five-year strategic document that outlined development priorities and formed the basis for annual budgets. The plan was subject to oversight from the Auditor General and the Controller of Budget, ensuring financial discipline and public accountability. Participants were also reminded that budget-making follows strict legal timelines, and that public participation forums—which are essential platforms for communi-

ty voices—are advertised at least seven days in advance. Notices are typically circulated through the county website, newspapers, church announcements, chiefs, and other administrative channels.

To improve turnout and effectiveness, the importance of youth-led mobilization was emphasized—encouraging young people not just to attend, but to rally their peers and communities toward active, informed participation. Public participation, after all, is not only a constitutional right, but a catalyst for inclusive and accountable governance.

Citizens were further encouraged to regularly visit the Nyeri County website, where gazetted documents—including audit reports, budget plans, and policy updates—are available for public access. That promotes transparency and allows residents, especially youth advocates, to follow up on the utilization of public funds and track the progress of the youth-centred programs.

Finally, the group was urged to explore the possibility of engaging directly with the County Assembly Budget Committee, to advocate for more targeted funding toward youth priorities—particularly in the areas of agribusiness, entrepreneurship, talent development, and job creation.



Community Outreaches at Karia Health Centre & Njokini Dispensary



The Department of Medical Services and Public Health successfully conducted community health outreaches at Karia Health Centre (Nyeri Central Sub-County) and

Njokini Dispensary (Mukurwe-ini Sub-County) in partnership with Amref Health Africa – Project THRIVE. As part of these initiatives, they also commemorated

World TB Day by offering free TB screening, emphasizing the importance of early detection, prevention, and treatment in the fight against Tuberculosis.

Key Services Provided:

- Health Education on TB Awareness & Prevention
- Free TB Screening
- Random Blood Sugar (RBS) & Hypertension

Screening

- General Medical consultations, Dental checkups, Eye screenings, Dermatology Reviews
- HIV Testing & Screening
- Social Health Authority (SHA) Registration & Awareness

Community members were encouraged to enroll in SHA coverage and pay their monthly premiums, ensuring better access to essential healthcare services for themselves and their dependents. The Department appreciates the Sub-County Health Management Teams (SCHMTs) and Project THRIVE Coordinators Deborah Kioko and Anthony Msongo for their dedication and support in making these outreaches impactful. Together, we continue to prioritize community health.

Emergency Response to Ngangarithi Neighbourhood Fire

In the wake of a devastating fire that ravaged the Ngangarithi area of Nyeri Town Constituency recently, which left numerous families displaced and suffering significant property loss, the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services acted with immediate urgency. To alleviate the immediate suffering of the affected residents, the Department deployed essential emergency relief. This included the distribution of iron sheets to facilitate the rapid construction of temporary shelters and the provision of blankets to offer warmth and comfort, with a focus on prioritizing vulnerable individuals, such as children and the elderly. Furthermore, the Department addressed the critical nutritional needs of the displaced



families by distributing food packages containing staple items. SWO Mary Muchiri of Nyeri

Central, representing the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services, and with local leadership co-

ordinated these relief efforts. The Department of Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Services remains commit-

ted to supporting the affected community and ensuring their long-term recovery

THE MEGA GRADUATION CEREMONY

Pictorial

