



TARDA NEWS

TANA AND ATHI RIVERS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ISSUE NO. 8 | MARCH 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

MINISTRY OF EAC, THE ASALS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EMPOWERING DEVOLUTION: TARDA ENGAGES AT INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SYMPOSIUM



The Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority was thrilled to be actively participating in the 2nd Intergovernmental Relations Symposium held on 4th-6th March 2024 in Naivasha. The Theme of the Symposium was: "The State of Intergovernmental Relations: Consolidating and Deepening Devolution in Kenya. The theme for the Symposium was "The State of Intergovernmental Relations: Consolidating and Deepening Devolution in Kenya." Here, both levels of government engaged in highly interactive sessions aimed at enhancing intergovernmental relations. This collaboration is crucial for achieving the socio-economic transformation envisioned by the Government. We were honored to have Hon. Felix Koskei EGH, Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, as our esteemed chief guest who urged delegates to adopt a holistic government approach, emphasizing the need to serve citizens effectively across national and county levels.

TARDA TAKES PART IN PARTICIPATORY SCENARIO PLANNING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE



TARDA deeply engaged in a Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) session, which took place from 6th-8th March 2024 in Machakos. This pivotal gathering brought together an extensive spectrum of stakeholders, representing the diverse from various sectors across Kenya. Under the auspices of IGAD (Inter-Governmental Authority on Development) and in collaboration with ICPAC (IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre), this two-day workshop was a beacon of hope and empowerment for our region. As we navigate through the intricacies of Participatory Scenario Planning, our focus remains resolute: preparing for the MAM (March, April, May) 2024 rainfall season. Armed with scientifically credible climate information and a shared commitment to community resilience, we charting a course towards sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

TARDA EXCELS AT EMBU ASK SHOW: CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS!



Amidst the bustling energy of the Embu Agricultural Society of Kenya Show, TARDA excelled as a beacon of innovation and progress in the agricultural landscape. Under the theme "Promoting Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and Trade," TARDA's presence was spectacular. From showcasing groundbreaking conservation and water management techniques to championing food security, youth and women empowerment initiatives, TARDA's exhibits captivated audiences and judges alike. We were honored to welcome esteemed guests, including Embu County Deputy Governor Hon. Justus Kinyua. From honey and beehives under our officer Mr. Eresmus Bundi to our innovative TARDA model and impactful empowerment programs, our exhibits showcased our dedication to fostering growth and prosperity across Kenya. Hon. Kinyua presented trophies to our Region Coordinator, Mr. Joses Mugambi, recognizing TARDA's outstanding achievements.

TARDA DONATES KITS FOR #TARDAAT50 CONSERVATION CUP AS PART OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



As part of our #50thAnniversary celebrations, TARDA donated football kits to the Iveti Community Forest Association FC on 13th March 2024. These kits will be used for the upcoming #TARDAat50 Conservation Cup, a special tournament set to take place in April 2024 at Iveti Forest, Machakos County. As an integral part of our Corporate Social Investment initiatives, we're committed to supporting & empowering communities. Through sports, we aim to foster unity, promote conservation awareness and celebrate our rich heritage.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: TARDA DISTRIBUTES ASSORTED AGRO-FOREST SEEDS



TARDA's Athi-Basin Region's Kangundo Sub-County office staff embarked on an empowering initiative by distributing a diverse range of Agro-Forest seeds to the members of the Lovely Mother's Self-Help Group on 14th March 2024. This endeavor signifies our commitment to sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation while uplifting local communities. Together, we're sowing the seeds of positive change!

TARDA EMPOWERS COMMUNITIES AND TAKES PART IN #JAZAMITI INITIATIVE ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS



In celebration of the International Day of Forests, TARDA proudly participated in a transformative event hosted at Vota Primary School in Machakos County on 21st March 2024. Chief Guest Captain Andrew Muema, Chief Officer of Environment and Natural Resources from the Machakos County Government, graced the occasion, emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship. During the event, TARDA facilitated the training of 180 community members on agroforestry techniques and value addition, including grafting & budding. This knowledge empowers individuals to harness the potential of trees for sustainable livelihoods & ecosystem preservation. A highlight of the day was the tree-planting initiative, where 1602 assorted agroforestry trees were planted. TARDA's generous contribution of 500 trees & 90 fruit varieties for demonstrations further enriched the event, fostering hands-on learning and environmental awareness.

Elsewhere, the Authority proudly participated in the #JazaMiti initiative tree-planting campaign held during a Climate Change Unit sensitization event in Naivasha. This collaborative effort, held at Highway Secondary School, marked our commitment to commemorating the International Day of Forests and contributing to global conservation efforts. Present during the event was the State Department of ASALs and Regional Development, along with other State Departments.

TARDA'S GREEN IMPACT: AUTHORITY PARTICIPATES IN LUKENYA UNIVERSITY'S 10M TREES MARATHON



Through our Athi Basin Region Office TARDA actively engaged in Lukenya University's #10MillionTreesMarathon held on 23rd March 2024, a key initiative aimed at promoting tree planting & conservation efforts. As part of our involvement, we collaborated with the university community to contribute expertise, resources and support towards the successful execution of the marathon. This partnership facilitated the transfer of valuable technological knowledge to over 157 university students, fostering a culture of environmental stewardship and sustainability among the younger generation. Additionally, TARDA initiated discussions with the University administration to establish a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on environmental conservation, laying the groundwork for future collaborative endeavors in this vital area. Through the planting of 1,500 assorted Agro-Forest trees, including drought-resistant species, TARDA made a tangible contribution to the marathon's goal of planting 10 million trees.

TARDA PARTICIPATES IN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AT STATE HOUSE



On 26th March 2024, H.E. President Dr. William Ruto, C.G.H, convened a critical consultative meeting bringing together chairs and CEOs of State Corporations at State House. TARDA was represented by Chairman Mr. Patrick Gichohi and Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba at the meeting whose highlights included:

1. Government has initiated fiscal austerity measures and budget rationalization in view of directing resources to priority areas (food security, job creation & health reforms);
 2. Over 63% of Public revenue is applied in servicing debt; this is not sustainable and the National Treasury is under instruction working towards a national balanced budget in 3 years;
 3. SCs obliged to implement measures that seek to enhance own revenue, contain expenditure escalation, boost dividend payout to GoK, invest in priority projects & minimise surplus diversion;
 4. Enhance non-tax revenue, reduce reliance on Exchequer and cut down on recurrent expenditure;
- As an Authority TARDA aligns with these directives and is keen on contributing to national development initiatives.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH BEEKEEPING: TARDA'S TRAINING INITIATIVES IN KITUI URBAN AND YATTA



TARDA conducted specialized training sessions in Kitui urban and Yatta at Muselele, aimed at empowering local communities in beekeeping on March 27th 2024. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to fulfilling our Performance Contract objectives. Our dedicated trainers, including Robert Ndungu from Kiambere, Muladi Mwizi, Jose Mugambi, and Eresmus Bundi, led these informative sessions, providing valuable insights and skills to community members eager to explore the world of beekeeping. By equipping communities with the knowledge and tools needed for beekeeping, we not only support local livelihoods but also promote environmental conservation and biodiversity.

RESTORING OUR LAND, BUILDING RESILIENCE: WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2024 PLANS ENTER TOP GEAR



Through our Athi-Basin Region Office, TARDA is gearing up for World Environment Day 2024 alongside key stakeholders in Machakos County through a meeting held on March 26th, 2024. Exciting plans are in motion to celebrate and make a positive impact on our environment. We're proud to collaborate with esteemed partners including the National Government, Machakos University, Machakos County, Kenya Forest Service, Water Resources Authority, Kenya Meteorological Department, National Drought Management Authority, and Kenya Wildlife Service. Four potential sites have been identified for our upcoming activities, each holding promise for environmental restoration and community engagement. This year's global theme, "Land restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience," resonates deeply with our mission. We're keen on championing a greener, more resilient future for generations to come.

