

TARDA NEWS

TANA AND ATHI RIVERS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF EAC, THE ASALS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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HIGHLIGHTS

Turning The Tide In Ngumu: Water For Life, Hope For The Future



TARDA is honoured to have hosted our Board Chairman Mr. Patrick Gichohi led by Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba when he visited Ngumu Village in Tana River County on 23rd April 2025. Where parched land once symbolized despair, the newly completed Ngumu Village Borehole now flows with promise. Through a Drought Mitigation Initiative, 450 households and over 2,600 heads of cattle now have access to safe, clean water—thanks to a 40-meter-deep borehole equipped with a solar-powered pumping system, a 24m³ elevated steel tank, a secure perimeter, and fully reticulated water distribution complete with operational kiosks. This is not just infrastructure—it's impact. This project directly advances Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), by investing in rural livelihoods, building climate resilience, and ensuring that no community is left behind. It's about taking development to the grassroots—providing the basics, so people can thrive. For the women who no longer walk long distances for water, for the children who now stay in school, and for the herders whose livestock stand a chance through dry seasons—Ngumu is a milestone worth celebrating. The Ngumu Borehole Project stands as a testament to what partnership, purpose, and people-centered planning can achieve.

The Tana Delta Irrigation Project: A Key Driver Of Kenya's Bottom-up Economic Transformation

TARDA also hosted our Board Chair, Mr. Patrick Gichohi, for a visit to the expansive Tana Delta Irrigation Project (TDIP)—a signature initiative that exemplifies our nation's commitment to inclusive, sustainable development. Kenya's agriculture sector contributes over 33% of the GDP and provides a livelihood to more than 70% of the rural population. Yet, challenges such as food insecurity, post-harvest losses, and heavy reliance on imports—especially for staple crops like rice—continue to hold us back. Kenya currently imports rice worth approximately Ksh. 7 billion annually, even though we have the land, the water, and the human capital to produce much of it locally...



Other Stories...

- *Rebuilding Stronger: Tana Delta Irrigation Project Now Better Protected Against Flooding*
- *Tarda Hosts Nile Basin Initiative For Consultations On Regional Dam Safety Programme*
- *Equipping kivaani for a greener, food-secure future*

STAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Tana Delta Irrigation Project: A Key Driver Of Kenya's Bottom-up Economic Transformation

(Continued from Pg. 1) That is why the Tana Delta Irrigation Project is so critical—not just to TARDA's mandate, but to Kenya's national goals. With over 7,000 hectares earmarked for irrigated rice production, TDIP represents a bold and necessary intervention aimed at boosting domestic production, creating thousands of jobs, and enhancing local livelihoods. When fully developed, the project is projected to produce 71,750 metric tonnes of milled rice annually, significantly narrowing our import gap and improving food self-sufficiency.

The project's reach goes beyond rice—it includes restoring damaged irrigation infrastructure, rehabilitating dykes, constructing weirs to regulate water supply, and putting in place water-efficient systems to adapt to climate variability. These interventions are not just reactive—they are strategic, future-focused, and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Vision 2030, and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The BETA Agenda calls for deliberate investment in sectors that touch people's lives—agriculture, water, energy, infrastructure, and SMEs. TDIP brings all these together by leveraging land, water, and technology through an integrated agri-business approach. But to realize its full potential, we must go further—by embracing innovative financing models.

The Project gives a promise of food security, dignified livelihoods, climate resilience, and economic transformation. Here, at the heart of Kenya's fertile coastal lowlands, TARDA is leading the charge to turn promise into reality through targeted investments in large-scale irrigated agriculture. With over 48,000 hectares of irrigable land within TARDA's jurisdiction, the opportunity for scale is massive.



Rebuilding Stronger: Tana Delta Irrigation Project Now Better Protected Against Flooding



When floods struck last year, Kelona Brook at TARDA's Tana Delta Irrigation Project's critical embankments were heavily damaged, leaving nearby communities exposed and vulnerable. Today, the Kelona Brook's Stabilization Works have been successfully completed — restoring and strengthening this vital flood defense just in time for the rains currently being experienced. Recognizing the urgent need for action, the project involved comprehensive desilting to clear floodwaters, installation of durable gabion protection structures, and raising and reinforcing the embankments to prevent future backflow from the Tana River.

Works began in October 2024 but had to be temporarily halted in November 2024 due to abnormally high water levels that rendered the site inaccessible and unsafe. After months of careful monitoring,

construction resumed safely in mid-January 2025 once floodwaters receded. The team systematically completed gabion box construction, backfilling, and compaction to stabilize the area. The completion of this project marks a major step forward in flood mitigation and climate resilience efforts. By investing in stronger infrastructure now, we are not only protecting lives and property but also securing a foundation for sustainable growth in the face of future challenges.

As the rains continue, we encourage all residents to stay alert and support ongoing efforts to build safer, stronger communities.

TARDA Hosts Nile Basin Initiative For Consultations On Regional Dam Safety Programme



On 29th April 2025, TARDA played host to a team from the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) for a consultative meeting under the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) Project, with a focus on dam safety capacity building across the Nile Basin.

The delegation—comprising representatives from the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU)—was received by our Managing Director, Mr. Liban Roba at TARDA headquarters. The NBI brings together ten riparian states that share the Nile River Basin, working jointly for

sustainable development and equitable water resource use. ENTRO and NELSAP-CU serve as technical arms for the Eastern Nile and Nile Equatorial Lakes regions respectively, and are jointly implementing the NCCR Project through support from the World Bank's Cooperation for International Waters in Africa (CIWA).

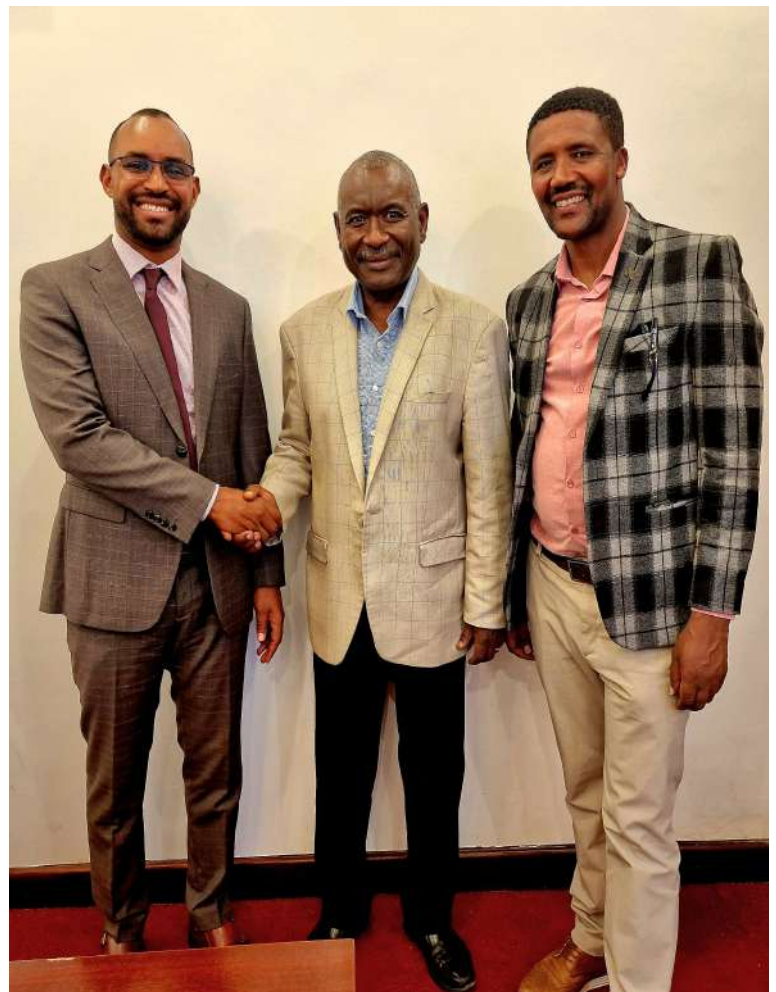
A central component of the project is Dam Safety Capacity Building, which seeks to enhance institutional coordination, risk management, regulatory frameworks, and technical skills essential for sustainable dam development and management throughout the basin.

During the meeting, reference materials including draft dam safety guidelines, a basin-wide risk management framework, and a regulatory framework were shared. The session also included the presentation of a concept note for a proposed Regional Dam Safety Training Centre, which would support continuous professional development and best practices in dam safety.

For TARDA, this engagement is especially significant. As the custodian of major multipurpose dams in the Tana Basin—namely Masinga and Kiambere Dams, both of which play a critical role in power generation, flood control, irrigation, and water supply—the importance of improved dam safety cannot be overstated. These consultations offer an opportunity to tap into regional expertise, align with global safety standards, and contribute to a basin-wide culture of proactive risk management.

TARDA is proud to contribute to regional cooperation on water resource management and reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding lives, infrastructure, and ecosystems through enhanced dam safety and climate resilience initiatives.

food imports, strengthen rural economies, and achieve long-term food security.



MD with Delegation from ENTRO and the NELSAP-CU

Equipping Kivaani For A Greener, Food-secure Future



In the heart of Kivaani Division, Kangundo Sub-County, TARDA continues to walk hand in hand with communities, turning commitment into action and policy into tangible change.

On 8th April 2025, our team engaged the Kivaani community and local administrators at the Assistant County Commissioner's Office in an outreach mission rooted in empowerment and sustainability.



We delivered certified seeds to support household food production, provided technical agricultural guidance, and led practical demonstrations on seedbed preparation — equipping farmers with the knowledge and tools to boost productivity from the ground up.

Beyond food systems, we also planted trees in a shared gesture of environmental responsibility — reaffirming our belief that resilience begins with the land and the people who depend on it. At TARDA, we do not merely distribute resources — we cultivate partnerships, transfer knowledge, and build capacity. Our presence in Kivaani reflects our broader mission: to catalyze transformation through sustainable development, one community at a time.

Enhancing Urban Resilience

TARDA is pleased to share the completion of the Ngara Market Borehole— an urban water solution designed to strengthen water security, support vibrant market activity and improve public health in one of Nairobi's busiest commercial hubs.

This borehole which was handed over on 11th April 2025 is set to benefit over 10,000 traders and residents of the bustling Ngara Market. Located at the Ngara Chief's Camp, it not only addresses long-standing water challenges but also supports public hygiene and livelihoods at the heart of Nairobi's commercial activity. *(Continues in the next page)*





What the Project Delivered

1. A 296-meter-deep borehole with a yield of $10\text{m}^3/\text{hour}$
2. A 10HP pump system and solar-powered pumping solution (9,900 Watts)
3. A 24,000-litre elevated pressed steel tank
4. Pump house, water kiosk, and plumbing for seamless water access
5. Community engagement and full transparency from planning to implementation

The solar system ensures sustainable, low-cost operations, while the water

kiosk—with dual outlets and an additional faucet serving the Chief's Camp—guarantees inclusive access for both public use and local security operations.

True to our values, this project was shaped by the voices of Ngara residents. Through continuous stakeholder engagement such as the one led today by Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba, the initiative was aligned with local needs and is now supported by a framework for community-level ownership and maintenance. This borehole is more than infrastructure—it is a lifeline, a symbol of resilience, and a product of partnership between government, community, and implementing teams. TARDA remains committed to sustainable water resource development across the Tana and Athi River Basins in line with national development priorities.

WATER FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HOPE Muchagara Borehole Complete

TARDA is delighted to announce the successful completion of the Muchagara Borehole, a vital investment in community resilience and water security.

Strategically located at Muchagara Mixed Day Secondary School, this borehole, which was handed over on 11th April 2025 will directly benefit learners and over 750 surrounding households, transforming lives in Murang'a South Sub-county.

Scope of Works

1. Hydrological survey conducted by a certified professional
2. A 290-meter-deep borehole yielding an impressive 36m^3 per hour
3. A solar-powered pumping system with 30 high-capacity panels
- 24,000-litre pressed steel elevated tank
4. Two public water kiosks and three additional community water points
5. A fully equipped pump house, pipeline distribution network, and drainage systems
6. Full site fencing, signage, and branding to ensure security and visibility (Continues in the next page)





This was not just a technical exercise—it was a community-centered initiative. TARDA led by our Director, Resource Planning and Development Ms. Irene Ndavi and Director, Corporate Services Mr. David Kimaiyo engaged a broad coalition of stakeholders including the MP's office, local administration, school leadership, and community representatives—ensuring that this solution met real local needs.

This borehole is a lifeline for water access, especially for women, children, and students. It enhances school attendance, promotes sanitation, and unlocks the potential for small-scale irrigation, thus building long-term climate resilience in the region.

Maji safi, maisha bora!

TARDA & KENYA RED CROSS

LAUNCH DRIVE TO GREEN 60 SCHOOLS IN MACHAKOS COUNTY



TARDA is honoured to stand beside the Kenya Red Cross Society in a joint commitment to environmental resilience and restoration as the Society marks 60 years of dedicated service to communities across Kenya.

On 16th April 2025, we officially launched a School Greening Programme at the TARDA Machakos Tree Nursery, specifically around the Weir Riparian zones in Machakos County, a collaboration that will see 60 schools in Machakos County

transformed through tree growing—one school for every year of Red Cross impact.

This initiative goes beyond symbolic celebration. It reflects the shared vision between TARDA and KRCS to:

1. *Equip institutions with the knowledge and tools for sustainable land and water management*
2. *Embed climate education and conservation values within learning environments*
3. *Restore degraded ecosystems and protect riparian zones critical to our river basins*

As part of the launch, Red Cross staff and volunteers underwent hands-on training on:

Tree nursery establishment and care
Biodiversity enhancement and climate mitigation
Environmental stewardship as a civic responsibility

Our collaboration is rooted in the belief that sustainability is service—a natural extension of humanitarian work. In the 2023/24 financial year, TARDA's Athi Basin Region engaged 87 public institutions in conservation efforts. Through this new chapter with KRCS, we renew our promise to deepen impact, expand green cover, and cultivate a future where both people and ecosystems thrive.

Because every tree planted today is a legacy of hope for generations to come.

ROOTING THE FUTURE: KITUI COUNTY RISES FOR 15 BILLION TREES



TARDA, in collaboration with Deputy County Commissioners, launched a transformative School Greening Programme across nine sub-counties in Kitui County on 17th April 2025. From Kiambere, a cradle of life and resilience, we distributed 10,000 tree seedlings — destined not only to shade school compounds but to awaken a culture of environmental guardianship among the young and the hopeful.

These seedlings found their way into the hands of communities in Mwingi Central, Migwani, Kitui West, Matinyani, Katulani, Kitui Central, Nzambani, Lower Yatta, and Kisasi — places where the soil is ready and the people even more so. Each tree planted is not just a symbol of life — it is a commitment to healing our landscapes, cooling our climate, and restoring what has been lost.

This effort is part of Kenya's grand vision — the Presidential Directive to grow 15 billion trees by 2032 — and Kitui has risen to the call. At TARDA, we see this not simply as a target to meet, but as a moral and generational duty: to green the minds and landscapes that will carry this country into the future.

Because when we plant trees, we do not just anchor roots in soil — we anchor hope in hearts, and promise in places where it is needed most.

TARDA CHAMPIONS TREE PLANTING IN KITUI COUNTY

As part of its ongoing commitment to environmental conservation and in commemoration of Earth Day 2025, TARDA donated 10,000 tree seedlings to support reforestation efforts across Kitui County on 18th April 2025.

The initiative, led by the National Government Administration Officers (NGAOs) under the leadership of Kitui County Commissioner Kipchumba Rutto, targeted degraded areas in all nine sub-counties of the county. The trees planted are expected to enhance carbon sequestration, help curb greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to reversing deforestation—all critical Earth Day goals.

This activity not only marked TARDA's continued environmental stewardship but also reinforced support for the Presidential Directive to grow 15 billion trees by 2032. The planting exercise was carried out in collaboration with community stakeholders, including Katee Foundation, Kamba Visionary Association (KVA), local CBOs, and school principals, highlighting a shared responsibility in tackling the climate crisis.

By greening Kitui, TARDA and its partners are taking tangible action to restore degraded ecosystems and secure a healthier planet.



TARDA AND EMBU UNIVERSITY CULTIVATE CLIMATE ACTION



As part of the ongoing #EarthDay2025 commemorations, TARDA Embu Regional Staff partnered with students from Embu University, Department of Business Studies for a significant tree planting exercise in Blue Valley, Kirimari Ward, Embu West Subcounty.

The initiative focused on restoring degraded landscapes through the planting of indigenous and climate-resilient tree species, reinforcing TARDA's mission to promote sustainable ecosystem management in the Tana and Athi River Basins. This collaborative effort not only contributes to the national 15 Billion Tree Growing Programme, but also aligns with broader climate action goals under Kenya's Vision 2030 and global commitments to combat deforestation, biodiversity loss, and greenhouse gas emissions. The exercise also provided an experiential learning opportunity for the students, who are future environmental stewards, while strengthening community partnerships in the region.

TARDA continues to integrate environmental conservation into its core mandate, working across counties and institutions to safeguard natural resources and enhance resilience to climate change—one tree at a time.



Celebrating the Life of Rose

Rose's Memory Lives on at TARDA

TARDA mourns the loss of one of its dedicated staff members, Rose Cheruiyot Rotich, who passed away on Sunday, 27th April 2025.

Rose served TARDA with commitment and integrity for an admirable 34 years. Until her passing, she was a Clerical Officer in the Administration Section (Stores) at the Authority's Headquarters. In her many years of service, Rose embodied the values of humility, diligence, and compassion. Her quiet strength, dependable nature, and warm spirit were a constant presence in the workplace, bringing calm and connection wherever she went.



We will remember her not only for her professional reliability but also for the many small yet profound acts of kindness that enriched the TARDA community. She leaves behind a legacy of loyalty and heartfelt service that will be cherished for years to come.

As we reflect on Rose's life and contribution, we extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues. May the peace and comfort of the Almighty be with them during this time of loss.

**Rose will be dearly missed.
May her soul rest in eternal peace.**