



**KISIMA**

| **REPORT NO. 6** |

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# THE KISIMA FOUNDATION

## EDUCATION

### The Gundua Primary & Secondary Schools

The Gundua Primary and Secondary Schools in Buuri Sub-County have been making a significant impact in providing high-quality education to numerous children. A recent milestone was reached with the completion of the girls' dormitory at Gundua Secondary School, which was inaugurated on 25th November 2022 by the Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden. With approximately 70 girls currently boarding at the school, the option to reside on campus has proven to be invaluable in creating a safe and conducive learning environment for these young girls.

In addition to the girls' dormitory, another notable development at Gundua Primary School is the construction of a new toilet block. Furthermore, the school has introduced a school bus, which has become a valuable asset for educational excursions and trips. The bus has also opened opportunities for collaboration with neighboring schools, as they can now hire the bus for their own school outings and educational visits.



Thanks to initiatives like the girls' dormitory, new toilet block, and the school bus, these institutions are making a tangible difference in the lives of the children in Buuri Sub-County. We applaud the dedication of the school staff, the support of the local community, and the generous contributions from various individuals and organizations that have made these advancements possible. Together, they are shaping a brighter future for the children and ensuring that education remains a priority in the community.



### Breakfast Club

The Kisima Foundation has been running a Feeding Program for the last 15 years. The 'Breakfast Club' currently serves approximately 6,000 children daily, providing them with a nutritious cup of porridge. These children often walk long distances to school and have to wait until lunch for their first meal of the day. Recognizing the significance of a proper start to the day, the Kisima Foundation ensures that these children receive breakfast, nourishing both their bodies and minds. By combating hunger, they enable these children to concentrate and excel in their classrooms, allowing them to achieve their maximum potential.



### Kianda, Maritati & Mugumone Primary Schools

Kianda Primary School has recently undergone significant infrastructure development. Five new classrooms, a kitchen, and an administration block have been built. Additionally, the establishment of an early learning school, which caters to children in years PP1 and PP2, is nearing completion. This new facility will provide a nursery learning environment for young learners. A lorry load of colourful new wooden desks was also delivered to the primary school for the students.

In another development, Maritati Primary School has constructed a new toilet block, ensuring improved sanitation facilities for the students and staff.

Additionally, Mugumone Primary School has taken a significant step towards sustainable water management by installing five water tanks. These tanks enable the harvesting and storage of rainwater, supporting the school's commitment to environmental conservation.



# EDUCATION

## Testimonials of Gundua Scholarship Alumni

*"I was a beneficiary of the Gundua Foundation's scholarship program from 2015 to 2020. During this period, I received financial support that enabled me to pursue my Bachelors of Education (Science) at Maseno University. The sponsorship was crucial in helping me achieve my academic goals, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity.*

*Moreover, the Gundua Foundation also provided me with mentorship and guidance from previous beneficiaries, which was instrumental in shaping my social and professional life. Through their guidance, I was able to learn valuable lessons and gain practical skills that have helped me become a better person.*

*During my long holidays while in school, I also took part in the mentorship program provided to younger members at Gundua Day secondary school. This experience allowed me to give back to the community by sharing my knowledge and experience with others.*

*Currently, I am employed as a teacher by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and work at Nkuene Girls High School. I credit my success to the Gundua Foundation's scholarship and mentorship program, which gave me a chance to pursue my dreams and achieve my goals."*

**Peter Kiogora**

*"I am an alumni of Gundua Secondary School. After completing my secondary education, I faced challenges raising finances to further my studies. Fortunately, I received a scholarship from the Gundua Foundation, which supported me with school fees and upkeep for my higher studies at Pwani University.*

*With the financial burden off my shoulders, I was able to focus on my academic pursuits and excel in my coursework. I remained in lecture halls and exam rooms and did well in my exams. I eventually graduated in February 2023 with a sense of pride and accomplishment.*

*The scholarship not only benefited me but also relieved my single parent of the burden of raising funds for my studies*



*The Gundua Foundation scholarship program has also had a positive impact on the community by supporting high-performing students who cannot afford to finance their education. The program has been greatly appreciated by the people, who are thankful for the support their children are receiving.*

*If all goes well, I plan to pursue a master's degree in history at Pwani University with the hope of making a positive impact in my community."*

**Winfred Ntinyari**

# HEALTH

## The Gundua Health Centre

The partnership between the Gundua Foundation and Nanyuki Cottage Hospital continues at the Gundua Health Centre. The health centre now includes a triage room at the entrance, a new maternity ward, an operating room and patient admission for up to 12 patients.



# AGRI INFORMATION CENTRE

The Agri Information and Demonstration site is run by the Kisima Foundation and has remained consistently operational throughout the year. It serves as an educational hub for local farmers, schools, and colleges, providing valuable insights into farming techniques. Additionally, the site organizes training days specifically catering to agricultural groups.

Over the course of the year, numerous Field Days have been organized at the site, attracting a diverse range of exhibitors and drawing in hundreds of farmers. These events offer a platform for knowledge-sharing and networking opportunities.

Our collaboration with esteemed partners such as the Syngenta Foundation, the Cereal Growers Association (CGA), the Department of Agriculture for Meru County & Agventure further enhances our commitment to excellence in the agricultural sector.





# KISIMA FARM, FLORICULTURE & FORESTRY

## AGRICULTURE

### Kisima Seed Potatoes

Kisima remains one of the largest suppliers of seed potatoes in Kenya, working in collaboration with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS), the International Potato Centre (CIP), the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), and HZPC.

Our production capacity exceeds 2,000 tonnes of certified potato seed, and we currently grow eight different varieties. These varieties include Challenger, Dutch Robin, Farida, Shangi, Sagitta, Sherekea, Unica, and Voyager.

In Kenya, potatoes rank as the second most crucial food crop, cultivated by approximately 800,000 smallholder farmers across 158,000 hectares of land. The annual demand for potato seed amounts to 300,000 tonnes, yet the current national certified seed production represents less than 5% of this requirement.

In the past year, the HZPC variety 'Challenger' has gained significant popularity in the market. In fact, it is currently undergoing trials for cultivation exclusively for KFC in Kenya. With the growing demand for this variety, Kisima aims to expand its production in the upcoming year to meet the needs of farmers.

### Testimonial

*“As a farmer I have dealt with Kisima Farm seed since 2016 and recommend it for the high quality and high yields. Personally I have used Sherekea, Asante & Shangi varieties. I recently encouraged the sale of the seed through Muguna Antu Viazi Store in Katheri Market”*

**Cosmas Marete**



### Sale of Kisima seed potato in Kenya



### Pyrethrum

Kisima Farm has recently ventured into the cultivation of Pyrethrum, which used to be one of Kenya's leading export crops in the 1990s. Back then, it significantly contributed to the income of smallholder farmers.

The dried pyrethrum flower is highly sought-after as an organic ingredient in insecticides. In recent times, we have observed a renewed interest in pyrethrum-based products, as people become more aware of the harmful effects of synthetic pesticides.

Kisima Farm strives to support smallholder farmers in growing this crop, with the aim of becoming a central hub for its international distribution.



# WATER

Water is the word on everyone's lips. Kisima Farm plays a key role in the management and protection of the Kisima Spring which supplies over 20,000 people in Buuri Sub-County with water. Kisima supports the Water Resource Users Association (WRUA) and leads the way in adhering to water regulations and rationing. A recent meeting in Ntugi was held in honour of the team that have been monitoring the spring flows using v-notches put in by Kisima. The measurements taken on a weekly basis help to keep all the water users informed of the water levels at the spring.

Good rain fell in March and continued through April and into early May. The rainfall was very welcome, but it doesn't hide the fact that water continues to be a real issue going forwards. The past few seasons of prevailing dry conditions have highlighted the importance of water storage here on Kisima. As part of the strategy to increase surface storage, Kisima has commissioned a new 80,000m<sup>3</sup> lagoon to be completed before the November rains. This extra storage will create much greater water security for the existing floriculture operation. Kisima continues to remain committed to being at the vanguard of sustainable water use in the region, and in the country.



# ENVIRONMENTAL

## Sustainability

Kisima Farm's dedication to sustainability is apparent in its responsible approach towards environmental stewardship throughout all aspects of its farming operations. The farm incorporates water conservation, carbon offset, and responsible farming practices to ensure a positive environmental impact. In 2022, Kisima Farm underwent a carbon footprint assessment conducted by Green Earth Climate Action (GECA), which confirmed the farm's carbon neutrality for on-farm activities.



Kisima Floriculture has implemented sustainable environmental practices, including organic composts, closed irrigation, integrated pest management (IPM), and agronomic best practice policies.

In the past year, there has been a 100% expansion of the wormeries at Kisima Floriculture. This expansion allows for increased production of "worm juice," which serves as a natural fertilizer and reduces the need for traditional fertilizers. Furthermore, Kisima Floriculture has made a conscious effort to utilize sea freight for flower exports. Calculations indicate that sea freight emits 80% less carbon compared to air freight. As a result, they plan to double their exports using sea freight. To ensure the quality and longevity of their flowers, they are harvested into a solution and treated with an Ethylene gas suppressor before being carefully packed in polythene packets.

## Gold Accreditation Standard

Kisima Floriculture has successfully obtained the Gold accreditation standard for the second consecutive year, as granted by the Kenya Flower Council. This notable accomplishment places them among a select group of only three farms to have achieved such a high standard.

Furthermore, Kisima Floriculture has successfully completed the European MPS-SQ audit, which emphasizes the importance of health, safety, and good working conditions. By obtaining the MPS-Socially Qualified (SQ) certificate, they have demonstrated their compliance with both national and international requirements in these areas. This signifies their commitment to excellence in health, safety, and social responsibility.

Kisima Floriculture's dedication to social and environmental sustainability is evident as they continue to progress towards achieving excellence in these areas.







## ENVIRONMENTAL

### Forestry

Kisima Farm boasts a vast expanse of approximately 450 hectares dedicated to commercial forestry. This forest comprises three main types of trees: Mexican cypress (*Cupressus lusitanica*), Mexican weeping pine (*Pinus patula*), and Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*). Additionally, the farm has taken great care in maintaining and planting around 500 hectares of indigenous forest. This initiative serves a dual purpose - preserving the farm's rich biodiversity of plant and animal species, as well as safeguarding the water reserves that give Kisima Farm its name.

To support their reforestation efforts, Kisima Farm operates a nursery that provides both commercial and indigenous seedlings for replanting and infilling. They also produce surplus trees that are available for sale.

For timber processing, Kisima Farm currently employs WoodMizer bandsaws in their small sawmill. However, they are in the process of upgrading to a SlideTec circular saw from Finland. This will enhance their production capabilities. Presently, all timber at Kisima Farm undergoes air-drying in designated storage areas. However, a wood kiln will soon be introduced to facilitate the drying and seasoning process. This will result in a more dimensionally stable product.

In addition to timber, Kisima Farm offers chemically treated Eucalyptus posts and poles, as well as firewood, offcuts, sawdust, and woodchips. They even have a dedicated carpentry team that crafts both basic furniture items and farm-specific necessities. The team's expertise ensures high-quality products that meet the farm's requirements.



### Conservation

Kisima supports the Mt Kenya Forest Trust in various conservation efforts. This includes supporting anti-poaching horse patrol teams, planting seedlings, providing medical assistance to communities, and safeguarding wildlife and the forest on the mountain.

The mountain has gained recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its remarkable biodiversity, geology, and cultural significance. Ensuring the preservation of its plants, birds, and wildlife remains a top priority.

Over the past decade, the Mt Kenya Forest Trust has successfully planted over 1.5 million trees, with their rangers covering an impressive area of 700 square kilometers each year. To protect community farms from wildlife damage, the Mt Kenya Forest Trust, together with forest-edge communities and partner organizations, has constructed and maintained electric fences along the majority of the mountain's western side.

In February, the Mt Kenya Forest Trust organized the annual 10to4 Mountain Bike Challenge, a vital fundraising event for the trust. The race route passes through Kisima Farm, and we take great pride in supporting this fantastic event.

Kisima Farm is home to the Mt Kenya-Ngare Ndare Elephant Corridor, which facilitates the unrestricted movement of elephants and other wild animals between Mt Kenya and the northern rangelands. This corridor plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance.

Additionally, Kisima collaborates with the Ngare Ndare Forest Trust to conserve and protect the Ngare Ndare forest, which forms the northern boundary of Kisima Farm.