

## AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

The agricultural industry is the backbone of the Kenyan Economy. It provides 80% of the country's jobs and 18% of total exports. This is so despite the fact that less than 20% of the country's land is viable for cultivation since Kenya is a semi-arid country. In Kenya, the agriculture industry consists of food and cash crop farming, horticulture and floriculture, livestock farming and fish farming. According to the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), agriculture contributes 26% of Kenya's GDP directly, and 27% indirectly through service sectors supported by the same.

The main food crops are wheat, maize and rice whereas cash crops consist tea, coffee and horticultural produce such as vegetables, fruits and flowers. Specifics of these include mangoes, cabbages and onions just to mention but a few. However, subsistence farming is the main economic activity in Kenya with maize being the staple food for most Kenyans. Maize is multi-purpose food crops which can be used make maize meal which is known locally as *ugali*, porridge known locally as *uji*, traditional maize and bean mixture known locally as *githeri*, popcorn among others, all of which are popular and affordable among low and middle income earners.

The horticultural sector has been rated second after tea in the recent reports. It consists of growth of fruits, vegetables and flowers for exports. Although most fruits grown are for local consumption, the main fruits exported are citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, tangerines and grapes), deciduous fruits (apples, pears, peaches) and tropical fruits (bananas, dates, pawpaw and avocados). Flowers are carnations, roses and orchids whereas vegetables include potatoes, onions and cabbages among others.