

FEATURE: FROM PRINTING PRESS TO PASTURES

Nyeri entrepreneur turns 100 hectares into animal feed hub



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(KNA)

To own 100 hectares of land is a feat that most Kenyans can only dream of. To dedicate such vast acreage exclusively to animal feed production is a decision few would dare to make.

Yet this is exactly what Githaiga Kihara chose to do after shutting down his printing business in Nairobi a decade ago.

Today, he is grateful for that seemingly unconventional choice. During our visit to one of his farms in Chorong'i village, Nyeri Central Sub-County, we encountered a team of workers busily preparing Napier grass cuttings for sale.

Here, just like in his other farms in Nyeri, you will find workers either harvesting nappier cuttings or preparing fodder for the local market or for export to other countries.

Here one comes across neatly tendered rows and bushes of Australian napper grass (*pennisetum purpureum*), Guinea grass (*panicum siambasa*), Guatemala grass, juceo grass (*cenchrus fungi-graminus*), super k vine and signal grass (*branchairia basilisk*) and Nacedero(*trichantera giganthera*).

It's from these fodder species that Kihara has carved a name for himself locally



- 1. Githaiga Kihara explains a point during our visit to Moo Fodder Supermarket farm. In the background is a plantation of mature Australian Nappier (*pennisetum purpureum*)
- 2. Mrs Kihara in a nacedero (*trichantera giganthera*) nursery at the farm. PHOTOS: KNA

and also globally. "I started this enterprise about ten years ago in Gakindu, Mukurwe-ini subcounty, out of a need because I had some dairy goats which did not have enough feed. When I did some research, I realized that I could get better feed and I went for it," he told KNA at the farm.

Kihara started off by planting signal grass with help from then Kenya Agriculture Research Institute (now KALRO) station at Katumani in Machakos. It is this single trial which eventually opened a floodgate for the introduction of other fodder species such as Australian Red nappier which has become a key product in his enterprise.

Today, his farm is exporting red nappier cuttings to farmers in 12 other African countries including Nigeria, Congo and Sierra Leone.

But this breakthrough, according to him, could not have been possible without employing social media platforms

such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and Tik Tok where the business goes by the tag name Moo Fodder Supermarket.

"When I started posting my products on my Facebook page, people started inquiries and it became a business. This went on and on until I got what I can call a breakthrough when I got an order of one million splits," he narrates. Having succeeded in getting his first clients, Kihara went further and sourced for another variety of fodder and introduced the Super nappier which he attests did quite well.

He also used this expertise to sensitize the neighbouring communities on the need to grow their own fodder for their livestock as one way of improving productivity and cutting down dependence on commercial feeds that costed heavily.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) (FIRM CONSULTANCY SERVICE) KENYA TRANSMISSION NETRWOK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Project ID:	P-KE-FA0-022
Project Name:	Transmission Network Improvement Project (KTNIP)
Assignment title:	Annual Environmental and Social Performance Audit (ESPA)
Financing agreement reference:	AfDB and EDCF Loan No. 2000200006058
Tender Name:	Request for Expression of Interest for Consultancy Services for Annual Environmental and Social Performance Audit (ESPA)
Tender No:	KETRACO/PT/032/2025-2026

The Government of Kenya has received financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Korean Exim Bank (EDCF) towards the cost of the Kenya Transmission Network Improvement Project (KTNIP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to eligible payments under the contract for Consultancy Services for the Annual Environmental and Social Performance Audit (ESPA).

1. Objective of the Assignment

The objective of this consultancy is to assess the project's compliance with applicable environmental and social (E&S) requirements, including relevant national legislation, AfDB's Integrated Safeguards System (ISS, 2023), and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). The audit will cover KTNIP components, including more than 270 km of high-voltage transmission lines and associated substations across Western and Coastal Kenya.

2. Scope of Work

The consultant will be required to, among other tasks:

- Review and verify the implementation and effectiveness of E&S instruments and commitments (e.g., ESIA, ESMP, RAP).
- Assess labour and working conditions, including occupational health and safety (OHS) and community health and safety.
- Assess stakeholder engagement, the grievance redress mechanism (GRM), and gender mainstreaming measures.
- Identify gaps and non-compliances and prepare a comprehensive Corrective Action Plan (CAP).
- Prepare and submit audit reports that meet National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) requirements and AfDB standards.

3. Requirements for Consultants

KETRACO now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants shall provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.

- Firm profile: Evidence of registration and good standing with NEMA as a firm of experts, with a valid practising licence.
- General experience: At least ten (10) years' experience conducting ESIA's, environmental audits, and RAPs for large-scale infrastructure projects.
- Specific experience: Proven experience in conducting at least two (2No.) E&S performance audits for energy transmission or similar infrastructure projects preferably financed by AfDB or other equivalent DFI.
- Technical capability: Demonstrated experience applying AfDB's Integrated Safeguards System (ISS) and relevant international labour standards.

4. Selection Criteria

Eligibility criteria, the establishment of the short-list, and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Rules and Procedures for the Use of Consultants" (May 2006 Edition, revised July 2012), which is available on the Bank's website.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture and/or sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

5. Submission Details

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form and clearly marked with the Assignment Title & Tender No. to the address below in person or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by **1000 Hours on 23rd June 2026**.

Physical Expressions of Interest to be submitted at Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Limited, Kawi Complex, Block B, South C, Nairobi, Kenya, 2nd floor, Supply Chain Management Office Tender Box by **23rd June 2026 at 10:00AM EAT**. Clearly indicate/mark the submission as "**Expression of Interest: for Consultancy Services for Annual Environmental and Social Performance Audit (ESPA) for KTNIP**".

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours [weekdays Monday to Friday 0730hrs to 1630hrs local time excluding public holidays].
rwaswa@ketraco.co.ke gmirasi@ketraco.co.ke; cng'enh@ketraco.co.ke; kettenders@ketraco.co.ke

**Attn: Senior Manager; Supply Chain Management
Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Limited (KETRACO)
KAWI Complex, Block B, Popo Lane, off Red Cross Road
P.O. Box 34942-00100, Nairobi, Kenya**

