



# TARDA NEWS

TANA AND ATHI RIVERS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ISSUE NO. 13 | AUGUST 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

## MINISTRY OF EAC, THE ASALS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT THE MINISTRY OF EAC, THE ASALS & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



On August 21<sup>st</sup> we witnessed a significant moment in the Ministry of EAC, The ASALs, and Regional Development, as the outgoing Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Peninah Malonza, officially handed over the reins to the incoming Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Beatrice Askul. This event was a powerful symbol of continuity and progress, reflecting our commitment to advancing regional development and fostering closer ties within the East African Community.

TARDA was honored to be represented by our Managing Director, Liban Roba, who spoke on behalf of the Regional Development Authorities. As we look ahead to this new chapter under the leadership of Hon. Beatrice Askul, TARDA is committed to working closely with the Ministry, other government bodies and stakeholders to realize our shared vision of sustainable development, regional integration and improved livelihoods across the Tana and Athi River Basins and beyond.

### REFLECTING ON INNOVATION IN TRANSITION: CHAIRMAN MEETS WITH STAFF AT THE HEADQUARTERS



TARDA was honored to host our Chairman Mr. Patrick Gichohi on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024 when he visited our offices to share an inspiring message alongside our Managing Director, Mr. Liban Roba to members of Management and Staff. The Chair emphasized that TARDA's strategic move to relocate our headquarters to the Industrial Area was critical in aligning with our commitment to efficient resource use and optimized operations. This move also presents us with incredible opportunities to innovate, collaborate & grow as a team.

He further emphasized the importance of fostering innovation and being supportive of one another during this period of change. Our dedication and adaptability are key to making this transition an opportunity for growth and improvement. The Chairman's message was clear: Innovation is the core of our mission. His speech was a powerful reminder that embracing new ideas and approaches is essential for our progress. We're geared at fostering collaboration and fulfilling our mandate with even greater impact.

**TARDA UNDERTAKES SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION AT THE TANA DELTA IRRIGATION PROJECT**



On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024, TARDA undertook a successful Community Sensitization program for the Tana Delta Irrigation Project. This important initiative engaged residents of Mwina, Salama and Galilii Locations. The Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs of these locations were also present at the meeting that aimed to foster a deeper understanding and collaboration for the Project's achievements and challenges and to chart a mutually beneficial strategy going forward.

We explained the environmental benefits, such as improved irrigation practices, which will lead to more efficient water use and higher crop yields. We also highlighted the economic opportunities, including job creation and increased agricultural productivity offered by the Project.

TARDA is committed to ongoing collaboration with the communities. The Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs' support and involvement were instrumental in the success of these sensitization sessions, and we look forward to continued partnership.

**SOWING SUCCESS: TARDA'S BOLD EXPANSION IN SORGHUM PRODUCTION FOR NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY**



Threshing and winnowing took place on the week of 12<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at TARDA's demonstration farms in Masinga and Kiambere, where recently harvested sorghum across 75 and 82 acres, respectively. With impressive yields of 700 to 900 kg per acre, the threshing process highlights the productivity and potential of these farms.

We're committed to expanding both farms to 200 acres each, a move that will significantly enhance our capacity to contribute to Kenya's food security. By increasing sorghum production, we're not only supporting local farmers and communities but also making a substantial impact on the national food supply chain.

This initiative is part of TARDA's broader strategy to promote sustainable agricultural practices, improve land productivity, and drive economic growth in the region. Our efforts are aligned with national goals to boost food production and ensure that every Kenyan has access to nutritious and affordable food.

## UNLOCKING THE FUTURE: ADVANCED GIS & AI FOR REGIONAL GROWTH



A team from TARDA recently completed a transformative training at the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) focused on **#SpatialDataScience** and **#AI** for Advanced **#GIS**. The training covered advanced GIS, web GIS applications, remote sensing using Google Earth Engine and essential **#Python** programming for spatial data handling and **#visualization**. By integrating these skills with statistical analysis and machine learning concepts, our team is now well-prepared to implement spatial prediction models, classification and deep learning techniques for satellite image analysis.

These new capabilities will be vital as TARDA continues to play a key role in regional planning, environmental conservation and sustainable development initiatives. By leveraging AI and GIS, we can optimize resource allocation, improve project efficiency, and make data-driven decisions that will accelerate growth across our regions. From enhancing irrigation projects to promoting food security and managing natural resources, TARDA is committed to utilizing these advanced technologies to bring transformative change to communities.

## TARDA & MACHAKOS COUNTY JOIN FORCES TO BOOST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



TARDA is honoured to have held a critical joint meeting with the County Government of Machakos on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024 focused on forging strong partnerships to drive regional development and uplift local communities. The TARDA Team were led by Director Investment & Business Development **Mr. Parmenas Mukeku** while the Machakos County Government were led by County Director for External Resources Mobilization, Partnerships and Monitoring & Evaluation **Mr. Mohamed Hajji Ibrahim**, with discussions centered on several key areas of collaboration. These areas included resource mobilization, leveraging the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) 2023-2027, and promoting regional economic development, among other areas.

A major outcome of the meeting was the establishment of a joint technical working group, tasked with overseeing the implementation of agreed-upon strategies and ensuring seamless cooperation between TARDA and the County Government. Through this collaborative effort, TARDA and the County Government of Machakos are committed to fostering sustainable development and making a lasting impact on the communities they serve.

## TARDA'S MASINGA DAM RESORT PLAYS HOST TO BMW OWNERS CLUB'S DAY DRIVE



TARDA was delighted to host a spectacular Drive Day Out at **Masinga Dam Resort**. The event was a perfect blend of excitement, camaraderie and breathtaking views as we welcomed passionate car enthusiasts to experience the serene beauty and diverse recreational activities our Resort offers.

We were honored to showcase our resort's amenities and the natural beauty of Masinga Dam. Hosting such a prestigious club was an excellent opportunity to highlight the importance of eco-tourism and community engagement in promoting sustainable development. We look forward to more thrilling adventures and fostering stronger connections within our community.