

Celebrating MESPT



20 Years of Building a Prosperous Society through Agricultural Value Chains Development and Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development

Celebrating MESPT for transforming MSMEs and livelihoods of rural farmers



JULIUS MUIA, PhD, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, THE NATIONAL TREASURY

Message from the National Treasury

he Government of Kenya is proud to have founded the Micro Enterprises Support Programme Trust (MESPT) 20 years ago, jointly with the European Union. The European Union later relinquished its Founder status to the Royal Danish Embassy in Kenya. As the Founders, we have nurtured the Trust through provision of a legal framework and an oversight role at the

Board of Trustee level. MESPT seeks to transform livelihoods of rural farmers and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through provision

of integrated and sustainable business solutions. It is a vehicle with which donors choose to implement programmes and projects that support the development agenda of the Government, such as enhanced access to finance, increased agricultural productivity and markets, improved incomes and creation of job opportunities for youths and women.

As the Government of Kenya, we are keen to see green growth and development of the agricultural sector and financial inclusion in sectors that are supported by MESPT. We applaud the Trust for its continued commitment of building a better society. This is evident in the milestones achieved so far.

As we celebrate the Trust's 20th anniversary, we are proud of its success and contributions to the Kenyan economy. Happy anniversary!

MESPT is an organisation that seeks to transform livelihoods of rural farmers and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through provision of integrated and sustainable business solutions.



Danish Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Ole Thonke (centre), visits a stall at the launch of the current MESPT Strategic Plan.



MESPT and Keitt Exporters executives exchange the signed MoU outlining modalities of implementing the Green Employment in Agriculture Programme (GEAP).



ECLOF Kenya is a Microfinance Institution providing financial and related nonfinancial services to micro, small and medium entrepreneurs in Kenya as they run their income generating activities. Our loan products are customer centric and offer an exciting option for farmers, micro traders and SMEs who need to grow their enterprises.





Jitegemea Credit Scheme [JCS] Limited is an incorporated non-deposit taking (Credit only) Microfinance Company. Our mission is to empower our clients by availing Financial & Social Programmes that will enable them realize their potential.

Our Products are:		
Group Loans		
 Biashara Loans – Kes. 5,000 to 3,000,000 Business Asset Loans Hitimu/Education Loans 	o SME Loans – Tailored for Emerging Businesses o Mazao/Agribusiness Loans	o Consumer Ioans o Instant (Okoa Chap Chap) Loans
Individual Loans		
o SME Loans	o Growth Oriented Enterprises	o Church Loans
Financial & Social Rating In Financial and Social Rating, Jitegemea attained B+ and B respectively, conducted by Microfinanza Rating.		
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Celebrating MESPT 7 (YEARS) Anniversary

20 Years of Building a Prosperous Society through Agricultural Value Chains Development and Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development





H. E. OLE THONKE, AMBASSADOR, THE ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY IN NAIROBI

MESPT's vision and mandate is closely aligned with Denmark's ambitions in both the newly launched Development Cooperation Strategy and the bilateral partnership between Denmark and Kenya that runs from 2021–2025.

It's 20 years of support to Kenyan smallholder farmers

Message from The Royal Danish Embassy

s a founder and donor to

Micro Enterprises Support

Programme Trust (MESPT),

Denmark is very happy and

proud to congratulate MESPT on the

20th anniversary today. Since 2002.

we have partnered with MESPT to

support and create green opportu-

nities for especially youth and wom-

en in the agricultural sector, and to

develop and nurture green value

chains in Kenya. The achievements

speak for themselves - more than

300,000 MSMEs have received support and, consequently, 70,000 jobs created. Kudos to MESPT!

MESPT's vision and mandate is closely aligned with Denmark's ambitions in both the newly launched Development Cooperation Strategy and the bilateral partnership between Denmark and Kenya that runs from 2021-2025. Climate adaptation approaches, green transition and the creation of green and decent jobs plays a central role in both strategies, and MESPT is an important partner for Denmark in Kenya to achieve these objectives.

Ten years ago, I visited Qwetu SACCO in Taita Taveta County to see the impact of MESPT's engagement there. MESPT had provided financial support to the SACCO and through this to a group of rural smallholder farmers. It was clear, that this investment made a huge difference in terms of productivity levels and hence for the income, wellbeing and sustainability of the farmer's lives and the local community. The SACCO has since grown from 2,430 active loan borrowers to 48,058 borrowers in 2020 courtesy of MESPT support.

Kenya's population grows by 2.2% every year, and is expected to pass 90 million by 2050. The agricultural sector needs to expand significantly to match this population growth, and it will be critical to increase productivity, minimize post harvest loss and engage more people – especially youth - in the sector. MESPT already plays an important role in this process, and its mandate will only get more important in the coming years. The agricultural sector also holds great opportunities for the creation of green and decent jobs, and MESPT's achievement on this shows a good way forward on this agenda.

It is really encouraging to witness MESPT's growth for the last 20 years, from the initial start up to becoming one of the leading institutions in providing agribusiness related support to Small Holder Farmers. Thanks to the partnership with Danida. As we continue our good collaboration, we encourage MESPT to lower interest rates on loans for farmers to below 10%, in order to allow more farmers to benefit from their support. We wish MESPT a happy anniversary and look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration in support of Kenya's agricultural sector.



Keitt Exporters Limited

Congratulation MESPT on marking your 20th Anniversary! We are proud to be associated with you.

About Us

Keitt Exporters was formed in 2002 to export fresh produce from Kenva to the world. We have come a long way since, operating beyond SEA and expanding our product offering to different Pacific's of the world. We are vertically integrated as we have inhouse logistics with a leading exporter of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables with farming excellency over 2 decades. Keitt provide total solutions for the built environment industry. The process starts from farming, harvesting further processing of the Fruit and Vegetables through state-of-the-art packhouse facility. Moving on we are keen on ensuring that the product freshness is maintained throughout the supply chain for which we have seamless logistics and excellent customer service which make sure there is consistent freshness.

We are relentlessly driven to focus on our customers and provide innovations that work better for all our stakeholders. We have a strong technical team that ensures all growers operate within the Good Agricultural Practice code (GAP) and all our products are produced in a safe way. Our farms are Global Gap certified and we have impeccable traceability systems which enable us to monitor the product right from the seed to the consumer level.

During the recently concluded annual awards ceremony held by the Kenya Avocado Society for Kenya, Keitt Group were awarded the Largest Exporter and Largest Orchard awards.



From left: Dipesh Devraj, Arslan Riaz, Asif Amin a Isaac Mwangi (Directors of Keitt Group).

The Managing Director, Mr. Asif Amin was awarded the prestigious Lifetime Achievement award for his service and contribution to the Kenyan avocado industry.

Being largest exporters of Avocado in Kenya, Keitt Group opened their new packhouse in 2021 in Kenol making this the largest avocado packhouse in east and sub-Saharan Africa. This enabled Keitt to process greater volumes. These volumes are attributed to the success of their 'Home of Avocado Farmers' initiative which has reached to over 5,000 large, medium & small holders, a number that continues to grow to date. This initiative helps farmers to get technical and agronomy support from us. As far as business in concerned, Keitt Group are venturing into new markets while diversifying their portfolio through value addition in the form of exporting crude avocado oil.

Our journey with MESPT:

We have been working with MESPT over the last fifteen years and this partnership is very collaborative and strong by their support in technical guidance, trainings, building a positive environment to support the livelihoods of small and medium scale farmers. Keitt truly appreciate the support we are getting from MESPT in the field of Mangoes mainly in Makueni, Machakos, Kajiado & Mombasa Counties. MESPT also support us in the field of French beans at Machakos & Kajiado Counties as well as in the field of Avocado in Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Nyandarua & Trans Nzoia Counties.

We Sincerely appreciate the partnership journey of establishing a healthy culture for the communities in rural Kenya. Happy 20th anniversary to MESPT!



Keitt Exporters Kenol Packhouse.

CONTACTS, Keitt Exporters Limited, Keitt Complex, Old Mombasa Road, P.O Box 6390-00200 Nairobi, Kenya Tel: +254202338176; Email: Info@keitt.co.ke



Celebrating MESPT 2 (VEARS) Anniversary 2002-2022

20 Years of Building a Prosperous Society through Agricultural Value Chains Development and Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development



MESPT to create 5,000 decent jobs and grow 100 agri-SMEs by 2025

Message from MESPT Chairman, Board of Trustees

Our website : www.universaltraders.co.ke | Email : info@universaltraders.co.ke

t is with great pride and pleasure to witness MESPT turning 20 years. We would not have come this far without the support of our founders: The Government of Kenya through the National Treasury, and The Royal Danish Embassy, through DANIDA.

The Trust has been a channel of socio-economic growth to the Kenyan people (mainly smallholder farmers and MSMEs) for over 20 years by way of strengthening the agriculture value chains. Agriculture being the backbone of our country's economy requires support and e ort from various stakeholders to continually improve the sector. This is where MESPT has identi ed a strategic niche to turn around the fortunes of smallholder farmers and agri-enterprises in the country through capacity development, which includes knowledge and skills transfer, technical assistance, business advisory, and nancial and market linkages.

In our recently launched Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the Trust is focusing on four thematic areas, namely, agri-enterprise development (MSMEs), access to nance, agricultural productivity and food safety, and green transformation.

As an organisation, we desire more than ever before to live our vision of "building a more prosperous society" by responding to pressing economic, environmental, and social challenges such as climate change, nancial exclusion, unsafe food, and women and youth unemployment. This strategic direction will take us far, not only by contributing to Kenya's Big-4 Agenda and the Vision 2030 development blueprint, but also by addressing at least 12 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a champion for inclusive growth, MESPT will anchor gender equity at the core of all its interventions, and will endeavour to increase women's access to and control of productive resources, increase decision-making power at the household and community level, and promote meaningful involvement of women in all the projects of our work. We are aiming to have women as 40 percent of the bene ciaries from our interventions. Also, during this strategic period, we will ensure to integrate 30 percent youth into all our programme interventions within our focus value chains.

By 2025, we endeavour to facilitate the creation of 5,000 decent jobs, support the establishment and growth of at least 100 sustainable agri-enterprises, and integrate at least 75,000 smallholder farmers in targeted value chains. The Trust also aims at improving agricultural productivity and food safety for 75,000 households by increasing awareness, investments, and adoption of green and eco-friendly technologies, as well as expanding nancial access and inclusion for the growth of MSMEs.

MESPT is currently working in 25 counties in Kenya with nancial support from the Royal Danish Embassy and the European Union. We work closely with the County Governments, key government ministries and the private sector to deliver on our goals and objectives.



MR. NOAH MEELY, MESPT CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trust has been a channel of socio-economic growth to the Kenyan people (mainly smallholder farmers and MSMEs)



orana@orana.co.ke



Celebrating MESPT 2 (VEARS) Anniversary

20 Years of Building a Prosperous Society through Agricultural Value Chains Development and Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development





REBECCA AMUKHOYE, CHIEF

EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MESPT

Our strategic direction is to enable investment in agribusiness and promote green employment

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

oday, I am delighted to celebrate 20 years of our presence in Kenya. We are also launching a new five-year programme titled Green Employment in Agriculture Programme (GEAP), funded by DANIDA. GEAP targets 40,000 smallholder

farmers and will be implemented in 13 counties of Kilifi, Kwale, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Siaya, Kisii, Kakamega, Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Makueni, Machakos and Tana River. The programme will facilitate increased commercialisation, decent employment, and green transformation

For two decades now, we have earned a reputation of building a more prosperous society by providing sustainable solutions that solve social, economic, and environmental challenges. through targeted interventions in 11 selected agriculture value chains that include, Dairy, Export Vegetables, Mango, Avocado, Indigenous Chicken, Coconut, Aquaculture, Pineapple, Cassava

and Moringa For two decades now, we have earned a reputation of building a more prosperous society by providing sustainable solutions that solve social, economic, and environmental challenges. Through our development model that enables smallholder farmers to access credit, increase agricultural productivity and reach markets, we play a critical role in financial inclusion and have implemented programmes that contribute to our country's food security, as well as promoted interventions that conserve the environment and our natural resources.

Our existing programme portfolio has three key flagship programmes namely, AgriFI Food Safety System for Value Chain Competitiveness 2018 -2023, Danida Market Development Partnership (DMDP) Spurring Job Creation in Kenya by Enhancing the Competitiveness of the Banana Sub-Sector in Taveta 2020-2024, and the Green Employment in Agriculture Programme 2021-2025. Through the portfolio, we will continue to undertake strategies that contribute to increased access to credit for agribusiness MSMEs as well as facilitating local and export market linkages for the farmers.

The focus on the agricultural sector is informed by its critical contribution to Kenya's economic development, notably through informal employment creation, especially for the marginalised.

Agriculture is one of the key drivers of economic growth in Kenya, accounting for 35.4 percent of the GDP in 2019/2020, and 75 percent of the population earning all or part of their income from the sector.

The agriculture sector directly employs more than 40 percent of the total

BORESHA MAMA LOAN

population, of which more than 70 percent are in rural areas. It also accounts for 65 percent of export earnings.

Despite its economic significance. the agricultural sector still struggles to attract sufficient funding due to real and perceived risks and competing returns in alternative sectors. This notwithstanding, we are grateful that we have development agencies and the government still supporting enablers of development like MESPT, to implement interventions geared towards improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Kenya. Through our access to finance strategy, smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs will benefit from financial instruments that are affordable, flexible, patient and easy to access.

Moving forward, we are committed to expanding our impact, thus cascading innovation, enterprise, market-development strategies, and linkages, in addition to supporting and financing enterprises while promoting adoption of green solutions.

Giving women the desired financial boost to grow their enterprise





Congratulations MESPT as you celebrate your 20th Anniversary. We are proud to be partners in Transforming Lives.

Sumac Microfinance Bank is an Award Winning financial institution that has been in Kenya for 18 years. The Bank was recently recognized as the Most Efficient Microfinance Bank at the Think Business Banking Awards 2021, and equally the best Microfinance Bank in Agriculture and Livestock Financing for the second year running. Every farmer deserves a caring banker, and that's why Sumac Kilimo Biashara Loan secures a farmer's interests right from planning, planting and selling of produce. For dairy farmers, this is your trusted product to secure the entire dairy value chain.



Our Loan Processing takes 48 hours upon approval



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on your 20th Anniversary

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20 Years of Building a Prosperous Society through Agricultural Value Chains Development and Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development



Happy to note that MESPT has remained successful



Message from the Founding CEO

he Government of Kenya and the European Union implemented a Programme to support micro and small enterprises from 1997 to 2002. The programme had three components. The first offered loans to microfinance institutions and SACCOs, while the second provided support to organisations that delivered business development services (BDS). The third component provided institutional and capacity building support to the partner organisations.

To continue offering the services of the Programme in perpetuity, the financing agreement between the Government of Kenya and the European Union provided for the setting up of a Trust that would receive the funds that were in the revolving credit fund as a donation to the people of Kenya. The Micro Enterprises Support Programme Trust (MESPT) was established with a seed capital of \notin 4,417,000 donated by the European Union. The Government of Denmark also became a partner of MESPT in 2005 when it provided funding for the Agriculture Business Development (ABD), Programme.

I am privileged and honoured to have worked for the EU-funded Programme and to have served as the founding Chief Executive Officer of MESPT for a period of more than 12 years.



MESPT Board members, the CEO, EU and Danida representatives, and Chief Guest, Mr. Henry Rithaa (CEO of Micro and Small Enterprises Authority), pose for a photo during MESPT's Strategic Plan launch.





 Talk to us:

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I am happy to note that MESPT continues to deliver on its mandate of sustainably supporting financial inclusion and delivery of business development services. I am proud to be associated with MESPT and wish the organisation continued success for many decades to come.





Celebrating MESPT 2 Mars Anniversary



20 Years of Building a Prosperous Society through Agricultural Value Chains Development and Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development

2002-2022



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Celebrating MESPT Anniversary 2002-2022

20 Years of Building a Prosperous Society through Agricultural Value Chains

Development and Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development



MESPT CREDIT PORTFOLIO

Financial Access and Inclusion

Targets smallholder farmers, Agri-based SMEs working with smallholder farmers, farmer co-operatives and financial service providers focusing on small holder farmers.

Approach

Direct lending to SMEs and farmer co-ops. Wholesale lending through financial service providers focusing smallholder farmers.

Products

Wholesale Lending facility at interest rate of six percent per annum, targeting end

- user at 10 percent per annum, all on the reducing balance. Working capital for SMEs and farmer
- co-operatives at 10 percent per annum on the reducing balance. Asset finance for SMEs at 10 percent per
- annum on the reducing balance and for farmer co-operatives at interest rate of eight percent per annum on the reducing balance.
- Technical support for enhanced business delivery

Portfolio

- Aggregate disbursements Ksh6.2 billion.
- End user outreach: 250,000.



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Bimas Microfinance, supported by MESPT, with donated laptops to

Times U Sacco, supported by **MESPT**, with laptops and a motorbike to ease business, especially during monitoring and evaluation, and outreach. and collection.



Solution Sacco, supported by MESPT, receive laptops to facilitate work flexibility after the Covid-19 pandemic struck.



MICRO ENTERPRISES SUPPORT

PROGRAMME TRUST





We are regulated by Central Bank of Kenva and a member of Kenva Deposit Insurance Corporation

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OF DENMARK

Danida

How MESPT has championed sustainable economic inclusion over the years

2002-2022

20 Years of Building a Prosperous Society through Agricultural Value Chains

Development and Financial Inclusion for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development

BY MILLICENT MWOLOLO

he Micro Enterprises Support Programme Trust (MESPT) begun in 1997 as Micro Enterprises Support Programme (MESP) by the Government of Kenya and the European Union. This was under the Ministry of Trade and Cooperatives. In 2002, the programme was elevated to a Trust.

Celebrating MESPT

With a seed capital of €4,417,000 (Ksh420 million then), MESPT started the wholesale loan portfolio with the objective of addressing the gap in affordable and accessible lending to the many unbanked groups, especially in rural Kenya. The Trust's mandate has since been expanded to include the implementation of donor funded projects.

MESPT's current mandate is to support sustainable economic growth and development of smallholder farmers and agri-MSMEs to increase productivity and income, and enhance competitiveness for job creation, especially for youth and women.

The Trust has been supporting the agricultural and financial services sectors of the Kenyan economy for 20 years, and for the past 10 years ventured into supporting the



Anniversary

Denmark Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Ole Thonke (left), at a MESPT exhibition stand during the 7th Devolution Conference.

green/renewable energy industry As a result, MESPT has developed key competencies that have contributed to enterprising solutions that have impacted Kenya's rural poor to increase their competitiveness in various agricultural value chains, leading to job creation and improved livelihoods.

MESPT implements its mandate through value chain and enterprise development,

MESPT GUIDING PRINCIPLES Vision

Mission

Build a more Prosperous Society

To provide sustainable business

development and financial services to smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs in Kenya.

and financial services. Value chain and enterprise development largely focuses on value chain and market systems development, while financial services are geared towards wholesale lending and technical assistance to financial intermediaries, with a focus on creating financial inclusion in targeted excluded enterprises.

Key work streams involve building the capacity of value chain stakeholders, increasing agricultural productivity and food safety systems facilitation of market linkages, and access to finance.

MESPT promotes the uptake of green interventions and services that contribute to a greener economy as well as advocating for an enabling environment in the food safety sub-sector in Kenva



