Ties required to lift SMEs as key agriculture players

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are pertinent to the achievement of sustainable market systems development and have contributed immensely to strengthening and integrating Kenya into both the regional and global economy.

The contribution of SMEs in job creation, poverty alleviation and rural development is significant. In the age of globalisation, this contribution can only be more pronounced. The smart thing to do, therefore, would be in instrumentalising and aligning SMEs with changing times and achieve the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Closer home, alignment of SMEs to the Vision 2030 ensures elevated status to the SMEs and cements their contribution to economic development of the country based on sound strategies, in this case mid-term plans (MTPs).

This alignment trickles down to the county governments who formulate their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) based on the MTPs in line with the County Governments Act of 2012. However, to realise the SDGs collaboration is key.

Agricultural value chains in Kenya are characterised by interconnectivity of actors, each addressing a gap. This was hitherto crowded by independent actors, each on its own. While competitiveness of the value chains is key for profit and relevance, collaboration is pertinent to their sustainability.

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