

Mentorship and Agribusiness Trust (MAT)

How we Work

Mentorship and Agribusiness Trust Fund (MAT) is incorporated in Kenya as a Private Charitable Trust with the purpose of creating productive employment in rural and peri-urban areas in the East African Region by mentoring young professionals in agribusiness and supporting mainly agribusinesses and development among the MSEs.



OUR VISION

A thriving commercial agriculture in the East African Region providing livelihoods to youth of all gender.

OUR MISSION

To enhance the commercialization of agriculture by supporting youthful value chain actors to develop into entrepreneurs.

OUR BEST SERVICES

- Mentorship to young professionals in Agriculture and rural development .
- Enhancing the capacity of MSMEs and youth in business development .
- Creating and managing funds for innovation development in agribusiness.

Mentorship and Agribusiness Trust (MAT)

OUR STRATEGY:

Our main strategy is to create and manage a fund for mentorship of young professionals and for the promotion and development of sustainable agribusiness projects and initiatives that will economically benefit MSEs and youth of all gender.

WHAT WE DO :

- Initiate and promote mentorship of young professionals in agriculture and rural development.
- Facilitate training of SMEs in agribusiness development.
- Facilitate training of young entrepreneurs in agribusiness with a special emphasis on small-scale rural entrepreneurs of all gender interested in setting up their own enterprises along the food chain.
- Create and manage funds aimed at supporting and financing youth and women's innovative agribusiness projects, activities, and initiatives.

TO SUSTAIN THE FUND, WE;

- Initiate, Promote, Develop and Manage Agribusiness development projects and programs.
- Mobilize resources to support SMEs commercialize their agribusinesses.
- Mobilize resources to support innovations, especially those that promote environmental conservation and Climate-Smart Agriculture.
- Partner with other organizations to support capacity enhancement on viable agribusinesses among SMEs and mentor young professionals.

WHY MAT;

MAT is founded on the many years of experience of its Trustees in development support programs and especially in the Agricultural sector where they recognized very many cases of failure of good intentions that have not resulted in the improvement of the livelihoods of the intended beneficiary groups. They decided to do something about it and founded MAT which will make a difference.

Mentorship and Agribusiness Trust (MAT)

OUR TRUSTEES :

FOUNDER: Karl Henning Mikael Segerros:



With 42 years of professional experience, Mikael holds a Master's degree in Agriculture (irrigation, drainage) and a bachelor's in Agriculture (crop production and plant breeding). He has several decades' experiences supporting complex rural development projects and programs managed at the national level, providing high-level strategic and policy advisory to senior government staff and donors in Eastern and Southern Africa. He has long-lasting experience of working for Sida-funded projects including maintaining regular contacts with other development partners. Mikael has a passion for crop and livestock introduction in the tropics, including promoting food security and nutrition at the national, community and household level.

He has comprehensive knowledge of agribusiness, rural entrepreneurship and access to finance for farmers including 15 years as a practicing farmer in Zambia, with livestock and climate-smart agriculture:

CHAIRMAN: Wilson Kinyua:



With over 40 years of experience, (MSc in Development Economics, B. Sc. in Economics and Statistics) is a Policy and Institutional Development Economist. His key areas of expertise include data collection and analysis, Institutional Capacity Development, Policy Analysis and Strategy Project Formulation and Evaluation. As a consultant, Wilson has served Governments, International Organizations, Development Partners and private sector businesses in Kenya, East and most Southern African countries. He therefore, has a wealth of practical experience and knowledge transcending African cultures and socio-economic organizations. In the public sector career, Wilson served as a Statistician at the National Bureau of Statistics, a senior macroeconomist in the Kenya of Planning and a senior research economist at the Central Bank of Kenya. In private sector, he served as Group Planning Manager for First Chartered Group of Companies with interests in agriculture, banking and insurance, and real estate development.

TRUSTEE: Japhet Kiara:



Japhet holds an MSc in Natural Resource Management and in General Agriculture. He has over 40 years of experience in the Agricultural Sector, the last 15 years in senior strategic management, agricultural policy, development and coordination. Japhet has a vast experience in rural development and sustainable land management projects in Kenya; such as soil and water conservation, agriculture extension, food and nutrition security agribusiness development and financial deepening for rural development. This has included working on rural enterprise development, women and youth economic empowerment. He has experience working on humanitarian assistance and social inclusion support programmes, rights-based approaches in programmes and governance in rural development projects.

He has expertise on project proposals development, mentoring in quality assurance practices. His experience includes project financial management, audit related issues and anti-corruption measures in programmes; including assessing corruption risks in programmes. Japhet has a unique experience in managing development assistance (aid) and coordinating donor working group in agricultural and rural development sector within the framework of development cooperation and mutual accountability.

Mentorship and Agribusiness Trust (MAT)

TRUSTEE: Stanley M. Mbagathi:



Stanley holds an MSc (Economics) and post-graduate studies in Sociology. He is a leading professional in Institutional Development specializing in Policy Dialogue, Strategic Planning, and Project management. He has been a consultant for many Private sector organizations, governments, and donor-funded assignments. Over the last two decades, he has taken the lead in processes that have culminated in the development of national and regional rural development policies and programs in the East and Horn of Africa Regions. He has assisted Regional Economic Blocks of IGAD, East African Community, and COMESA to develop regional policies and investment programs and provided implementation advice to the governments (Ministers and Ministerial Technical Committees).

Stanley is a certified trainer in the use of the logical framework and the Theory of Constraints in the public sector. In this regard, he coordinated a five-year capacity-building program in four African cities in East, South, and West Africa. Stanley is a sought-after advisor on developing coordination and intergovernmental relations. He assisted to establish and convene the first Joint Agricultural Sector Consultation and Cooperation mechanism between the two levels of government in Kenya. Stanley is a committed environmentalist and community development practitioner.

TRUSTEE: Robert Muse:



Robert is a reliable certified Purchasing and Supply Chain Management (CPS) expert with over 15 years of experience in procurement and logistics processes. He is especially experienced in the following areas: Fleets management, procurement and stores operations. He has supported big national programmes covering the whole of Kenya in procurement of goods and services as required. This has involved the preparation, circulation and scheduling of tenders/Quotation documents; Arranging for opening of tenders/ quotations and taking minutes; Writing Service and Purchase orders and dispatching them to suppliers/ merchants. Robert has been a custodian of procurement records and samples for large donor funded government programmes; Overseeing accounting of stores materials; assisting in follow up of financial matters for the program in liaison with accounts section, assisting accounts section in verifying and processing payment of invoices and vouchers.

He has been responsible for programs transport arrangements and the logistics for meetings, workshops and conferences. Robert has experience in training others in development programmes and has supported the capacity building of project and county governments administrative officers.

TRUSTEE: Steven Vundi:



Steven is a youth and an agricultural professional who holds a B.Sc. Agricultural Economics and Resource Management and currently undertaking an M.A on Development Studies. Steven is also a Certified Public Accountant (3). Steven has already gained a deep experience of the issues in the agricultural sector especially those affecting the youth. This experience has come through being a member of key agriculture sector professional organisations open for the youth e.g. Agricultural Council of Kenya – Youth consortium (AgCK), CAADP Non-State Actors, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development. He has also participated in a number of mentorship programmes accompanying very senior consultants. This has enabled him to gain knowledge on project coordination and management and approaches for offering technical advisory services in value chain development, entrepreneurship, gender and social inclusion, governance and institutional development.

He is knowledgeable about and application of market systems approach/M4P and monitoring and evaluation tools. Steven is a good example of a youth who is passionate about engagement of youth in agriculture.