

## KENYA NATIONAL FARMERS' FEDERATION

CONNECTING, TRANSFORMING AND SUSTAINING LIVELIHOODS

### Search for best farmer kicks off

April 27th 2018



#### *Daily Nation*

The search for the best farmer in the country this year kicks off next week. Farmers are expected to enter their agribusinesses in the competition known as the National Farmers Awards Scheme run by agro-input firm Elgon Kenya Ltd and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The scheme has consistently been growing since its inception in

2013. The overall winner will be honoured by the president at the Nairobi International Traded Fair, then feted in a gala dinner.

Entry forms should be collected at Ministry of Agriculture offices, county offices, Nation Media's seeds of gold and also online through [www.elgonkenya.com](http://www.elgonkenya.com) or [www.hortinews.co.ke](http://www.hortinews.co.ke).

"The awards scheme has reached farmers in virtually every corner of the country and inspiring others to farm," said Nelson Maina, the communications head at Elgon Kenya Ltd. Other key sponsors of the scheme are Nation Media Group through Seeds of Gold, Bayer East Africa, UPL, Arysta, Excel Crop Care Limited, BASF and FMC.

## Coffee mill finally gets licensed

April 25th 2018

### *Standard Newspaper*

A coffee mill that has been dormant for the last five years has been issued with an operating licence.

The Coffee Board of Kenya issued farmers with the permit to enable them to mill their produce at the Sh. 100 million mill.

The factory, owned by Kirinyaga County Farmers Co-operative Union, was built near



Kimicha market and has remained dormant due to lack of a permit. Union General Manager Henry Njiru said for the last three consecutive crop seasons, farmers had anticipated their coffee would be milled at the facility but it was not possible due to lack of the licence. "Even crops from the just-ended season were delivered to private millers," Mr. Njeru said. He said a delegates' meeting had been planned for next month, when members affiliated to coffee co-operative societies would be briefed on the development.

Mr. Njiru said he was optimistic the delegates would resolve to have their produce for the coming season milled at the facility after waiting many years.

### **Private millers**

"Our farmers have depended on private millers whose charges are exorbitant, leaving the growers with little profit. However, starting this coming season, this will change for the better as farmers will start reaping huge profits," he said. It has been claimed that private coffee millers use unorthodox means to arm-twist the licensing body so they can remain in business.

The county produces about 30 million kilos of coffee cherry annually, which private millers scramble for due to its high quality. County Agriculture Director Benson Mukungo said an adequate number of extension officers had been recruited and deployed to coffee zones to boost production. Governor Anne Wai-guru recently said once the mill became operational, her administration would embark on value addition of coffee before export.

## Researchers fight it out for African union Sh900m grant

April 27th 2018

### *Daily Nation*

The African Union will allocate Sh. 900 million to researchers in the continent to finance projects that aim at eradicating hunger and ensuring food and nutrition security.

Top agricultural institutions led by Egerton University are angling for the grant. Other institutions fighting to beat the May 22 deadline for submission of the proposal include Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, University of Nairobi, Kalro and Multi Media University.

Speaking at Egerton University, Njoro during the open call for proposal for 2018, the Principal Scientific officer at the AU grant unit at the Department of Research Science and Technology, Dr. Monica Ebele Idinoba, said the overall objective of the call is to make good use of science and technology and innovation in the critical agricultural sector.

## Government asked to revamp extension services, mechanize farming

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### *Daily Nation*

The government has been challenged to promote mechanization on smallholder farms, revamp agricultural extension services, connect farmers with markets and improve water supply to boost national food security.

“We need to increase productivity of land, labour and other inputs. We need to increase mechanization in smallholder farms,” FAO Country Representative to Kenya Gabriel Rugalema said at the devolution conference in Kakamega.

Safaricom’s Director of Enterprise Business Unit Rita Okuthe told delegates that mobile technology can help the country to accelerate the pace to food security through production and analysis of data and access to markets.

UN Women Regional Policy Advisor on Climate Smart Agriculture Fatmata Sessay said that women must be brought to the centre of the agriculture debate to boost production.

## Maize farmers tipped on how to fight the deadly fall armyworm

April 27th 2018

### *Daily Nation*

Maize farmers in Kisumu have been advised to implement integrated pest management approach to control the fall armyworm.

The approach aims at suppressing the pest population below the economic injury levels. The fall armyworm pose a serious threat to food security and livelihoods of farmers.

Kisumu County Director for Agriculture Silvester Oketch said the approach controls the population of the adult moths that lay eggs that hatch into destructive worms.

“By reducing the population you would have less armyworms to control with the chemicals available in the agrovets,” said Mr Oketch.

“Fall armyworms are new in Kenya, in other countries, they have been controlled using pheromone traps which target the adult moths or butterflies which lay eggs,” he explained, adding that the traps have chemicals that attract and kill the male moths.



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