

KDC Strengthens Livestock Resilience through Knowledge Exchange Program under the DRIVE Project

Nairobi, Kenya, December 10, 2024 – The Kenya Development Corporation (KDC) successfully hosted a three-day Knowledge Exchange Program under the DRIVE (De-Risking, Inclusion, and Value Enhancement) Project, bringing together stakeholders from Kenya, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia. This transformative event emphasized regional integration, sustainable solutions, and impactful investments to build resilience in the livestock sector across the Arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs).

“We are honored to lead initiatives that foster knowledge sharing, empower communities, and unlock new opportunities in the livestock value chain,” said KDC Director General, Norah Ratemo. “This exchange program highlights the power of collaboration in achieving impactful outcomes across the region.”

The DRIVE Project, implemented in partnership with the World Bank, ZEP-RE (PTA Reinsurance), and the State Department for Livestock, is designed to address challenges faced by pastoralists and livestock-dependent communities. Speaking during the session, James Sinah of the World Bank highlighted the critical role of regional integration and cross-border trade in strengthening the livestock value chain and to enhance productivity among pastoralists .

“Through shared knowledge and investment, we can build a sustainable future for livestock-dependent communities, ensuring resilience against climate challenges and economic shocks,” Sinah remarked.

As part of the program, participants toured farms in Kibwezi, Makueni County, and Kajiado to witness innovative solutions in action being the first beneficiaries of the DRIVE Project funding opportunity. These farms, were supported by KDC’s de-risking fund and showcased how impact-driven financing can transform livelihoods, enhance food security and commercialize livestock productivity in the ASAL areas of Kenya

In Kibwezi, stakeholders observed the cultivation of high-quality animal feed, which is helping farmers mitigate the effects of drought and drive agricultural transformation in the region. Meanwhile, in Kajiado, participants visited a women-owned feedlot enterprise located along the Nairobi-Namanga Road. This business is pioneering sustainable livestock finishing practices while creating economic opportunities for women in agribusiness which has demonstrated that women-led livestock value chain investments among pastoralist women is realistic and achievable. The investor has demonstrated equitable gender representation livestock investment with the support of the DRIVE Project funds through KDC

The Knowledge Exchange Program also served as a benchmarking opportunity for delegates from Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia, who were eager to learn from Kenya’s innovative approaches to sustainable livestock farming. Delegates expressed interest in replicating best practices, such as feed conservation through the use of pit silos that

are capable of holding up to 150,000 tonnes and the cultivation of protein-rich forages such as Juncao grass that was showcased by one pastoralist visited in Kajiado County, to address drought-induced livestock losses. More importantly, the delegates appreciated the link between fodder production and livestock productivity investments and marketing to increase income growth and sustainable livestock keeping in the ASAL areas.

“This benchmarking exercise has provided valuable insights that can be adapted to address similar challenges in our respective countries,” noted Maurice Ouma DRIVE Project Coordinator.

KDC reaffirmed its commitment to empowering communities and advancing sustainable agricultural practices in ASAL regions. Through its Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), KDC ensures that risks are managed, safety is prioritized, and projects meet the needs of both current and future generations.

The DRIVE Project continues to strengthen resilience in the livestock sector through innovative investments, robust partnerships, and practical solutions tailored to the unique challenges of ASAL economies.

About Kenya Development Corporation (KDC)

The Kenya Development Corporation (KDC), was created on 1st July 2021 following the merger of Industrial and Commercial Development Corporation (ICDC), Tourism Finance Corporation (TFC) and Industrial Development Bank (IDB) Capital Limited. KDC is mandated to promote sustainable economic development by providing development finance, infrastructure finance, business support and advisory services to medium and large-scale industries, infrastructure projects and commercial undertakings in target sector in Kenya and elsewhere.

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