



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY

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**ADDRESS BY H.E GLADYS NYASUNA WANGA, EGH
AT THE LAUNCH OF THE WARD-BASED SEED PROGRAM &
AGRIPRENEUR MODEL
AT PALA IN KARACHUONYO CONSTITUENCY
ON 07.03.2025**

Distinguished Guests, Farmers, Our Development Partners, Honourable CECMs, Chief Officers, Directors, Sub-County Administrators, Agricultural Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I join you today for this significant occasion as we launch the Ward-Based Seed Program and the Agripreneur Model in Homa Bay County. These two initiatives represent a critical step forward in our efforts to enhance agricultural productivity, strengthen food security, and promote economic empowerment for our farmers and youth.

Agricultural Landscape of Homa Bay County

Homa Bay County has a population of **1,278,182 people living in 213,000 households (2019 Census)**. According to the 2023 national

farmers' registration exercise, our county has **253,000 registered farmers**. Maize is our staple food, and to meet the dietary needs of our people, we require **1,917,273 bags of maize annually**. Our current projected production stands at **1,518,000 bags**, assuming average yields of 6 bags per acre. However, with optimal conditions and the right interventions, our county has the **potential to produce up to 5,060,000 bags of maize annually**.

Despite this potential, two main challenges hinder full agricultural productivity:

- Limited access to certified agricultural inputs.
- Slow adoption of good agricultural practices.

To address these challenges, my government has rolled out a comprehensive strategy that focuses on expanding access to quality seeds and providing technical support through agricultural officers deployed in every ward.

Ward-Based Seed Program

Today, we are launching **136.326 tons of certified seeds worth Kshs 40 million**, consisting of:

- 120 tons of maize seeds.
- 16.326 tons of sorghum seeds.

This program will benefit over 32,000 vulnerable households across our 40 wards, with each beneficiary receiving two packets of either maize or sorghum seeds. The expected impact is substantial:

- The maize seeds will cover 6,000 acres, producing an estimated 60,000 bags of maize valued at Kshs 180 million.
- The sorghum seeds will be planted on 4,082 acres, yielding approximately 32,652 bags worth Kshs 130.6 million.

These efforts will significantly improve food security and support our farmers in achieving higher productivity and profitability.

Agripreneur Model for Youth Empowerment

In addition to supporting farmers with inputs, we are also investing in human capital development through the Agripreneur Model. Today, we flag off 250 trained youth who will serve as agricultural extension service providers for the next 18 months. This model aligns with the National Agricultural Sector Extension Policy, which aims to provide effective, efficient, and sustainable extension services for increased agricultural productivity, food security, and income growth.

Currently, Homa Bay County has an extension agent-to-farmer ratio of 1:6,125, far from the recommended 1:600. The Agripreneur Model will help bridge this gap while creating employment opportunities for our youth.

The program is structured in three key stages:

1. **Boot Camp (2 months):** Youth agripreneurs will engage in farmer registration, mobilization, and awareness creation on modern farming technologies while receiving foundational training in entrepreneurship.
2. **Incubation Stage (10 months):** Participants will gain deeper knowledge of the agricultural sector, access working capital, and develop business and financial management skills. They will also support farmers in forming SACCOs and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
3. **Commercialization Stage (6 months):** The final phase prepares agripreneurs to work independently with farmers,

strengthening their market presence and income potential while ensuring sustainability in agricultural extension services.

Call to Action

To our farmers, I encourage you to fully utilize the seeds provided and embrace good agricultural practices. Work closely with our extension officers and the agripreneurs we are launching today to improve productivity and maximize returns.

To our youth agripreneurs, I challenge you to seize this opportunity with dedication and commitment. Your role in transforming agriculture in Homa Bay is crucial, and your success will be measured by the impact you create within our farming communities. In this period, you are going to integrate with our staff

to offer the much-needed extension services to our farmers. We urge you to embrace the spirit of public service and carry yourselves with dignity and integrity.

Finally, I urge all stakeholders, including our development partners and private sector players, to continue supporting these initiatives as we work towards a food-secure and prosperous Homa Bay County.

Together, we can achieve sustainable agricultural growth, improve livelihoods, and create wealth through farming.

Thank you.