

COMMUNIQUE ON THE EAGC WESTERN AND RIFT REGION AGRIBUSINESS EXPO



KIBABII UNIVERSITY 27TH NOV 2025



THEME: CLIMATE SMART TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS



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**Western and North Rift Region Agribusiness Expo
Climate-Smart Technologies and Practices for Sustainable
Food Systems
27th November 2025
Kibabii University, Bungoma County**

Introduction

The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC), in collaboration with Kibabii University and County Government of Bungoma, successfully hosted the Western and North Rift Region Agribusiness Expo on 27th November 2025. The event brought together over 1,500 farmers and more than 50 exhibitors from across the Western and North Rift region, creating a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and business linkages.

The Expo was graced by Dr. Andrew Musungu, Chief Officer Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries & Cooperatives, Bungoma County. In attendance were senior officials from Kibabii University including Prof. Donald Siamba the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Finance and Development, Prof. Joshua Ondura Ogendo the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics and Student Affairs, and Prof. Julius Kiprop Maiyo the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Planning, Partnerships, Research and Innovation.

This Expo was made possible through strong partnerships with Kibabii University, TradeMark Africa (TMA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and Danish Industry (DI). These collaborations reflect a shared commitment to promoting climate-smart agriculture, structured grain trade, and inclusive agribusiness development across the region.



(From left) Mr. Gerald Masila, Executive Director EAGC, (centre), Prof. Joshua Ondura Ogendo the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics and Student Affairs, Dr. Andrew Musungu, Chief Officer Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries & Cooperatives, Bungoma County. engaging with Kenya Seed officials at the crop demo

Remarks



Dr. Andrew Musungu, Chief Officer Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries & Cooperatives emphasized the County Government's commitment to transforming agriculture from subsistence to commercial production. **He highlighted** Bungoma's status as a leading maize-producing county and outlined strategic investments in irrigation, mechanization, youth empowerment, and structured markets to enhance productivity and resilience.

Mr. Gerald Masila, Executive Director of EAGC, underscored the Council's role in promoting structured grain trade, capacity building, and market intelligence through platforms such as the Grain Business Institute and RATIN. **He reaffirmed** EAGC's commitment to partnerships that bridge research, innovation, and market access. He also **encouraged** farmers and oftakers to take part in Contract farming.



Prof. Donald Siamba the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Finance and Development reiterated the University's mission to translate research into real-world agricultural solutions. **He spotlighted** innovations such as the bagasse drier and the upcoming drone aviation training program, developed in partnership with EAGC and Customized Aviation Services Ltd, to equip students and farmers with precision agriculture skills.

Prof. Joshua Ondura Ogendo, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics and Student Affairs, emphasized the importance of strengthening linkages between academia and industry to ensure that research, training, and innovation respond to real agribusiness needs. He **highlighted** that platforms such as the Expo create opportunities for collaboration with industry stakeholders, support knowledge transfer, and enhance the relevance of academic programmes to the industry.



Prof. Julius Kiprop Maiyo, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Planning, Partnerships, Research and Innovation, highlighted the University's focus on applied research and strategic partnerships that translate innovation into practical solutions for farmers. He **noted** that collaborations with EAGC and other partners strengthen climate-smart agriculture, value addition, and sustainable agribusiness development across the region.



Highlights of the Expo

1. Crop Protection and Soil Health

- **Pest Control Products Board (PCPB)** educated farmers on safe pesticide use, counterfeit detection, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies for sustainable pest control.
- **Bayer East Africa** showcased Ambition Aktivator foliar fertilizers and a suite of broad-spectrum fungicides and pesticides targeting pests such as aphids, thrips, and bollworms.
- **FIPS Africa and GreenWorld** promoted soil conditioners, organic inputs, and foliar feeds to enhance soil fertility and plant health.
- **Yara East Africa** presented nutrient management solutions tailored to regional soil profiles, supporting balanced fertilization and improved yields



Dr. Andrew Musungu interacting with the Yara East Africa exhibition.



Pesticides displayed at the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) exhibition booth

2. Seed and Genetic Innovation

Seed Co, Faida Seeds, Advanta Seed, Stark Aryes, and Kenya Seed Company Ltd displayed certified seed varieties for maize, legumes, and vegetables. These included drought-tolerant, early-maturing, and pest-resistant cultivars designed to boost productivity and climate resilience.



Display of seeds at the Seed - Co exhibition booth



3. Machinery Display

The exhibition featured an array of machinery essential for modern agriculture, featuring various equipment designed to enhance efficiency in farming practices by **Camco(K) Ltd.** These included heavy tractors and accessories such as ploughs.



Farmers interacting with a tractor by Camco(K)Ltd designed to improve farm efficiency and mechanization.

5. Postharvest Technologies

- **Silo Africa** showcased innovative grain storage solutions that mitigate post-harvest losses, enhance food security, and support climate resilience. These included Smart Silo embedded with Silo Sense IoT technology and the Silo Cloud platform enables farmers to store grains safely, access better markets, and secure their financial futures.
- **Africa Grain Care Equipment (AGCE)** showcased post-harvest and storage solutions for grain commodities various models of moisture meters, silo storage and accessories. AGCE sensitized farmers to embrace modern technologies in handling and storage of grains for better quality and safety while guaranteeing returns to the farmers.
- **Grainpro** showcased post-harvest solutions including food grade tarpaulins, solar dryers and hermetic bags. Farmers took interest in hermetic storage bags for chemical free storage of grains for household consumption



Silo Africa demonstrating smart silos aimed at reducing post-harvest losses.



6. Irrigation and Water Management

- **Sunculture and Africa PVC Industries Ltd** showcased solar-powered irrigation systems, water tanks, and plumbing solutions tailored for smallholder farmers to improve water efficiency and year-round production.
- **Tile & Carpet Centre** showcased a range of high-quality, durable waste management bins, as well as top-grade water tanks available in various capacities. The company also presented irrigation and water pumping solutions, plumbing pipes and nestable tanks specifically designed to meet the needs of small-scale fish farming.



Sunculture displays solar irrigation pumps, water tanks, and plumbing system

7. Renewable Energy and Green Solutions

- **Sun King** presented solar-powered lighting and energy systems for rural households and agribusinesses, offering affordable and sustainable off-grid electricity solutions.



Sun King showcases off-grid solar lighting and clean energy systems supporting rural households and agribusinesses.

8. Precision Agriculture and Drone Technology

- **Customized Aviation Solutions Ltd** demonstrated agricultural drones equipped for crop monitoring, precision spraying, and field mapping. These technologies enable farmers to detect nutrient deficiencies and pest infestations early, enhancing productivity and reducing input costs.



demonstration of drone technology for precision agriculture



9. Livestock and Animal Health

Cosmos Ltd presented a comprehensive suite of animal health solutions aimed at improving livestock productivity and welfare:

- **Wormicides:** Formulated to eliminate parasitic worms that compromise animal health and reduce yields.
- **Vitamins and Supplements:** Essential for maintaining optimal health, boosting immunity, and supporting growth in poultry, pets, and livestock.
- **Antibiotics:** Targeted treatments for bacterial infections in various animals, contributing to better health outcomes and reduced mortality.
- **Mineral Supplements for Dairy Cattle:** Designed to enhance nutritional intake, improve milk production, and support overall development.

10. Value Addition and Agro-processing

Kibabii University showcased its innovation, the Bagasse Drier, a sustainable technology that transforms sugarcane residue into clean biofuel:

- Reduces agricultural waste and environmental pollution.
- Supports renewable energy generation for rural and farming communities.
- Creates new income streams and job opportunities through local manufacturing and distribution.
- Demonstrates how university-led research can be translated into scalable, real-world agribusiness solutions.



Display of ecobagasse ware showing end product of renewable energy from sugarcane residue

11. Standards and Regulation

Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) played a critical role in sensitizing farmers on quality control and food safety:

- Delivered training on aflatoxin control, helping farmers understand risks and mitigation strategies.
- Explained food safety standards and how they affect market access and consumer trust.
- Guided farmers through certification processes, enabling them to meet regulatory requirements and tap into formal markets.
- Reinforced the importance of quality assurance in building resilient and competitive agribusinesses.



Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) sensitizing farmers on food safety standards, aflatoxin control, and certification processes for improved market access

12. Sustainable Agriculture and Community Engagement

- **Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (SAF) – Africa and Wakala Africa** promoted climate-smart agriculture, including water-efficient practices and organic inputs.
- Highlighted community-based training, and inclusive agribusiness models that empower youth and women.



Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (SAF) – Africa showcasing chicken fed from azolla producing better results



13. Research and Innovation

International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) showcased biopesticides, insect traps, and value-added bee products such as lemongrass-infused honey, propolis, and beeswax candles. Their push-pull technologies and sustainable pest control solutions were well received by farmers.



Farmers engaging with International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) products at the exhibition booth



Crop Demonstrations

1. **Zai Pits:** Demonstrated as a water-efficient planting option for dry areas.
2. **Keyhole Gardens:** Showcased as a compact household food production model.
3. **Mandala Gardens:** Highlighted for efficient use of space and moisture retention.
4. **Trench Fertility Beds:** Presented as a simple approach for improving soil structure.
5. **Raised Beds:** Demonstrated as a solution for better drainage and easier crop management.
6. **Vermi-composting:** Displayed as a way to produce organic manure using earthworms.
7. **Organic Fertilization Models:** Showed low-cost options for improving soil health.



Display of technologies at the crop demonstrations.(from left) Keyhole Garden and Vermicomposting

Resilient Crop Varieties and Pest Control

Climate-Resilient Varieties: Seed companies showcased drought-tolerant and early-maturing crops.

Pest-Resistant Crops: Demonstrations included varieties bred to reduce losses from common pests.

Push-Pull Technology: Introduced as an integrated pest management concept for maize farmers.

Kitchen Garden Models: Displayed as practical setups for year-round vegetable production in small spaces.



Demonstration of raised beds



Farmers interacting with experts and giving feedback, showcasing strong interest in adopting climate-smart technologies and improved agronomic practices.



Farmer Outcomes

The event's success is directly measurable through the data gathered from farmer Q&A and surveys, which validated the strong interest and concrete intent to adopt practices aligned with the theme; Climate-Smart Technologies and Practices for Sustainable Food Systems.

1. Technology Adoption Intent

The training and demonstrations translated directly into concrete adoption plans by farmers, demonstrating the successful promotion of climate-smart practices:



- **Fertilizer Best Practices:** The most frequently mentioned takeaway was the proper use of both organic and inorganic fertilizers. Farmers saw this as key to improving soil health and adapting to changing climate conditions. It was cited 48 times.



- **Solar Irrigation and Water Pumps:** With water scarcity on the rise, 31 farmers highlighted solar-powered irrigation systems and water pumps as essential tools for year-round farming and resilience.



- **Push-Pull Pest Management:** This integrated pest control method, which uses Desmodium and Napier grass to repel and trap pests, was mentioned 18 times. Farmers appreciated its low-cost, chemical-free approach to managing Fall Army Worms and Striga weed.



- **Hermetic Storage Bags:** Post-harvest losses are a major concern. Fourteen farmers said they plan to adopt hermetic storage bags and other improved grain storage solutions to protect their harvests and access better markets.



- **Precision Tech Tools:** Technologies like drone spraying, soil testing kits, and moisture meters were mentioned 12 times. These tools help farmers make data-driven decisions, reduce input waste, and boost productivity.



group photo of chief guest together with exhibitors

2. Commercial Success and Participation

High Purchase Rate: 88% of the surveyed farmers made a purchase at the Expo.

Participation: Women represented **58%** of the farmers surveyed, demonstrating the Expo's success in engaging female participants.

Exhibitor Impact and Commercial Success

The Expo delivered significant commercial value and generated strong satisfaction among the participating organizations, validating the event's format for business linkages.

High Satisfaction: A strong majority of exhibitors rated the event positively, with 94% rating the event as Good or Excellent (29% Excellent, 65% Good).

Achievement of Objectives: A remarkable 82% of exhibitors fully achieved their set objectives, which included enhancing brand visibility, farmer education, direct sales, and building partnerships.

Commercial Outcomes: The event spurred immediate commerce, with disclosed spot sales totalling over Ksh 100,000. The highest footfall and sales were reported by key industry sectors such as seed companies and solar companies.

Engagement: The average visitor traffic reported was approximately 290 farmers per stand. Youth (≤ 35 years) represented 37% of the individual exhibitor participants.

Business-to-Business (B2B) Transactions

The Expo's B2B segment sparked real commercial interest, with traders, processors, and agribusinesses signing structured trade intents that reflect growing confidence in post-harvest technologies and quality grain.

- **Hermetic Bags:** Buyers committed to purchasing **over 16,000 units**, signaling strong demand for safe, chemical-free grain storage solutions.

- **Maize:** Trade intents were signed for approximately **45 metric tons** of maize, valued at over KES 1.7 million, reinforcing the region's role in structured grain trade.

These deals represent a combined trade value of **more than KES 5 million**, and underscore the Expo's success in linking farmers to markets, promoting quality standards, and advancing climate-resilient agribusiness.



group photo of chief guest together with exhibitors

Outcomes and Way Forward

The Expo served as a catalyst for:

- Strengthening partnerships between academia, private sector, and government.
- Enhancing farmer knowledge on climate adaptation and sustainable practices.
- Promoting structured grain trade and warehouse receipt systems.
- Empowering youth and women through skills development and agribusiness incubation.

EAGC and Kibabii University reaffirmed their commitment to deepening collaboration through ongoing initiatives, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) The Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR) project, whose focus is transforming maize and wheat farming in the Mt. Elgon region through Integrated Landscape Management (ILM); a system that will conserve and restore land while increasing productivity in farming and enhancing farmer incomes through market linkages. in Mt. Elgon and the development of a tripartite MoU with Customized Aviation Services Ltd for drone training.

The event contributed to the EAGC-DI East Africa partnership towards making Kenya's grain sector more competitive and sustainable, boosting food security and jobs by improving production through Grain Trade Business Hubs, marketing and food safety

The EAGC–TMA project aims to expand formal grain trade by strengthening market access systems and addressing challenges such as post-harvest losses, fragmented aggregation, limited finance, and weak trade coordination. The North Rift and Western Kenya Grain Business Expo directly advanced these goals by providing a platform for B2B linkages, digital trading demonstrations, and capacity building for Grain Trade Business Hubs and SMEs, improving aggregation and market connectivity.

Conclusion

The Western and North Rift Region Agribusiness Expo at Kibabii University marked a significant milestone in advancing climate-smart agriculture, structured trade, and youth empowerment. EAGC extends its gratitude to all partners, exhibitors, and participants for their invaluable contributions. Together, we are building resilient food systems that can feed Kenya and the region sustainably.

EAGC Agribusiness expo



2026 CALENDER



THEME: CLIMATE SMART TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Region, Venue and Date

Upper Eastern Agribusiness Expo

Venue: Chuka University |

Date: 1st April 2026

Lower Eastern Agribusiness Expo

Venue: SEKU University |

Date: 9th July 2026

Coast Region Agribusiness Expo

Venue: Pwani University |

Date: 6th August 2026

Central Rift Agribusiness Expo

Venue: KALRO Njoro |

Date: October 2026

Western & North Rift Agribusiness Expo

Venue: Kibabii University |

Date: 26th November 2026



EXPO FEATURES



Crop Demo Plots



Livestock Demo Units



Machinery Display



Exhibition Arena



B2B Meetings

FOR BOOKINGS :



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