

Govt to construct over 125,000 water pans to harness flood waters

PS says Govt to harness flood waters across country and transform them into vital source of livelihoods for millions in rural areas in Kenya

BY WAGEMA MWANGI
KNA, VOI

On a surly morning in April 2016, Mr. Peter Chabo, a farmer in Kimorigho village in Taveta sub-county, woke up to an unbelievable sight - his three-acre piece of land had been flattened by severe floods after an overnight downpour.

He was among hundreds of other farmers from Kimorigho, Darajani, Makloriti and Msengoni villages who were hit by the floods.

The flooding came with massive displacements that saw many families moved to safer grounds.

Afterwards, the families that had over the years been food-sufficient were forced to rely on relief food supplied by government and other donors. "It was a terrible time for us in Taita Taveta because we were not used to getting fed by government," recalls Chabo.

Such scenarios of flooding, displacement and eventual drought have become an annual cycle, replicated in several counties in Kenya during the rainy seasons.

However, plans by government to harvest flood waters will increase the volumes of stored water and therefore

become an opportunity for residents to exploit and grow food crops.

The Principal Secretary for the State Department for Irrigation Prof Fred Segor, says the government is planning to harness the flood waters across the country and transform them into vital source of livelihoods for millions of Kenyans in rural areas.

Speaking in Voi during the official opening of Africa-Asia Knowledge-sharing symposium on Flood-Based Livelihood Systems (FBLS), the PS said Kenya was keen on exploiting the massive potential flood waters can play in enhancing and bolstering food security.

The symposium brought together flood water experts from over ten countries, among them Ethiopia, Netherlands, Malawi, Yemen, Afghanistan, Sudan, Myanmar



and Pakistan.

"Flood based Livelihood systems has the potential to contribute to Kenya's Big 4 Agenda on 100 per cent food and nutrition security," said Prof Segor.

Flood-based livelihood systems refers to innovative ways where flood waters can be harvested and harnessed to benefit the communities who bear the brunt of flooding in rainy seasons. The expected benefits include conservation and increase of water for domestic use and irrigation.

To achieve this, the government will construct 125,000 household water pans and 10 large dams, community-based small dams, lagoons and other forms of water-storage infrastructure by the year 2022 across several flood-prone counties.

According to plans, each of the waterpan will have a holding capacity of between 1,000 m³ and 3,000m³, and the household water pans will be located in farms where surface runoffs and other waters from roads will be channeled to the facilities for use in irrigation.

"Floods are normally followed by drought. In this case, the farmers will use the harvested water to irrigate at least half-acre of his land and that will assure him of having food throughout the year before the rains come again," explained the PS.

The symposium, which was organized by Global Network for Flood-based Livelihoods Network Foundation, World Agroforestry, MetaMeta and International Water Management Institute, State Department for Irrigation and National Irrigation Board, aimed at finding ways on how local rural-based communities can exploit flood waters for economic empowerment.

A 2018 report on Geospatial Assessment of Potential Flood-Based Livelihood Zones (FBLZ) on Kenya found out that the technique could be applied in 35 counties, with the top-ten high-potential areas for the project including Tana River, Marsabit, Wajir, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera and Mandera. Others are Lamu, Turkana and Kisumu, all of which occupy close to 400,000 hectares that the project can be implemented.

A researcher who authored



Principal Secretary for Irrigation Prof. Fred Segor addressing delegates in Voi during an Africa-Asia knowledge sharing symposium on Flood-Based Livelihood Systems (FBLS).



Macpherson Nthara, an expert from Malawi, giving a presentation during the symposium.

maintaining 100m³ is used for generation of electricity.

The PS blamed the low national storage of water to many years of under-investment in the sector.

"We want to raise the storage capacity of water for irrigation and domestic use to over 20m³. The household dams will help on this target," he said.

An expert from Malawi, Mr. Macpherson Nthara said both countries shared similar problems in management of flood waters, noting that involving the community to harvest flood waters would reap maximum benefits of conservation and proper land use.

"After we adopted FBLS, we discovered aspects of conservation of environment also came as a by-product," he said.

FBLS program will be implemented on approximately 50,000 hectares of land spread across several counties for the next five years. Among the counties targeted include Turkana, Busia, Wajir, Taita-Taveta, Marsabit and Taana-River. The initiative will be funded by European Commission and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The PS said the government will work closely with partners and other organizations to realize the programmes. He termed the FBLS as the new frontier where land owners and government will cooperate to harvest surface water for increased land productivity.

Taita-Taveta Deputy Governor Majala Mlagui said the project will help in mitigating the adverse effects of flooding in several villages in Taveta and Mwatate sub-counties.

the report, Mr. Maimbo Malesu, said the 10 counties accounted for 89 per cent of the total flooding-based livelihoods potential areas in Kenya, with Tana River leading with over 94,000 hectares considered flood-prone.

He added that Kenya would require slightly over Sh 100 billion to implement the project in all the areas that have been mapped out.

"This is a very rich area for creation of employment for our youth and enhancing food security," said Mr. Malesu.

Sh 100b

Amount required to implement the project in all the areas that have been mapped out.

Prof Segor pointed out that apart from food security, adoption of Flood-Based Livelihood Systems (FBLS) by farmers in rural areas would also help to boost the country's low per capita surface water storage, which is arrived at by dividing the total volumes of water a country has by the total population.

He said Kenya is one of the countries in Africa with low per capita surface water storage; a situation that puts a strain on water resources during periods of prolonged drought.

Currently, Kenya is at 103m³, out of which three cubic meters is used for domestic, irrigation, livestock and industrial use. The re-



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK FISHERIES AND IRRIGATION

State Department for Crops Development

TENDER NO: MOALF&/ SD/CD/ENG/OT/01/2018-2019

TENDER NAME: SUPPLY OF WALKING TRACTORS AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

- The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation State Department for Crops Development invites sealed bids from eligible candidates for Supply of walking tractors and other agricultural machinery.
- Interested eligible candidates may obtain further information from supplier portal www.kilimo.go.ke and inspect the tender documents at Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation, State Department for Crops Development during normal working hours.
- Interested bidders may download the bid documents from the Ministry's website www.kilimo.go.ke or IFMIS portal: supplier.treasury.go.ke free of charge.
- Tenderers shall be required to submit a Tender / Bid Security of KShs. 100,000 (Kenya Shillings One Hundred Thousand Only) payable in bankers' cheque or cash to the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation, State Department for Crops Development or a bid bond from a Commercial Bank / Eligible Insurance Company in the format provided in the Tender Documents to remain in force for a period of One Hundred and Fifty (150) days from the closing/opening date of the tender.
- Completed tender documents enclosed in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked with Tender name and Number must be deposited in the Tender Box at address below or to be posted to address below so as to be received on or before 9th APRIL, 2019 at 11.00 am local time.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation
State Department for Crops Development

Cathedral Road
P.O. Box 300028-00100
Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: + 254-20-2718870/9

Fax: +254-20-2711149

E-mail: psagriculture@kilimo.go.ke

- Prices quoted should be net inclusive of all taxes, delivery costs and must be expressed in Kenya Shillings and shall remain valid for one Hundred and Twenty (120) days from the closing/opening date of the tender
- Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the Candidates or their representatives who choose to attend at Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation, State Department for Crops Development

HEAD, SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT UNIT
FOR: PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR CROPS DEVELOPMENT