

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
P. O. BOX 731-10200
MURANG'A**

REPORT:

**ON EDUCATIONAL TRIP UNDERTAKEN BY MEMBERS OF THE
COURTY ASSEMBLY TO TANZANIA**

CONTACTS:

**MR. CHRIS KINYANJUI
CLERK OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY
P.O. BOX 731-10200
MURANG'Á**

16,july 2014

Table of Contents

- 1.0 [MEMBERS PRESENT](#) 3
- 2.0 [BANANA INVESTMENT LTD](#) 5
- 3.0 [CHALLENGES FACING THE SECTOR](#) 6
- 4.0 [FUTURE PLANS](#) 7
- 5.0 [DAY TWO 12TH NOVEMBER](#) 7
- 6.0 [MIDAWA UMOJA GROUP](#) 7
- 7.0 [SERENGET FRESH LTD](#) 8
- 7.1 [COMPANIES OBJECTIVES](#) 9
- 8.0 [RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR THE FARMERS](#) 9
- 9.0 [DAY THREE 13TH NOVEMBER 2014](#) 9
- 10.0 [Blue Mountain Coffee Farm](#) 9
- 11.0 [DAY FOUR 14TH NOVEMBER 2013](#) 11
- 12.0 [DAY FIVE 15TH NOVEMBER 2013](#) 11
- 13.0 [MEMBERS RECOMEDATIONS](#) 13

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Murang'a County is one of the leading agricultural producing areas in Kenya, contributing a great percentage to the country's economy in terms of providing agricultural produce for both local consumption as well as export bringing the country great foreign returns

Following this, the Murang'a county Assembly in efforts to boost as well as increase the returns to farmers decided to embark on a tour of Tanzania in order to learn and adopt the best practices from there

The delegation led by the honourable Speaker Nduati Kariuki toured Banana, horticultural and coffee factories.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1	Hon. Leonard Nduati Kariuki.	Speaker
2	Hon. Moses Gachui Mungai	Deputy Speaker (Kahumbu-Ini ward)
3	Hon. David Kabaka Gachuru	Chief Whip (Kambiti Ward)
4	Hon. Martin Mwangi Macharia	Deputy Chief Whip (Murarandia ward)
5	Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi Ward)	Leader Of Majority (Kanyenyaini
6	Hon. Muhoro Njeri	Kariara Ward
7	Hon. James Njoroge Kariuki	Mugumoini Ward
9	Hon. Anderson Muchemi Waweru	Kangari Ward
10	Hon. Caroline Wairimu Njoroge	Kigumo Ward
11	Hon. Boniface Njihia Mbogo	Ruchu Ward
12	Hon. Duncan Mwangi Njuguna	Gitugi Ward
13	Hon. Beth Wanjiku Ngugi	Nominated

14	Hon. Danson Mburu Muchoki	Makuyu Ward
15	Hon. Lucy Wangechi Njoroge	Nominated
16	Hon. Samuel Ndehi Mwangi	Muguru Ward
17	Hon. John Njoroge Gitau	Kamahuha Ward
18	Hon. Jane Wanjiku Ndegwa	Nominated
19	Hon. Eliud Gitau Kabuthi	Kimorori/Wempa Ward
20	Hon. Agnes Ndunge Mutwiwa	Nominated
21	Hon. Joseph Ndung'u Muchina	Gatanga Ward
22	Hon. John Kiarie Ngugi	Kakuzi/ Mitumbiri Ward
23	Hon. Jesse Mburu Gitau	Nginda Ward
24	Hon. Joseph Kimani Gitau	Ithiru Ward
25	Hon. Samson Kago Njoroge	Mugoiri Ward.
26	Peter Mbue	Clerk to the Assembly.
27	Isaac Khalisia	Principal Finance Officer.
28	Hilda Wanjiku	Director of Human Resource.
29	David Wambiri	Sergeant At Arms
30	David Kahoro	Budget Officer
31	Joseph Kimani	P.A Speaker
32	Douglas Thuo	Driver to the Speaker
33	Carol Karugo	Procurement Officer

34	Grace Wabocha	Clerk Assistant
35	Nancy Mwihaki	Payment Officer
36	Simon Ndirangu	ICT Officer
37	Justus Kagiri	Clerk's Driver
38	Joseph Kiragu	Enforcement Officer

DAY 1-11TH NOVEMBER 2013

2.0 BANANA INVESTMENT LTD

The delegation visited Banana Investment and was received by David Mulokozi the Marketing manager, Hawa Karagwa the quality assurance manager and Evictor Michael the Safety officer.

The company manufactures several brands that include Fiesta wine, Banana wine, Raha and Raha Poa among others, which targets the low-income earners in the society.

The firm has a workforce of 350 employees on permanent basis and another 150 casuals and makes an income of Tsh 3.8 billion per month with a crate of banana wine selling at Tsh 10,500 per crate.

The group was taken through the various phases of the banana wine making process. At the boiling section, the group was informed that this is where the ripe peeled bananas are received and the packaging of the bananas is checked as well as the level of sugar level in the bananas. Cleanliness and the status of the bananas are also keenly checked.

After going through the quality assurance test, the bananas are put in big boiling pots where they are boiled for four to five hours to kill bacteria. In this stage, heat chocking, filtering, additional of quality sugar and also filtering of excess sugar particles takes place.

At the fermentation stage, the juice is received from the boiling pot where blending is done, the juice is cooled and yeast is added to the fermentation. The process takes place for 7-14 days if no obstacles observed.

The juice is then put in a filter and crowner machine. Manual filling is also done. Bottles are put in a bottle washer machine where they are thoroughly cleaned. Bottles are then inspected to remove any particles. The team was informed that an employee can fill 200 crates manually. The distribution network covers Tanga, Dar-es-salaam, Morogoro, Arusha, Moshi, and Mwanza among other major towns, which had been affected by high alcoholism before invention of banana wine.

The finished product is then moved from the factory to the depot and then sent to the independent distributors and the distribution network covers Tanga, Dar-es-salaam, Morogoro, Arusha, Moshi, and Mwanza among other major towns which had been affected by high alcoholism before invention of banana wine.

Banana investment is ranked the third in tax payment in the country.

A bunch of bananas used in the processing of making banana wine cost Tsh 9,000 (or Ksh 500).

Raha has no preservative while Raha poa is lemon flavored. Marketing demand is 182,000 crates per month. Supply demand is higher than production demand.



The team being taken through the wine processes.

3.0 CHALLENGES FACING THE SECTOR

- Increased counterfeits as the officials failing to take adequate action on the culprits.

- Positioning of the company i.e. not situated in industrial area.
- Electricity rationing forcing the company to use a generator which is very expensive to maintain.
- Labor turnover

4.0 FUTURE PLANS

Introducing co-operate governance principles whereby the company will be run by board rather than individuals.

5.0 DAY TWO 12TH NOVEMBER

The team visited TAHA offices in Arusha and was received by Executive Director Ms. Jackline Mukindi who explained that they have concentrated in horticulture farming and promoting export of the flowers and fruits to the international markets.

Started in the year 2004, as a small organization and currently has over 40 employees.

TAHA, which is an agency of the Tanzania government, has been receiving support from United States Development International Agency (USAID), European Union, FIDA, and DANIDA towards support of infrastructure in the rural areas.

Also acts in the resource mobilization aiming at sustaining the sector through marketing, communication and strategy

TAHA ensures availability of water to farmers by facilitating construction of channels, drill wells and construction of water dams.

It also ensures there is elaborate distribution of seedlings to farmers to ensure quality is achieved and by providing extension services.

In a tour of the farms, the team came to learn of modernized coolers used by the farmers for storage of their produce before the collection by buyers.

6.0 MIDAWA UMOJA GROUP

Midawe Umoja group a successful group on the slopes of Mt. Meru located 30 kilometres from Arusha has contracted Finally to buy their produce .There is regular communication. The farmers through their co-operative have fixed prices for the produce with contact person in the group is Mr. Japheth Lemek.



7.0 SERENGETI FRESH LTD

The team also visited Serengeti fresh ltd. The beans are received, checked for quality diseases, the beans are pre-cooled, packed in the boxes for dispatch.

Under the contract a kilogram of fresh beans / cow peas trades at Tsh 2,035 per kilogram(Ksh 110per kg)

One acre of French beans produces not less than 12,000 kilogram and the same take three months to mature.



Serengeti staff at work

7.1 COMPANIES OBJECTIVES

- Creating business enabled environment.
- An implementing agency for the government.
- Resource mobilization
- Partnering with government in policy making as opposed to competing with it.
- Uniting the farmers and connecting them to international and local markets.

8.0 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR THE FARMERS

- Good infrastructure for more quality produce.
- Training of farmers.
- Improving the farmer's day to day activities.

9.0 DAY THREE 13TH NOVEMBER 2014

10.0 Blue Mountain Coffee Farm.

The team visited Blue Mountain Coffee Farm in Moshi where they learnt how to construct a mini hydroelectric power station to sustain a small farm without incurring monthly bills.

Traditional coffee farmers through co-operative in Kilimanjaro area earn Sh. 230 per kilogramme of high quality grade.

A neighbor white farmer has helped them to market their coffee alongside his produce in the international market at no cost.

Ms. Benk Luther an estate farmer says through neighborhood his family has taken up the role to helping the small scale farmers to market their produce in markets fetching better prices.



Section of Mountain Coffee Farm



A section of Mountain Coffee Farm

11.0 DAY FOUR 14TH NOVEMBER 2013

Departure from Moshi to Tanga.

12.0 DAY FIVE 15TH NOVEMBER 2013

Spent the Day In Tanga.

DAY SIX 16TH NOVEMBER 2013

Departure From Tanga To Nairobi.

13.0 MEMBERS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The county government should promote the small groups who are coming up with such initiatives like making of a banana wine.
2. The County government should encourage and insist on the use of solar energy in our factories.
3. Find market for fresh beans and other vegetables by creating partnership with foreign markets to fetch good prices.
4. Encourage our farmers to go organic as this will help farmers fetch better prices for their produce.
5. To train farmers on organic farming.