PRESIDENTIAL DIGITAL TALENT PROGRAM 2016

3RD & 4TH QUARTER REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD MAY-NOVEMBER

(PUBLIC SECTOR)

KENYA PLANT HEALTH INSPECTORATE SERVICES (KEPHIS)

OVERVIEW OF KEPHIS

Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) is the government parastatal under ministry of agriculture whose responsibility is to assure the quality of agricultural inputs and produce to prevent adverse impact on the economy, the environment and human health.

Vision: Healthy plants, safe trade and sustainable agro-environment for a prosperous Kenya.

Mission: To provide a science based regulatory service by assuring plant health, quality of agricultural inputs and produce for food security, globally competitive agriculture and sustainable development.

Core values
- ❖ Customer focus
- ❖ Professionalism and Integrity
- ❖ Teamwork
- ❖ Results oriented
- ❖ Innovation and Creativity
- ❖ Corporate social sustainability

Strategic Objectives

- To protect plants from pests, weeds and invasive species.
- To facilitate review and strengthening of the policy, legal and regulatory framework, so that it is in tandem with both local and international agricultural sector emerging issues.
- To contribute towards improved levels of agricultural productivity.
- To support compliance to market requirements.
- To build adequate technical and infrastructural capacity to facilitate efficient and effective delivery of the KEPHIS mandate.
- To mobilize adequate financial resources and ensure optimal allocation and utilization to enable full implementation of planned programmers and activities.
- To enhance synergies through information and resource sharing with stakeholders and partners.
- To enhance the visibility and corporate image of KEPHIS

Services Offered by KEPHIS:

- Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) tests for grant of Plant Breeders Rights
- National Performance Trials (value for cultivation) for crop variety release and commercialization
- Registration of seed merchants
- Licensing of seed sellers
- Registration of seed growers
- Seed field inspections
- Inspection of seeds during processing
- Seed sampling and testing
- Post control verification
- Post certification surveys
- Inspection of import and export plant materials
- Plant quarantine
- Pest and disease diagnosis
- Enforcement of biosafety requirements
- Analyses of agricultural inputs (fertilizers, soil, agro-chemicals, water, manure, irrigation water and others)
- Agro-chemical residue analyses in agricultural produce and animal tissues
- Environmental monitoring for contaminants
- Conformity assessment
- Trade facilitation, training and technical support
- Farmer advisory services.

SYSTEMS

1. Electronic Certification System

Electronic Certification System (ECS) is a web based solution designed to manage and maintain Phytosanitary (plant health) certificate data and generate both paper based and paperless certificates for plants and plant products moving in international trade.

This enables the user to keep track of the application in real time thus providing opportunity for response in case of a query. Automation of background workflow processes results in speedy processing of these applications saving time and easing workload.

2. Import Certification System

The Plant Import and Quarantine Regulatory System (PIQRS) is a Business to Government and Government to business web based system designed to enhance efficiency in plant import regulation. PIQRS forms an integral part of overall KEPHIS regulatory activities which ensure that imported Plants, Plant Products and regulated articles entering into the country pose minimal Phytosanitary risk and

environmental impact. Anyone intending to bring plants, plant products and regulated articles into Kenya MUST obtain a Plant Import Permit (PIP) from KEPHIS prior to shipment of such plants from the origin regardless of whether they are for commercial purpose, duty free, gifts, experimental or research purposes

3. Seedcard Processing System

Seeds sold to farmers need to be verified and authenticated to prevent selling of counterfeit seeds. Seed sellers through seed inspectors apply for seed authentication labels using the system.

4. Pest Information Management System

Through the system pest manifestation from different regions is captured.

SKILLS LEARNT

Technical Skills

- Network support and maintenance
- Resolve incidents with printers and scanners
- Computer hardware and software installations
- Troubleshooting Routers and Switches
- Configuration Wireless devices
- Troubleshooting IP Phones
- Preventive maintenance of Networks equipment
- User Support
- Help-desk IT support

ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

- Creating and keeping deadlines
- Goal setting and meeting goals
- Coordinating events & Multitasking
- Decision making
- Creative thinking
- Conflict resolution
- Resource management
- Responsibility (office materials and equipment)

CHALLENGES

Accessibility

Kephis is located in Ngong which is quite far from the CBD and quite some distance from the main road.

Limited Access to the Premises or Equipment

Access to some equipment is only meant for members of staff.

CONCLUSION

Public sector internship at KEPHIS has been motivating and proved a necessity in understanding how government systems and processes work. The opportunity in KEPHIS was commendable, it improved and sharpened my ICT skills. For this I'm grateful to both KEPHIS and ICT Authority for the opportunity.