

**UGENYA NG-CDF**

**A CONCEPT PAPER ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEED DEPOT IN UGENYA CONSTITUENCY BY THE UGENYA NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND**

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1. **BACKGROUND**
   1. **Ugenya Constituency**

Ugenya Constituency is one of the Six (6) electoral constituencies / sub-counties of Siaya County, and is composed of Four (4) Wards namely East, West, North & Ukwala Wards; Six (6) locations and Twenty Six (26) Sub-locations and is approximately 322.3 Square kilometers in size. According to the recently released 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census , Ugenya Constituency has a population of 134,354 with 62,624 males and 71,726 females. The average household size is four (4).

According to Agro-ecological zones, Ugenya Sub-County is classified as Lower Midland Zones (LM2 and LM3) which are humid and sub-humid zones with reliable precipitation and high potential for agricultural activity. The Sub-county receives bi-modal rainfall with long rains falling between March and June and short rains between September & December of each year. The rainfall ranges between 800mm and 2000mm.

* 1. **Project Rationale**

According to the Siaya County Climate Risk Profile and the Siaya County Integrated Development Plan 2018 – 2022, Siaya County is characterized by high poverty levels (47.56%) and food insecurity. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood in the County, contributing about 60% of the household income and providing almost 61% of all employment opportunities. Maize, beans, sorghum, and local poultry are the key value chain commodities in the County. Subsistence farming is practised on 51.1 % of the total County arable land where food crops cover 150,300 ha; cash crops take up 1.2 % or 2500 ha of the land.

With the advent of devolution and formation of the Counties in 2013, farmers in the constituency have had increasing though intermittent access to Certified Hybrid maize seed and chemical fertilizers mostly distributed by the county, National Cereals & Produce Board NCPB) and other individual donors. This has resulted in the increased awareness of modern agricultural practices, particularly the benefits of planting hybrid maize in combination with the subsidized fertilizers available from the NCPB which has two depots in the County (Yala and Bondo) thanks to the higher yields produced as well as inbuilt tolerance to diseases and quicker maturity as opposed to the previous scenario where a small portion of the previous harvest was saved for planting.

The scenario presently is that even without support from the Counties and other individual donors thanks to budgetary constraints, farmers are actively seeking to purchase certified hybrid maize seed mainly from agrovets established in the major town Sega and the various market centers. Unfortunately various challenges have arisen;

1. The Agrovets due to limited access to working capital are not able to stock adequate quantities of the different certified maize varieties suitable for the varied agro-ecological zones in the constituency resulting in interested farmers having to buy less suitable varieties or not at all.
2. Being that Agrovets are resellers of Kenya Seed Products, their prices tend to rise as demand rises and stock outs are not uncommon particularly during the planting season.
3. It has been reported in various news outlets that due to the increased demand for hybrid maize, counterfeit products have been sold to farmers and this becomes evident only after it is too late with poor germination and less than vigorous growth.

The situation is further exacerbated by the fact that the nearest Kenya Seed Company Depot is in Kitale and none exists in Siaya County despite the huge agricultural potential in Ugenya, Ugunja, Gem and the neighbouring county of Busia.

1. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Ugenya NG-CDF in the Financial Year 2019/2020 has sought and obtained concurrence of the Kenya Seed Company Ltd, a state corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture to set up the infrastructure for the establishment of a Seed Depot in the Constituency which will be run and sustained by the Kenya Seed Company.

The project is centered around the construction of offices for Kenya Seed Company Ltd staff and a large silo for storage of One Hundred (100) Tonnes of certified maize seed and other Kenya Seed Products for sale to farmers and Agrovets within the constituency and the region. The land upon which the facility will be established is along the main Kisumu – Busia road (B1) which guarantees excellent access from all parts of the constituency and other major towns outside the constituency like Yala, Siaya, Bondo, Ugunja, Bumala and Busia.

The project is intended to ensure that farmers in the constituency get guaranteed and unfettered access to the desired quantities and varieties of certified seed at competitive prices.

1. **PROJECT BUDGET**

The Ugenya NG-CDF intends to set aside Kshs. 9,000,000.00 for the construction to completion of the Seed Depot within the 2019 / 2020 Financial Year. The breakdown of the costs is as follows;

1. Construction of a Seed Sales Depot to completion – Size (19.8x17.4m) with four rooms i.e. Two (2) Offices with joint reception & One (1) large Silo with capacity to hold 100 tonnes (Kshs. 8,700,000.00)
2. Three (3) Door pit latrine (Kshs. 300,000.00)
3. **CONCLUSION**

This project should it be approved will go a long way towards actualizing a key plank of the Governments ‘Big Four’ Agenda which is 100% achievement of Food Security and Nutrition

**REFERENCES.**

1. The Report of the Interim Independent Boundaries Review Commission (IIBRC) on Delimitation of Constituencies & Recommendations on Local Authority Electoral Units and Administrative boundaries for Districts and other units, 27th November, 2010.
2. The 2019 Kenya Population & Housing Census Volume 1
3. The Siaya County Integrated Development Plan, 2018 -2022.
4. Climate Risk Profile Siaya County, Kenya County Climate Risk Profile Series – World Bank Group et al.
5. The Kenya Seed Company Website