



THE MONTHLY REVIEW Newsletter

May 2020 Edition

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR'S DESK



Ag. Managing Director - Kenya Seed

Warm greetings to all of you.

Kenya Seed Company remains committed to providing and availing top quality seeds as mandated. Of the many lessons that emerge from the Corona Virus pandemic whether we deal with it permanently or alternatively learn to live with it forever across the globe, the future of the economy and work will come to the fore.

Amidst all this, on behalf of the company, I would like to pass my thoughts to those who may have lost a loved one to Covid 19, those infected, those suffering from it as well as medical staff- doctors, nurses who are fighting so courageously, sometimes at the expense of their own health.

My appreciation also goes out to those committing themselves to continue providing essential services especially food products as declared by the government of Kenya. With all these measures put in place, I would encourage all farmers to practice good agronomic practices to enhance food crop output and aid in attaining food security.

Even as we continue to battle this deadly pandemic, Kenya Seed will continue ensuring food security mechanisms are well put up to ensure enough seeds for next planting season.

Fred Oloibe



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Colleagues,

Your passion and zeal for THE MONTHLY REVIEW has encouraged us to bring together information from the different parts of KSC that we may continue to build this wonderful and growing family that we have.

As the editor, I have warmly received your feedback from the previous two editions we had and once again, I dearly thank each one of you for the response. In each edition, we bring you different aspects of life at KSC. In this issue we take time to pass to you some material related to Covid 19 pandemic which is still wreaking havoc and distress around the globe. Lastly, we have a special slot for celebrating one of our own in his/her area of work to promote cohesiveness and boost staff morale.

Let's all embrace and maintain the pace, be informed, educated and engaged.


Jane Gitau



Top Quality Seed

SUITABLE AGRONOMIC PRACTICES AND WAYS TO MAINTAIN FOOD SECURITY POST COVID 19

By Mathew Mwarey and Kelvin Muriithi

With decreased land size through subdivision and climate change, crop productivity per unit area has declined over time. There is need therefore to maximize on crop productivity by use of appropriate crop agronomic practices. Key factors that have played a role are land preparation, planting techniques, fertilization, weed, insect and disease control. Kenya Seed Company ensures that the products used for seed treatment are effective and economically viable in order to give farmers value for their money. The seed treatment is also one of the ways of ensuring that the crops are protected at an early stage when the seedlings are vulnerable and the control of both soil and seed borne pests and diseases is important. Proper weed management ensures that crops are protected from weeds that competed with nutrients and

also are an alternative host to some of the serious pests and disease. Research has shown that weeds left unchecked can reduce final yields by up to 100%. Integrated weed management is essential to make farming a profitable enterprise. Apart from our varieties being developed that are tolerant to major pests and diseases, environmental conditions and climate change has resulted in infestation of our crop by new pests and diseases or certain conditions pre disposes the crops to infestations. It's important that farmers practice integrated pests and diseases management in their farms and the first step in crop protection is prevention. Pest and diseases such as Fall Army Worm, smut, maize streak virus, gray leaf spot, stalk borer, termites, rusts and recently locusts

cause yield declines and a farmer needs to adopt ways and means of containing them within the threshold level in order to achieve the desired results of production. This is done by ensuring that the crop field are inspected regularly through a process called scouting. Field scouting will help the farmer understand better the pest /disease problem in the field and gain knowledge on how to manage leading to better decisions making and ultimate enhancing of crop production. It will also result in economical use of resources such as pesticides and minimize excessive use of pesticides that are injurious to the environment. Once the threshold is understood, application of appropriate remedy at the right time will ensure the crops are well protected.

KSC GROWERS ELATED BY AG. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S FARM VISIT

By Kelvin Muriithi



KSC Ag. Managing Director Mr. Fred Oloibe (third from right) being tipped off by farm manager Mr. Wafula of Kalket Farm (Endebess seed growers) on the progress of maize (H 6213) germination in Sabiti Sub County. Other members of staff included, E. Ombachi (Head of Production, seed maize, sunflower & pasture) and Jane Gitau (SCCG) among other officers.

When you sign up on a social networking or blogging site, you will find a sub title or a corner that is usually titled 'about me' or 'about us'. In this space, you are likely to find all the necessary details regarding the blog or the website. In familiarity with this, our new Ag. Managing Director Fred Oloibe paid courtesy visits to our growers farms in order to familiarize and also understand their potential & problems which they face in their day to day activities to produce top quality maize seeds for the company.

Among the farms visited included Musikuru Farm, Kalket farm and Lulu farm among others. Mr. Oloibe was very impressed with their commitment and assured them not to settle for less since even under short acreage of land, production of required seeds can be met.

This is among the many visits which the office of the Managing Director and departments have organised. The visits will not only enhance empathy, but also provide motivation to staff and other stakeholders in the company.

CSR: KSC DONATES TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN KWANZA SUBCOUNTY, TRANS NZOIA COUNTY

By Kelvin Muriithi



Senior Corporate Communication Officer Jane Gitau hands over maize donations to Kwanza Member of Parliament Hon. F. Wanyonyi (centre) with other local administration officers. The donations will cater for flood victims in Namanjalala area.

Kenya Seed Company joined other corporate's and institutions in Trans Nzoia to donate food items to flood victims of Namanjalala, Kwanza Sub County after river Sabwani broke its banks due to the ongoing heavy rains in the region.

Kwanza is very strategic in our business especially for maize farmers & growers and therefore need to stand with them whenever a disaster as such strikes. This is among the many corporate social responsibility activities the company has continued to offer including a radio program on West Fm to educate people on how to curb the spread of Covid 19.

The ceremony was presided over by Senior Corporate Communication officer Jane Gitau on behalf of the Ag. MD Mr Fred Oloibe. Others included Kwanza Constituency Member of Parliament Hon. F. Wanyonyi and area local administration officers.

STAFF CORNER

INCREASED VALUE CREATION AND FUN ARE PART OF THE DEAL



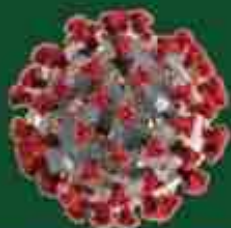
Photo: Beatrice Kinyanjui – Procurement Officer

Ms Beatrice M. Kinyanjui is a Procurement Officer (P.O) working in the Procurement Department. She is mostly known for handling welfare items and stationery items in Mbegu Plaza, Seed Shop and Distribution among other duties. She joined the company in 2012 in Sales & marketing department in the then Ruaraka Branch Nairobi before becoming a Sales Representative in Central region stationed at Karatina and eventually joining procurement department in 2016.

She holds Bachelor of Commerce & MBA degrees from the University of Nairobi and a member of Kenya Institute of Supplies Management (KISM) and a supplies practitioner. The main objective of Procurement department in any institution is to form the basis for implementation of procurement strategies through improved processes, increase value creation and deliver shareholder value for sustained economic development. Procurement plays a pivotal role in timely procurement of

quality goods, works and services. The procurement process is guided by the Public Procurement and Assets Disposal act 2015, relevant regulations, company procedures and best business practices. Procurement is a strategic function in the Company to achieve best returns on key initiatives like cost reduction and enhanced availabilities of supplies and value addition. In her free time, Beatrice loves watching movies, travelling, socializing and hiking.

HOW CAN THE SPREAD OF COVID – 19 BE SLOWED DOWN OR PREVENTED?



(Photo: Courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC))

Public health measures that are critical for prevention of the virus include:

- Staying home when sick.
- Covering mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue while coughing or sneezing. Dispose of used tissue immediately.
- Washing often with soap and running water.
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Keeping social distance and avoiding overcrowded areas.

Kenya Seed Company has been at the forefront in ensuring the measures and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health are strictly followed at all our offices including depots and factory. Dispensers containing sanitizers have been widely installed, hand washing points, distribution of masks and use of gloves while cleaning or attending to customers.

KENYA SEED STAFF THANK MEDICS FIGHTING COVID 19 IN KENYA & WORLDWIDE



Photo: KSC Ag. Managing Director Mr. Fred Oloibe leads other members of management and staff in appreciating our medical fraternity at Mbegu Plaza.

As the Corona Virus pandemic continues to hit many countries and regions around the world, an increasing number of medical workers are braving their lives to save others. People worldwide have hailed them as heroes and expressed their gratitude through various means, from light shows to pop up events.

Kenya Seed Company through the management committee on handling Covid 19 headed by Mr. Stephen Malakwen has set up every Wednesday at noon to thank the medical fraternity – doctors & nurses.

The first session was held last month and graced by our Ag. Managing Director who praised the move as a way to enhance morale to our doctors and nurses in fight against the pandemic.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

All Upcoming events have been postponed until further notice due to the prevailing health situation on Corona Virus (Covid 19).

GAME CHANGER MAIZE VARIETY INTRODUCED

By Kevin Koech And Kelvin Muriithi



Head of Sales & Marketing S. Chapairor (2nd Left), Head of Research & Development A. Laboso (2nd right), senior agronomist officer M. Mwarey (centre) and Head of Quality Assurance E. Tegal (right) during a field visit inspection of variety H 6506 at Siwat farm, Bomet County.

ultimately will be on our tables in a few weeks.

The H6506, has proven to be stable across seasons and across agro-ecological zones and is expected to result in improved yields to farmers and ultimately upscale productivity levels, livelihoods and food security.

Naturally, being a medium altitude variety, H6506, is most suitable for the warm highlands of Nakuru, Nandi, Laikipia, Naivasha, Narok, Kisii, Bomet and Bungoma. It can also perform very well as a transitional alternative in the highlands. Its stay-green attribute makes it very ideal for forage and silage making. It will supplement other varieties like H9401 which have been a favourite of dairy farmers.

Finally, with labour scarcity, companies are coming up with varieties that can be harvested mechanically thus saving on post-harvest losses, maximizing production and making business out of farming. Due to its uniformity, H6506 is very ideal for machine harvesting

Its Key characteristics

MLND Tolerance ✓

Drought Tolerance ✓

Uniformity ✓

Good Yields ✓

For close to a decade, Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease, MLND, has ravaged the regions of Narok, Bomet, Kericho, Kisii and parts of Nakuru causing great loss to maize farmers. Through various partnerships, extensive research and grit from Kenya Seed researchers, the much anticipated variety, H6506, is finally on our shelves, our farms and

THE MONTHLY REVIEW

Thank you for reading our newsletter and we trust you have learnt a thing or two.

The Monthly Review is an internal publication of the Kenya Seed Company in which staff discuss new developments and celebrate each other.

We'd love you to be part of this process of creating our newsletter and we invite you to send any details to info@kenyaseed.co.ke or assistant editor Kelvin.muriithi@kenyaseed.co.ke indicating your interest and we shall contact you to discuss further as we look forward in producing wonderful content for Kenya Seed readership.

Editorial Team:

Fred Oloibe – Managing Director

Jane Gitau – Editor

Kelvin Muriithi – Assistant Editor

Damaris Sang – Content creator

Rose Adah – Content Creator

Physical Address

Head Office

Industrial Area, Wamalwa Street

Tel: +254 (054) 31909 – 10

Mob: + 254 722 205 144

+ 254 726 141 856

Email: info@kenyaseed.co.ke