



**MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**
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Journeying with Kilifi County to realize food safety and upgrade of Mtwapa Agriculture Training Centre

Background

Kilifi and Nyandarua counties are pilot counties for the implementation of the ATVET model by MESPT through the AgriFI programme.

MESPT had significantly invested in Kilifi County through the GGEP and NRMP Programmes which is home to one of its mega investments; the Malindi natural juice plant. Due to the financial investment of this plant, MESPT decided to explore other key interventions that could impact the communities as well as a supplement what it had already achieved.

Kilifi was one of the counties where we were able to set up the Food Safety Committee early enough and be able to appoint key actors to be part of the committee and has regularly had the food safety meetings. With this proactiveness, MESPT through the AgriFI programme firmed up support for Mtwapa ATC to upgrade it to an agriculture center of excellence for the region. A dairy unit demo site was constructed, training halls renovated and equipped, and ICT center equipment and internet connectivity installed. These investments had an immediate impact as more people sought to undertake training at Mtwapa ATC which has since then realized improved revenue collection.

The county government on the other hand has continued to significantly invest in Mtwapa ATC for it to gain the regional center of excellence status. Plans are underway to put up a modern hostel to cater to more farmers who come from extremely far to undertake trainings at the center. The programme has also played a critical role in influencing the County to formulate the ATVET bill which will aid in the efficiency of learning and at the same time be able to commercialize the ATC activities.

With all these investments, the request to accredit Mtwapa ATC into an ATVET was successful. TVETA accredited the center which is a major advantage for the County. Being accredited means that they can offer nationally recognized courses through competency-based training. Some of the accredited courses include training in aquaculture, horticulture, and dairy management.

Embracing the ATVET model will be very key for Mtwapa ATC in that:

- It can now train value chain actors and work on leveraging collaboration with Pwani University, which also offers agriculture courses.
- It has all the facilities required for skill-based training.
- It has vast land.
- It has the goodwill of the county government which in partnership with AgriFI is supporting the commercialization of the ATVET centre to ensure its sustainability.



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MICRO ENTERPRISES SUPPORT
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In the past, Mtwapa ATC used to train only one classroom due to inadequate furniture and IT equipment but after the interventions of MESPT's AgriFI programme, they can now hold 3 classes concurrently. The newly constructed Model dairy unit has also aided in practical training in dairy management and handling food safety issues in dairy farming.

"We used to have inquiries on the courses offered here but since they were not accredited, no one would register for the courses and put the youths off. Accreditation, therefore, is a major boost for us, and for our farmers. Kenya National Qualification Framework Authority now recognizes courses. Once we start our curriculum-based training, our farmers and trainees will be able to acquire the skills, the knowledge, and even the attitude toward issues on food safety in agricultural production" notes Jane Kanamu, Principal of Mtwapa ATVET.