

# BUSINESS



## GOOGLE SET TO TEST DRONE DELIVERY OF FOOD

Tech giant plan to start delivering food using drones and then later venture into other items.  
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**Benefit >** Summit billed as the most successful compared to the five that have been held

# Farmers win big as Nairobi summit promises billions

Private sector and African governments commit \$30 billion for agriculture across the continent

BY GERALD ANDAE  
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This year's Nairobi agriculture conference has been termed a potential turning point for the industry following a \$30 billion commitment by the private sector and governments in support of farmers.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the week-long African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) yesterday, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Willy Bett said the successes of the event is underscored by huge financial commitment made by stakeholders.

Mr Bett noted that the funds will go a long way in addressing the challenges that have been facing the sector.

### Major driver

"This has been a successful conference where we have achieved a lot in terms of funding, which is a major driver for the wellbeing of agriculture," said Mr Bett.

Mr Bett, however, asked the institutions to honour their promises as soon as possible.

Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa President Agnes Kalibata echoed the CS sentiment noting that there is no doubt that the forum has been the most successful of the five ones that have been held before.

"This has been the most productive AGRF since the call to launch the Green Revolution in Africa was made ten years ago by former UN Secretary General Kofi



From left: Agra President Agnes Kalibata, Agriculture CS Willy Bett, Agriculture PS Richard Lesiampe, and Burkina Faso minister for Animal and Fishery Resources Sammanogo Koutou during the closing of the 6th African Green Revolution Forum at the UN Complex in Nairobi yesterday

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Agriculture CS Willy Bett

Annan," said Ms Kalibata.

Private sector comprising Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Equity Bank and Yara International have committed to spur new investments to boost production for smallholder farmers and link them to lucrative value chains. They are expected to deliver, among other things, a major increase in financing for smallholder farmers and small and medium-size agribusinesses, increase in use of certified seeds, fertilisers and other inputs.

On Wednesday, KCB chief executive officer Joshua Oigara

said his institution will commit \$350 million towards the sector in the next five years.

"We are committing \$350 million to the existing loans in supporting agriculture in the country," said Mr Oigara, with President Uhuru Kenyatta saying the government will give S\$200 million within the same period.

Banks have generally shunned the weather-dependent sector with Central Bank of Kenya data showing that just 4.04 per cent of the Sh2.165 trillion loans disbursed in 2015 benefited farming ventures.

## Centum best company to work for in East Africa: Survey

BY JAMES KARIUKI

Centum Investments has been named the most attractive company to work for in the inaugural East Africa Employer of Choice awards organised by UK recruitment firm Global Careers Company (GCC).

In the Development Employer of Choice award, Centum scored the highest marks in the survey where 13,000 respondents participated for its staff training and development programme.

The awards jointly organised by GCC and professional services company Willis Towers Watson also saw consumer

brand manufacturer P&G declared the runners up.

GCC Managing Director Rupert Adcock said the survey revealed that what matter to employees are reward, learning, development and leadership.

"It is fantastic to see employers in East Africa being recognised for their impact in the talent pool. The human capital challenges facing East Africa and the wider continent will be solved by employers delivering great things through their talent," said Mr Adcock.

Willis Towers Watson Director Yves Duhaldeborde added that the research was also aimed at enabling multination-

als understand what East African look for when seeking employment.

He said employers need to provide incentives to their workforce through initiatives that encourage acquisition of new skills and promote homegrown opportunities that make a difference to the organisation.

Safaricom took home the CSR Employer of Choice award for its business model that went beyond making profits. Key of these services is mobile money platform, M-pesa. The runners-up position went to East African Breweries.

Ethiopian Airlines received the Reward Employer of Choice for its employee remuneration and fringe

benefits that helped it attract talented people. Microsoft came second in this segment.

Bamburi Cement emerged as the Women's Employer of Choice for promoting women talent, with Microsoft taking the runners-up slot. East African Breweries Limited were awarded the Graduate Employer of Choice for its ability to attract graduate trainees with the runners-up position going to audit firm KPMG which recently recruited 100 graduate trainees. Other winners were, the World Bank (Global Attractiveness award), Ethiopia Airlines (Attractiveness), World Bank (Impactful) and P&G (East African).

## BRIEFLY

### INDUSTRY

#### Firm unveils Sh1bn soft drinks plant in Nairobi

Footwear and sweets manufacturer, Kenafric Industries Ltd has commissioned a Sh1 billion packaging line at Nairobi's Ruaraka area becoming the newest soft drinks maker in the market. Executive director Mikul Shah said the firm will sell a mango-flavoured soft drink known as Squeezy retailing at Sh100 each for the 70ml sachet. Mr Shah said that product will be distributed across East Africa, adding that other flavours would be introduced soon. The MD said they were conducting a market and product survey which will guide their product development which will reflect the various tastes of East Africans.

— James Kariuki

### CREDIT

#### Bank moves to tighten noose on defaulters

Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) is seeking debt collectors and auctioneers to go after loan defaulters. The Bank, in an advertisement yesterday sought proposals for bidders providing auctioneering and debt collection services for micro loans. The lender's bad loans have been edging upwards from Sh18.8 billion in June last year to Sh27.6 billion in June this year. "The Bank regularly updates its list of suppliers and this is one of such requisitions," said KCB in a response to DN queries. The increased bad debts have seen the bank to set aside more money to cover for the possible losses increasing its provisioning from Sh7 billion mid last year to Sh12 billion as at June. The country's biggest bank by assets however has a limited exposure owing to a huge value of discounted securities.

— Otiato Guguyyu

### CORPORATE

#### Safaricom, NGO in joint water project for Kibera



Safaricom has partnered with Shining Hope for Communities, an NGO, to scale up a water supply project in Kibera. The telco's foundation will use Sh12 million to expand the project which works similar to electricity distribution system. It uses overhead pipes supported by wooden poles, terminating at various water kiosks in Kibera.

— Otiato Guguyyu