



# KISIMA



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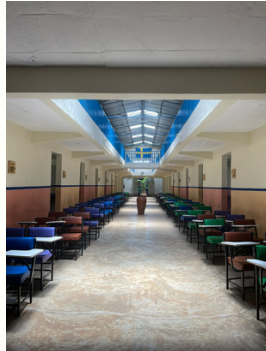
# THE KISIMA FOUNDATION

## EDUCATION

### The Gundua Primary & Secondary Schools

The Gundua Foundation & Kisima Farm continue to improve the access to education for children in Buuri County. The updates in the last year include;

- **Computer Installation & Classes:** A total of 20 computers were installed at Gundua Secondary School, with formal computer classes commencing in the third term. The Form 1 class will advance to higher levels in the coming year, ensuring continued integration of technology into the curriculum.
- **Staff Housing:** Eight new staff houses were completed at Gundua Secondary School during the year. These houses are now occupied by teachers who serve as department heads in areas such as boarding and academics.
- **Construction of New Facilities:** The construction of the Home Science Room and Science Laboratory at Gundua Primary School is ongoing, with completion expected by the end of the year. These facilities are designed to support the new Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) for junior secondary students in Grades 7, 8, and 9. This is likely the only primary school in Buuri with such amenities, further enhancing the quality of education provided.
- **Scholarships for Vulnerable Girls:** Nine girls from vulnerable backgrounds are currently benefiting from full scholarships to attend Gundua Day and Boarding Secondary School. This initiative ensures these girls have access to quality education and a brighter future.



### Gundua Skills Centre & Community Initiatives

The Gundua Skills Centre is a significant community project aimed at funding the provision of sanitary towels for school children in the local area. This initiative not only helps enhance students' dignity but also improves their academic performance. Recently, the programme supplied 178 sanitary towels to two local schools, and during this event, it also facilitated discussions on early marriages and family planning, addressing key issues affecting the community.

In addition, the Gundua Foundation actively promotes extracurricular activities, sports, and educational exchange visits. The Foundation's school bus, which is fuelled, serviced, and maintained by Kisima, plays a central role in supporting these activities. The bus has been used for various educational and exposure visits, benefiting both curricular and co-curricular programs.

These visits, to various destinations within and outside the locality, serve to broaden students' learning experiences and foster a well-rounded education for the entire school community.

### Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club Initiative has been successfully implemented throughout the year, benefiting approximately 3,000 children across 9 primary schools and 1 secondary school. The provision of a nutritious Uji mix, rich in essential vitamins and minerals, plays a crucial role in supporting the growth and health of students. This program not only improves students' overall health but also positively impacts school attendance and retention rates.

In addition to providing mid-morning meals to students, the farm has extended a similar program to its staff, offering porridge and lunch daily at a subsidized rate. According to data from January to October of this year, the farm has spent over €12,230 on this staff nutrition program, accounting for 75% of the company's contribution towards staff breakfast and lunch.



### Njotene & Kianda Primary Schools

The renovation and upgrading of classrooms at Njotene Primary School have been successfully completed. Key improvements include the construction of a new kitchen, separate toilets for boys and girls, and a retaining wall behind some classrooms to improve both the usability and safety of the learning spaces. These upgrades have significantly enhanced the overall learning environment at the school, and the Njotene community has expressed deep gratitude to the Kisima Farm fraternity for their support.

At Kianda Primary School, Kisima Farm has also made important contributions to improving the school's infrastructure. In 2023, the farm provided much-needed furniture for the administration block, further enhancing the school's facilities and creating a more conducive environment for both staff and students.



# WATER MANAGEMENT

## Water Management and Conservation

Kisima Farm plays a crucial role in the management and protection of Kisima Spring, which provides water to over 20,000 people in Buuri Sub-County. The farm supports the Water Resource Users Association (WRUA) and is a leader in complying with water regulations and rationing efforts.

As part of its ongoing commitment to water conservation, Kisima Farm continues to monitor river and spring water flows, recording data and sharing relevant information on various platforms. The farm has successfully completed four years of consistent weekly monitoring of Ngare Nything Springs and one year of daily monitoring along the West Marania River. These efforts have been recognised by environmental conservation organisations as an important mitigation measure against the impacts of climate change.

In addition to monitoring, Kisima Farm is now providing a fully furnished and equipped office for the Ngare Nything WRUA next to the Kisima Outpost Station, while continuing to offer financial support for the association's activities.

## “My Tank” Rainwater Harvesting Project

An exciting new initiative, the “My Tank” project, was launched this year with the aim of promoting rainwater harvesting and storage within local homesteads. The goal is to provide water for domestic use, livestock, and subsistence agriculture, thereby improving water access and supporting sustainable farming practices.

The implementation of the project began in late October, and so far, 63 tanks have been successfully installed across Ethi, Veterinary, Ngano, and Kamiti villages, benefiting over 200 people.

The project aims to complete the installation of 100 tanks by the end of the year, with plans to expand further into the next year.



# AGRI INFORMATION CENTRE

The Agri Information and Demonstration site is run by the Kisima Foundation and has remained consistently operational throughout the year, hosting two Field Days. It serves as an educational hub for local farmers, schools, and colleges, providing valuable insights into farming techniques.

The Agri-Information Centre is rapidly taking shape. The training hall, which can accommodate 50 people, is now complete and equipped with a projector screen for presentations and training sessions. This centre is becoming a central meeting point for the Ntirimiti, Subuiga, Kisima and Ngushishi communities.

The digital information room is also ready, and the installation of computers and other necessary accessories is currently underway, further enhancing the center's capacity to provide valuable resources and training.



# HEALTH

## The Gundua Health Centre

The partnership between the Gundua Foundation and Nanyuki Cottage Hospital continues at the Gundua Health Centre. The Health Center welcomed two dentists from Sweden in October 2024, whose expertise has already proven invaluable. Since their arrival, a total of 1,729 patients have been screened, with 182 receiving treatment.

Immunization campaigns have successfully reached 1,105 children, providing protection against various diseases. In addition, the health center organized medical camps, offering both preventive and curative services to the broader community, thereby addressing a wide range of healthcare needs.

# KISIMA FARM, FLOWERS & FORESTRY

## AGRICULTURE

### Kisima Seed Potatoes

Potatoes are a vital food crop in Kenya, ranking second after maize. However, in recent years, potato yields have declined significantly, largely due to the use of poor-quality seed by farmers.

Kisima Farm is a leading producer of high-quality seed potatoes, with an annual production exceeding 4,000 tonnes. The farm currently cultivates six varieties: Challenger, Unica, Sherekea, Dutch Robjin, Cayman, and Sagitta. These varieties are a blend of HZPC, CIP, and KALRO breeding programs. In response to growing market demands, Kisima Farm continuously improves its variety selection and has recently introduced two new varieties for propagation.

Looking ahead, the farm plans to expand its aeroponics greenhouse area in Q1 of 2025. This expansion will enable the production of lower-generation seed potatoes, which can be bulked by farmers and sold as seed to others, supporting the broader agricultural community.

The production process at Kisima Farm begins with the planting of in-vitro plantlets in hydroponic conditions, progressing through various stages until the production of seed potatoes ready for sale.

Most of Kisima Farm's seed is sold to farmers in the Central, Rift Valley, and Eastern regions of Kenya. Currently, demand for high-quality seed outstrips supply. Despite favorable weather conditions, Kisima Farm faces challenges in maximizing production on its available land, with storage capacity being the key limiting factor. This issue is actively under discussion, with plans underway to address and expand storage capabilities to meet growing demand.



### Sale of Kisima seed potato in Kenya



### Arable

On the arable side, Kisima Farm has planted 250 hectares of cover crops, along with an additional 25 hectares of a grazing cover mix. The latter is intended to be strip-grazed by cattle throughout 2025.

In addition, Kisima Farm have established a Johnson Su bioreactor and a wormery, with plans to begin producing vermicompost in the new year. This will support seed inoculation trials and provide a sustainable outlet for the farm's green waste, which can be added to compost windrows. Once fully matured, this compost will offer high-quality organic matter for the fields. If successful, these initiatives could significantly reduce the reliance on chemical seed dressings.

Kisima Farm are also expanding trials to reduce fungicide use by planting wheat variety blends on a larger scale, with the aim of promoting healthier soils and improving crop resilience.

# ENVIRONMENTAL

Kisima Farm and Flowers dedication to sustainability is apparent in its responsible approach towards environmental stewardship throughout all aspects of its farming and floriculture operations. The farm incorporates water conservation, carbon offset, and responsible farming practices to ensure a positive environmental impact.

## Soil Health Workshop with Nicole Masters

From November 4th to 6th, a three-day soil-health workshop was held across four Timau farms—Kisima, Marania, Ol Donyo, and Lolomarik—led by internationally renowned soil expert Nicole Masters. While over half of the participants were affiliated with these farms, the event also attracted a diverse group from across Kenya's agricultural community.

The workshop offered a rich blend of practical skills—including slake tests, Brix readings, and infiltration tests—and theoretical sessions, covering topics such as buffering glyphosate with worm extracts and the role of livestock in cropping systems. The session was filled with valuable insights, challenging attendees to implement some of these ideas in their own practices.

The commitment from Kisima and neighboring farms to adopt and trial these new techniques is genuine, with plans to begin integrating the lessons learned starting this year. Building on the successful transition to zero-till and controlled traffic, this workshop's focus on enhancing soil microbiology and reducing chemical inputs represents the next significant step toward achieving the goal of becoming a truly regenerative operation. Without Kisima's involvement and the dedication of key team members, this workshop would not have been possible. Kisima Farm can be proud of our role in leading the way toward a future of healthier soils, cleaner water, and more resilient plants.



## Green Energy Initiatives and Carbon Footprint Reduction

Kisima has implemented innovative green energy solutions. The farm has installed solar panels, which now supply 40-70% of its energy needs, significantly reducing its carbon footprint while achieving considerable cost savings.

To further strengthen its environmental commitment, Kisima Flowers recently conducted an assessment of its carbon footprint for the year 2023. The findings reveal that we are carbon negative up to Scope 2. However, when Scope 3 emissions are included, Kisima's footprint remains in the red. Despite this, there has been a notable reduction in emissions across Scopes 1, 2, and 3 since the last assessment in 2020, with an overall decrease of 414 tons of carbon emissions. This reduction can be attributed to the use of newer machinery and improvements in operational efficiencies. While there is still work to be done on carbon sequestration, it is encouraging to see significant progress over the past four years.

## Gold Accreditation Standard

Kisima Flowers has been awarded the Gold Accreditation Standard by the Kenya Flower Council (KFC) for the third consecutive year, placing it among a select group of farms that have attained this prestigious recognition. This accomplishment underscores the farm's ongoing commitment to excellence in social and environmental sustainability.

As a KFC Gold-certified farm, Kisima goes beyond basic environmental practices. The farm operates two wetlands dedicated to wastewater purification and closely monitors greenhouse gas emissions.

Kisima Flowers is partnering with Bio-Logical to incorporate biochar into all new plantings and crops. Biochar is a highly effective material made from unwanted waste, and it serves two key functions. First, it creates a conducive environment for beneficial microorganisms. Second, it acts as a carbon sink, helping to sequester carbon in the soil. This initiative supports the regeneration of our soil and reduces the reliance on synthetic fertilizers.



Kisima's dedication to employee welfare is also evident. The farm provides on-site organic food production and operates a free clinic, offering comprehensive healthcare services to its workers. From January 2024 to date, the farm has invested €19,719 in staff healthcare, underscoring its commitment to employee well-being.





## ENVIRONMENTAL

### Forestry

Forestry continues to play a key role at Kisima Farm, both in maintaining ecosystem balance and as an important source of additional income. The farm has approximately 450 hectares dedicated to commercial tree plantations, alongside 500 hectares of indigenous, undisturbed forest.

The indigenous tree areas are crucial for preserving biodiversity, providing wildlife habitats, controlling erosion, and acting as natural windbreaks.

Kisima Farm also operates a tree nursery, supplying seedlings for both its own plantation needs and external sales.

The commercial plantations consist of Eucalyptus species, Mexican cypress, Mexican Weeping pine, and Monterey pine. Income is primarily generated through the sale of timber, posts, and firewood, with additional revenue from biomass products such as off-cuts, wood chips, and sawdust.

To enhance productivity and add value to its forestry operations, Kisima Farm has recently invested in several new assets, including a Slidetec sawmill, kiln dryer, Hakki Pilke wood processor, a tractor, trailers, and other small maintenance equipment. These investments are expected to significantly improve efficiency and output.

Additionally, plans are underway to establish a small roadside sales shop, providing a direct market for Kisima Farm's forest products.



### Conservation

At the heart of Kisima's sustainability efforts is a robust biodiversity and conservation plan, designed to protect and enhance the farm's natural resources. This holistic approach exemplifies Kisima's unwavering commitment to sustainability across all aspects of its operations.

Kisima Farm & Foundation have continued to support the Ngare Ndare Forest and Mount Kenya Forest Trusts through financial contributions and the provision of materials to aid their conservation efforts. The importance of these forests in supporting local livelihoods cannot be overstated, as they play a crucial role in both environmental sustainability and community well-being.

Kisima's commitment to environmental sustainability is further demonstrated through its ambitious tree planting program, "Mti Wangu..Mstakabali Wetu" ("My Tree..Our Future"). As part of this initiative, Kisima has donated 10,000 tree seedlings to local schools and public institutions, promoting a culture of reforestation and raising awareness about environmental conservation.

We have continued to monitor our tree-growing collaborations with schools and other public institutions throughout the period. Notable successes have been observed at several key sites, further highlighting the positive impact of these environmental efforts.

Kisima Farm is home to the Mt Kenya-Ngare Ndare Elephant Corridor, which facilitates the unrestricted movement of elephants and other wild animals between Mt Kenya and the northern rangelands. This corridor plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance.