



**SMEs**

So far, the EDF board has disbursed Kshs 41,747,150 million to 131 enterprises in Nyeri County

# Nyeri Businesses flourish thanks to EDF bankroll



Story & Photos | Governor's Press Unit

Small and Medium enterprises play a key role in the development of counties and countries at large, as such there is a need to continuously invest in them. One such way is through creation of conducive environments for them to thrive as well as providing the

mentioned enterprises with financial resources and business advisory services to boost their businesses. The County Government of Nyeri led by H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has been very supportive to SMEs, having provided financial resources to them through the Enterprise Development Fund

(EDF) which has revived stuck businesses enhancing their productivity, transforming them into success stories. This move has indeed enabled achievement of economic empowerment for the small-scale traders in Nyeri County.

*Continued on page 2,3 & 4*

## Nyeri shines again



The County Government of Nyeri received two awards during the County Gala Awards 2022 held on 5th March 2022.

The county was feted in:

1. Best County in Environmental Care.
2. Best County in Forest Cover.

*Story on page 5*

## Governor commissions Nganyuthe water project



The project transformed lives and also boosted the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries, created employment and achieved food security in the region.

*Story on page 8*

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The Department of Trade, Tourism and Cooperative Development established the Nyeri County Enterprise Development Fund for the promotion and development of Micro and Small Enterprises, Co-operative Societies registered under the Co-operative Societies Act, and Enterprise Groups registered under the Ministry of Labour, Social Security, and Services or any other lawful registration body.

The Enterprise Development Fund is managed by a board which is supported by a secretariat that is headed by the Fund Administrator. The core mandate of the board is to formulate policies and procedures for the administration, regulation, and management of the fund.

So far, the board has disbursed Kshs 41,747,150 million to 131 enterprises in Nyeri County. The board offers Business Financing, LPO financing, Technology Acquisition and Asset financing. The board has now added features to the Asset finance, for motorcycles you get comprehensive insurance financing for two years. Currently, the loan interest rate is set at 5% P.A with a maximum repayment period of 24 months. Applicants can access a minimum of Kshs. 50,000 and a maximum of Kshs. 500,000. However, cooperatives can access up to one million Kenyan shillings. Currently, the EDF board is verifying applications for the fifth batch of this revolving fund.

According to Trade CEC Diana Kendi, in addition to providing the funds, the EDF secretariat has also been carrying out capacity building for businesses which is not limited to just the beneficiaries. So far, over 800 individuals and groups have been trained in a bid to improve their entrepreneurial skills.



*David Kimondo (Kieni Canola)*

Anne Githinji, the fund administrator reiterated the important role EDF plays in the growth of small scale businesses.

“The growth and sustainability of the EDF relies solely on frequent taking of loans, investing in profitable business ventures and promptly making payments of the same,” she emphasized.

The beneficiaries interviewed expressed their deepest gratitude to Governor Kahiga for his continued support towards small scale traders as well as the Department of Trade officers who have been very understanding when it comes to repayment of the loans, especially during this Covid-19 period, which negatively affected many businesses.

**Here are some of the success stories.**

## David Kimondo (Kieni Canola)

David runs a certified cottage industry in Mweiga, Kieni West sub-county which produces canola oil, castor oil, chia seeds, canola cake for livestock among other

Canola seeds among other raw materials from as well as have employed more than 10 youth who operate the machines and package the end products,” added Kimondo.

His business is very eco-friendly seeing that the Canola by-products are used to make Canola meal for livestock including cows, chicken, pigs among others and is known for improving animal production due to its high protein content.

## Paul Mwangi

In support of the youth, the board purchases motorbikes for the applicants which they get to pay for it once they receive it. One beneficiary from this arrangement is Mwangi, a bodaboda rider operating in Karatina town in Mathira East sub-county. The motorcycle has not only helped him earn income through ferrying of passengers and goods but it has also boosted his agribusiness.

“I would like to thank Governor Kahiga for the support he has given to the youths. Through this programme, a number of us were given motorbikes which we get to pay for easily as the interest rate



*Paul Mwangi*

is very low. I now have a medium which earns me an honest living and has indeed changed my life," added Mwangi.

## Elizabeth Njambi

According to Njambi, the owner of Liz-Tech hardware in Mweiga, her business had been performing poorly due to transport con-



*Elizabeth Njambi*

straints as she could have the stock but lack the means to reach it to her customers. However, she applied and received the EDF loan which she used to purchase a tuk-tuk that has since helped her business grow exponentially as she could now transport merchandise to her clients' homes. The tuk-tuk has grown her business in bounds with Njambi gaining more customers from as far as Kanyagia, Solio villages, Amboni, Satima and Chaka areas.

"I would like to express my gratitude for the funds provided as they indeed helped my business grow especially during this Covid-19 period. I have created employment through hiring a rider to do the deliveries, and with the proceeds gained, I have managed to purchase a lorry which

has more capacity for deliveries," added Njambi.

## Samuel Wambugu

Samuel is a youth engaging in horticultural farming growing cabbages, capsicum and onions at Kiawara in Kieni West sub-county. Before he received the funds, farming activities such as buying



*Samuel Wambugu*

Rebecca is a two-timer beneficiary of the Enterprise Development Fund from Mweru in Mukurwe-ini sub-county. The jovial farmer, who heard about the fund from her area sub-county administrator highlighted that the funds have significantly changed her life. With the first batch, she used the monies to expand her agrovert business and used the second batch to expand her poultry business. Rebecca's poultry business has already started earning her an income, empowering her life as a woman, as a mother and as a wife.

## Maina Wagura

Maina, the proprietor of Sauti Millers in Naromoru, Kieni East sub-county which produces Sauti maize flour and Promise Porridge flour, expressed his gratitude for the EDF loan provided which he used to boost his business. He has since expanded his business, with his product being sold in the local supermarkets. Further, his business has created employment opportunities for over 10 youths who are involved in operating the machines, packaging



*Maina Wagura*

of farm inputs, hiring labour was quite a challenge for Samuel. Nevertheless, these challenges were resolved with the EDF loan which boosted his agricultural activities, enabling him to reach his farm produce to the market on time and with the right prices.

"The money really empowered me as a youth as it helped boost my agribusiness, which translated to more sales and subsequently improved my standards of living. I would like to encourage my fellow youth not to be afraid of applying for loans, but should instead take advantage of such programmes provided to us by Governor Kahiga's administration," added Samuel.

## Rebecca Wambura



Rebecca Wambura

and sealing as well as distribution process. In addition, he has indirectly created employment for farmers who supply him with raw materials such as maize and sorghum. Mwangi thanked Gov-

ernor Kahiga for his concerted efforts towards supporting small and medium enterprises adding that with such funds reaching to small scale businesses at the grassroots levels, positive changes



Thomas Wainaina

happening within our societies is definitely bound to take place.

## Thomas Wainaina

### Mary Wanjiku

When Mary, a seamstress from Wamagana ward in Tetu sub-county heard about EDF loan from Nyeri County staff, she got interested and decided to apply. She successfully qualified for the loan that she used to inject into her business, which she has since upgraded to include a boutique as well.

"I would like to thank the County Government of Nyeri led by Governor Mutahi Kahiga for providing small scale businesses with these loans as they have been of great benefit to us. Also, the interest rate is quite low, hence repayment has not been an issue," noted Mary.

Wainaina is a member of Pofin Ventures, a group of 10 youths from Mukurwe-ini sub-county who jointly run a business selling electronics, phone accessories as well as phone repairs. Once the group received the EDF loan, they expanded their business and are currently providing schools and hospitals with supplies. Their lives have significantly changed for the better to which they are grateful to Governor Kahiga for the continued support.



Mary Wanjiku

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One home, one biogas project

# CHANGAMKIA

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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# Another win for Nyeri

The County Government of Nyeri received two awards during the County Gala Awards 2022 held on 5th March 2022.

The county was feted in:

1. Best County in Environmental Care.
2. Best County in Forest Cover.

The County Government of Nyeri has continually ensured environmental soundness and supported integration of environmental considerations in the decision-making processes and projects.

Environmental safeguards through screening and assessments of all county projects before commencement is done and advice given on best mitigation measures to be undertaken for environmental protection. Environmental auditing is done annually on operational projects. This usually includes training of staff on environmental mainstream-



ing and management within the facilities.

Inspection and monitoring of project sites are done and improvement notices given where necessary to ensure continued environmental management and adherence to set guidelines. Community sensitization and awareness creation is done to support proper nature resource management use at the community level.

The County Government of Nyeri has in the last four years undertaken clean development proj-

ects and projects that increase the climate change resilience of the communities such as

1. Installation of biogas in homes.
2. Installation of energy saving Jikos in schools
3. Installation of solar pumps for boreholes
4. Installation of solar street lights
5. Rehabilitation of riparian reserves

The forest cover in Nyeri stands at 38.3% as per the last assessment done. For continued sustainable forest management, the county is implementing the Nyeri County Sustainable Forest Management Act, 2021 and Policy.

The county government has continued to work with various relevant agencies to increase this number through various county greening programs such as on-farm forestry, school greening, community sensitization, forest rehabilitation and management. In this FY, the county is undertaking

1. Phase 1 of the Wangari Maathai

10 million Tree Challenge whereby schools have been provided with seeds, polytubes and with technical support from the unit, they are raising seedlings that will be distributed for growing within the school and the communities surrounding the schools. Fruit seedlings will also be given to the schools to improve nutrition.

2. Training of 'near forest' communities on Community Forest Associations (CFAs). The county government believes in inclusion of the citizens thus choosing the Participatory Forest Management and Planning approach in county forests.

The County Government of Nyeri under H.E Mutahi Kahiga commits to continued environmental safeguarding and welcomes all citizenry to participate in keeping our environment clean and healthy.

Environment is no one's property to destroy; it is everyone's responsibility to protect~ Mohith Agadi



# Nyeri health facilities awarding ceremony



Story | Catherine Muthoni & Photo | Saveria Nyambura

The County Department of Health Services held a performance awarding ceremony for Health facilities and community health units in the county, at Mt. Kenya Sub-County Hospital grounds. The main aim of the event was to motivate the best performing health facilities and community health units in the county as well enhance the spirit of competition for excellent service delivery. The performance evaluation was spearheaded by a committee

from the County Health Management Team (CHMT) working closely with Hospital and Sub-county Health Management teams. The health facilities and community health units that performed best as per the agreed evaluation criteria qualified for the awards. The County Director Health Services, Dr. Nelson Muriu, emphasized on the benefits of awarding teams and not individuals for purposes of embracing and building strong teams across the service delivery levels. He appreciated all the health care workers whom he

said were the forces behind the success of our county in various programs such as Covid-19 vaccination, UHC pilot program among others. The Chief Officer Health, Mr Ibrahim Adan appreciated the teams for the exemplary performance. He urged the teams to invest and strengthen customer relations and patient experience at health facilities. The Chief guest for the event, Mr Robert Thuo, who is the acting CECM health reiterated on the importance of recognizing and rewarding good performance. He reported very

good feedback from his visits across selected health facilities especially on cleanliness and staff attitude. The CECM further highlighted on the benefits of the Nyeri Health service fund. He tasked the teams to work hard in growing the fund to one billion shillings for a sustainable, independent and strong health care service delivery system. The best performing levels of service delivery were Jet Community Unit (Kieni East sub-county), Kiuu Dispensary in Mukurweini Sub-County and Mweiga Health Centre in Kieni West Subcounty. The inpatient department at the Mt-kenya sub-county hospital, Maternal and Child Health Department at Othaya sub-county Hospital, Male ward at Mukurweini sub-county Hospital and Renal and Dialysis Center at Nyeri County Referral Hospital emerged the best performing departments in hospitals across the County. Karatina Sub County Hospital emerged as the best performing public hospital in the county.

**Anniversary**

The aim of the 200 group members was for bonding and assisting each other in time of need

## Celebrating KETWA's first anniversary

Story | Josph Wambugu & Photo | Peter Wangari

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined members of Kieni East Teachers Welfare Association (KETWA)

during their first anniversary held in Naromoru town, Kieni East sub county. The welfare group led by Chairperson Mogusu Anunda was formed by a group of secondary school teachers teaching in Kieni East. The aim of the 200 group members was for bonding and assisting each other in time of need. Governor Kahiga urged all teach-



ers to join cooperatives and save their earnings for a bright future.

# Counties to implement scheme of service to ECDE teachers

ECDE is an important stage for every child. Moreso ECDE teachers continue to play a very crucial role in laying foundations which shape the lives of our children.

For this reason, in his capacity as CoG Education Committee chair, H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga has tirelessly lobbied key stakeholders

to pay attention to the plight of ECDE teachers. Following a consultative meeting between the Senate and the Council of Governors, all the 47 counties have agreed to implement the ECDE scheme of service for teachers.

“We cannot understand the importance of empowering ECDE



educators unless we take a deeper role at the work they do, what they are doing for that work and the

resources they are provided with to do the work,” Governor Kahiga noted.

## Partnership

Kimathi University will use their expertise in the agreed areas in a collaboration effort with the county government

# DeKUT to facilitate capacity building of cooperative leaders



Story | Consoloata King'ori & Photo | Stephanie Wanjiru Nyambura

The County Government of Nyeri, through the Department of Trade, Tourism, Culture and Cooperative Development signed three contract agreements with Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. The three agreements are for

capacity building of 600 cooperative leaders and managers, 150 Nyeri County tourism porters, guides and cooks and 50 animators and creatives.

This program initiated by H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga is geared towards enhancing the management and governance of coop-

erative societies in Nyeri County to ensure effective and efficient management and governance of these societies to increase the productivity and by extension, members incomes.

The capacity building for porters, guides and cooks is meant to professionalize this Cadre of support

teams to improve tourists experience within the Nyeri tourists' circuit.

The one for animators and creatives is meant for the youth to become content creators thereby enhancing their ability to earn a living in the entertainment industry.

Kimathi University will use their expertise in these areas in a collaboration effort between the university and the county government to build the capacity of these groups.

The signing ceremony was held at DeKUT; as Mr. George Mwangi, the Chief officer, for the Department of trade signed on behalf of the county government, while Dr Paul Sang did the same on behalf of the university.

# Governor commissions Nganyuthe water project



in Kieni West Sub County. The water project by the Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change will ensure about 10,000 local residents benefit from the water for agricultural and domestic use. Those benefitting are residents of Gitegi, Nganyuthe, Kinyaiti and Ndunyu Guathi areas. The project has transformed lives and also boosted the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries, created employment and achieved food security in the region. The ward has also benefited through Kiahuria intake construction and pipeline, Treffos Kiburuti masonry tank, Lachuta borehole and pipeline. Already, about 15 boreholes have been drilled in the vast Kieni constituency.

Story | Joseph Wambugu & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

Water is a precious commodity that sustains life and concerted efforts must be put in place to

ensure its availability and sustainability. In a project that is changing the face of Nganyuthe in Gatarakwa

ward, Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga together with Gatarakwa MCA Clement Warutere commissioned Nganyuthe Water Project

## Commissioning

The culvert has improved lives of the area residents, eased movement and transportation of their farm produce

# Commissioning of Gathambara double box culvert

Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

H. E Governor Mutahi Kahiga together with Hon. Clement Warutere commissioned Gathambara double box culvert in Gatarakwa ward, Kieni West

sub-county. This project is part of the wards specific projects for this ward constructed by the Department of Transport, Infrastructure and Energy. The culvert has significantly improved the lives of the area resi-

dents having eased their movement and transportation of farm produce across River Ngareng'iro. Further, it has improved interactions for the residents of Kimun-yuro, Embaringo, Kiaragana and Kang'a among other areas.

To improve farming activities, the County Government of Nyeri will provide pipes which will connect water to peoples' farms in a bid to boost agricultural production and drill a borehole which will provide residents with water for both drinking and irrigation purposes.



# Distribution of youth, women and PWDs empowerment items



Story | Njambi Mugo & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

Nyeri Governor H.E. Mutahi Kahi-ga has continued with the distribution of empowerment items to

groups in Gatarakwa ward, Kieni West sub-county.

The items have been purchased through the Department of Gender, Youth and Social Services

under the Nyeri County Youth, Women and PWDs Empowerment Programme.

The main goal of this programme is to incubate an assortment of

income generating activities into viable economic activities for youth, women and People Living with Disability (PWDs) which will graduate into established businesses for the social economic development of the county.

The governor distributed 100-seater tent and chairs, a public address system, car washing machine, power generator and four 20 litre tea-urns. The groups to benefit are Genesis SHG, Joy Sunrise Gatarakwa SHG, Jubilee Kabati Health group, Kanunga WG, Karage Kimunyuru WG, Kwamurage Muguna WG, United Agricultural YG and Watuka Wendani WG.

17 wards across the county will benefit through this programme, while the rest of the 13 wards will be involved in the second phase.

## Vaccination

A record of 116 people were vaccinated in various areas in Mathira East. This initiative is funded by Africa CDC

# Covid-19 mass vaccination campaign

Story | Catherine Muthoni & Photo | Saveria Nyambura

The County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Health Services in partnership with Amref Health Africa has rolled out a mass campaign to all the eight sub counties in the county, a major outreach geared towards hitting the targets for Covid-19 vaccination.

A team of able Health Care Workers took part in a major roadshow in the outcasts of the entire Mathira East sub-county with the aim being to vaccinate 100 persons per day. A record of 116 people were vaccinated in various areas in Mathira East yesterday. The caravan kicks off today for Tetu sub-county and the County Government continues to urge



all the residents to turn up massively for this noble activity. This initiative is funded by Africa CDC

(saving lives and livelihoods). #pata chanjo kaa chonjo.

# Nyeri staff training

Story | Joseph Wambugu & Photo | Kenneth Ngatia

A section of Nyeri staff have undergone a personal financial planning and stress management training on financial planning. The training was conducted by officers from Britam Holdings Limited.

The one -day training at the Kenya School of Agriculture - Nyeri Main Campus based at Wambugu Farm was officially opened by the County Secretary CS Ben Gachichio



on behalf of H.E. Governor Mutahi Kahiga.

Governor Kahiga has been very supportive on matters staff capacity building to enhance their skills.

The CS lauded the Company for the training saying it will be beneficial to the staff on a personal level and even while serving Nyerians on financial matters.

The CS also challenged the trainers of the Company to ensure more staff are trained so that their capacity is enhanced.

## Vaccination campaign

The mobile caravan equipped with vaccines, vaccinators and mobilizers will move to every corner

# Nyeri launches a 10-day covid-19 vaccination road-show



Story | Catherine Muthoni & Photo | Saveria Nyambura

The Department of Health Services jointly with Amref Health Africa,

kicked off a massive Covid-19 vaccination exercise through a road show, which is expected to take ten days.

The Vaccination caravan which was flagged off in Nyeri town by the Acting Health CEC Mr. Robert Thuo is targeting over 20,000 eli-

gible persons.

The mobile caravan equipped with vaccines, vaccinators and mobilizers will move in every corner of the County.

During the period, the team will visit all the 8 sub counties; Mukurwe-ini, Kieni East & Kieni West, Mathira East & Mathira West, Tetu, Othaya and Nyeri Central.

Mr. Robert Thuo urged Nyerians including students to take advantage of the exercise as the team has enough doses for first dose, second dose and the booster. The vaccine is free and safe.

Amref Health Program Officer Mr. Joram Onditi lauded this partnership which has led to Nyeri County being the top county countrywide on matters of Covid-19 Vaccination coverage at 50.6 per cent.

#PataChanjoKaaChonjo

# 2NK Sacco 27th AGM

Story | Joseph Wambugu & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

The Matatu sector plays a key role in transportation of passengers whereby 80% of passenger transportation is controlled by the matatu industry in Kenya. The sector has also created many employment opportunities. The County Government of Nyeri has been supportive to the Matatu

Saccos and it is due to this support that Nyeri Governor H.E Mutahi Kahiga attended the 27th Annual General Meeting which was held at Nyamachaki PCEA Hall, Nyeri town. Despite the ravages of Covid-19, it is commendable that 2NK has continued to display resilience and strength amidst the tribulations and challenges it has had to endure

even as it aspires to scale to greater heights.

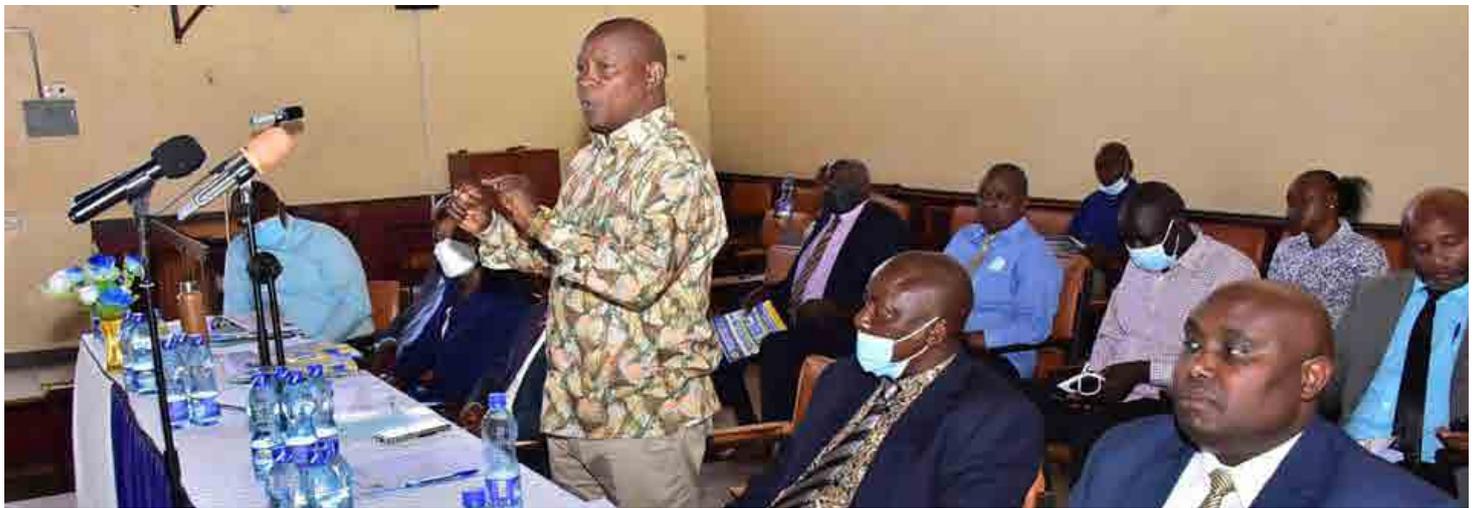
The County Government of Nyeri has recently constructed the Nyeri Town Main Bus Termini to reduce congestion in Nyeri town, recarpeted and improved parking at Karatina, Othaya, Nyeri and Mukurwe-ini towns to improve services in the Matatu sector.

Two new bus parks have also been constructed at Mukurwe-ini and Mweiga towns.

The success of cooperatives is de-

pendent on proper governance. To enhance this, the County Government of Nyeri has in the last three years initiated a capacity building program. Since inception, CGN has been able to train over 900 cooperative leaders and staff. Plans are in place to train another 600 cooperative leaders by June 2022.

Governor Kahiga lauded the 2NK Sacco management led by Chairman James Kahiro for steering 2NK to greater heights.



**Sacco** Despite the Covid-19 related bottle - necks and challenges, the Sacco will be issuing dividends at 4% and interest on deposits at 6%

# Nyeri South Traders Sacco AGM

Story | Joseph Wambugu & Photo | Kennedy Karanja

H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga joined the Nyeri South Traders Sacco fraternity for their 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at Stephano Gardens, Mahiga Ward, Othaya. Despite the Covid-19 related bottle - necks and challenges, the Sacco will be issuing dividends at 4% and

interest on deposits at 6%. The Sacco was formed in 2016 bringing together small entrepreneurs in Othaya with an aim of pooling resources together and offering affordable credit services. It is commendable that the Sacco through their management led by Chairman Joseph Wanjohi has continued to display resilience and strength amidst the tribulations and challenges it has had to endure even as it aspires to scale greater heights. The success of cooperatives is dependent on proper governance. To enhance this, the County Govern-

ment of Nyeri has in the last three years initiated a capacity building program. Since inception, CGN has been able to train over 900 cooperative lead-

ers and staff. Plans are under way to train another 600 cooperative leaders by June 2022.

