



NEWSLETTER



Innovative ways of learning, demonstration farming and water management for enhanced food security and income generation in coastal regions. (NICHE/KEN/212)

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Preface

**By Alma Ruting, project coordinator
Q-Point**



The project "Innovative ways of learning, demonstration farming and water management for enhanced food security and income generation in coastal regions" (NICHE/KEN/212), has been running for two years now. In August 2016 a delegation of Pwani University visited the Netherlands. On the second day of their visit the project team members gave short presentations about the progress of the different activities of the project.

Pwani University is making good progress in blended learning, labour market needs assessment and gender. The farm house at the model farm is under construction and the next step is to select a farmer to run this model farm.

During the visit to the Netherlands many different subjects were addressed throughout the field visits. In this newsletter the participants will give you an idea of their impression.

I hope you enjoy reading.

Alma Ruting, project coordinator.

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Visit to K.I. Samen.

My visit to the Netherlands

By Dr Lenard Mounde, Project Coordinator

I arrived in the Netherlands on the 31st of July and left on the 6th of August 2016. The experience gained from the places visited was memorable.

Apart from the project progress presentations to our project partners (Q-Point) and the joint evaluation made

on the way forward as regards Nuffic NICHE/KEN 212, I learned the following from the sites visited:

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- **K.I. Samen in Grashoek**

I learned about cattle semen production, processing and marketing. This is a promising organization for future collaboration with Pwani University.



Visit to K.I. Samen.

- **IPC- Groene Ruimte, Arnhem/ Schaarsbergen**

A key aspect I learned was how practical skills can be tailor made and imparted to people depending on specific water and irrigation management needs. Farmers, private companies, public servants, school leavers, etc can all be trained depending on specific needs.

- **ILearn Company, Ede**

This particular company was interesting to us because of the blended/e- learning concept which is a key objective of the project. Lessons from Jordan were quite exciting.

- **DLV Consultancy**

An important lesson learnt is that, since we can't all be specialists in every level of agricultural value chain, engaging specialists through consultancies is the way to go moving forward.

- **Rabbit Farming**

This was exciting to find a rabbit farmer in the Netherlands. Strangely, the demand for rabbit meat is high but few rabbit farmers. I was surprised that there are only 35 farmers in the country with an abattoir located in Belgium. Certainly, there is a huge potential that needs to be exploited by upcoming livestock farmers in the Netherlands.



Visit to rabbit farm.

- **TU-Delft**

As project partners, there is always that sense of pride to be associated with the second-ranked university in civil engineering globally. A lab and studio visit, with a live recording of our Project Director, Prof Semenye, was exciting.

- **Dairy Farms**

Highly mechanized with a drastic reduction in human labour. One major lesson learnt is that a family of 3 can run a dairy enterprise of 500 cows. More importantly, with introduction of robotics, as we saw in one farm, this sector can become more exciting and attractive. Personally, I was amazed with this level of technology.



Visit to the dairy farm with DLV Consultancy.

In general, lessons learnt from this trip are quite valuable. The exposure has opened my eyes on how to revitalize our agriculture and improve our teaching methods through blended learning. Definitely, where applicable, I will try to apply the information learnt in Kenya. It was my first visit to the Netherlands and is my wish to visit frequently. Thank you for the opportunity to visit the Netherlands.

Kenyan visitors at K.I. SAMEN

By Reurt Boelema, Export Manager K.I. Samen



Monday, August 1st a delegation Kenyans who were associated with the NUFFIC KEN 212 project visited K.I.

SAMEN. The group, from the Pwani University was interested in Dutch cattle breeding. Besides that, they were very interested in the quality of Dutch bull semen and the correct method of storing semen and safe working with liquid nitrogen.

The welcome of course was with coffee and 'Limburgse vlaai'. After a brief introduction, the delegation was taken to the bulls. The men could determine with their own eyes which bulls have the right qualities for Kenya. Especially Tackleberry and Cracker were considered as very suitable.



Showing one of the bulls.



Determining the bull.

Then the group went to the laboratory. There they saw how K.I. SAMEN freezes, handles and stores the semen to achieve the best fertility results for the farmer. There was also special attention for the track and trace system of K.I. SAMEN.



Visiting the laboratory of K.I. Samen.

Finally, without a doubt the most important, was taken attention to security at working with liquid nitrogen.

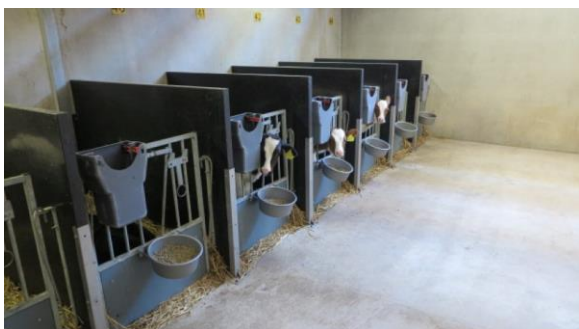


Canister for (international) transport of semen.



Straws with semen in liquid nitrogen.

After lunch two dairy farms were visited. The first was the dairy farm which has the same owner as K.I. SAMEN; Grashoek Holsteins BV. The Kenyans could see themselves what the daughters of different K.I. SAMEN bulls do in practice. There was special attention for the young calf rearing.



Young calves in boxes.

Hygiene and colostrum supply can be improved in many Kenyan dairy farms. Then the group went to the dairy farm of the family Lamers in Beugen. There they saw the technique of the milking robot. Nice to see, but at this stage difficult to operate in Kenya.



Special attention for the young calf rearing.

The day ended with a debriefing. It is intended that Pwani will do the distribution and sale of K.I. Samen semen in the coastal region in Kenya. A nice concrete result of a wonderful project. The concluding words of the various parties were that the cooperation and the relationship between Dutch and Kenyan parties have always been very well, but can always be improved. Using each other's knowledge and products to improve farming and food security will always remain the main goal.



Visiting the stable with cows.

Exposure visit to the Netherlands

By Prof. Patterson Semeny



For the team that made the trip it was their first visit to the Netherlands. The exposure visit was as planned in that it was educative and two days were

used to conduct business specifically concerning the Project activities for the remaining two years and achievements of the past two years.



Visit to the rabbit farm.

The dairy and rabbit farms we visited were awesome. Not much for adoption but adaptation for Kenyan agricultural systems. A dairy farm of 120 cows for the livelihood of a single family in the Netherlands as opposed to 40 or more

families in Kenya is mind boggling to say the least. Employment of milking robots and raising of thousands of rabbits in-house without natural light is pushing technology to the cutting edge. Our take is to bench mark and improve our situation through increased productivity.

On the side, I personally observed the following:

I did not observe veiled or open discrimination of any form. Having travelled widely, it is common to observe veiled discrimination of people avoiding sitting near you or giving you questionable glances. None of these did I experience and instead was challenged by the level of etiquette, ethics and kindness.

Never before have I seen so many bicycles with riders to work or on leisure.

In your country bicycle riding cuts across all social classes. I twice hired a bike from the hotel and enjoyed riding around.

Riding there is very enjoyable and safe because of the reserved paths. Definitely, your country is a good earner of Carbon Credit Points and the flat terrain is friendly to riding.

Visit to DLV Consultancy

By Niek Groot Wassink, DLV Consultancy and Performance



Wednesday the third of August I received project members of the project KENIA212 from Pwani University. We went on an excursion to visit different farms

and to visit DLV Consultancy.

We started on a dairy farm named the Vennekes. This was a dairy farm with 260 dairy cows. The farmer told us a lot about modern dairy in Holland and the specific aspects on his farm.



Outside in de yard.

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Ensiled grass.



In the stable with dairy cows.

A beautiful large cowshed and a new milking pillar with modern techniques gave us a lot of information in what's possible.



Milking pillar.

After a nice and short lunch at DLV Consultancy, there was a presentation about dairy consultancy in Holland, and the way DLV Consultancy works.

There was a good brainstorm session on business in consultancy.



Together we discussed about milk prices, data gathering and feeding systems.

The last visit was to a rabbit farm. Some of the members have a rabbit farm themselves. The dairy farmer told a lot about the breeding program, the feeding, and the housing. He showed us the way AI works on rabbits.



AI in rabbits.

We had a day with a lot of new information, good brainstorm and nice farm visits.

Gender workshop

By **Olivia Ansenk**, trainer **Q-Point**



The experience with Pwani University was memorable, because of the positive vibe of the group members. Initially the participants were a bit hesitant about the programme, 4 days gender workshop. But the first assignments and interaction among group members was very motivating. Everyone agreed that gender is more than a women's issue and is very much related to societal and University practices and cultures. Reflecting together on habits, curricula and research projects was very supportive in understanding gender mainstreaming.

Teaching practices were analyzed together, whereby we concentrated on participation of students, role models and word language choices. Also we looked at how to mainstream gender in the different disciplines at the University, namely Chemistry, Agricultural Studies, Linguistics, Religious studies, Educational Science and Care management. Also for the hard sciences like chemistry it is very important to consider gender, as it focuses on the question of how gender relations take effect on knowledge and the products manufactured in chemistry, and on the research and development directions that chemistry takes. Looking at the category of gender focuses attention on the societal context in which chemical investigations and developments take place, and calls into question the self-image of chemistry still particularly prevalent in the scientific community as an exact and objective science.

On top of that a great amount of time was spent on research practices and on how the gender dimension in research enriches your research project and the final impact. It is important to involve all the actors and compose target groups and survey samples as diversely as possible to

capture a representative sample of society (paying special attention to including the voices of marginalized groups). Another characteristic of gendered research is using bottom-up research techniques and doing research with people rather than on them. Also it is often multi-disciplinary, topics and methods drawn from many different academic fields and an emphasis on the multiple dimensions of social problems.

At the same time we will develop a training manual/guide on:

- gender sensitive teaching methodologies;
- gender sensitive research work;
- gender sensitive extension work.

Finally the Gender Champion of Pwani university was chosen by the group members, Loice Ojwang' Lecturer in Chemistry. She will steer the wheel when it comes to gender mainstreaming implementations within the University.



Prof. Rose Odhiambo congratulates Loice Ojwang' the chosen Gender Champion of Pwani university.



Gender champion for group members.

Fresh water scarcity in coastal area in Kenya

By Bas Heijman, associate professor in drinking water engineering at the department of Water management of the faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences TU Delft



We talked mostly about online education. The highlight was the visit to the "new media center" of the Delft University of

Technology. We have also recorded a knowledge video clip of prof. Semenye. I prepared the Power Point presentation and

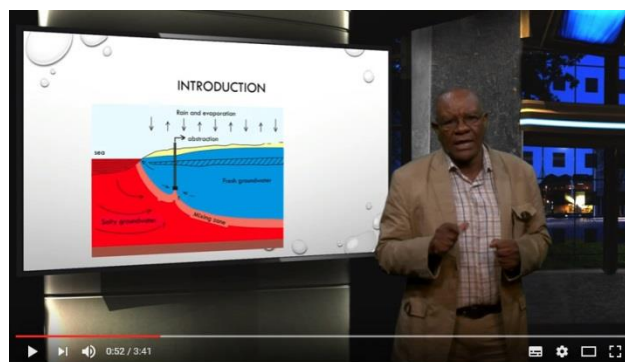
script. Prof. Semenye read the script (without exercise) from the teleprompter. The outcome was very good!

Have a look at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8NOy4NVXkk&feature=youtu.be>



Making of the knowledge videoclip.



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**Q-Point
Wageningen**



**DLV Consultancy and
Performance
Uden**



**K.I. Samen BV
Grashoek**



**TU Delft
Delft**



**Egerton University
Egerton**

Requesting organisation



Pwani University

Donor

This project is financed by MINBUZA through EP-Nuffic (Netherlands organization by international cooperation in higher education).



Colophon

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