

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

#### THE HANSARD

#### Second Assembly-Second session

**Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

The House met at the County Assembly Chamber at 9.30a.m.

*[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga) in the Chair]*

#### PRAYER

#### NOTICE OF MOTION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES ON THE STATUS OF THE  
COUNTY DAIRY FARMING PROJECT

I wish to give a notice of Motion:

THAT this House adopts the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and fisheries on the status of the County Dairy Farming project in Siaya County laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

#### MOTION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES ON THE STATUS OF THE  
COUNTY DAIRY FARMING PROJECT

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga):** Chair Agriculture.

**Hon. Ochieng:** Thank you, Chair. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to move the Motion:

THAT this House adopts the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and fisheries on the status of the County Dairy Farming project in Siaya County, laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. I would start by the preface. The Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is one of the Sectoral Committees established pursuant to provisions of Standing Order No. 200 (5) and is mandated to:-

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- (a) Investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;
- (b) Study the program and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation.
- (c) Study and review all legislation referred to it.
- (d) Study, assess and analyze the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- (e) Investigate and enquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary and as may be referred to them by the house;
- (f) Vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the House to approve, except those under Standing Order 195(committee on Appointments);and
- (g) Make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

Additionally, pursuant to the Standing Order 200 (5) read together with the Second Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the committee oversees the departments of; Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and is mandated to deliberate on;-all matters related to County farming, including crop production, and animal husbandry, plant and animal disease, livestock breeding, aquaculture, county abattoirs and food security’

The Committee as currently constituted by this House comprises of the following Members;

- |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Hon. Willis Ochieng’ | -Chairperson    |
| 2. Hon. Fredrick Omoro  | -V. Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Joseph Wandera  | -Member         |
| 4. Hon. Linda Juma      | -Member         |
| 5. Hon. Felix Okumu     | -Member         |
| 6. Hon. Nancy Wamwai    | -Member         |
| 7. Hon. Hellen Winga    | -Member         |
| 8. Hon. Simon Ousa      | -Member         |
| 9. Hon. Edwin Odhiambo  | -Member         |

Mr. Speaker Sir, allow me to give the background of this Report.

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Siaya County has about 40,000ha of natural forage grasses, legumes and flora. In efforts to enhance agricultural and economic self-sufficiency, the County Government initiated various agricultural programs such as Agricultural mechanization and the dairy farming projects. The County Government has supported the rapid expansion of dairy farming by economically empowering the community with an aim of improving the economic status of the people and eventually introducing school milk feeding program for ECDE children in Siaya County supported by the locally produced milk.

This project has been executed through the procurement of in-calf heifers by the County Government for members of registered Community Based Organizations in West Gem, South Gem, Yala Township, Sidindi, Central Sakwa, East Ugenya wards and the Siaya ATC. The farmers were then expected to properly rear the dairy cattle and eventually cultivate into the milk produced for purposes of acquisition by the County Government in order to support the school milk program.

The program was meant to make the production of milk feasible to supplement the milk produced by small scale farmers. This would eventually hasten the need to use all available avenues to provide the school milk program with milk produced within Siaya County.

Since the initiation of the program in the 2014/2015 financial year, an oversight exercise into the viability and appropriateness of the program was long overdue. The County Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries carried out an oversight exercise into the entire County Government of Siaya dairy farming program with regards to assessing its implementation status and the extent to which its objectives have been achieved. This report is therefore a documentation of the status of the Siaya County dairy farming projects.

According to the Kenya Dairy Board, the Kenya dairy industry is the most advanced of the livestock subsectors. Kenya's dairy industry is the most developed in East Africa (Kenya Dairy Reports, 2015). Commercial dairy was introduced in Kenya in the early twentieth century, but indigenous Kenyans were not involved in it until the mid-1950s. After independence, most dairy cattle were transferred to the indigenous people, marking the beginning of smallholder domination of the dairy industry.

According to the Kenya Dairy Board, dairy cattle produce about 80 percent of total national milk output (more than 3 billion liters) generating 18 employment opportunities for every 1,000 liters of milk handled, or a total of 40, 000 jobs. These are laudable possible benefits that

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can be inculcated from actualization of the County Dairy Project. Additionally, the County ECDE program stands to benefit immensely from the proposed school-milk feeding program with milk from this project.

The Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries wishes to sincerely thank the office of the Speaker and Clerk of the County Assembly of Siaya for the necessary support extended to it in the execution of its mandate. The Committee secretariat is also appreciated for their valuable time and contributions towards this noble oversight role.

These contributions, shall go a long way in stamping the oversight authority of this House as per article 185 (3) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and Section 8 of the County Governments Act 17 of 2012.

The Committee extends its gratitude to all representatives from the Executive arm of the County Government who not only appeared but also provided the necessary information and documentary evidences that helped the Committee realize its objectives. The individual farmers, extension and livestock officers in various wards are also appreciated.

This report is a documentation of an oversight exercise by the County Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on the implementation status of the County dairy farming project. The committee visited all the wards in which the dairy project is currently underway.

The wards included; East Ugenya, North Ugenya, Sidindi, North Gem, Yala Township, West Gem, South Gem, Central Sakwa Wards and the Siaya ATC. The exercise was intended to assess the implementation status of the County Government of Siaya dairy farming project with the following specific objectives;

- i. To assess the appropriateness of the initiation of the implementation of the program (beneficiaries, eligibility, acquisition, distribution e.tc)
- ii. To assess the performance of the program (health status, mortality rates, production, utilization, feeding, extension services e.tc)
- iii. To identify the challenges bedeviling the program (fodder, mechanization, extension services, health, milk market etc.)
- iv. To establish the different alternative methods for the improvement of the program (fodder, hay, mechanization, market etc.).

During the committee visits, the Members were guided by well drafted data collection tools such as interview guides, focused group discussion guides and observation checklists. Data was collected through;

- i. Interviews with various relevant officers from the Agriculture department
- ii. Focused Group Discussions with the farmers and local projects leaders in some circumstances such as in South Gem
- iii. Observations guided by observation checklists during visits to the farms
- iv. The Hansard officer was also handy in recording all the proceedings during the exercise.

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The data collection exercise covered the following areas purposively sampled as the study population. The wards were purposively sampled since they are the areas where the County Government is running the program. They included; Sidindi ward, West Gem ward, South Gem ward, Yala Township ward, Central Sakwa ward and Siaya ATC.

It is now my pleasant duty, on behalf of the committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to table this report for consideration and adoption by the House. The committee prays that this honorable House adopts the recommendations proposed herein and subsequently, a follow-up done for proper and conclusive implementation.

I would like to go through the body of this report. When we were doing this exercise we sampled a number of groups but I will not go through all the groups that we sampled. I will only read few groups and then give general observations, recommendations and the challenges we faced in the field.

The Committee visited East Ugenya Ward on the 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. The groups visited included; Ramunde development group, Osindo Moyie group and Amani Umoja Self Help Group.

### **1) Ramunde Development Group**

#### **Findings and observations**

- The Committee found that the group was issued with an Ayrshire heifer
- The animal died immediately after delivery. Members reported that the animal was seemingly sick by the time of delivery. It is however reported that members of the group fed on the carcass and shared the rest amongst the community.
- The calf also died soon after the death of the mother cow due to poor feeding and management.
- The committee also observed that the animal shed that was still visible was poorly constructed and not appropriately maintained (*see annexure 01*). The area livestock officer indicated that the poorly done animal shed and feeding area could have accelerated the diseases.
- The group reported that fodder was a serious challenge to them especially during periods of drought. They rely heavily on purchased Napier grass supported by contributions of members which is reportedly not consistent. The bulk of the animal feeding is handled by the individual member of the group in whose custody the animal was placed.
- Animal medication was reportedly expensive and not manageable by the struggling group members. The veterinary officer was also not readily available and as reported by the area livestock officer, the local veterinary officer serves a wide area of farmers and such may not be readily available when need arises.
- The Committee observed clear signs of poor animal management by the group. Such indicators included; poorly constructed animal shade, no animal feeding shade/ trough, and the group indicated to the fact they always left the cow to feed in the open just like ordinary cows.

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The Committee visited North Ugenya Ward on 29<sup>th</sup> January and made the following findings from the groups visited;

**1) Osiepe Women Group**

**Committee findings and observations**

- The group reported that they feed the heifer on Napier grass and sweet potato leaves
- The committee observed that the shed of the animal was poorly constructed and the sanitation was also poor
- The group reported that the calf died three days after it was delivered
- The committee found that the animal was allegedly sold by the custodian with the consent of other group members
- The milk production was reported to be at an average of 5 liters in a day
- The committee noted outright misunderstanding within the group which led to the sale of the animal

**2) Got Nanga Women Group**

**Committee Findings**

- The group was issued with a Friesian type of animal
- The heifer calved and was also treated for ECF. The group members reported that calf might have died due to negligence by the custodian. It produced an average of 9 liters of milk when it calved. The group indicated that the animal was majorly fed on Napier Grass, Ross grass, Mullato and local grass.

The Committee visited North Gem ward on 30<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00a.m. and the following observations and findings were made;Konya Hero Women GroupCommittee Findings.The group was issued with two Ayrshire heifers. The heifers are of good health. (Annexure 03)The animal shed/structure was properly constructed and are on good condition. The animals feed on maize Stover and Napier grass.

The group majorly purchases the Napier to supplement on the small plantation they have. They maintain a duty roster of five members per week involved in the management of animals and the shed.It was reported that one of the heifers was producing 8 liters of milk per day during the peak period but reduced drastically when the calf died.

The committee observed that one of the heifers is currently in-calf. Thagruok Women Group Committee Findings; the committee learnt that the heifer calved and the calf is in a good condition.The committee observed that the group practices zero grazing. The group majorly feed their animal on Napier grass and local grass.

The group has a small plantation of Napier grass and therefore they are involved in purchase of more grass. It was reported that the milk production averages at 5 liters in a day.The veterinary cost is shared equally amongst the group members.Yala Township ward was visited on 30<sup>th</sup> January as from 11.00 a.m. and the following observations were made;Sauri Lead Farmers Committee Findings.

The committee noted that the group was given a heifer. It was reported that the animal had several complications when it was delivered by the supplier. The group reported that the

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animal underwent miscarriage initially before delivering the first calf. It was reported that the animal produces an average of 5 liters of milk on peak periods.

However, the committee learnt that the animal died on December 2017. The committee decried high costs of veterinary services and proposed possible subsidies by the County Government. The group recommended enhanced trainings and sensitizations of group members on dairy farming and dairy management. The group requested that groups that encountered mortality issues should be considered for animal replacements.

The committee heard that cross breed animals should be considered during scouting of dairy animals and the Ward Extension Officers should take part in the exercise. The Committee visited West Gem ward on the 31<sup>st</sup> January as from 9am and the following were the findings from each of the groups visited; Golden Self Help Group Committee Findings The group was issued with a heifer which is currently in-calf. The group has a plantation of Napier grass and maize Stover for silage production.

The veterinary cost is shared amongst the group members. The group reported that the heifer also feed on disodium grass and kalandra. The group appreciated the services offered by the county government. The group had a poorly constructed animal shade without a feeding trough (*annexure 05*) Nyagondo Dairy Collection Centre Committee Findings The group was issued with one heifer. They reported that the animal majorly feeds on Napier, boma Rhodes, maize Stover and local grass. The group has a large plantation of Napier grass. The group reported that veterinary cost is shared among the group members

Milk production was reported to be at 14 liters during the peak season. On the 31<sup>st</sup> January as from 11am, the Committee visited South Gem Ward and made the following findings; Ndori Primary School Committee Findings. The committee learnt that the school was issued with one Friesian cow. The group indicated that the animal majorly feed on Napier grass, local grass and maize Stover.

The committee reported an average milk production of 16 liters per day. The school indicated that they also purchases dairy meal and salt-lick to boost milk production. The school reported to be using the milk produced to support their class eight milk-feeding program. The committee advised that the feeding program be reversed to support the ECDE program instead.

The committee was impressed with how the school manages the project. It was however noted that there is need for a properly constructed animal shed and feeding troughs. The school is involved in commercial sale of milk as a source of income to support the veterinary services. The school reported challenges with ECF vaccination.

The school recommended efforts for the revival of the public cattle dips for use by farmers at subsidized rates. Construction of Dairy cooperative society for commercial milk processing and preservation was also reported in the session with the school animal management team. Serawongo secondary school Committee Findings; the heifer was issued to Serawongo Secondary school.

The committee found that the heifer is under the management of Nyang'oma Boys Secondary due to lack of pasture in Serawongo and incomplete preparedness by the school. The

animal is fed on local grass and Napier grass. The animal reportedly miscarried immediately it was procured and issued to the school. The committee, however, learnt that the heifer is currently in-calf through AI.

The school reported acute water problems and recommended provision of water tanks for storage of harvested rain water. The school requested provision of fodder seeds for purposes of fodder production

Mbeka Secondary School Committee Findings; the Committee found that the school was given a Friesian heifer. The committee observed that the animal feeds on local grass and sweet potato leaves and maize stalks. The committee observed that the school has a properly constructed shed for the heifer.

The committee heard that the animal is key for practical lessons for the students taking Agriculture as a subject. The school reported that the project has motivated students and the public to practise livestock farming back in the village.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, at the Siaya ATC, the Committee learnt that the its livestock production section is ill equipped with a total of 8 dairy animals; 6 of which were issued to the institution during the implementation of the County dairy farming project. However, the animals are currently fed freely on the grazing fields due to ravaging effects of drought. The Siaya ATC has a large plantation of Napier grass which has overgrown and cannot currently support the dairy program.

The institution reported an average milk production of 2.5 litres per day from each of the animal purchased by the County. However, the average milk production from the animals that were initially owned by the ATC stood at twelve litres per day.

The Committee observed that the ATC received support from development partner, the GIZ, that helped in construction of the zero-grazing animal shed for feeding. The shed has however remained to be a white elephant project since it has never been used. It is reported to have been poorly constructed and cannot be used effectively.

Submissions by the ATC Principal;

1. The principal informed the Committee that the ATC is a center for training and mechanization activities.
2. They had a population of seven staff. I.e. four casuals and three permanently employed by the county.
3. The total population of animals in the institution stood at 12.
4. The institution is not secured since the guards employed by the county withdrew early last year for lack of payments.
5. The procurement of six heifers was done by the county directorate of livestock.

General findings

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the Committee made the following general findings from all the groups visited across the Wards;

1. The heifers were issued to individual members of various community based organizations across various Wards in the County.



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2. The following Wards benefited from the program; Sidindi, East Ugenya, North Ugenya, West Gem, South Gem, Yala Township, North Gem, Central Sakwa and Siaya ATC.
3. A total of 667 cows had been issued to various beneficiaries in various Wards between 2015/2015 to 2017/2018. Annexure 14 has a table on animal distributions across the Wards.
4. A total of 640 groups had benefited from the project since its initiation.
5. A total of 37 heifers were a replacement done by the suppliers for heifers that passed away within one week after delivery.
6. 262 cows have calved while 142 cases of animal deaths were reported.
7. The County government has employed extension officers----

**Hon. Olasi:** Point of order, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir!

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opang'a): What is it, Hon. Olasi?

**Hon. Olasi:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I have a concern. To some degree, this is a job well done, but there is a problem. In Ugunja Sub County for example, the Committee went to Sidindi Ward and visited three groups, but while moving the Report, the chair has ignored that part. I thought they could sample it. Sidindi benefited a lot from this program. They have taken us through what they found out in Central Sakwa at Sirawongo and Mbeka secondary schools---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opang'a): Hon. Olasi, you are out of order! You will be in apposition to critique the Report after the Mover has moved it.

**Hon. Olasi:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I am not discussing the Report; I am just saying that it is in order for the people of Ugunja to be sampled because there were several groups around. How come the Mover could sample three groups in South Gem and fail to give us anything from Sidindi and yet we know that Sidindi consumes a lot of our monies?

**Hon. Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): Thank you, the Mover can proceed.

**Hon. Ochieng':** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I want to say categorically that even in my general findings the following Wards benefited from the program:

1. Sidindi.
2. East Ugenya.
3. North Ugenya.
4. South Gem.
5. West Gem.
6. Central Sakwa.
7. Yala Township.

No. 6, 262 cows have calved while 142 cases of animal deaths were reported. The County Government has employed extension officers in each Ward to help support the farmers in the day to day running of the project. Each Ward has one livestock extension officer. However, the Committee finds that there are limited...

**Hon. Olasi:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir!

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**Hon. Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): What is it Hon. Olasi?

**Hon. Olasi:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I need to be convinced and cannot allow the Mover to continue assuming my..... As you are being advised by the clerks, I would request that I get your attention.

*(Laughter)*

The Mover cannot speak as if my concern is addressed. He is talking about recommendations, but I was saying that it is in Order to be proportional. They went to Ugenya and gave us something from East Ugenya which is better. So they could not go to Sidindi and complete the report, then we would have done the report ourselves.

**Hon. Ochieng’:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I think as I was just continuing...

**Hon. Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Willis, just take a seat. Hon. Olasi, I think they visited Sidindi, and in the report they have captured the groups that they visited within Sidindi Ward. So I believe that in their findings they will be able to give us their recommendation.

**Hon. Olasi:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I know you are being advised by the clerk that I am out of Order. I know that I am not! What I am saying is very simple and direct, I am just requesting because I know that the Mover has 1 hour to read the report which is not yet over and is still within his time frame. Why can’t he read us something from Sidindi?

**Hon. Ochieng’:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, as I was just saying I think we visited two groups in Sidindi which are Lolwe primary and Dadra women. I want to put it very clear that yesterday when we were with the Hon. Member he requested me to buy him lunch which I declined but promised to buy someday. So maybe that’s why he is trying to disturb me.

**Hon. Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Willis, you are out of Order. Hon. Olasi, take your seat. I think as the chair of this House I will give the chair Agriculture to proceed so that we can pick up on that later.

**Hon. Ochieng’:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, in number 8 below is a table representing the implementation status of the project with regards to milk production, status of the animal as at the time of Committee visit, calving status, and the number of animals issued per group. It should be noted that this is just but a representation of the sampled and visited groups;

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WARD	GROUP VISITED	NO.ANIMALS	CALVING STATUS	STATUS	AVERAGE MILK PRODUCTIO N (liters per day)
SOUTH GEM	Ndori Primary Sch	1	Calved	Alive	16
	Siala B3 Group	1	In-calf	Alive	-
	Siala B1 Group	1	Calved	Dead	8
	Siala B4 Group	1	Calved	Alive	6
WEST GEM	Golden S.H.G	1	In-calf	Alive	-
	Nyagondo Dairy Collection Center	1	In-calf	Alive	-
	Mapambano W.Grp	1	Calved	Alive	13
	Sauri Lead Farmers	1	Calved	Dead	5
YALA TOWNSHIP	Sauri Primary School	1	In-calf	Alive	-
	New Vision Youth Group	2	Both In- Calf	Alive	-
	Konya Hero W. Group	2	Both In- Calf	Alive	8
NORTH GEM	N. Gem Sacco	1	Calved	Alive	6
	Thagruok W.Group	1	Calved	Alive	5
	Lolwe Primary	1	In-calf	Alive	-
SIDINDI	Dadra Women Group	1	Calved	Alive	8
	Ramunde Dev.Grp	1	Calved but died	Dead	3
	Osindo Moyie Grp	1	Calved but calf died	Alive	6
EAST UGENYA	Amani Umoja SHG	2	One Calved, one dead	One Alive	8

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NORTH	Osiepe Women Grp	1	Calved	Sold	5
UGENYA	Got Nanga Women	1	Calved-but	Alive	9
	Grp		calf died		
	Kobondo United Green	1	Calved	Alive	9
	Zone farmers				
	St. Mathews W.G	1	Not calved	Dead	-
CENTRAL	Sirawongo Sec. Sch	1	In-calf	Alive	-
SAKWA	Mbeka Sec. Sch	1	In-calf	Alive	-
	Uyawwi Sec. Sch	1	In-calf	Alive	-
SIAYA ATC		6	All calved	Alive	Averagely 2.5
TOTAL					

The low milk production reported by various farmers was for various reasons ranging from inappropriate dairy farming and managerial skills.

The Committee visited Central Sakwa Ward on the 31<sup>st</sup> January from 2p.m. and made the following findings;

**1) Serawongo secondary school**

**Committee Findings**

- The heifer was issued to Serawongo Secondary school
- The committee found that the heifer is under the management of Nyang'oma Boys Secondary due to lack of pasture in Serawongo and incomplete preparedness by the school.
- The animal is fed on local grass and Napier grass
- The animal reportedly miscarried immediately it was procured and issued to the school
- The committee however learnt that the heifer is currently in-calf through AI
- The school reported acute water problems and recommended provision of water tanks for storage of harvested rain water
- The school requested provision of fodder seeds for purposes of fodder production.

**2) Mbeka Secondary School**

**Committee Findings**

- The Committee found that the school was given a Friesian heifer
- The committee observed that the animal feeds on local grass and sweet potato leaves and maize stalks

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- The committee observed that the school has a properly constructed shed for the heifer (*annexure 11*)
- The committee heard that the animal is key for practical lessons for the students taking Agriculture as a subject
- The school reported that the project has motivated students and the public to practice livestock farming back in the village

A final committee engagement with the County Executive department of Livestock was organized at the ATC on the 4<sup>th</sup> February and the following observations and findings were made;

- The Committee learnt that the Siaya ATC livestock production section is ill equipped with a total of 8 dairy animals; 6 of which were issued to the institution during the implementation of the County Dairy Farming project.
- However, the animals are currently fed freely on the grazing fields due to ravaging effects of drought (*annexure 12*).
- However, the Siaya ATC has a large plantation of Napier which has overgrown and cannot currently support the dairy program.
- The institution reported an average milk production of 2.5 liters per day from each of the animal purchased by the County.
- However, the average milk production from the animals that were initially owned by the ATC stood at twelve liters per day.
- The committee observed that the ATC received support from development partner- the GIZ that helped in construction of the zero-grazing animal shed for feeding. The shed has however remained to be a white elephant project since it has never being used. It is reported to have been poorly constructed and can be used effectively (*annexure 13*).

**Submissions by the ATC Principal**

- The principal informed the committee that the ATC is a center for training and mechanization activities.
- They have a population of seven staff, four casuals and three permanently employed by the county.
- The total population of animals in the institution stood at 12.
- The institution is not secured since the guards employed by the county withdrew early last year for lack of payments.
- The procurement of six heifers was down by the County directorate of livestock
- All the eight animals calved but four calves died due to health related issues.
- The institution requested the indulgence of the Assembly committee in fast tracking their proposal of disposing the six low quality animals and the funds generated to be used in procurement of two high quality animals.
- It was reported that the institution currently depends on the support of the development partners for survival since they do not receive funds from the County government.

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- The institution does not have an independent budget and instead they have been operating under the directorate of livestock.
- The ATC is supposed to be a comprehensive demonstration and training center for farmers in the county.

#### GENERAL CHALLENGES OF THE PROJECT

The Committee makes the following cross cutting challenges on the entire County Diary Farming project;

- i. The committee noted that many groups reported concerns of inadequate, proper and inconsistent training on general animal management and fodder production.
- ii. The farmers reported high and unmanageable costs of treating and feeding the heifers.
- iii. Lack of proper sensitization and preparedness for drought and its mitigation efforts
- iv. Untimely and inconsistent animal vaccination thus rampant livestock diseases especially tick borne diseases and East Cost Fever.
- v. Inadequate fodder and fodder production and management skills amongst the farmers thus low milk production
- vi. Many groups reported high costs of constructing proper animal sheds and other related structures
- vii. Extension logistical problems and few technical staff thus hindering proper coordination of Government services to the farmers. The committee noted that there are only six County Government veterinary officers based at the sub counties and majorly handling meat inspection exercises at the expense of general veterinary services to the farmers. The livestock officers are also not enough and in some cases not comprehensively equipped with necessary knowledge required by the farmers.
- viii. Improper AI services due to few and inconsistent service providers. The groups reported cases of unproductive several attempts of AI animal servicing to an extent that other farmers resorted to reproduction by use of local bulls such as in Mapambano Women group in West Gem ward (*see annexure 7*)
- ix. Conflicts of interests by the stakeholders in the procurement and distribution of the animals to the farmers. This led to; procurement of non-productive and unhealthy animals and general poor managerial skills by unprepared farmers.
- x. At the Siaya ATC, the committee noted that the institution lack funds to procure veterinary kits and drugs for the treatment of animals and sometimes borrow from the learning section.
- xi. The revenue generated by the ATC through seminars and training is channeled to the county revenue account thus it becomes a challenge to access the funds for expenditure purposes.
- xii. The ATC reported cases of poor breeds of the animals.
- xiii. Lack of clean and adequate water for animal and domestic use by the farmers including the ATC.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the foregoing findings and committee deliberations on the issues arising, the committee makes the following recommendations:

**Procurement of the animals:** It is recommended that a committee be set up to manage future process of animal scouting, purchasing and distribution to farmers. The committee should be comprised of; technical officers from the livestock department, procurement officer, veterinary officer, and experienced farmers.

The committee recommends that the Chief Officer should take action against the groups and farmers who have disposed of/ sold their animals without the laid down procedures.

**Veterinary and Extension Services:** The Committee recommends that the County Executive should employ and empower additional veterinary and livestock extension officers and enhance their logistical concerns in order to reach the farmers conveniently for purposes of attending to animal medication needs and training of farmers. Additionally, the committee recommends that the Directorate of Livestock should purpose to budget for, procure and stock drugs for veterinary purposes for use by farmers at subsidized rates. This should be done in the next Financial Year.

**Fodder production:** The Committee recommends that the County Executive Directorate of Livestock production should immediately purpose to train and sensitize the farmers to initiate efforts to increase forage productivity. The sensitization efforts should underscore increased production of natural forage, cultivated fodder, crop by-products, and commercial feeds such as; dairy meal, dairy cubes, calf pellets, maize germ, maize bran, molasses, cottonseed cake, and wheat pollard and wheat bran. This should be started immediately and should be a continuous process.

**Milk Marketing:** The Committee recommends that the County Executive Directorate of Cooperatives Development should sensitize the farmers on the need to form Cooperative Societies with an aim of jointly collecting their milk produce for purposes of value addition with an aim of actualizing the objective of the project. The Cooperative department should immediately weigh in and sensitize, register and train the farmers into forming cooperative societies.

The Committee recommends that the County Executive should purpose to empower the Siaya ATC to equip and improve its status with an aim of developing the center to an appropriate demonstration and training center for farmers within the county. The Committee recommends that the County Executive Directorate of Livestock Production develops a comprehensive policy on the entire management of and implementation of the County Diary Farming project.

The policy should make provisions for: procurement of the heifers, scouting for and selection of the heifers, general management of the project by the farmers. This should be done in consultations with all the stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir; the rest of the pages are just annexes and pictorials of all the cows owned by the groups we visited. I would wish to call upon Hon. Edwin to second.

**Hon. Odhiambo:** I second.

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga):** Hon. Members, I propose the question that this House adopts the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on the status of the County dairy farming project.

**Hon. Oor:** My concern is that Ugunja Ward was not captured and some other Wards. Secondly, Agriculture is comprised of many sectors and we can only hear the livestock bit without other sectors being mentioned. I don't know whether it was for livestock only or specific sector. Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir; I request that if this is the way they have done it they should add the other Wards before we pass it.

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga):** Hon. Wandera!

**Hon. Wandera:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to have an input on the reaction of the Hon. Member from Ugunja and I want to say that this was a project---

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga):** Hon. Wandera, you are out of Order! Address the House through the Chair.

**Hon. Wandera:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to the attention of the House that these projects were identified by those various Wards and the Committee was mainly concerned with the dairy projects in those Wards. So, some Wards are not board because they had never at one juncture recommended dairy animals in their budget proposals.

There is one Hon. Member who said that Sidindi Ward had greatly benefited from the County funds and I would like to tell him that this is because the Ward had prioritized this in its budget to the tune of Kshs. 22million out of the allocation of Kshs. 30 million. so, it was not County funds, but our allocation. Thank you.

**Hon. Omwende:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I agree that this Report should be debated, but I am of the opinion that we need more time to look at it and discuss it when we are more fresh and reenergized. My sugar levels have gone down and I suggest that we can have this debate in the afternoon.

**Hon. Olasi:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this is a very good Report and given that Siaya depends largely on agriculture, this debate should be exciting to all of us. But allow me to support the sentiments expressed by Hon. Omwende that sugar levels have gone down. This is not only for himself but also other Members. It is only that other Members are suffering in silence. But I am not one of them.

Allow us to discuss this Motion in the afternoon when we are fresh.

**Hon. Odhiambo:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I want to really appreciate this Committee for doing a good work. The Committee has done what is required of it by our Standing Orders; and that is to investigate, inquire and report. I think that is what---

**Hon. Omwende:** Point of order, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir! I have already presented my humble plea to you and it has not been taken---

**The Temporary Speaker(Hon. Opang'a):** Hon. Omwende, our plea has been heard and you'll be communicated to. Just take your time. Yes. Hon. Edwin.



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**Hon. Odhiambo:** Thank you. Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I want you to protect me while speaking because I don't need interferences while on the Floor. The Agriculture Committee has done a commendable job which majored on dairy farming alone and not farm inputs. The Majority Leader should note this.

As a member of the Committee I want to say that it is important for Siaya people to be very keen on this project. As we all know, milk products are very rare in this part of the country and that is why we even import ice creams which are made of milk. If this project is looked into very keenly, I don't think we are going to import so many things from other counties as we do currently. Therefore, we need to work towards this so as to ensure that Siaya County produces a lot of milk, and just as the chair said that the one main objective of bringing up this project was to take milk to ECDE.

**Hon. Omwende:** Point of Order!

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): Yes, Hon. Omwende.

**Hon. Omwende:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think we are in House of mix up, and I made a plea so that you could direct us whether to have the debate or not. We have just received the report and we have not even interrogated it. So for me I have a very fundamental plea for you to consider. When giving chance to other Members that means that the report should be discussed. Can you rule on that, Mr. Speaker, Sir?

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Omwende, your plea was heard. So it is being handled and remember Hon. Edwin was on the Floor before you interrupted, so just let him finish then we give a ruling on your plea.

**Hon. Olasi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think we can take a vote on this. The House is not prepared and I am not talking on behalf of everyone and this is a very important document and needs sober minds which we will sober in the afternoon.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Olasi, can you take your seat. Hon. Edwin you take two minutes then I give a ruling.

**Hon. Otieno:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I said earlier that you protect me, and it is like you are not doing that.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): You are protected, 2 minutes only.

**Hon. Olasi:** What kind of protection Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have sergeants here.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Shirley, what is it?

**Hon. Oyuago:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think Hon. Olasi and Hon. Member for Sigomre Ward are not prepared to debate on this report. So I am requesting them not to interfere as a Member is contributing. If ... I am talking on a point of Order! So let them just walk out.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Shirley, you are out of Order! Take your seat. Hon. Edwin!

**Hon. Otieno:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the Hon. Member for Yimbo for supporting the same. I also want to say that when you are sick, you don't wait for someone to tell you that you need to go to hospital. You just do it on your own because you feel sick. If this program is looked into very well then Siaya County people will have a lot of material to produce.

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We visited ATC and found that this is the only center within Siaya County, and yet this is a place where every project should begin if not run from the place. Therefore, the ATC is the best place to handle the dairy farming project.

**Hon. Otieno:** Mr. Speaker, Sir!

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): Yes,  
Hon. Siguru.

**Hon. Siguru:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do think we are in a House of rules and do strongly believe that we have not opened this report in the first place. The House is supposed to be adopting the report first before debate is opened.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Opanga): You are out of Order, Hon. Siguru!

The Mover called Hon. Otieno to second, where by the report was now opened for the House to discuss. Then after extensively discussing the report is now when we will adopt the report. We are not adopting the report yet, and this is the communication from the chair.

From the mood of the House I can see we are divided and there are members who are for discussing the report while others are against discussing it. So as a chair, having received the report today, I think I agree with the Members and that I will give you time so that we come back at 2.30 p.m. after you have gone through the report and we continue with this report at 2.30 p.m.

Hon. Members, can you be upstanding for adjournment.

There being no any other business this House adjourns until 2.30 p.m. today in the afternoon at the chamber.

The House rose at 11.03 a.m.