



KENYA PLANT HEALTH INSPECTORATE SERVICE (KEPHIS) **NEWSLETTER**

JUNE - 2026



Kenya – Malaysia Market
Access; Verification of
Conformity for Mango and
Delphinium Cut Flowers to
Malaysian Market

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Message from the Managing Director



Dear Stakeholders,

Welcome to the June 2026 edition of the KEPHIS Newsletter.

As we conclude the 2025/26 Financial Year, we reflect on a period of significant milestones that have strengthened our contribution to Kenya's agricultural sector. Throughout the year, KEPHIS remained steadfast in safeguarding plant health, assuring the quality of agricultural inputs and produce, facilitating safe trade, and supporting national food security. The achievements highlighted in this edition demonstrate our continued commitment to delivering on our mandate while laying a strong foundation for the year ahead.

During the month, we hosted the Kenya–Malaysia Market Access Verification Mission for mangoes and delphinium cut flowers, an important step towards expanding export opportunities for Kenyan producers. We also represented Kenya at the 95th Meeting of the World Trade Organization Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures in Geneva, where we continued to champion science-based international trade measures that safeguard the interests of Kenyan farmers, exporters, and the agricultural sector.

Our participation in international and national platforms, including the World Farmers' Organization Meeting and the



International Floriculture Trade Exhibition (IFTTEX), provided valuable opportunities to strengthen partnerships, engage stakeholders, and showcase Kenya's robust phytosanitary systems that continue to support market access and agricultural competitiveness.

During the month, KEPHIS also joined the rest of the world in commemorating World Environment Day and World Desertification and Drought Day. Through tree-growing initiatives and environmental conservation activities, we reaffirmed our support for the Government's 15 Billion Tree Growing Initiative by 2032, recognising that healthy ecosystems are fundamental to sustainable agriculture, climate resilience and food security.

We also continued investing in our staff through programmes that strengthened institutional capacity, including retirement preparedness, national cohesion and values training, and emergency preparedness initiatives. These investments reinforce a culture of professionalism, accountability, safety, and excellence in service delivery.

Innovation and quality assurance remained central to our work. The National Variety Release Committee approved new crop varieties that will contribute to enhanced agricultural productivity, while our continued engagement with farmers, regulators, researchers, and other stakeholders strengthened quality seed systems, plant health services, and agricultural resilience.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors, staff, partners and stakeholders for your continued dedication, collaboration and confidence in KEPHIS. As we embark on a new financial year, we remain committed to continuous improvement, innovation and excellence in delivering quality regulatory and phytosanitary services for the benefit of our nation.

Prof. Theophilus Mutui, PhD.

Managing Director,
Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
(KEPHIS)

The Editor's Note



Dear Readers,

Behind Every Story is a Purpose.

Every month, our newsletter captures milestones, events, and achievements. Yet behind every photograph, every field visit, every meeting, and every certificate issued lies a much bigger story—the story of people working every day to protect Kenya's agriculture, facilitate safe trade, and support the livelihoods of millions.

This edition reminds us that progress is often built through many deliberate steps. Sometimes it is a delegation travelling across continents to negotiate market access. Sometimes it is a scientist evaluating a new crop variety that may improve harvests for years to come. Sometimes it is a field officer guiding farmers on better production practices. Individually, these may seem like ordinary activities. Together, they tell the story of an institution continuously creating lasting impact.

As communicators, our responsibility goes beyond documenting events. We preserve institutional memory, celebrate

excellence, share knowledge, and ensure that the work carried out every day reaches the people it is intended to serve. Every story in this edition reflects KEPHIS' commitment to safeguarding plant health, strengthening food systems, facilitating safe trade, and supporting Kenya's agricultural transformation.

As always, thank you for your continued readership. We hope these stories not only inform you but also deepen your appreciation of the important work taking place across KEPHIS and the role it plays in supporting agriculture, trade, and national development.

Stay connected with KEPHIS beyond the pages of this newsletter. Join the conversation on **Facebook** and **LinkedIn (Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service)**, follow us on **X (@KephisKe)**, and subscribe to our **YouTube channel @KephisKe**.

Happy Reading!

Kellen Karuti

Deputy Director, Corporate Communications - KEPHIS



KENYA – MALAYSIA MARKET ACCESS; VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY FOR MANGO AND DELPHINIUM CUT FLOWERS TO MALAYSIAN MARKET.



Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Kenya, plays a critical role in facilitating fresh produce exports by ensuring that agricultural produce meet the phytosanitary requirements of importing countries. Through inspection, testing and certification, KEPHIS verifies that export consignments are free from pest and diseases, thereby safeguarding market access and supporting international trade. This mandate is being demonstrated through the Kenya–Malaysia Market Access Verification Mission for Mangoes and Delphinium cut flowers (*Delphinium elatum*). The exercise marks a significant step towards expanding market opportunities for Kenyan producers and exporters by facilitating access to the Malaysian market.

The verification mission brings together technical experts from Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) the

NPPO, and Malaysia to assess the country's capacity to meet the phytosanitary and quality requirements necessary for export. Visits are being conducted to production sites, pack houses, export facilities, and inspection points to evaluate compliance with international standards and Malaysia's import protocols.

For Kenya, the exercise represents more than a technical assessment. It highlighted the country's commitment to maintaining resilient phytosanitary systems that protect plant health while facilitating safe trade. Through rigorous inspection, surveillance, certification, and quality assurance processes, Kenya continues to demonstrate its readiness to compete in international markets.

Mangoes remain one of Kenya's most important horticultural exports, providing income to thousands of farmers across the country. Similarly, the floriculture sector



continues to position Kenya among the world's leading exporters of cut flowers. Access to the Malaysian market offers an opportunity to diversify export destinations, strengthen market resilience, and increase returns for producers.

As the National Plant Protection Organization, KEPHIS plays a critical role in supporting market access initiatives by ensuring compliance with importing countries' phytosanitary requirements. Through pest surveillance, diagnostics, inspection, certification, and continuous engagement with trading partners, KEPHIS contributes to building confidence in the quality and safety of Kenyan agricultural products.

The verification mission also emphasizes the importance of international collaboration in promoting safe trade. By working closely with regulatory authorities and stakeholders, Kenya continues to strengthen its reputation as a reliable supplier of high-quality agricultural produce to global markets. As demand for

safe, quality-assured agricultural products continues to grow worldwide, initiatives such as the Kenya–Malaysia market access verification exercise reaffirm the country's commitment to excellence. It demonstrates how strong phytosanitary systems can unlock new opportunities for farmers, exporters, and the wider economy.

At KEPHIS, we remain committed to safeguarding plant health, assuring the quality of agricultural inputs and produce, and facilitating safe trade. Through these efforts, we continue to support Kenya's agricultural transformation and contribute to a food-secure nation and prosperous global trade partnerships.

The 8-day mission was commissioned by the KEPHIS Managing Director, Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui, PhD at the KEPHIS Headquarters Karen, accompanied by a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director Phytosanitary & Biosecurity Services, Dr. Isaac Macharia and KEPHIS technical staff.

KEPHIS PARTICIPATED IN THE 95th FORMAL MEETING OF THE WTO COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) MEASURES 22nd- 26th JUNE, 2026, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



KENYA Delegation led by Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui at the 95th Formal Meeting of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary SPS Measures in Geneva, Switzerland.

The SPS Committee provides a platform for members to discuss the implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement, raise specific Trade Concerns and review International Standards relating to food safety, animal and plant health. Kenya is a founding member of the WTO and holds a central role in the SPS field. Kenya's active participation in the WTO SPS committee meeting is therefore critical to safeguard Kenya's trade, interests and ensure alignment of Kenya's National SPS measures with International Obligations.

The Managing Director KEPHIS, Professor Theophilus M. Mutui and Mrs. Phyllis Githaiga, Principal Inspector Standards, International Obligations and Trade represented Kenya in the meeting held in the WTO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

In particular, Kenya raised the Specific Trade Concern (STC) on the European Union (EU) Omnibus approach in its proposal to eliminate pesticides Import

Intolerance which is not in accordance with the Internationally agreed risk-based approach. The managing Director KEPHIS Professor Mutui urged the EU to reconsider the proposed amendment. He informed the meeting that the EU proposed amendment has a direct threat to Africa agricultural export and farmers' livelihood with widespread ramifications for the entire Agricultural and food industry in Kenya and potentially negative effect on International trade and agricultural innovation.

KEPHIS is the chair of the National SPS Committee while the State Department of Trade (SDT) is the Secretariat. Kenya was represented in the Geneva meeting by three institutions namely; Chair of the Committee (KEPHIS), the secretariat (SDT) and Member to the committee, Pesticide Control and Product Board (PCPB) representative.

The team in Geneva further discussed other notifications affecting the Market access for Kenya agriculture and submitted to the WTO for consideration.



KEPHIS MD Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui, Mrs. Phyllis Githaiga, Principal Inspector Standards, International Obligations and Trade with Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland Amb. Dr. Fancy Chepkemai Too (MBS).

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The Kenya team led by KEPHIS MD Prof. Theophilus Mutui who was the head of the delegation, later held talks with Ambassador Dr. Fancy Chepkemai Too (MBS) the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland. In their discussion, Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui deliberated the issues that the team raised during the WTO meeting and how the proposed Omnibus EU regulations will affect and impact on Kenya Market Access to the EU. Amb. Dr. Fancy was delighted with the active participation of the National SPS Committee and encouraged the committee to engage with the mission for support during the Geneva meetings.



KEPHIS MD Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui with Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland Amb. Dr. Fancy Chepkemai Too (MBS)

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WORLD FARMERS ORGANIZATION MEETING



The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) participated in the World Farmers' Organization (WFO) Meeting held from 8th–11th June 2026 at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi. The global forum brought together farmers' organizations, agricultural stakeholders, policymakers and partners to discuss sustainable agriculture, food security, innovation and the future of farming.

The WFO Meeting provides an important platform for strengthening collaboration among stakeholders in the agricultural sector, sharing knowledge, promoting farmers' voices, and advancing solutions that support resilient and productive food systems.

KEPHIS' participation underscored its critical mandate of safeguarding plant

health, ensuring quality agricultural inputs, regulating seed quality, protecting biodiversity and facilitating safe agricultural trade key pillars in supporting farmers and sustainable agriculture.

The official opening ceremony was graced by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, who served as the Chief Guest, Principal Secretary, State Department for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Livestock Development, Hon. Jonathan Mueke and the Managing Director Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service Prof. Theophilus Mutui and other key leaders and stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

RECOGNIZE. RESPECT. RESTORE: KEPHIS JOINS GLOBAL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE RANGELAND RESTORATION



The global observance brought together leaders, environmental experts, development partners, and stakeholders from across the world to highlight the importance of rangelands in enhancing food and water security, sustaining livelihoods, conserving biodiversity, and strengthening resilience against climate change.

The event was graced by the Chief Guest, H.E Prof. Kithure Kindiki, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, alongside national and international dignitaries, including representatives from the United Nations, African Union, government institutions and environmental institutions.

The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) participated in the global celebrations, led by Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui PhD, Managing Director, reaffirming the

institution's commitment to supporting sustainable agricultural systems, protecting plant health, and contributing to environmental conservation and climate resilience initiatives. The celebrations emphasized the urgent need for collective action in restoring degraded landscapes and protecting rangelands, which play a vital role in supporting ecosystems, pastoral communities, livestock production, and biodiversity conservation.

The Deputy President called on Kenyans to transform environmental commitments into practical action, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding rangelands and recognizing the contribution of the 15 Billion Tree Growing Campaign towards ecosystem restoration and climate change mitigation across the country.



H.E Prof. Kithure Kindiki, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya and Prof. Theophilus Mutui PhD, Managing Director, KEPHIS.

As Kenya's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), KEPHIS continues to play a key role in supporting sustainable agricultural systems through plant health protection, seed quality assurance, phytosanitary services, and support for resilient food systems. These efforts align with national and global goals on food security, biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation.

The global event also brought together distinguished guests including H.E Moses Vilakati, AU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development (ARBE); Amb. Dr. Ida Odinga, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to UNON & UNEP; Ms. Inger Andersen, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive

Director of UNEP; Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of UNCCD; and other leaders from across the globe.

World Desertification and Drought Day serves as a global platform to raise awareness on land degradation and drought while mobilizing action towards protecting and restoring healthy ecosystems.

Through collaboration, innovation, and responsible stewardship of natural resources, KEPHIS remains committed to supporting initiatives that promote climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, and biodiversity conservation. Recognize the value of our rangelands, respect their role in sustaining life and Restoring them for a resilient tomorrow.

KEPHIS HOSTS SOMALI DELEGATION TO SHOWCASE KENYA'S PHYTOSANITARY AND SPS SYSTEMS



On Friday, 12th June, the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), led by the Managing Director, Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui, hosted a delegation of Somali Government officials and key food safety stakeholders, including professionals from the Somali Agricultural Regulatory and Inspection Service (SARIS).

The delegation visited KEPHIS to gain a deeper understanding of Kenya's phytosanitary system and experience in Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) compliance and implementation, phytosanitary inspection and certification procedures, plant health management, quarantine systems, and export certification requirements for agricultural products.

During the engagement, the team was taken through technical presentations covering the role of KEPHIS and its broader mandate in safeguarding plant health and supporting food systems. The sessions highlighted inspection and certification procedures for agricultural products, issuance of phytosanitary certificates and SPS-related documentation, pest surveillance, quarantine and risk management systems, compliance requirements for export markets, alignment with East African Community (EAC) frameworks and international SPS standards, as well as coordination with other competent authorities.



The delegation also visited the KEPHIS Analytical Chemistry Laboratory and Plant Health Laboratories, where they were hosted by the Director Laboratories, Dr. Florence Munguti, and the Deputy Director, Analytical Chemistry Laboratory, Mr. Peter Kamuti.

The engagement between KEPHIS and the Somali delegation strengthened



collaboration between the two countries, creating opportunities for future partnerships, trade facilitation, exchange programmes, and capacity building initiatives aimed at strengthening regional ties and supporting sustainable agricultural development.

KEPHIS MARKS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2026 WITH 10,500 SEEDLING DONATION TO ADVANCE CLIMATE ACTION



It starts with bold action, answering the global call for Climate Action to protect and restore our environment.

On 5th of June 2026, at Olkalou Grounds in Nyandarua County, KEPHIS joined the world in celebrating World Environment Day 2026 under the theme of 'A Global Call for Climate Action'. The Service, led by the Managing Director Prof. Theophilus M.Mutui demonstrated this commitment by donating 10,000 forest tree seedlings and 500 Hass avocado fruit seedlings to Nyandarua Community, a meaningful contribution towards a greener more resilient planet.

This is in line with KEPHIS Financial Year 2025/26 commitment of growing 100,000 trees annually and partnering & collaborating with key stakeholders in liaison with the State Department for Forestry to plant and grow trees annually.

These seedlings represent more than numbers. Forest trees play a vital role in carbon sequestration, restoring degraded ecosystems, conserving biodiversity, and protecting vital water catchment areas. The avocado fruit trees support livelihoods, enhance food security, and promote sustainable land use, aligning environmental conservation with economic empowerment.



As an institution, KEPHIS continues to contribute to environmental protection by promoting the use of quality, certified planting materials, supporting afforestation and reforestation efforts, safeguarding plant health, and ensuring sustainable agricultural practices that protect our ecosystems.

The event was graced by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change

and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Mlongo Barasa; Hon. Moses Kuria, Former Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Performance and Delivery Management; the Principal Secretary for the State Department of Environment and Climate Change, Dr. Eng. Festus Ng'eno, CBS, MIEK; and the Director General, National Environment Management Authority, Dr. Mamo, EBS alongside the County and National Government.

KEPHIS STRENGTHENED NATIONAL VALUES THROUGH COHESION TRAINING



When people embrace shared values, organizations thrive, communities prosper, and nations grow stronger. Guided by this principle, KEPHIS successfully completed a four-day training for the National Cohesion and Values Committee, held from 9th – 12th June 2026 and facilitated by the Directorate of National Cohesion and Values.

The training was officially opened on 9th June 2026 by the KEPHIS Managing Director, Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui, and provided valuable insights into fostering inclusivity, patriotism, integrity, good governance, and adherence to the national values outlined in Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Participants gained knowledge and skills aimed at strengthening the organization's capacity to promote teamwork, accountability, and effective service delivery. Within the agricultural sector, these principles were emphasized

as key enablers of stronger collaboration among stakeholders, enhanced equity, and sustainable agricultural growth.

The training advanced our collective commitment to national unity, socio-economic transformation, and the realization of Kenya's development agenda.

Together, we are building a cohesive nation where shared values drive progress, prosperity, and sustainable development for all.



RETIREMENT STARTS TODAY: KEPHIS EQUIPS STAFF FOR A SECURE FUTURE



Retirement is not the end of a career, it is the beginning of a new chapter that requires thoughtful planning, informed decision-making and financial preparedness.

To empower members with the knowledge needed to confidently prepare for life after employment, the KEPHIS Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme (SRBS 2011) Board of Trustees successfully rolled out a Members' Education and Pre-Retirement Training Programme across KEPHIS regional offices. The programme reached staff in stations including Headquarters, Naivasha, Embu, Mombasa, Kitale, Nakuru, Kisumu, JKIA and Muguga, ensuring that members across the country benefited from the initiative.

The training brought together experts from the Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) as the regulator of Kenya's retirement benefits sector, and Minet Kenya, the Scheme Administrator, who guided members

through key aspects of retirement planning and pension management. Participants gained knowledge on retirement planning, pension benefits, financial management, investment opportunities and personal wellness, equipping them to make informed decisions that will shape their financial future.

A key takeaway was that retirement savings should not simply be viewed as deductions from one's salary, but as long-term investments that grow over time and provide financial security after active employment. Members also learned the importance of starting retirement planning early, making additional voluntary contributions where possible, understanding the available retirement benefit options, and planning for future healthcare needs. The sessions emphasized that consistent saving, investment and informed financial choices are necessary in building a comfortable and financially independent retirement.



Beyond financial preparedness, the programme highlighted members' rights and responsibilities under the retirement benefits framework, including the importance of keeping beneficiary nominations up to date, understanding available benefit options and actively participating in the governance of the Scheme.



The KEPHIS Board of Trustees remain committed to promoting financial literacy, empowering Scheme members and ensuring employees are well prepared for a dignified and fulfilling retirement. The best time to prepare for retirement was yesterday, the next best time is today.

KEPHIS STAFF RETIREMENT BENEFITS SCHEME (SRBS 2011)

MEET YOUR TRUSTEES



Name: Mr. Silas Killingoh

Board Position: Board of Trustees Chairperson

Professional Background:

39 years of experience in Public and Private sector.



Name: CPA Hussein Haji

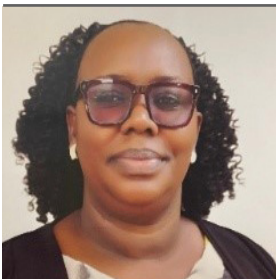
Position: Sponsor- Nominated Trustee

Board Committee:

-Member -Finance and Investment Committee

-Member- Audit & Risk

Professional Background: Finance & Governance



Name: Ms. Janet Odongo

Position: Member-elected trustee

Board Committee: Chairperson- Finance & Investment. Committee

Professional Background: Principal Plant/ Seed Inspector

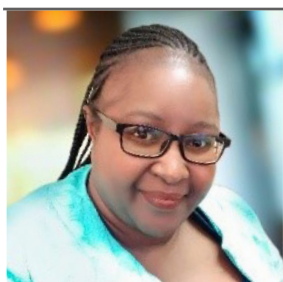


Name: Mr. Benson Utali

Position: Member- Elected Trustee.

Board committee: Chair of Audit & Risk committee.

Professional background: Strategy, Operations and People Management.



Name: Ms. Nancy Odera

Positon: Member- Elected Trustee

Committee: Member- Audit & Risk

Professional Background: Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation



Name: CHRP Fridah Chelimo

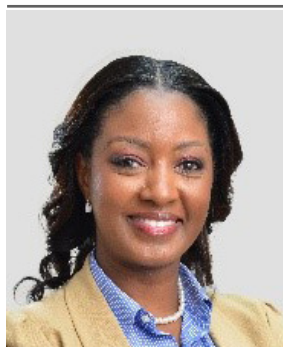
Position: Sponsor- Nominated Trustee

Board Committee:

Member & Secretary- Administration & Communication

Professional Background:

Certified Human Resource Practitioner (CHRP-K)



Name: CHRP Elizabeth Wachuka

Position: Member- Elected Trustee

Board Committee:

-Member & Chair - Administration & Communication

-Member & Secretary- Finance & Investment

Professional Background:

Certified Human Resource Practitioner (CHRP-K)



Name: Ms. Faith Kaluai

Positon: Sponsor- Nominated and Trust Secretary

Board Committee: Member- Administration & Communication

Professional Background: Legal and Governance

Q&A KEPHIS STAFF RETIREMENT BENEFITS SCHEME (SRBS 2011)

Theme:

“Securing Your Financial Future: Smart Retirement Planning and Sustainable Living”

- 1. Many employees think retirement is something to worry about later in life. Why is it important for every employee, regardless of age, to start planning for retirement today?**

Retirement planning should begin from your very first salary. The earlier you start saving, the more time your contributions have to grow through compound investment returns. Starting early also makes it easier to achieve financial independence in retirement without placing unnecessary pressure on your finances later in life. Retirement is not about old age—it is about preparing for a future where your income from employment eventually comes to an end.

- 2. Could you briefly explain what the KEPHIS Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme (SRBS 2011) is, why it was established, and how it benefits employees?**

The KEPHIS Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme (SRBS 2011) is a pension scheme registered with the Retirement Benefits Authority for the sole purpose of assisting members of the scheme build financial security after leaving employment. The Scheme pools contributions from both

its members and KEPHIS as the Sponsor, invests them prudently, and grows members' retirement savings over time.

- 3. Could you explain how members' contributions, KEPHIS' contributions and investment returns come together to build retirement benefits? How does the Scheme work?**

Every month, both the member and the Sponsor contribute to the Pension Fund. These contributions are invested across diversified asset classes such as government securities, equities and other approved investments. As these investments generate returns over time, the value of each member's retirement savings grows. The combination of regular contributions, disciplined investing and long-term investment returns enables members to accumulate meaningful retirement benefits.

- 4. Many members hear terms such as Trustees, Scheme Administrator Service Providers and the Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA). Could you explain the role each of these plays in regard members' retirement savings?**

The Trustees oversee the Scheme with the sole aim of safeguarding members' interests. In exercising this role, the Board of Trustees delegate their function to Services Providers; Administrator, Fund Manager and Custodian. The Scheme Administrator manages daily operations, member records, contributions and benefit payments while the Fund Manager invests the Scheme's assets to generate sustainable returns. The



Custodian securely holds the Scheme's assets independently. The Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) regulates retirement benefits schemes to safeguard members' savings and ensure compliance with the law.

5. What role does KEPHIS, as the Scheme Sponsor, play in supporting employees' retirement security beyond contributing?

The Sponsor plays a critical role, in the first place establishing the pension scheme, ensuring timely remittance of contributions, nominating Trustees to the Board, supporting member education and working with the Trustees to maintain a sustainable and compliant Scheme.

6. What responsibilities do members themselves have to ensure they maximize their retirement benefits and avoid future challenges?

Members should review their benefit statements to confirm that their contributions and details are accurate, keep their beneficiary information up to date, attend member education sessions to enhance their financial literacy. As a member it is critical to stay informed by engaging with the Scheme's governance structures and cultivating a culture of saving beyond the mandatory pension contributions.

7. During the recent member education programme, financial wellness and investment were key topics. Why is it important for employees to invest and save beyond the mandatory pension contributions?

While the Scheme offers a strong foundation for retirement, members are encouraged to strengthen their financial future by making Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs). With such a commitment a member they will get to enjoy a larger retirement fund which provides a higher and more sustainable income in retirement through annuities or income drawdown arrangements. The aim is to help members maintain a desired standard of living after leaving active employment.

8. What are some of the most common mistakes employees make when preparing for retirement, and how can they avoid them?

Common mistakes include delaying retirement planning, failing to update beneficiary details and relying solely on pension savings. These can be avoided through early planning, regular reviews and continuous financial education.

9. If someone transfers to another employer, what happens to their pension?

A Member can opt to become a deferred member, meaning his benefits remain with the Scheme or they can transfer to another Scheme, where they are moving to another employment or start an independent pension scheme. We encourage our members when deciding on the latter, to take their time to scan the market for the most suitable pension plan.

10. If you were advising a new employee joining KEPHIS today, what are the top three retirement planning habits you would encourage them to adopt from their very first salary?



Start planning for retirement immediately, review your pension records regularly and develop a habit of saving and investing beyond mandatory pension contributions. Following the just concluded member education engagement, members appreciated the benefits of actually starting early and the concept of additional voluntary contribution.

11. Looking ahead, how will the Trustees continue supporting members to improve retirement preparedness and financial literacy?

This is something close to the current Board of Trustee and our aim is to have frequent member engagement activity with our members and also taking part in the induction programs for new staff just so that they can appreciate from the first day the benefits of early planning for their retirement.

In future, we may consider engaging retirement consultants to sensitize our members on online forums just to keep reminding them that it is a lifelong financial journey that requires to be started as early as possible.

12. How and when can staff access information about their Retirement

Benefits Scheme?

Members can obtain information about their Retirement Benefits Scheme at any time by contacting the Trust Secretary through the official email address: ***srbs.trustsecretary@kephis.org***. With regards to their respective statements, they can access the same via ***mss.minet.co.ke*** and also download ***Minet pension Mobile App*** to access their benefits statement and bio-data.

They can also contact any of the Scheme Trustees, who are available to provide guidance, respond to queries, or direct members to the appropriate support regarding their retirement benefits.

13. Finally, what is the one message you would like every KEPHIS employee to remember about retirement planning?

Retirement is not an event—it is a lifelong financial journey. Every contribution made today is an investment in future financial security and dignity. The greatest advantage in retirement planning is time. Starting early allows savings to grow through consistent contributions and investment returns, making retirement more secure and less stressful.

KENYA UNDERGOES EUROPEAN UNION DG SANTE AUDIT ON OFFICIAL CONTROLS OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN FOOD EXPORTS



Kenya successfully completed an audit by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) on the official controls governing pesticide residues in food of plant origin intended for export to the European Union.

The audit, which commenced on Monday 15th June 2026, brought together key Kenyan competent authorities responsible for food safety and export certification, including the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB), the Horticultural Crops Directorate (HCD-AFA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, and the Ministry of Health. Representatives from the European Union Delegation to Kenya and the Embassy of Kenya in Brussels also participated in the opening session.

The audit aimed to assess the effectiveness of Kenya's official control

systems in ensuring compliance with European Union requirements for pesticide residues limits on food exports. It focused on the legislative framework, coordination among competent authorities, implementation of monitoring programmes, laboratory testing capabilities, traceability systems, enforcement measures, training programmes and engagement with food business operators.

Speaking during the official opening session on behalf of the Government of Kenya, the Managing Director of KEPHIS Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui emphasized Kenya's commitment to maintaining robust food safety systems and strengthening collaboration among all competent authorities involved in export certification and official controls. The audit was officially opened following remarks from representatives of the relevant competent authorities.



The audit also provided an opportunity for Kenya to showcase progress made in strengthening its food safety control systems, including enhanced pesticide registration system, enhanced pesticide residue monitoring, improved laboratory capacity, internationally accredited testing services, enhanced pesticide risk assessment, promotion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) among growers and stronger coordination mechanisms among regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders.



Kenya values the European Union as a key trading partner and remains committed to ensuring that agricultural exports meet the highest standards of food safety, quality, and consumer protection. The findings and recommendations from the audit will contribute to the continuous improvement of Kenya's official control systems, promote food safety and support sustained market access for Kenyan horticultural produce in the European Union market.

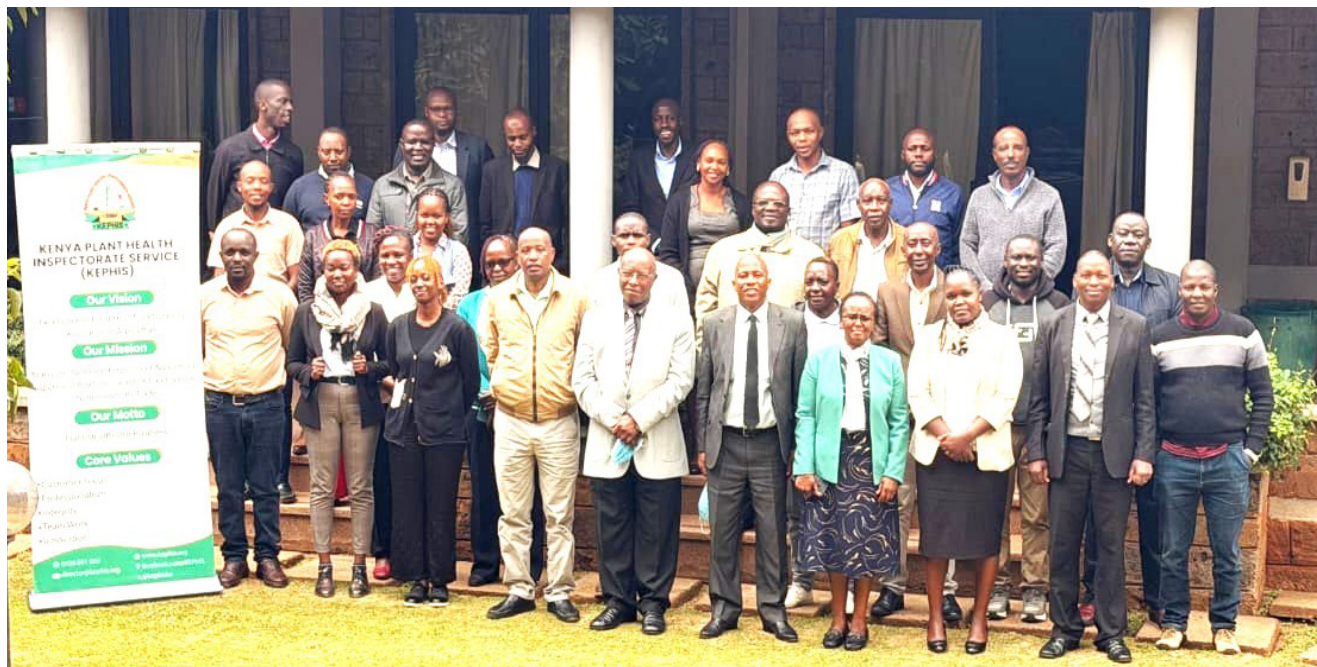




The audit that concluded on Tuesday 23rd June 2026, was conducted virtually and included engagements with competent authorities, accredited laboratories, growers, exporters, and industry associations involved in the horticultural export value chain. The official closing remarks were done by Mr. Fredrick Muchiri, the CEO PCPB on behalf of the other competent authorities. In his closing remarks, he assured that the Kenyan competent authorities remain committed to continuous improvement, scientific excellence, transparency, and risk-based official controls that protect consumers while supporting sustainable trade.



ENSURING BETTER SEED FOR KENYAN FARMER: INSIDE THE NATIONAL VARIETY RELEASE COMMITTEE MEETING



Why New Crop Varieties Matter

Agriculture remains a key driver of Kenya's economy, supporting millions of livelihoods and contributing to food security. As farming challenges continue to evolve due to climate change, pests, diseases, and changing market needs, farmers require access to improved crop varieties that are productive, reliable, and suited to different growing conditions. Before a new crop variety reaches farmers, it must undergo a careful evaluation process to confirm that it performs well, meets quality standards, and provides value to stakeholders. This important responsibility is coordinated through the National Variety Release Committee (NVRC).

On 22nd June 2026, the National Variety Release Committee (NVRC) convened for the annual meeting at Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) Headquarters, Karen to review and deliberate on crop

varieties proposed for official release. The meeting was attended by Ms. Grace Mugo, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD) representing the Chair, Committee Members alongside KEPHIS Director of Seed Certification and Plant Variety Protection (SC & PVP), Mr. Simon Maina, KEPHIS Deputy Director of Plant Variety Testing and Protection (PVT & P), Mr. Jacob Cheptaiwa, and breeders /applicant representatives presenting candidate varieties.

The engagement brought together key stakeholders involved in ensuring that only suitable and high-performing varieties are approved for use by Kenyan farmer. The Committee released 45 New Varieties comprising; - Sugarcane 13, Maize 9, Finger millet 4, Tomato-4, Potato 3, Sunflower 3, Sorghum 2, Barley 2, Lupin 1, Rhodes Grass 1, Jute mallow 1, Common Bean 1 and Tree Lucerne 1.



How do Farmers Access Quality and Reliable Varieties

Farmers depend on quality seeds to achieve better yields, improve incomes, and strengthen food production. However, releasing a new crop variety requires more than simply introducing a new seed. The variety must prove that it can perform well under Kenya's diverse farming environments.

Some of the key questions considered during the evaluation process include:

- Does the variety produce better yields compared to existing varieties?
- Can it withstand challenges such as drought, pests, and diseases?
- Is it suitable for different farming regions?
- Does it meet quality and market requirements?
- Can it be identified by its characteristics?

These assessments help protect farmers from accessing varieties that may not deliver the expected benefits.

What is the KEPHIS' Role in Variety Release

KEPHIS plays a central role in regulating the introduction of new crop varieties in Kenya through its Seed Certification and Plant Variety Protection mandate.

Through the implementation of the Seeds and Plant Varieties Act (Cap 326), KEPHIS oversees the testing, evaluation, registration, protection, and certification of plant varieties.

The process involves:

1. Breeders submitting their candidate varieties to KEPHIS for evaluation
2. Candidate varieties are grouped into experiment trial (kit)
3. Testing varieties under different environmental conditions through National Performance Trials (NPT). The trials examine important qualities such as:



- Yield potential
 - Growth and maturity characteristics
 - Resistance to pests and diseases
 - Adaptability to different environments
 - Quality traits preferred by farmers and consumers.
4. Assessing unique characteristics through Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability (DUS) testing.
 5. Coordinating scientific evaluation, trial visits by applicants, data collection, analysis and Generation of Trial report to confirm if varieties meet the required standards.

How a New Variety gets Approved.

The trial results are reviewed by technical committee (NPTC) before recommendations are presented to the National Variety Release Committee for approval. Once approved, the variety is officially released and can proceed to commercial production and distribution.

Strengthening Agricultural Innovation and Food Security

The NVRC meeting provided a platform for evidence-based decision-making on the release of improved crop varieties. Through careful review of scientific data and breeder submissions, the committee continues to support the availability of varieties that can enhance productivity and respond to farmers' needs.

The process contributes to KEPHIS' Strategic Plan 2023–2027 under Key Result Area 2: Seed Quality Assurance and Plant Variety Protection, which focuses on strengthening access to quality seeds and protecting new plant varieties. By supporting the development and approval of improved varieties, KEPHIS continues to promote agricultural innovation, increase food security, and support Kenyan farmers with better tools for production.

Farmers, researchers, breeders, and stakeholders are encouraged to continue working together in promoting quality seed systems and supporting the adoption of improved varieties. A stronger seed sector begins with responsible innovation, effective regulation, and informed choices that place farmers at the center of agricultural transformation for a food secure Nation.

REGULATORY EXCELLENCE: KEPHIS AT INTERNATIONAL FLORICULTURE TRADE EXPO (IFTEX) 2026



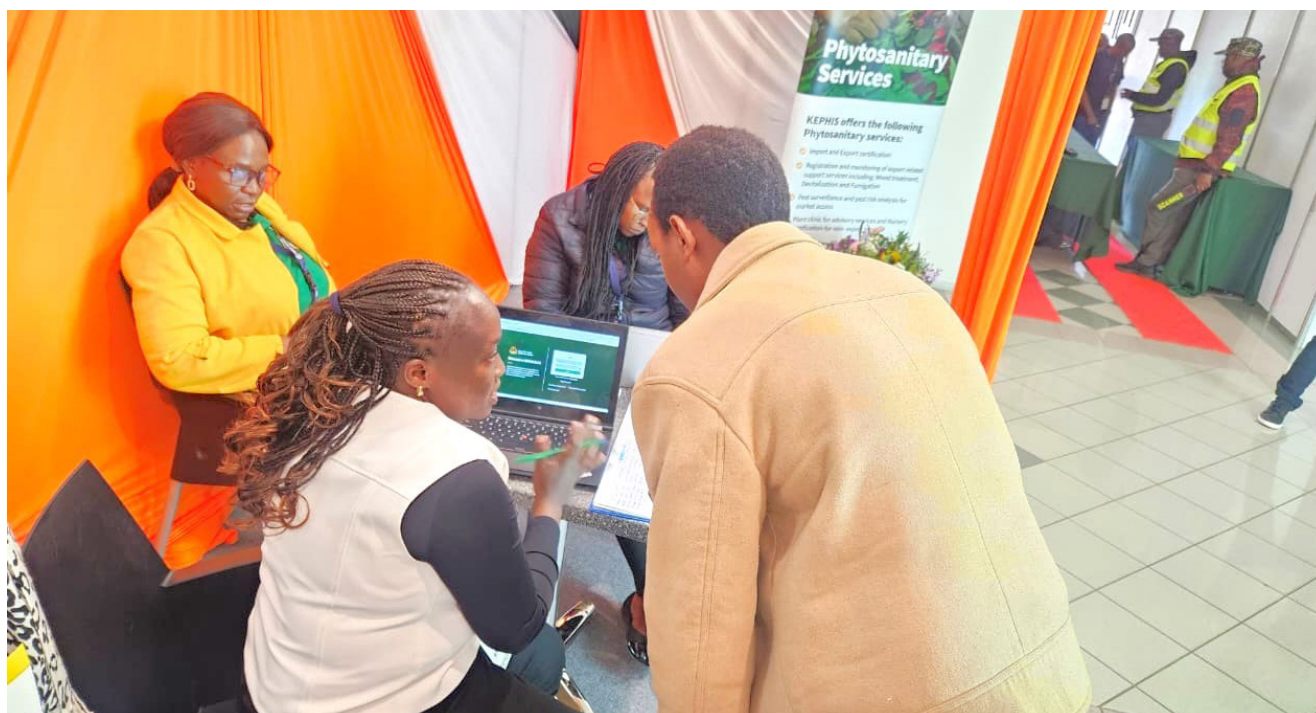
As part of intensifying its efforts in safeguarding Kenya's agriculture through monitoring and surveillance of invasive pests in nurseries and mother-blocks across the country, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) carried out an exercise aimed at ensuring production and distribution of healthy, pest-free propagation materials while preventing introductions and spread of destructive invasive pests that pose a major threat to crop productivity, food security, biodiversity, national economy and international trade.

Kenya's floriculture industry continues to flourish on the global stage, supported by plant health systems that facilitate safe and compliant trade. This was evident during the 13th edition of the International Floriculture Trade Fair (IFTEX), held in Nairobi from 2nd to 4th June 2026, which brought together more than 200 exhibitors, including flower exporters, importers, breeders, suppliers, and policymakers from across the world.

As the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), KEPHIS participated in the exhibition to engage stakeholders and showcase its role in facilitating Kenya's flower exports through phytosanitary regulation and certification.

Every day, KEPHIS inspects over 6.9 million stems of rose cut flowers, alongside other flower varieties destined for international markets, ensuring compliance with importing countries' phytosanitary requirements. Through farm inspections, export certification, and border clearance services, the Service helps maintain Kenya's reputation as a reliable supplier of high-quality flowers.

The phytosanitary certificate, often referred to as a "plant passport", remains one of the key documents issued by KEPHIS to facilitate international trade of agricultural produce. In addition, the Service safeguards innovation in the sector through the protection of plant breeders' rights.



KEPHIS provided guidance on the process of becoming registered flower exporters.

To become a flower exporter, one must first be registered as an exporter of agricultural produce. Applicants are required to submit the following documents to KEPHIS:

1. HCD Export Licence
2. Company Registration Certificate
3. KRA PIN Certificate and copies of directors' identification documents
4. Farm details, including physical location, crops under production, acreage, and market destination
5. Signed contracts with growers (where applicable)

Through the KEPHIS Integrated Export and Import Certification System (IEICS), successful applicants are registered and issued

with system credentials. Following farm audits and approval, exporters are authorized to commence trade.

Hon. Lee Kinyanjui, Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry, officially opened the event. KEPHIS was represented by Dr. Macharia, Director of Phytosanitary and Biosecurity, who reaffirmed the Service's commitment to supporting the growth, competitiveness, and sustainability of Kenya's floriculture industry.

As Kenya's flowers continue to grace markets across the globe, KEPHIS remains at the heart of the journey, facilitating safe trade, safeguarding plant health, and opening doors to new export opportunities.

KISUMU FARMERS DAY



On 17th June 2026, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service KEPHIS, in partnership with the County Government of Homabay, researchers, extension officers, farmers, private sector players and other stakeholders, convened a successful Field Day under the theme “Climate Smart Agriculture” at Samanga, Rachuonyo North Sub County, Homabay County that aimed at promoting food safety, quality seed systems, plant health and improved agricultural productivity.

The event was graced by the Guest of Honour, Dr. Joash Aloo, County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary, Fisheries and Cooperative Homabay County, alongside Mr. Kefa Oganda, who represented the KEPHIS Managing Director.

The Field Day provided a platform for farmers to interact with experts, explore

improved crop varieties, certified seed technologies, best farming practices, post-harvest management solutions and market opportunities that contribute to better yields and stronger livelihoods.

Through collaboration and knowledge sharing, KEPHIS continues to advance its mandate of ensuring quality and safe agricultural inputs and produce, supporting farmers to adopt innovations that enhance resilience and food security.



KEPHIS CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL FIRE DRILL EXERCISE TO STRENGTHEN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.



Nairobi, 24th June 2026 – Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) successfully conducted a fire drill exercise on 24th June 2026 from 0900hrs to 1000hrs as part of its commitment to promoting a safe and secure working environment for all staff and stakeholders.

The exercise was designed to test the organization's emergency preparedness and response procedures, familiarize staff with evacuation routes and assembly points, and evaluate the effectiveness of existing fire safety measures. It also provided an opportunity to identify potential gaps and areas requiring improvement in emergency management.

During the exercise, 148 staff & families, and 5 visitors responded promptly to the alarm and evacuated designated work areas in an orderly manner. Garda World

Emergency response teams, including fire wardens, floor marshals, and first aid responders, effectively executed their assigned responsibilities in support of OCS and Officers from Karen Police station, demonstrating commendable coordination and communication throughout the drill.

Key observations focused on alarm response, evacuation procedures, accountability at assembly points, emergency team performance, and overall compliance with fire safety requirements under OSH guidelines. The exercise confirmed that most staff understood evacuation procedures and reported to the designated assembly area for accountability and roll call. The emergency teams demonstrated professionalism and commitment in guiding staff to safety and maintaining order during the evacuation process.



The drill reinforced several important lessons. First, emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility that requires the active participation of every member of staff. Secondly, prompt response to emergency alarms can significantly reduce the risk of injuries and loss of life during actual emergencies. Additionally, familiarity with evacuation routes and emergency procedures enhances the organization's ability to respond effectively when faced with real-life incidents.

While the exercise was largely successful, several areas for improvement were identified. These include increasing staff awareness of alternative escape routes, improving evacuation speed while maintaining safety and order, strengthening communication between emergency teams and staff, and conducting refresher training for personnel who demonstrated uncertainty during the exercise, and

continuously maintaining and servicing firefighting appliances.

Management has committed to addressing the identified gaps, reviewing emergency response plans where necessary, ensuring fire safety equipment remains accessible and functional, and conducting regular drills and emergency preparedness training sessions to sustain a high level of readiness.

Speaking after the exercise, the Deputy Director, Security who also acted as the (incident commander) on behalf of Management, commended all staff for their cooperation, discipline, and active participation and emphasized that fire drills are not merely compliance requirements but critical life-saving exercises that prepare individuals and organizations to respond effectively during emergencies. He extended management appreciation to all participants



and reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding lives, protecting property, and enhancing organizational resilience through continuous improvement of safety and emergency preparedness measures here at the Headquarters and at all regional stations.

Key Message: A fire drill is not merely a compliance requirement—it is a critical life-saving exercise that prepares us to respond effectively in the event of a real emergency.



WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY 2026 – 7 JUNE FROM BURDEN TO SOLUTIONS: SAFE FOOD EVERYWHERE

WORLD DAY OF FOOD SAFETY

From burden to solutions- safe food everywhere



From farm to fork, KEPHIS safeguards food safety through its internationally accredited laboratory testing, monitoring pesticide residues in food and agricultural produce, supporting compliance with market standards, and safe food for all.



Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service-KEPHIS



@KEPHISKE



WWW.KEPHIS.GO.KE

At KEPHIS, food safety looks like a laboratory Analyst carefully examining fresh produce samples for pesticide residues and heavy metals. It looks like the testing of cereals and cereal products for mycotoxins. It looks like the detection of microbial pathogens in fresh fruits and vegetables. It looks like science at work every day, protecting consumers and safeguarding markets.

On 7th June 2026, KEPHIS joined the global community in commemorating World day of Food Safety , recognizing that safe food is fundamental to public health, sustainable agriculture, trade, and economic growth.

At KEPHIS, every test performed, every sample analysed, and every standard upheld brings us closer to safer food for all. Through our

internationally accredited laboratories, we provide the scientific evidence needed to protect consumers, support trade, and strengthen confidence in Kenya's food systems.

Our ISO/IEC 17025 accredited Analytical Chemistry and Food Safety Laboratories play a critical role in:

- Monitoring pesticide residues in food and agricultural produce through the National Pesticide Residue Monitoring Programme.
- Supporting compliance with local and international food safety standards and market requirements.
- Generating scientifically credible data for official controls, risk assessment, and consumer protection.
- Facilitating safe trade by providing confidence in the safety and quality of Kenyan agricultural exports.
- Strengthening surveillance systems that help identify food safety risks and guide effective interventions.

As the world moves from burden to solutions, KEPHIS remains committed to strengthening food safety across the entire value chain from farm to fork. Through science, innovation, and internationally recognised testing services, we continue to contribute to a future where safe food is available everywhere, because food safety is everyone's responsibility



STRENGTHENING NURSERIES AND MOTHER BLOCKS CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS TO SAFEGUARD KENYA'S AGRICULTURE FROM ASSOCIATED PEST RISKS.



30 Phytosanitary Inspectors drawn from all KEPHIS regional offices across the country have concluded a two-day training on Nurseries and Mother blocks certification systems.

The training held on the 26th and 27th June 2026 at Keitt Exporters' mother block and final produce processing facility in Murang'a County was designed to strengthen inspectors' technical capacity in implementing nursery and mother block certification procedures.

The training covered key theory and practical areas including:

1. Nursery and mother block certification process and requirements.
2. Tissue culture nursery certification processes.
3. Nursery seedling import and export certification requirements.

4. Nursery establishment and management practices.
5. Identification and management of key pests of concern.
6. Traceability systems for both nurseries and mother blocks.
7. Changes in Nursery Certification process



Participants during a field training session



Participants during a field training session

As part of its mandate, KEPHIS plays a major role in nursery and mother blocks certification by:

1. Developing, reviewing and updating nursery and mother block certification protocols in line with national legislation and international standards.
2. Issuing, suspending or revoking nursery certificates based on certification requirements.
3. Conducting monitoring, surveillance and audits to ensure phytosanitary compliance and consistency.
4. Providing technical guidance and capacity enhancement for nursery and mother block operators.

Nursery certification is highly significant as it helps prevent the introduction and spread of harmful arthropod pests and diseases through the movement of planting materials by ensuring that planting material

supplied to farmers is healthy, of high quality, pest-free and produced under approved standards.

Through such initiatives, KEPHIS is strengthening the implementation of nursery certification, contributing to its overall mandate of assuring quality agricultural inputs for food security and safe trade.



Ms. Pamela Kibwage (center), a nursery certification trainer and deputy director, Naivasha office, in a practical session with participants

KEPHIS SHOWCASES PLANT HEALTH MANDATE AT NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AWARENESS FORUM



The KEPHIS Kisumu team participated in the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) Awareness Forum held in Mumias, Kakamega County, from 28th–29th May 2026.

The forum brought together key stakeholders in the agricultural and biosafety sectors to promote public awareness on biosafety and strengthen collaboration in advancing safe and sustainable agricultural practices. It also provided KEPHIS with an excellent platform to highlight its mandate in safeguarding plant health, assuring the quality of agricultural inputs and produce, and supporting sustainable agricultural development through stakeholder engagement and public education.

Through its participation, KEPHIS engaged with farmers, agricultural practitioners, policymakers, and members of the public, emphasizing the importance of

quality-certified planting materials, effective plant health management, and compliance with biosafety standards in enhancing agricultural productivity and food security.

The forum was graced by the Guest of Honour, Dr. Thuo Mathenge; the Chairman of the National Biosafety Authority, Hon. David Wamatsi; King Nabongo Mumia; and the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Mr. Mophat Mandela, who represented the Governor of Kakamega County.

KEPHIS remains committed to working closely with partners and stakeholders to promote biosafety awareness, strengthen plant health systems, and contribute to a resilient, productive, and sustainable agricultural sector.

KEPHIS EXCELS AT THE 2026 MACHAKOS NATIONAL SHOW



KEPHIS participated in the 2026 Machakos National Show, which was held from 3rd –7th June 2026, under the theme ***“Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth.”*** The event provided an important platform for engaging stakeholders, showcasing innovations, and demonstrating the Service’s contribution towards a food Security and Safe Trade.

During the show, KEPHIS emerged as the winner in two competitive categories:

1st Position – Best Agricultural-Based Statutory Board Stand.

1st Position – Best Local Stand in Strategies of International Trade and Exports.

The awards underscored KEPHIS’ commitment to fulfilling its mandate of safeguarding plant health, facilitating agricultural trade, and supporting sustainable agricultural development.

During the exhibition assessments, KEPHIS highlighted its significant contribution to Kenya’s horticultural export sector. The Service certifies approximately 7,000 tonnes of vegetables and 16,000 tonnes of fruits for export every month, in addition to certifying 6.9 million stems of cut flowers daily, reinforcing Kenya’s position as a leading exporter of high-quality horticultural produce.

KEPHIS also showcased the impact of its phytosanitary interventions in enhancing market access. The implementation of the False Codling Moth Systems Approach Protocol had reduced export interceptions by more than 90 percent, significantly improving compliance with international phytosanitary requirements.

In addition, the adoption of trap technology had enabled producers in Machakos and Makueni counties to access and sustain mango exports to



the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK). The establishment of Pest Free Areas of Production for chillies had similarly strengthened export opportunities, contributing to increased incomes and economic growth in the two counties through continued certification for the EU and UK markets.

Throughout the exhibition, KEPHIS showcased drought-tolerant seed varieties, modern laboratory processes, and innovative technologies that support climate-smart agriculture, plant health, and food security.

KEPHIS TRAINED HOMA BAY FARMERS ON EXPORT MARKET REQUIREMENTS



On 4th June 2026, KEPHIS trained farmers, prospective exporters, and County Agricultural Officers in Homa Bay County on export market requirements for avocados, herbs, and chillies. The training, held at Diakonia Resort, sought to strengthen stakeholders' capacity to comply with international market standards for agricultural produce, thereby enhancing the quality and competitiveness of Kenya's horticultural exports.

As Kenya's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), KEPHIS is mandated to ensure compliance with established phytosanitary and market requirements, facilitating safe trade while safeguarding plant health and supporting national food

security. The training formed part of KEPHIS' ongoing capacity-building initiatives aimed at increasing the number of producers and exporters of avocados, herbs, and chillies. Participants were equipped with knowledge on export requirements, quality standards, and best practices necessary to access and sustain international markets.

The initiative was also expected to enable farmers and exporters in the region to capitalize on the expanding export opportunities offered through Kisumu International Airport, contributing to increased agricultural trade, improved livelihoods, and sustainable economic growth.

SCALE INSECT PEST MANAGEMENT TRAINING



The three-day Scale Insect Pest Management Training held at KEPHIS Headquarters from 29th June to 1st July 2026 has successfully come to a close. The training brought together County Agriculture extension Officers and Private Sector Agronomists from ten counties which produce Avocado, Mango, pawpaw and Pineapple for the export Market. The training equipped them with practical knowledge and skills on the identification, prevention, monitoring and effective management of scale insect pests, contributing to healthier crops and improved agricultural productivity.

The training reflects the core mandate of KEPHIS in safeguarding Kenya's

agriculture through plant health protection, pest surveillance, diagnostics, and the promotion of sustainable crop production. By empowering farmers with the latest pest management practices, KEPHIS continues to strengthen food security, enhance the quality of agricultural produce, facilitate safe trade, and protect the country's plant resources from harmful pests and diseases.

Through continuous collaboration with stakeholders, KEPHIS remains committed to supporting farmers with science-based solutions that improve productivity, protect livelihoods, and contribute to a resilient and competitive agricultural sector.

KEPHIS SHOWCASES CRITICAL MANDATE AT 2026 MERU NATIONAL SHOW



The 2026 Meru National Show, held at the Gitoro Showgrounds, attracted hundreds of participants who gathered to exhibit, learn, and engage with various agricultural innovations and services. The event brought together exhibitors, visitors, and stakeholders mainly from Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Isiolo counties, as well as other parts of Kenya.

KEPHIS emerged as a top performer at the show, winning two prestigious awards presented by H.E. Rev. Isaac Mutuma, Governor of Meru County, during the official opening. The awards were received by Deputy Director John Muli together with KEPHIS staff. The accolades included:

- Best Agricultural-Based Statutory Board Stand
- Best Agricultural-Based Organization in Disseminating Safety Information on Agricultural Products

The show played a significant role in the Kenyan economy by showcasing agricultural production across various value chains, including coffee, tea, French beans, and horticultural produce.

For KEPHIS, the exhibition provided a valuable opportunity to showcase its mandate in seed certification, protection of plant varieties, phytosanitary services, and the analysis of agricultural inputs and produce through its globally accredited laboratories.

The region hosts approximately 40 flower farms, emphasizing the need for regular inspection and strict compliance to ensure safe and competitive exports. In addition, about 30 seed companies operate in the area, where KEPHIS carries out merchant registration and field inspections to ensure quality seed production.



The show also served as a platform to create awareness of KEPHIS services across the Mt. Kenya region and strengthen engagement with stakeholders on plant health and agricultural trade requirements.

Meru County, recognized as the largest producer of khat (miraa), continues to export to markets such as Somalia and Namibia, among others. In support of this value chain, KEPHIS has held stakeholder forums focused

on promoting standards compliance, pest management, and phytosanitary export requirements to enhance market access and trade safety.

During the official opening, Governor Rev. Isaac Mutuma emphasized the importance of agricultural security in boosting production and strengthening the sector's contribution to the economy.

KEPHIS NAKURU TRAINS GROWERS AND SEED COMPANIES STAFF ON SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION AND DISEASE IDENTIFICATION TOWARDS IMPROVED AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY POTATO SEED



Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L) is the second most important food/cash crop after maize grown majorly by smallholder farmers in Kenya. Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) has committed to enhance production and distribution of high quality seed. Towards achievement of this strategy, it's important to create synergies with stakeholders to enhance seed access and compliance by the players in the seed Industry.

On 24th June 2026, KEPHIS Nakuru Region hosted a practical training on seed potato certification and disease identification for potato growers, bringing together farmers, seed producers, seed merchants, agricultural extension officers, and other stakeholders involved in the potato value chain. A total of 36 participants took part in the training.

The session aimed to enhance participants' understanding of quality assurance throughout the seed production process, marketing, and potato disease identification for improved potato seed quality.

The training commenced with an indoor session in the conference hall, where participants were welcomed by Mr. Jonah Kahwai, who introduced the guests to the role and mandate of KEPHIS in supporting Kenya's potato seed industry. The participants were made aware of the Service's commitment of ensuring farmers access quality certified seed through effective regulation, variety testing, inspection, and plant health diagnostic services.



Technical presentations were delivered by KEPHIS Senior Inspectors Jonah Kahwai and Beatrice Odhiambo, who took participants through the seed potato certification process, seed processing requirements, disease management, sampling procedures, labelling and sealing, and the importance of maintaining quality standards throughout the seed value chain.

The session also emphasized the role of certification in preventing the spread of seed-borne diseases and promoting increased productivity. Participants also received practical guidance on identifying major potato diseases affecting seed quality and production, including late blight, early blight, bacterial wilt, blackleg, and potato viruses, enabling them to recognize early symptoms and apply appropriate management practices.

The training extended beyond the conference hall as participants toured the Seed Laboratory and Plant Health Laboratory, gaining first-hand exposure to the scientific processes that support seed quality assurance.



KEPHIS Principal Laboratory Analyst Mr. Justus Kyalo demonstrates laboratory procedures used in plant disease diagnosis and seed quality assurance.

During the laboratory sessions, KEPHIS Principal Laboratory Analyst Mr. Justus Kyalo guided participants through practical demonstrations on sample reception, disease diagnosis, molecular testing, and other laboratory procedures used to detect plant pests and diseases. The demonstrations illustrated how laboratory diagnostics complement field inspections in safeguarding the quality of certified potato seed.

Participants remained actively engaged throughout the training, with lively discussions and practical demonstrations creating an interactive learning environment. The sessions provided an opportunity for growers to exchange experiences, seek technical guidance, and deepen their understanding of quality seed production and plant health management.

The training reaffirmed KEPHIS' commitment to strengthening the potato value chain through continuous capacity building, scientific innovation, and stakeholder engagement, while equipping stakeholders with the knowledge and skills necessary to produce quality potato seed.

Article by Stacy Wanjiru

CYBERSECURITY

SECURE TODAY. PROTECT TOMORROW.

THINK. PROTECT. REPORT.

Information security is **everyone's responsibility**. Your actions help safeguard our data, our systems, and our mission.

GOOD SECURITY HABITS. STRONGER TOGETHER.

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK | PROTECT YOUR ACCESS | LOCK IT DOWN | HANDLE INFORMATION RIGHT | KEEP SYSTEMS UPDATED | REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY |
| Be cautious of suspicious emails, links and attachments. | Use strong passwords and never share your credentials. | Lock your computer or device when away. | Classify, store and share information as per policy. | Install approved updates and security patches promptly. | Report incidents immediately through the official channels. |



Our information. Our responsibility.
Our security.
Let's build a security-conscious culture every day.



**AWARE TODAY.
SAFE ALWAYS.**

Strong policies. Smart practices.
Secure future.



Cyber threats are real.
Together, we can stop them.

As technology continues to support the way we work, cybersecurity remains a shared responsibility across the Service. Every employee plays an important role in protecting information, systems, and services from cyber threats.

Cyber incidents such as phishing emails, weak passwords, unauthorized access, and accidental data sharing can be prevented through awareness and good digital practices.



Key Cybersecurity Practices:

- **Think before you click** – Be cautious of unexpected emails, links, attachments, and requests for sensitive information.
- **Use strong and unique passwords** – Create passwords that are difficult to guess and avoid reusing them across systems.
- **Protect sensitive information** – Follow approved procedures for handling, storing, sharing, and disposing of information.
- **Lock your devices** – Always lock your computer or mobile device when away from your workstation.
- **Keep systems updated** – Install approved updates and security patches promptly.
- **Report incidents immediately** – If you notice suspicious activity, unusual system behavior, or believe information may have been exposed, report it through the designated channels without delay.

Together, we can reduce cyber risks and maintain the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information.

CELEBRATING A JOURNEY OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE



KEPHIS honors and celebrates the retirement of a distinguished driver Mr. Chris Wafula whose 26 years of dedicated service has contributed significantly to the success and efficiency of our organization.

For many years, He has been more than a driver; he has been a dependable professional, a trusted colleague, and a symbol of commitment and responsibility. Through countless journeys, he ensured that staff reached their destinations safely and on time, demonstrating exceptional care and professionalism in every assignment.



His calm demeanor, strong work ethic, and unwavering dedication earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues across the organization. Whether navigating challenging conditions or responding to urgent operational needs, He consistently approached his duties with diligence, patience, and integrity.



As he concludes this remarkable chapter of service, we reflect with gratitude on the invaluable role he played in supporting our mission and operations. His contribution extends beyond transportation; it is reflected in the relationships he built, the trust he inspired, and the example he set for others.

PICTORIAL

Scale Insect Pest Management Training



KEPHIS at the World Farmers Organization Meeting



KEPHIS Marks World Environment Day 5th of June 2026



KEPHIS Marks World Environment Day 5th of June 2026



KENYA PLANT HEALTH INSPECTORATE SERVICE (KEPHIS)
NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026

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