



**KENYA INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
& DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**

KIRDI NEWSLETTER

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Dr Juma Mukhwana, Principal Secretary for the State Department of Industry

Empowering African Women Entrepreneurs

The COMESA Federation of Women in Business (COMFWB) Secretariat, with financial support from the AUDA-NEPAD/Spanish Fund, launched the Business Incubators for African Women Entrepreneurs (BIAWE 2) pilot project in Kenya on July 17th. The event took place at the Kenya Industrial

Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) in Nairobi. Hon. Moses Kuria, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investments, Trade, and Industry, highlighted the importance of empowering women entrepreneurs and their contribution to the economy. The project aims to unlock the potential of women-owned enterprises and contribute to economic growth, job creation, and national and regional development goals.



The project will provide business incubation services, mentorship, training, market access, and financial support to women entrepreneurs. The BIAWE 2 project builds upon the success of its predecessor, BIAWE I. Part of the project was the Swachh 3.2 Pad-making machine that was officially launched. The machine was fully donated to KIRDI by COMESA, Kenyan chapter, COMFWB and NEPAD.

LAUNCH OF BIOGAS LABORATORY



The Kenya Industrial Research & Development Institute (KIRDI) launched the Biogas Laboratory and Information Best Practice Platform (IBPP) with support from

UNIDO, GEF, and MoEF. The Biogas Lab aids biogas plant investors, while IBPP shares knowledge on biogas power generation, policy formation, and financing. IBPP aims to sustainably network stakeholders, and KIRDI envisions it as a center for large-scale biogas plants and renewable energy integration. Collaborating with government agencies, KIRDI strives for excellence in industrial biogas and bio-

fertilizer use, contributing to renewable energy diversification and agricultural sector synergy. Explore IBPP's progress at <https://energyresources.kirdi.go.ke/>.



LAUNCH OF SOLAR DRYING-COOLING TECHNOLOGY



The official launch of the Solar Cooling and Drying (SOLCOOLDRY) Technology Innovation Hub happened on 9th February 2023 at Mwazaro Kwale County. The event was officiated by Eng. Lucy Mutinda, Member of the KIRDI Board of Directors. Other Key dignitaries included the Deputy County Commissioner Mr. Joseph Sawe.

Food insecurity among the rural communities of the coastal region of Kenya required urgent intervention. Solar Cooling and Drying (SOLCOOLDRY) introduced a technology that is 100% off-grid solar-powered cooling and drying so as to improve the quantity, quality, and value of

The key objectives of this technology Hub is to:

- Develop a model solar-powered hybrid cooling-drying system
- Establish fish handling and processing centers
- Establish a quality system and recommend good production

Milkfish and Kimarawali.

The Solar Drying-cooling Technology, Value Addition, and Quality Assurance (SolCoolDry) project targets the fisherfolk with the aim of increasing the shelf life of Milkfish (*Chanos Chanos*) and Kimarawali (*Stolephorus delectulus*) fish species at the Kenyan Coast.

The technology has developed a model of 100% off-grid solar-powered cooling and drying to improve the quantity, quality, and value of Milkfish and Kimarawali.

This will in turn prevent post-harvest losses and boost the community's income. This helps improve the quantities and quality of the fish harvested, reduce on post-harvest losses, and improve the livelihood of the fisherfolk in the coastal region.

GOVERNORS VISIT



KIRDI hosted Excellency Governors and the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry on 23rd February.

The Council of Governors led by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry Hon. Moses Kuria conducted a study tour of KIRDI. The team was taken around the Institute by the Chair KIRDI Board of Direc-

tors Dr. Dinah Mwinzi and the Director General Dr. Ing. Calvin Onyango. They visited the Food Technology Research Center, Industrial Materials Research Center, Engineering and ICT Research Center, and Chemical Engineering and Allied Processing Research Center.

The discussions centered around setting up Industrial Parks and market linkages at the county level as well as interactions with suc-

cess stories linking Research, Incubation and Common Manufacturing Facility (CMF).

The study tour was a great opportunity for SMEs that have been Incubated and supported by KIRDI to showcase their products. Most of them had personal interactions with their County Governors and shared with them their success stories.

HON. MARY SENETA, CAS VISIT TO KIRDI



Chief Administrative Secretary Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, State Department for Energy, Honourable Mary Seneta.

The Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) warmly received Honourable Mary Seneta, the Chief Administrative Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, along with women's cooperative groups from Kajiado County on July 4th. Their visit aimed to provide firsthand exposure to KIRDI's Leather Department operations. During the visit, Honourable Mary Seneta and the women's cooperative representatives immersed themselves in various stages of leather processing, guided by KIRDI experts. From material selection to quality control, they gained insights into

sustainable and efficient leather production methods.

Beyond showcasing the leather industry, the visit sparked discussions on potential collaborations between KIRDI and the Ministry of Energy, nurturing innovation in both energy and leather sectors. Notably, the inclusion of women's cooperative groups underscored KIRDI's commitment to empowering local communities, particularly women, by providing exposure to diverse industries.

In essence, this initiative exemplifies KIRDI's bridge-building efforts between academia, industry, and government.

By hosting Honourable Mary Seneta and women's cooperative groups, KIRDI advances industry knowledge, paves the way for sustainable growth, and empowers Kenya's energy and leather sectors.



MSME SUCCESS STORY - MAMA'S GOLD



Lilian Nyareru owner of Mama's Gold Ltd is one of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) that we incubate at our facility. The business is housed at KIRDI and was given the following support; training and capacity building, access to space, and machinery to enable pre and post-production.

Lilian says that as demand for her lactation cookies, lactating granu-

lar and nursing tea grew, doing it at home was not sustainable. She says coming to KIRDI was a game changer since she was able to test the market and do mass production without having to incur the cost of buying the expensive machines she needed since they are available at KIRDI.

"KIRDI is the place to be for a startup. You get to interact with other entre-

preneurs and this helps broaden your scope and open your mind to more valuable ideas to your business."



GROOTS KENYA TRAINING

The Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) orchestrated a comprehensive training program spanning four days for participants from Groots Kenya. This initiative brought together a cohort of 72 women hailing from Tana River, Laikipia, and Kitui counties, all sponsored by Groots Kenya.

The training was meticulously crafted to provide the participants with immersive, hands-on experiences in honey value addition, processing, packaging, and business development. With a holistic approach,

the program extended to cover essential areas like intellectual property, industrial design, and optimizing by-products. Marketing strategies, branding techniques, and efficient record-keeping practices were also addressed, enhancing the participants' potential for success.

Culminating the Groots Training Program was a triumphant showcase of the newly acquired skills. Participants actively engaged in tasks such as packaging honey, embracing the practicality of their training. The celebratory occasion featured a cake-cutting ceremony, symbol-

izing the participants' accomplishments. Each participant was honored with certificates, reflecting their dedication and hard work throughout the training period.

Notably, the Director General Dr-Ing Calvin Onyango, alongside a Groots Kenya Tana River representative, graced the closing ceremony. This event marked not only the conclusion of a transformative training endeavor but also emphasized KIRDI's commitment to empowering women and fostering sustainable development across diverse counties.



PRACTICAL ACTION VISIT TO KIRDI KISUMU

In a remarkable display of collaborative commitment, KIRDI Kisumu welcomed a distinguished delegation from PRACTICAL ACTION on June 27, 2023. Led by global CEO Sarah Roberts-UK and Africa Director Akinyi Walender, the meeting showcased the institute's dedication to fostering impactful partnerships for sustainable development.

The visit saw KIRDI engage in substantial discussions with

PRACTICAL ACTION and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) teams. Conversations centered around ongoing partnership initiatives that aim to bolster the business community's capabilities. These initiatives encompass training, product development, incubation, and value addition strategies.

A standout outcome of the KIRDI-PRACTICAL ACTION partnership was the empowerment of 50 young

individuals in the agribusiness value chain. This joint endeavor represents a significant stride towards equipping youth with skills and resources essential for success in the competitive agribusiness sector.

The meeting's significance lies in its emphasis on cross-border collaboration as a driver of innovation and sustainable development. It reiterates the commitment of these organizations to fostering posi-

tive change within the enterprise community, contributing to regional growth and prosperity. The event underscores KIRDI's role as a catalyst for transformative partnerships that shape a brighter future.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



In observance of World Environmental Day, the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) exhibited its commitment to environmental sustainability by organizing a tree-planting initiative. KIRDI's staff and management came together to plant a total of 1000 trees at the Olekasasi Vocational Training Centre in Kajiado County.

This environmentally conscious endeavor aims to address the pressing issue of deforestation and promote the significance of reforestation in combatting climate

change. By planting trees in a local educational institution, KIRDI not only contributes to enhancing the green cover but also fosters environmental awareness among the students and the broader community.

The tree-planting event exemplifies KIRDI's dedication to practical solutions for environmental challenges. The initiative not only aligns with the global call for environmental preservation but also emphasizes the importance of involving local communities in nurturing a greener future. Such efforts

go beyond symbolic gestures, showcasing the institute's proactive approach to sustainability and its vital role in driving positive change at the grassroots level.

As the newly planted trees take root and grow, they symbolize the potential for a more ecologically balanced future. KIRDI's initiative sets a remarkable precedent, inspiring others to actively participate in safeguarding the environment, one tree at a time.

PRE MADARAKA EXPO

The Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) proudly took part in the prestigious Pre-Madaraka Expo held at Embu University College grounds. The event, graced by the official launch from His Excellency William Ruto, CGH, President of the Republic of Kenya, was a remarkable showcase of innovation, collaboration, and the nation's commitment to progress. Spanning from the 26th to the 30th of May, 2023, the expo embraced the theme "Better Together," echoing the essence of unity

in propelling Kenya's growth.

This significant event revolved around the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda, comprising five pivotal pillars: Agriculture, MSME Economy, Housing and Settlement, Healthcare, and the Digital and Creative Economy. At the heart of this transformation lay innovation, a sphere where KIRDI has consistently excelled. With a rich history of fostering groundbreaking research and development, KIRDI stood as a beacon of ingenuity amid the expo.

The institute's participation echoed the sentiment that innovation serves as the cornerstone of progress, making strides in diverse sectors to enhance livelihoods and catalyze economic growth. KIRDI's engagement in the Pre-Madaraka Expo underscored its commitment to transforming ideas into tangible solutions that drive Kenya's advancement. As the nation embraced the theme of togetherness, KIRDI's presence illuminated the potential of collective efforts in propelling Kenya's socio-economic transformation.



WEEHUB TRAINING IN KISUMU



WEE Hub and Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), held an incubation intervention at the KIRDI Kisumu branch. This innovative program was designed to empower and foster the growth of women-owned informal food processing enterprises. The intervention targeted regions spanning the Coast, Eastern, and Western parts of Kenya.

In this remarkable endeavor, the 1st cohort of

women entrepreneurs hailing from Kisumu and Busia Counties underwent comprehensive training. The training encompassed an array of critical aspects, including technology expertise in producing fried and dried fish products, composite flours, fish seasoning, as well as compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Hygiene Practices (GHP).

Beyond the technical skills, the training also focused on enhancing business acumen. These combined efforts ensure that women entre-

preneurs not only produce quality products but also operate successful and sustainable enterprises. The WEE Hub's incubation intervention marks a significant stride towards gender-inclusive economic growth, empowering women to become key players in the informal food processing sector.

STAFF SENSITIZATION FORUM ON ROAD SAFETY, DISABILITY, AND CITIZEN SERVICE DELIVERY CHARTER MAINSTREAMING



KIRDI management demonstrated their commitment to holistic staff development by organizing a comprehensive sensitization forum. This event, attended by the entire staff, featured key themes of road safety, disability awareness, and citizen service delivery charter mainstreaming.

During the forum, KIRDI employees were provided with valuable insights and knowledge on road safety by National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) experts. This effort aimed to promote safe practices not only within the institute but also in the broader community, aligning with KIRDI's dedication to social responsibility.



The importance of inclusivity was underscored as representatives from the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) facilitated discussions on disability awareness. KIRDI's aspiration for an all-embracing work environment was evident as staff gained a deeper understanding of creating an accessible and respectful space for everyone.

Furthermore, the forum delved into citizen service delivery charter mainstreaming, emphasizing KIRDI's commitment to efficient and effective service provision to all stakeholders. This initiative aimed to enhance the institute's service quality and respon-

siveness while fostering a culture of transparency and accountability.

By bringing together KIRDI staff and experts from NTSA and NCPWD, the sensitization forum achieved its goal of promoting safety, inclusivity, and improved service delivery. The event exemplified KIRDI's dedication to continuous learning and engagement with important societal issues, contributing to a more responsible, accessible, and service-oriented institution.



WEEHUB PHASE 2



WEE Hub Phase 2 incubation program took place at the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI). This impactful program had a singular objective: to uplift women-owned informal food processing enterprises. With a specific focus on cassava, cashew nuts, and

honey processing, the program aimed to fortify women's participation in these sectors.

In the second phase of this remarkable endeavor, participants from Kitui, Kwale, and Kilifi counties were the torchbearers of change. The training wasn't just about mastering the technical aspects; it was a holistic journey that encompassed everything from production techniques to market insights. By nurturing these enterprising women, the WEE Hub's incubation and training program not only

empowers them as individual entrepreneurs but also adds momentum to the growth of the local food processing industry. Through knowledge and empowerment, the WEE Hub is setting the stage for remarkable transformations in the lives of countless women across Kenya.



7TH UN GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

KIRDI participated in the 7th UN global road safety week.

THE 7TH UN GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK 2023

MONDAY 15TH SUNDAY 21ST MAY 2023

THEME
"SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT"

SLOGAN
"Rethink Mobility"

Hashtags: #RethinkMobility
#StreetsforLife
#RoadSafety

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USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT
SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND REDUCE TRAFFIC
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SHARE A RIDE
SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND REDUCE TRAFFIC
#RethinkMobility

KIRDI



SLOW DOWN SAVE LIVES! #ROADSAFETY

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RIDE A BICYCLE
STAY HEALTHY, SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND REDUCE TRAFFIC
#RethinkMobility

SERVICES OFFERED TO MSMEs

KIRDI can support MSMEs through the following services;

Training and Capacity Building

KIRDI offers practical and industry related training courses that are custom made and focused on the needs of MSMEs and the general public. The trainings are undertaken from both within the Institutes premises and at the MSMEs premises where possible.

The training are undertaken in the following areas, but not limited to: Food Technology, Natural Products (Chemical Engineering), Leather Development and Leather Products, Honey Processing, Textile Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Ceramics and Building Materials and Mushroom production.

The training programs usually take place between one (1) to Three (3) weeks depending on the complexity of the technology. The practicality of the training is emphasized by the one on one interaction between the trainer and the trainee hence ensuring effectiveness of the program.

Business Incubation

KIRDI runs an incubation program whereby startups are housed within the organization for a specific period of time depending on the client's needs and agreeable terms with the Institute. The institute also runs in-

house and on-site service where research scientists support entrepreneurs and industrialists from their establishments. The Incubatee both virtual and in-house are given technical support in their areas of interest. The incubation aims to incubate and grow MSME's by supporting and nurturing them to create products that have a market reach and one that is able to compete globally.

Providing Access to Common Manufacturing Facilities

This is a concept whereby KIRDI provides facilities (space, machine & overheads) for MSMEs to process their products at a fee. Common Manufacturing Facilities are offered in the following area: Food Technology, Chemical Engineering, Leather processing Technology, Engineering Development and Service Centre, Textile Technology and Ceramics & Building Materials.

Product Development

This entails products with new or different characteristics that offer additional benefits to the customer. Product development involves modification of an existing product or formulation of an entirely new product that satisfies a newly defined market niche. KIRDI offers its clients an opportunity to develop new products or value add on

existing ones to fill a specific gap and meet the MSME's objective. KIRDI also facilitates acquisition of internationally recognized quality standards.

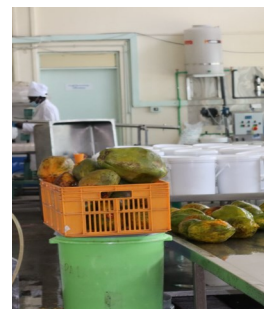
Quality Assurance and Laboratory Testing

The institute offers laboratory services aimed at enhancing quality and productivity in local industries with particular focus on MSMEs to enable them attain and sustain international competitiveness. Our strength lies in the following areas:

- Testing and analysis of water
- Food analysis
- Animal Feeds analysis
- Chemical analysis
- Leather, textiles, minerals and related material testing
- Cook stove testing

Consultancy

The Institute offers consultancy services in industrial technology, development and application.



Juice processing training

"The training programs usually take place between one (1) to Three (3) weeks depending on the complexity of the technology."



An SME seeking a service under Business Incubation



Laboratory testing



SMEs packing sanitizers under Common Manufacturing Facility



Packaging and labeling of products

2020/2021

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Your Industrial Technology Partner



KIRDI KISUMU CENTRE



KIRDI NAIROBI HEADQUARTERS

VISION

“A world class centre of excellence in industrial research, technology and innovation”

MISSION

“To undertake industrial research and transfer innovative technologies for socio-economic development”

CORE VALUES

In the endeavor to realize its vision and mission, KIRDI upholds the following core values:

Customer Focus:

KIRDI will not only meet but exceed customers' expectations.

Integrity & Accountability:

The Board and Staff of the Institute will uphold integrity and accountability while discharging their duties and responsibilities.

Professionalism:

The Board of Directors and staff of the Institute will exercise professionalism in all their operations.

Creativity & Innovativeness:

KIRDI is a learning organization that embraces creativity and innovativeness in responding to changes in the operating environment.

Teamwork:

KIRDI Board of Directors and staff work together, as one team, towards the realization of the Institute's mandate.

Environmental Sustainability:

The Institute commits to protect the environment as it implements its programmes.