

Activity Brief – Malindi Fruit Drying Facility

Key Facts:

Location: Malindi, Kalifi County, Kenya	Sector: Agro-processing
Investment Size: £1.95m (Ksh339m)	Seed Fund Contribution: £478k (Ksh83m)
Jobs Created: 4180	Other Benefits: Climate resilience, reduced waste
Date Deal Signed: October 2022	Date Operational: Late 2023

Project Synopsis: The UK Government through the Sustainable Urban Economic Development (SUED) Programme is supporting Milly Fruits Processing Ltd (Milly Fruits), in collaboration with Malindi municipality and Kilifi County, to develop a 1,450 square metres climate-friendly fruit drying facility that will produce mangoes, pineapples and coconuts primarily for export to clients in Europe and the Middle- East. This will support over 4000 jobs in the local economy, increasing climate resilience and reducing waste.



The new Milly Fruits facility will provide reliable incomes to smallholder farmers as well direct and indirect economic opportunities in Kilifi County and wider region. Through SUED's support, Milly Fruits has broken ground on its new site for its climate friendly fruit drying facility that will be powered primarily by renewable energy for production. The new facility will be completed within the next 9-12 months. This facility is focused on climate benefits as it will utilize solar dryers for 30% of its production and power the remaining production through the local grid, which is predominantly hydro-generated. It will also reduce transport emissions and significantly reduce emissions from fruit wasted, currently a major challenge.

Financials: Milly fruits is investing £1.48m (Ksh256m) into the project with the UK Government providing a seed fund contribution of £478k (Ksh83m).

Impact: SUED's support will enable Milly Fruits to work with more than 4,000 small holder farmers within the municipality to produce 760MT of dried fruits. Further, Milly fruits will now have the capability to tailor agro-environmental programmes on land and crop management to equip farmers with coping capabilities due to increased climate variability such as changes in rainfall patterns, flooding, and drought.

By supporting the expansion of the company in Malindi, the UK Government is providing stability for farmers and increasing climate resilience. The UK Government's support through SUED is ensuring that post-harvest losses will be reduced due to improved handling and traceability of the produce. This will in turn improve farmer income and efficiency of production and incentivise farmers to invest more in climate resilient agro-produce.

Pictures:



Milly Fruits Manager Ravi Walks the Governor and the British High Commissioner (BHC) through the site plan for the Processing Facility



The Governor and the BHC on the excavator after the groundbreaking

Video Clips: <https://youtu.be/HqT3Omoomuc>

Quotes

Speaking during the launch of the project in Malindi the Kilifi Governor, H.E Hon. Gideon Mung'aro Governor stated that:

"The UK Government's support towards Malindi Municipality and wider Kilifi County to bring in investments that have a wide impact is appreciated. The project will create jobs, provide a market for farmers and will economically empower the community. As a county our priority is in creating an enabling environment where these investments can succeed. We will ensure that our farmers are sensitised and linked with the drying facility to take advantage of having a ready market within the locality."

Speaking about the launch in Malindi the Director for Milly Fruits Mr. Azeem Rashid, Director Milly Fruits Processing Ltd said:

"We are excited to be beneficiaries of the UK Government through SUED. The support is strategically positioning us to work closely with small holder farmers to create a ready market for their produce reducing post-harvest losses and increasing their incomes. The local community will benefit greatly in having a dehydration unit within the municipality."

Speaking about the project launch, the British High Commissioner in Kenya, H.E Jane Marriott said:

"Our strategic partnership with Kenya entails partnerships around climate resilient urban development, jobs creation, trade facilitation, education, health and environment and climate change. The use of renewable energy by the investment and the economic opportunities it will create is a fact that the threat of climate change, economic hurdles and a rapidly urbanising society are everyday realities."