

Makueni County

Makueni County is situated in the South Eastern part of the country and borders Machakos to the North, Kitui to the East, Taita Taveta to the South and Kajiado to the West. Makueni lies between Latitude 1° 35' and 3° 00' South and Longitude 37°10' and 38° 30' east and covers an area of 8,008.7 Km². The county is largely arid and semi-arid and usually prone to frequent droughts. The lower regions receive rainfall ranging from 250 mm to 400 mm while the high regions receive rainfall ranging from 800 mm to 900 mm.

In Makueni survey was conducted in Kilome area (01 58 S; 37 20'E) at 1387 m, Makuyuni (01 45 S; 37 27' E) at 1388 m, Kawala (01 56 S; 37 34'E) at 1212 m and Masongareli (02 19S; 38 08'E) at 780 m. The widely grown varieties of mango are Apple and Ngowe. In Kilome, in addition to those two varieties, farmers have Haden, Kent, Sabine, Tommy Atkins, Van Dyke and Zill. However, there is higher market demand for apple followed by Ngowe. A summary of the varieties and their totals are given Table 1 as was summarized by ADB (2011). The two varieties are mainly purchased by large scale brokers that prepare them for export. Commercial farming of mango in Makueni also involves the use of fungicides and pesticide against powdery mildew, anthracnose, fruit fly, mango weevil, mealy bugs, mango gall fly, respectively.

In Masongareli, in areas close to the Athi River, mangoes are grown with additional irrigation to encourage early fruiting. Here trees are weeded and manure added in January and February, then irrigation is done (Figure 39). The trees are then left to flower. Further irrigation is done in June for the apple mangoes to be ready in July. The unripe apple mangoes are in demand in certain markets in Middle-East where they are sold from August to November. The ripe ones are sold in local market in December. These practices usually give the farmers with irrigation systems head start and that helps them to dispose of all the produce at a reasonable price per fruit.

opportunities

Makueni Fruit Process plant started its operation and 453MT of mango puree has been produced. To help boost mango production, 2 mango orchards and two tree nurseries were established with 13,500 mango seedlings distributed to farmers and 3,000 fruits fly traps to help control pest infection. To enhance the quality of the production, 5,055 farmers were trained on Global Gap certification. Extension services were enhanced through purchase equipment for livestock diseases surveillance through data collections, and analysis. To enhance the effectiveness of the extension services, 7,034 farmers and 124 groups were profiled for better collaborations with stakeholders.

Table 1: Mango varieties in Embu and Makueni County by District; 2010

District	Apple	Ngowe	Tommy	Kent	Van dyke	Sensation	Boribo	Batawi	Other Improved Varieties	Sabre kienyenji	Peach Kienyenji	Other Kienyeji	Total Trees
Embu County	36669	15330	99187	88017	33532	3257	738	143	13483	25518	33911	21372	371163
Embu East	5,332	1,293	58,492	59,462	19,067	969	0	0	2,101	4,847	6,625	3,393	161,581
Embu West	5,100	2,975	13,021	4,134	3,052	1,314	39	77	773	2,589	5,525	39	38,638
Mbeere North	15,224	5,984	17,848	16,903	6,929	315	105		4,410	13,334	18,793	5,145	104,990
Mbeere South	11,013	5,078	9,826	7,518	4,484	659	594	66	6,199	4,748	2,968	12,795	65,948
Makueni County	794504	40080	1278	13840	1802	870	2029	13	19712	60410	16960	209635	1172637
Mukaa	46,977	5,827	5,525	4,809	116	75	197	2	2,445	10,351	873	31,909	109,106
Nzaui	318,941	9,545	2,631	2,111	438	76	46	9	4,666	24,234	12,550	57,620	432,867
Makueni	279,448	18,116	3,642	4,756	1,037	469	92	2	2,866	17,842	2,657	85,285	416,212
Kibwezi	78,570	4,014	769	1,090	211	35	1,694	0	1,142	7,231	880	11,406	107,042
Kathonzweni	70,568	2,578	215	1,074	0	215	0	0	8,593	752	0	23,415	107,410

Summarized from ABD report 2011



Figure 29 Clean weeding of beans and mango



Mangoes interspaced with onions under drip-irrigation