

## Activity Brief - Avocado Oil Processing Plant

### Key Facts:

<b>Location:</b> Kisii Municipality, Kenya	<b>Sector:</b> Agro-processing
<b>Investment Size:</b> £2.57m (Ksh434m)	<b>Seed Fund Contribution:</b> £469k (Ksh79m)
<b>Jobs Created:</b> 3,195	<b>Other Benefits:</b> Climate resilience, reduced waste
<b>Date Deal Signed:</b> March 2022	<b>Date Operational:</b> Early 2023

**Project Synopsis:** The 70-tonne avocado oil extraction project in Kisii is a partnership between the UK Government and AvoFresh Processors Limited and has been supported by the UK's SUED programme in collaboration with Kisii County and Kisii Municipality. The newly commissioned factory will utilise avocado sourced locally from farmers to produce avocado oil mainly for the export market. The facility has a capacity to process up to 70 tonnes of avocados daily and will support over 3000 local jobs across the county.



The Kisii County Government is providing legislative and political support to ensure that AvoFresh have a conducive business environment that will enable them to operate efficiently. Through its agriculture department, the county and municipality have sensitised farmers to plant more avocado trees thus guaranteeing availability of raw materials. To date the county has supplied more than 120,000 Hass seedlings to farmers. In addition, the County is leasing a godown to AvoFresh on its land at the Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) where the extraction facility is located.

**Financials:** The UK Government has played a key role in catalysing this investment by providing expert advice and £469,805 (Ksh79 million) in seed fund support. The seed fund was utilised in supporting the development of the facility, and in building the logistical framework to maximise fruit collection across Kisii county through the purchase of transport equipment. AvoFresh has invested £2.1m (Ksh355 million) into the extraction facility.

**Impact -** The extraction facility will provide opportunity for farmers to access markets for their produce and reduce wastage as fruit deemed not suitable for other markets can be used for oil extraction. The project will in the first year create 95 direct factory jobs, 100 induced jobs and will work with 1000 farmers, which will increase to 3,000 farmers in subsequent years. The project will additionally create climate resilience in the municipality by promoting circular economy management of solid waste, sustainable land management including enhancement of carbon stocks through agroforestry, as well as the enhancement of post-harvest handling and loss reduction by off taking ripe fruit.



Ribbon Cutting by the Governor and the BHC



BHC and Governor being shown how the produce gets to the factory by the AvoFresh director



BHC and Governor pose next to the SUED purchased trucks



The AvoFresh Director shares the avocado processing process with the BHC and the Governor

**Video Clips:** [https://youtu.be/Oi9E33H\\_BcM](https://youtu.be/Oi9E33H_BcM)

## Quotes

British High Commissioner in Kenya, H.E. Jane Marriott:

*"The commissioning of this facility is a demonstration that, by working in partnership, it is possible to come up with real opportunities and empower our people to cope with daily challenges."*

Kisii Governor, H.E. Simba Arati:

*"We are thankful to the UK Government for supporting us to accomplish a noteworthy venture for our population. Farmers will be able to access a ready market for their avocados. By having the first factory in the region for avocados, we are demonstrating that Kisii is ready for investment"*

AvoFresh Project Manager, Mr. David Gitonga:

*"Over the past few months, we have been working closely with the County to actualise the processing facility by ensuring that farmers within the County are aware of the processing facility. The UK Government support, both technical and financial, has enabled us to reach many more farmers by having in place logistical support to reach some of the hard to access farmers across the County. We are happy to see the facility work and serve the farmers as envisioned"*