

Challenges for Keekonyokie MAC, Kenya

By Isaac Nemuta and Michael Kibue¹



Keekonyokie Market Access Company and Field School

We have seven members of the Keekonyokie MAC: Isaac Nemuta, Joseph Nemuta, Wilfred Odungo, Peter Wanderi, Michael Kibue, Peninah Sintamei, Patrick Mushangi and Samuel Saiton. The MAC is not yet registered; we have been dealing with the environmental problems and all our minds have been on that. There is threat of closure of the slaughterhouse by the environmental regulator NEMA and we have much work still to be done before the 20th September 2008.

The Keekonyokie field school is a client of the MAC. It is doing well and we recently had training on conservation to which 40 members attended. We were trained by the divisional vet officer on baling; we baled 130 bales with a hand baler and were told that we can borrow the baler from the government when we need it. We were also shown how to use a box baler

and we have been using this. Several of our group have tried the balers.

Income Streams for the MAC

We have some planned income streams for the MAC which centre around the field school. We propose to buy two balers for the MAC to hire out to those who need them. We also plan to bale and then sell the hay bales in the drought season. We also want to involve the MAC in the fattening of steers.

At Kiserian slaughterhouse we want to put up a fenced market with an Information Board and we have identified an office for the MAC. We want to use this as a test run for a livestock MAC. The other MAC in this test will be in Dagoretti. We want these two MACs to train together.



The New MAC office at Kiserian

The Information Board will be used to explain and communicate with the buyers and sellers. The office activities will be:

- deal making through selling and buying livestock;
- seeking big buyers (we are tendering for a contract to supply the Kenya Wildlife Services with meat for their wildlife) and connecting them with local traders;
- value addition, like providing cut meat to the schools;
- commission as a MPESA payment point for the livestock traders;
- selling airtime and providing office and telephone services.

The office can be set up immediately; our aim is to have an office, the market area with an IB, the MPESA point and a big buyer sorted out by the end of the month.

¹ Interviewed by Anne Dennig in September 2008

Bio Gas and Environmental Issues at Kiserian



The contractor Paul Kariuki shows the biogas plant to Churchill Amatha

We have now built two biogas digesters for the slaughterhouse. These can cope with nine cubic metres of waste blood and water from the slaughter house per day. Every three days 100 cubic metres of gas can be made and stored in a gas balloon; this is enough to run the generator for a week. We have more gas which we want to pipe to the surrounding houses, bars and hotels which the slaughter house owns. At the moment we have to release the excess gas into the air. We have a 20 KW generator using 75% gas and 25% diesel to make electricity from this gas. We are replacing the power in the slaughter house and to the buildings around with this. It does not make sense to sell this electricity to the Kenya Power Company as they give a low price.



Churchill Amatha looks at the generator

At the abattoir we use the whole carcass, including the hides, hooves and horns. The stomach contents is dried and taken by lorry to nearby farms.



The stomach contents is put in a separate tank, then dried and taken by lorry to farms

The blood and dirty water from the slaughterhouse goes into the biodigester. The liquid outlet from the biogas plant must go through a filtration process; first into a pool and then into a wetland pond containing water plants. Time, sunlight and air purify the outlet liquid before it goes into the river. The purification ponds must be completed by 20th September 2008 for the slaughter house to pass the environmental test and get a license. This is our top priority now.



Work on the filtration ponds which must be finished by 20th September 2008.

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