

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Date: 10/14/2014

GAIN Report Number:

Kenya

Post: Nairobi

Changes in Kenya's Agricultural Sector - Update

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the Economy

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Report Highlights:

The Government of Kenya (GOK) has undertaken key changes affecting the regulatory and research functions in a major agricultural sector reform milestone authorized by law. The changes involved the dissolution of eight former regulatory agencies, the creation of a new overarching regulatory agency, the Agriculture Fisheries and Food Authority (AFFA) and the merger of four research institutions to form the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO). This is an update of the FAS/Nairobi GAIN report of January 7, 2013.

Merger of regulatory agencies:

The GOK operationalized the Crops Act with effect from August 1, 2014 and created a new regulatory body, the Agriculture Fisheries and Food Authority (AFFA), and consequently dissolved eight former agencies. The consolidation aims at harmonizing and streamlining the agricultural regulatory functions governed by the AFFA and the Crops Acts, both enacted by parliament in January, 2013. The Crops Act also repeals ten agricultural statutes also and establishes eight directorates and a Commodities Fund under AFFA as follows:

- Coffee Directorate
- Tea Directorate
- Sugar Directorate
- Horticulture Crops Directorate
- Fiber Crops Directorate
- Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate
- Pyrethrum and Other Industrial Crops Directorate
- Food Crops Directorate
- Commodities Fund

Kenya Plant Inspection Service (KEPHIS) and Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) were retained as independent regulatory agencies.

New agricultural research structure:

The GOK has operationalized with effect from July 1, 2014 the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research (KALR) Act and merged four research institutions to create the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO). The merged institutions are,

- Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI);
- Kenya Tea Research Foundation (KTRF);
- Coffee Research Foundation (CRF); and
- Kenya Sugar Research Foundation (KSRF).

KALRO will operate as a network of semi-autonomous research institutes, each with a specific research mandate.

New appointment:

President Uhuru Kenyatta, on August 14, 2014 appointed Prof. Fredrick Segor as the Principal Secretary (PS), State Department of Livestock in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, in a reshuffle involving several government departments. Prior to his appointment, Prof. Segor was the PS, Ministry of Health. Sicily Kanini Kariuki – PS, State Department of Agriculture, and Prof. Japhet Micheni Ntiba – PS, State Department of Fisheries, and the Cabinet Secretary, Felix Koskei were not affected by the reshuffle.