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Rt. Hon. Speaker
You may approve for tabling
J. M. Nyegenye, C.B.S.,
Clerk of the senate/secretary, PSC
Date: 16/09/26

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FIFTH SESSION

THE SENATE

PARLIAMENT
OF KENYA
LIBRARY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

REPORT ON THE CROPS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023 (NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY BILLS NO. 8 OF 2023)

PAPERS LAID	
DATE	17/9/2026
TABLED BY	Vice chair
COMMITTEE	—
CLERK AT THE TABLE	Cherop

16/09/26
APPROVED
RT. HON. SEN
AMASON J. KINGI

Clerk's Chambers,
Parliament Buildings,
NAIROBI.

SEPTEMBER, 2026

18

Re Hon. Speaker
You may appear for nothing
at the Senate hearing, PSC.
I hope the Senate hearing is
not a waste of time.

W. H. H. H.
1/1/1919

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

AFA	-	Agriculture and Food Authority
CABI	-	CAB International
CAF	-	County Assemblies Forum
COG	-	Council of Governors
MOALFD	-	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
SME	-	Small and Medium Enterprises.

PRELIMINARIES

ESTABLISHMENT AND MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is established under standing order 228(3) of the Senate Standing Orders and is mandated to consider all matters relating to agriculture, irrigation, livestock, fisheries development and veterinary services.

In undertaking its mandate, the Committee oversees the following State Departments:

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development;
 - i. The State Department for Crops Development and;
 - ii. The State Department for Livestock Development
2. Ministry of Sanitation, Water and Irrigation
 - i. The State Department for Irrigation
3. Ministry of Mining and Blue Economy and Fisheries
 - i. The State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries

The Committee also oversees the following State Agencies among others-

- (a) Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA);
- (b) Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC);
- (c) Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC);
- (d) Kenya Seed Company (KSC);
- (e) Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS);
- (f) Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO);
- (g) Kenya Veterinary Vaccine Production Board (KVVPB);
- (h) Kenya Veterinary Board (KVB);
- (i) Kenya Meat Commission (KMC);
- (j) Kenya Dairy Board (KDB);
- (k) Kenya Leather Development Council (KLDC);
- (l) Kenya Fisheries Service (KFS);

- (m) Kenya Fish Marketing Authority (KFMA);
- (n) Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KEMFRI);
- (o) Kenya Fishing Industries Corporation; and
- (p) National Irrigation Board (NIB).

The Committee also works closely with the Council of Governors (CoG), and the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) and non-state actors including among others-

- (a) Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA);
- (b) Agricultural Council of Kenya (AgCK)
- (c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
- (d) Kenya National Farmers' Federation (KENAFF);
- (e) Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI); and
- (f) Agricultural Industry Forum (AIF).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is comprised of the following Members-

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Sen. David Wafula Wakoli, MP | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Sen. Alexander Munyi Mundigi, MP | - | Vice-Chairperson |
| 3. Sen. Wahome Wamatinga, MP | - | Member |
| 4. Sen. Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire, CBS, MP | - | Member |
| 5. Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, SC, MP | - | Member |
| 6. Sen. Catherine Muma, MP | - | Member |
| 7. Sen. Abass Sheikh, CBS, MP | - | Member |
| 8. Sen. Hezena Lemaletian, MP | - | Member |
| 9. Sen. Edwin Watenya Sifuna, MP | - | Member |

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bills No. 8 of 2023) seeks to amend the Crops Act, Cap. 318, to include **Achiote (Mrangi) – Bixa orellana** in the First Schedule as a scheduled crop. The Bill aims to strengthen Kenya's agricultural diversification by anchoring the crop in primary legislation, thereby ensuring its recognition is permanent and immune from expiry under Section 21 of the Statutory Instruments Act, Cap 2A.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Bill originated in the National Assembly, where it was published in the Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 30 of 2023 and passed without amendments on 29th April, 2026. It was then transmitted to the Senate and read a First Time on 17th June, 2026, after which it stood committed to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

In compliance with Article 118 of the Constitution and Standing Order 145(5) of the Senate Standing Orders, the Committee undertook public participation. The Committee invited stakeholders to submit memoranda and received written submissions from the Council of Governors (CoG), the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) and CAB International (CABI). All stakeholders expressed support for the inclusion of Achiote in the Crops Act.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee observed that Achiote had already been recognized as a scheduled crop through **Legal Notice No. 119 of 2020**, published in the Kenya Gazette on 17th July, 2020 and commenced on 8th July, 2020. This gazette notice was issued under section 7(2) of the Crops Act, which declared Achiote, alongside Stevia, Oil Palm, and Bambara nuts as a scheduled crop. Therefore, farmers cultivating Achiote have

been entitled, in principle, to the statutory benefits under section 8 of the Crops Act since 2020.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee further notes that **Crops (Bixa) Regulations, 2025** have since been published, providing a regulatory framework for the crop's development, handling and commercialization. These regulations complement the amendment.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, having considered the Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bills No. 8 of 2023) and the submissions received thereon, recommends that the House approves the Bill without amendments.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

May I take this opportunity to commend the Members of the Committee for their dedication in considering this Bill, and thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the Senate for their support. I also extend appreciation to the stakeholders who submitted memoranda before the Committee.

It is now my pleasant duty, pursuant to Standing Order 148(1), to present the Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on the Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bills No. 8 of 2023).

Signed.....

Date.....10/9/2026.....

SEN. DAVID WAFULA WAKOLI, CBS, MP,
CHAIRPERSON,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND
FISHERIES

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 BACKGROUND

1. The Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bills No. 8 of 2023) originated in the National Assembly, where it was published in the Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 30 of 2023 and passed without amendments on 29th April, 2026.
2. It was then transmitted to the Senate and read a First Time on 17th June, 2026, before being committed to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.
3. The Bill seeks to amend the Crops Act, Cap. 318 by including Achiote (*Mrangi*) – *Bixa Orellana* in the First Schedule as a scheduled crop. The rationale is to recognize the economic potential of Achiote, a drought-resistant and pest-free crop introduced in Kenya's coastal region in the 1970s, whose seeds produce bixin, a natural dye widely used in food processing and cosmetics.
4. Despite being a major cash crop in Kwale and Lamu, farmers have struggled to access financial support and stable markets. By scheduling it under the Crops Act, the Bill seeks to provide farmers with government-backed benefits such as marketing support, efficient transportation, value addition strategies, industry agreements and guaranteed timely payments, thereby unlocking its potential as a significant contributor to Kenya's agricultural economy.

1.2 OBJECT OF THE BILL

5. The principal object of this Bill is to expand the list of scheduled crops under the Crops Act, Cap. 318 by including Achiote (*Mrangi*) – *Bixa Orellana* in the First Schedule as a scheduled crop.

1.3 OVERVIEW OF THE BILL

6. The Bill contains two operative clauses: Clause 1 provides the short title, citing the law as the Crops (Amendment) Act, 2023, while Clause 2 amends the First Schedule to the Crops Act, Cap. 318 by inserting Achiote (*Mrangi*) – *Bixa Orellana* as a scheduled crop under Part 3.

CHAPTER TWO

2.1 OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE BILL

2.1.1 INTRODUCTION

7. The Committee pursuant to the provisions of Article 118 of the Constitution and Standing Order 145 (5) of the Senate Standing Orders, proceeded to undertake public participation on the Bill. In this regard, the Committee published an advertisement in the *Daily Nation* and *Standard* newspapers on Friday, 24th July 2026 inviting members of the public to submit written memoranda on the Bill. The advertisement was also posted on the Parliament website and social media platforms. A copy of the advertisement is attached as *Appendix 3*.
8. Additionally, the Committee sent invitations to key stakeholders, inviting them to submit their comments on the Bill.
9. In total, the Committee received written submissions from three (3) stakeholders, namely:
 - (a) Council of Governors – CoG
 - (b) County Assemblies Forum – CAF
 - (c) CAB International – CABI
10. The detailed submissions by the stakeholder, organized clause-by-clause, is set out in a matrix attached as Appendix 4.

2.2 SUBMISSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

Council of Governors (CoG)

11. The Council of Governors supported the inclusion of Achiote (Mrangi) in the First Schedule to the Crops Act and raised no objection to the proposed amendment.

Committee resolution:

The Committee accepted this proposal, noting that although Achiote had already

been recognized as a scheduled crop through **Legal Notice No. 119 of 2020**, this was under subsidiary legislation which expires after ten years pursuant to Section 21 of the Statutory Instruments Act. By placing Achiote directly in the Crops Act, Parliament secures its scheduled status permanently, immune from expiry, and backed by primary legislation.

County Assemblies Forum (CAF)

12. The County Assemblies Forum proposed that the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) be mandated to develop comprehensive regulations on the development, handling, licensing, and export of Achiote within six months of adoption of the Committee's report. The rationale was to ensure the crop's economic potential is fully realized.

Committee resolution:

The Committee rejected this proposal, observing that regulations are already in place, specifically the **Crops (Bixa) Regulations, 2025**, which provide a framework for the crop's management and commercialization. The objects of these Regulations are to safeguard the quality and safety standards of bixa and its products; enhance productivity and income of growers and other value chain actors; promote the growth and development of the bixa sub-sector; and attract investment opportunities while improving the efficiency of agribusiness services in the industry.

CAB International (CABI)

13. CAB International supported the inclusion of Achiote in the First Schedule but emphasized the need for safeguards and standards to maximize economic benefits while minimizing ecological risks. They highlighted the rising global demand for Bixa orellana and its potential to enhance Kenya's agricultural diversification, SME growth, and export competitiveness. They further argued that Kenya could position itself as a leading exporter if the crop is formally recognized and supported through breeding programs and commercial standards.

Committee resolution:

The Committee accepted this proposal to include bixa Orellana as a scheduled crop in the Act, noting that **Crops (Bixa) Regulations, 2025** provide the necessary regulatory framework to incorporate safeguards and quality standards.

CHAPTER THREE

1.3 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1.1 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed that:

1. Achiote (*Bixa orellana*) is already recognized as a scheduled crop through *Legal Notice No. 119 of 2020*. However, this recognition is under subsidiary legislation, which expires after ten years pursuant to Section 21 of the Statutory Instruments Act. By placing Achiote directly in the Crops Act, Parliament secures its scheduled status permanently, immune from expiry, and backed by primary legislation;
2. The Crops (*Bixa*) Regulations, 2025 are already in place, providing a framework for the crop's management and commercialization. The objects of these Regulations are to safeguard the quality and safety standards of bixa and its products; enhance productivity and income of growers and other value chain actors; promote the growth and development of the bixa sub-sector; and attract investment opportunities while improving the efficiency of agribusiness services in the industry; and
3. All stakeholders who submitted memoranda, namely the Council of Governors (CoG), the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) and CAB International (CABI), support the inclusion of Achiote as a scheduled crop in the Crops Act. Their submissions highlight the crop's potential for agricultural diversification, SME growth and export competitiveness.

3.1.2 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, having considered the Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bills No. 8 of 2023) and the submissions received thereon, recommends that the House approves the Bill without amendments.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix I	Minutes of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
Appendix II	The Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bill No. 8 of 2023)
Appendix III	Advertisement published in the <i>Daily Nation</i> and <i>Standard</i> newspapers
Appendix IV	Matrix of the submissions received by the Committee
Appendix V	Copies of stakeholder submissions on the Bill



**MINUTES OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIRST MEETING OF
THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK
AND FISHERIES, HELD ON TUESDAY, 26th AUGUST, 2026 AT OCEAN
BEACH RESORT, MALINDI, KILIFI COUNTY AT 10:00 A.M.**

PRESENT

1. Sen. David Wafula Wakoli, MP	-	Chairperson
2. Sen. Alexander Munyi Mundigi, MP	-	Vice-Chairperson
3. Sen. Mwenda Gataya (Mo Fire), CBS, MP	-	Member
4. Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, SC, MP	-	Member
5. Sen. Catherine Mumma, MP	-	Member
6. Sen. Hezena Lemaletian, MP	-	Member

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

1. Sen. Abbas Sheikh, CBS, MP	-	Member
2. Sen. Edwin Sifuna, CBS, MP	-	Member
3. Sen. Wahome Wamatinga, MP	-	Member

SECRETARIAT

1. Ms. Gertrude Nthiiri	-	Clerk Assistant I
2. Ms. Ivy Nyambura	-	Clerk Assistant III
3. Ms. Faith Cheronoh	-	Legal Counsel II
4. Mr. Solomon Alubala	-	Fiscal Analyst
5. Ms. Juliet Masinde	-	Media Relations Officer
6. Ms. Winnie Atieno	-	Audio Officer
7. Ms. Sarah Rukwaro	-	Serjeant- At -Arms
8. Ms. Rose Omboke	-	Office Attendant

MIN/SEN/SCA/1464/2026 -

PRELIMINARIES

The meeting was called to order at 10:27 a.m. followed by a word of prayer and introductions

MIN/SEN/SCA/1465/2026 -

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted after being proposed by Sen. Alexander Munyi Mundigi and seconded by Sen. Mwenda Gataya (Mo Fire), CBS, MP as follows –

1. Prayer;
2. Adoption of the Agenda;
3. Consideration and Adoption of the following Reports-
 - a) The Agriculture and Livestock Extension Services Bill (Senate Bills No.12 of 2022) (National Assembly Bill No.8 of 2023); and
 - b) The Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bill No.8 of 2023)
4. Any Other Business; and
5. Date of the Next Meeting and Adjournment.

MIN/SEN/SCA/1466/2026 -

**CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF
THE CROPS (AMENDMENT) BILL,
2023 (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL
NO.8 OF 2023)**

The Committee considered the Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bill No. 8 of 2023) report and deliberated on the observations and submissions received noting the following-

- a) Achiote recognition: Achiote (*Bixa orellana*) is already recognized as a scheduled crop under Legal Notice No. 119 of 2020. However, this recognition is anchored in subsidiary legislation that expires after ten years. Inclusion in the Crops Act secures its scheduled status permanently under primary legislation.
- b) Existing Regulations: The Crops (Bixa) Regulations, 2025 are in place, providing a framework for management, commercialization, quality assurance, productivity enhancement, and investment promotion in the subsector.
- c) Stakeholder support: Submissions from the Council of Governors (CoG), County Assemblies Forum (CAF), and CAB International (CABI) unanimously supported the inclusion of Achiote, citing its potential for agricultural diversification, SME growth, and export competitiveness.

On conclusion the Committee resolved to adopt the report having been proposed by Sen. Alexander Mundigi, MP and seconded by Sen. Mwenda Gataya (Mo Fire), CBS, MP.

MIN/SEN/SCA/1467/2026 -

**CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF
THE AGRICULTURE AND
LIVESTOCK EXTENSION SERVICES
BILL, 2022 (SENATE BILL NO. 12 OF
2022)**

The Committee considered the Report on the Agriculture and Livestock Extension Services Bill, 2022 (Senate Bill No. 12 of 2022). After deliberation, the Committee resolved to reject the amendments proposed by the National Assembly relating to

Clause 4(4), Clause 5(1) and (3), the proposed new paragraph (aa) in Clause 8(1), the proposed new paragraph (ba) in Clause 8(2), Clause 10(1)(d) and (e), Clause 10(2), the opening statement in Clause 11(1), the proposed new Clause 12A, the proposed new paragraph (ca) in Clause 20, Clause 26(2), Clause 30(2)(iv), Clause 31(1), and Clause 31(2)(e).

Upon conclusion of the deliberations, the Committee resolved to adopt the report having been proposed by Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda (SC), MP and seconded by Sen. Alexander Munyi Mundigi, MP.

MIN/SEN/SCA/1468/2026 -

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretariat tabled two letters from the Taskforce on Parliamentary Outreach and Engagement inviting the Committee to nominate Members to participate in:

- i. **Mombasa International Agricultural Show** scheduled for 2nd – 6th September, 2026 at the Mkomani Showground, Mombasa County.
- ii. **Central Kenya (Nyeri) ASK Show** scheduled for 9th – 12th September, 2026 at the Kabiruini Showground, Nyeri County.

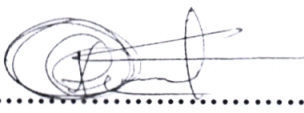
The Committee acceded to the invitations and resolved that:

- i. **Sen. Alexander Munyi Mundigi, MP** and **Sen. Hezena Lemelitian, MP** would represent the Committee in Mombasa County.
- ii. **Sen. Mwenda Gataya (Mo Fire), CBS, MP** and **Sen. Catherine Muma, MP** would represent the Committee in Nyeri County.

MIN/SEN/SCA/1469/2026 -

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1.37 p.m. The next meeting will be on notice.

SIGNED: 

DATE: 10/9/26

SEN. DAVID WAFULA WAKOLI, MP
(CHAIRPERSON)



**MINUTES OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND
FISHERIES, HELD ON TUESDAY, 28th JULY, 2026 IN COMMITTEE ROOM
5, FIRST FLOOR, BUNGE TOWER AT 10:00 A.M.**

PRESENT

1. Sen. David Wafula Wakoli, MP	-	Chairperson
2. Sen. Alexander Munyi Mundigi, MP	-	Vice-Chairperson
3. Sen. Wahome Wamatinga, MP	-	Member
4. Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, SC, MP	-	Member
5. Sen. Hezena Lemaletian, MP	-	Member

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

1. Sen. Mwenda Gataya (Mo Fire), CBS, MP	-	Member
2. Sen. Beatrice Akinyi Ogola, MP	-	Member
3. Sen. Abbas Sheikh, CBS, MP	-	Member
4. Sen. Catherine Mumma, MP	-	Member

SECRETARIAT

1. Mr. Peter Mulesi	-	Clerk Assistant I
2. Ms. Gertrude Nthiiri	-	Clerk Assistant I
3. Ms. Ivy Nyambura	-	Clerk Assistant III
4. Ms. Faith Cheronoh	-	Legal Counsel II
5. Mr. Hillary Cheruiyot	-	Researcher
6. Mr. Solomon Alubala	-	Fiscal Analyst
7. Ms. Juliet Masinde	-	Media Relations Officer
8. Ms. Winnie Atieno	-	Audio Officer
9. Ms. Sarah Rukwaro	-	Serjeant- At -Arms
10. Ms. Daniela Nairita	-	Intern

The meeting was called to order at 10:16 a.m. followed by a word of prayer and introductions

MIN/SEN/SCA/1432/2026 -

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted after being proposed by Sen. Wahome Wamatinga, MP and seconded by Sen. Alexander Munyi Mundigi, MP as follows –

1. Prayer;
2. Adoption of the Agenda;
3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
4. Matters arising;
5. Consideration of the Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bills No. 8 of 2023). (*Committee paper 171*)
6. Any Other Business; and
7. Date of the Next Meeting and Adjournment.

MIN/SEN/SCA/1433/2026 -

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- i. The Minutes of the two hundred and thirteenth sitting held on Tuesday, 21st July, 2026 were confirmed as a true record of the proceedings after being proposed by Sen. Wahome Wamatinga, MP and seconded by Sen. Alexander Munyi Mundigi, MP. and;
- ii. The Minutes of the two hundred and fourteenth sitting held on Thursday 23rd July 2026 respectively were confirmed as a true record of the proceedings after being proposed by Sen. Wahome Wamatinga, MP and seconded by Sen. Alexander Munyi Mundigi, MP.

MIN/SEN/SCA/1434/2026 -

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

MIN/SEN/SCA/1435/2026 -

**REVIEW OF THE CROPS
AMENDMENT BILL, 2023 (NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY BILL NO.8 OF 2023)**

The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the Bill Digest as contained in the Committee Paper No. 171, the committee was informed as follows.

That:-

- i. the Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bill No. 8 of 2023) originated in the National Assembly, where it was published in the Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 30 of 2023 and passed without amendments on 29th April, 2026; and

- ii. it was then transmitted to the Senate and read a First Time on 17th June, 2026, before being committed to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

The Committee was further informed as follows:-

- i. The principal objective of the Bill is to amend the Crops Act, Cap. 318, by formally including Achiote (Mrangi) – *Bixa Orellana* – in the First Schedule as a scheduled crop. The proposed amendment seeks to strengthen the legal recognition of Achiote and provide a permanent statutory framework for its development and promotion within the agricultural sector.
- ii. *Achiote* is a drought-resistant and pest-free crop with significant economic and commercial potential. The crop, which was introduced in Kenya's coastal region in the 1970s, produces seeds containing bixin, a natural colouring agent used in food processing, cosmetics, and other industrial applications.
- iii. Despite Achiote having been previously recognized as a scheduled crop through Legal Notice No. 119 of 2020, its potential and its importance as a cash crop, particularly in the counties of Kwale and Lamu, the farmers in the said counties have continued to experience challenges in accessing financial support, reliable markets, efficient transportation, and value-addition opportunities.
- iv. The proposed amendment seeks to incorporate the crop directly into the First Schedule of the Crops Act. To provide a more permanent and secure legal basis for the crop's scheduled status, as subsidiary legislation may be subject to expiry under the provisions of the Statutory Instruments Act.
- v. The formal inclusion of Achiote in the principal legislation would facilitate increased government support and promote the development of the crop's value chain. Therefore, the proposed amendment is expected to enhance farmers' access to marketing support, efficient transportation, value-addition strategies, industry agreements, and mechanisms for timely payment. As well as contribute to agricultural diversification, increased household incomes, employment creation, and the overall growth of the agricultural economy.
- vi. Take note of its role to facilitate public participation in accordance with Article 118 of the Constitution and the relevant provisions of the Senate Standing Orders. In this regard, the Committee had invited members of the public and relevant stakeholders to submit written memoranda and representations on the Bill. The views and recommendations received would be considered during the Committee's deliberations and taken into account in the preparation of the Committee's report to the Senate.
- vii. That the advertisement on the Bill for public participation had been carried in the major dailies of Friday, 24th July, 2026 and the closure date for receipt of memoranda was on Friday 7th August, 2026.

Deliberations and Resolution by the Committee

The Committee took note of the Bill Digest and Committee Paper No. 171 and resolved to facilitate public participation. The committee further resolved that, it shall take into account the views and recommendations of the public when the committee submits its report to Senate.

MIN/SEN/SCA/1436/2026 -

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

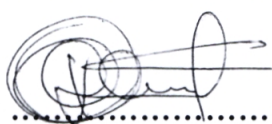
The Committee considered the following matters as any other business:-

- a) It was reported that the Governor, Samburu County had requested the committee to defer the meeting scheduled meeting Thursday, 30th July, 2026 to later date. Upon deliberation, it was resolved that the Governor submits formal responses to the issues raised ahead of the re-scheduled meeting.
- b) The Secretariat was requested to activate social media platforms especially X space on the Bills before the Committee noting that the Crops (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 8 of 2023) is an important Bill.
- c) The Committee resolved to undertake inspection visit to assess the implementation status of the Senate resolution on the Petition on the West Kano Irrigation Scheme in Kisumu County.

MIN/SEN/SCA/1437/2026 -

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m. The next meeting will be on notice.

SIGNED: 

DATE: 10/9/26

**SEN. DAVID WAFULA WAKOLI, MP
(CHAIRPERSON)**



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PARLIAMENT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS

(Bill No. 8 of 2023)

THE CROPS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

(A Bill published in the Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 30 of 2023 and passed by the National Assembly, without amendments, on April 29th, 2026)

N.A./B/No. 8/2023

THE CROPS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

**A Bill for
AN ACT of Parliament to amend the Crops Act
ENACTED by the Parliament of Kenya, as follows—**

- | | |
|--|---|
| Short title. | 1. This Act may be cited as the Crops (Amendment) Act, 2023. |
| Amendment of the First Schedule to No. 16 of 2013. | 2. The Crops Act is amended in the First Schedule by inserting the following new item in Part 3—
“Achiote (Mrangi)..... <i>Bixa Orellana</i> ” |

MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The principal object of this Bill is to include Achiote to the First Schedule of the Crops Act No. 16 of 2013.

Achiote, known at the Coast as 'mrangi' because of its bright red fruits, is a crop grown largely at the coast but whose potential has been underutilized.

The fruit is harvested for its seeds, which contain bixin, used for colouring cheese, fish, salad oil, margarine and cosmetics like lipsticks. The Achiote tree was introduced in the coast region in 1970s. The crop is disease- and pest-free and is drought resistant. The crop is also believed to ward off destructive wildlife like elephants thus farmers plant it in their farms and homesteads to act as a buffer crop.

Agricultural experts say the crop matures fully within four to five years and has economic life of 20 years but can be harvested even after one year in the farm. Achiote crop is the world's second most important natural colourant. It makes about 70 per cent of all world natural dyes.

In Kenya, Bixa Orellana has been one of the four major cash crops in Kwale and one of the seven major cash crops in Lamu. However, farmers are finding it hard to get financial support because it is an industrial crop that cannot be consumed directly. Also, there have difficulties in getting a steady market and incentives.

Section 7 of the Crops Act provides for scheduled crops specified in the First Schedule of the Act. Also, it provides that the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture may, by notice in the Gazette, declare any other crop to be a scheduled crop for purposes of the Act.

A scheduled crop benefits in a number of ways under section 8 of the Act. These include marketing and distribution of scheduled crops, provision of an efficient and regular transportation of scheduled crops, promotion and advise on strategies for value addition prior to the export of crops from

The Crops(Amendment) Bill,2023

Kenya, promotion and advise on strategies for value addition prior to the export of crops from Kenya, recommend general industry agreements between farmers and processors of scheduled crops and prescription of the minimum period within which farmers are to be paid for crops delivered and penalties for delayed payments.

The Bill seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Crops Act to include Achioté as one of the scheduled crops.

Statement on the delegation of legislative powers and limitation of fundamental rights and freedoms

The Bill does not delegate legislative powers to the Cabinet Secretary. It does not limit fundamental rights and freedoms.

Statement that the Bill concerns county governments

The Bill will affect the functions of the county governments and is therefore a Bill concerning counties for purposes of the Standing Orders.

Statement that the Bill is a money Bill within the meaning of Article 114 of the Constitution

The enactment of this Bill will not occasion additional expenditure of public funds.

Dated the2023

Hon. Tandaza Kassim Sawa
Member of Parliament

The First Schedule of Act No. 16 of 2013 which it is proposed to amend-

FIRST SCHEDULE

SCHEDULED CROPS

Part 1 — Crops with breeding program under compulsory certification

Sugarcane.....	<i>Saccharum</i> spp.
Tea.....	<i>Camellia</i> spp.
Coffee.....	<i>Coffea</i> spp.
Rhodes grass	<i>Chloris gayana</i>
Irish potatoes.....	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L.
Cotton.....	<i>Gossypium</i> spp.
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i> L.
Soya beans	<i>Glycine max</i> (L.) Merr.
Beans.....	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.
Barley.....	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.
Finger millet.....	<i>Eleusine coracana</i> (L.) Gaertn.
Maize.....	<i>Zea mays</i> L.
Pearl millet.....	<i>Pennisetum</i> (L.) R.Br.
Rice.....	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L. (1)
Sorghum.....	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench.
Wheat.....	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> .
Wheat (pasta).....	<i>Triticum monococcum</i> L.

Part 2 — Crops with breeding program under voluntary certification

Bananas.....	<i>Musa</i> spp.
French beans	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.
Silver leaf desmodium.....	<i>Desmodium uncinatum</i>
Lupin.....	<i>Lupinus</i> spp.
Lucerne.....	<i>Medicago sativa</i> L.
Green leaf desmodium.....	<i>Desmodium intortum</i> (Miller).
Setaria.....	<i>Setaria</i> spp.
Congo signal.....	<i>Bracharia</i> spp.
Coloured guinea grass	<i>Panicum coloratum</i>

Pyrethrum.....	<i>Chrysanthemum</i> spp.
Cassava.....	<i>Manihot esculenta</i>
Sweetpotato.....	<i>Ipomeea batatas</i>
Kenaf.....	<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i> L.
Sesame.....	<i>Sesamun indicum</i> L.
Safflower.....	<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i> L.
Ground nut.....	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i> L.
Pigeon pea.....	<i>Cajanus cajan</i> .
Dolichos bean	<i>Dolichos lablab</i> L.
Cowpea.....	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i> (L.) Walp.
Chick peas.....	<i>Cicer arietinum</i> L.

Part 3 — Crops with no breeding program

Oats.....	<i>Avena sativa</i> L.
Rye.....	<i>Secale cereale</i> L.
Triticale.....	<i>Tricosecale Wittm.</i>
Broad beans.....	<i>Vicia faba</i> L.
Cluster bean	<i>Cyamopsis tetragonoloba</i> .
Pea.....	<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.
Common Vetch.....	<i>Vicia sativa</i> L.
Castor bean.....	<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.
Jajoba.....	<i>Simmondsia chinensis</i> .
Linseed	<i>Linum unitatissimum</i> L.
Oil seed rape.....	<i>Brassica napus</i> L.
Flax	<i>Linum usitatissimu</i> L.
Sisal.....	<i>Agave</i> spp.
Beet.....	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> L.
Turnip.....	<i>Brassica rapa</i> L.
Other flower species.....	<i>Liliaceae, Umbelliferae, Roses, etc</i>
Blue stem grass	<i>Andropogon</i> spp.
Buffel grass	<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> L.
Cock's foot.....	<i>Dactylic glomerata</i> .
Columbus grass.....	<i>Sorghum alnum</i>
Paspalum grass.....	<i>Paspalum gayanus</i>
Rye grass	<i>Lolium</i> spp.
Sudan.....	<i>Sorghum sudanense</i> .
Love grass.....	<i>Eragrostis</i> spp.
Bermuda grass.....	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> .
Butterfly pen.....	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> .
Centrosema.....	<i>Centrosema pubescens</i> Benth.
Clover.....	<i>Trifolium</i> spp.
Leucaena.....	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> .

The Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023

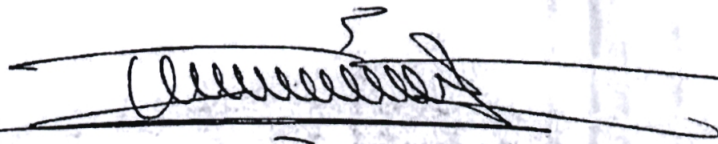
Siratro.....	<i>Macroptilium atropurpureum</i>
Stylosanthes.....	<i>Stylosanthes guianensis</i>
Amaranth.....	<i>Amaranthus</i> spp.
Artichoke.....	<i>Cynara scolymus</i> .
Asparagus.....	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i> .
Sugar beet	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> L.
Broccoli/cauliflower.....	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>botrytis</i> L.
Brussels sprouts	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>gemnifera</i>
Cabbage	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>capitata</i> L.
Cantaloupe/ Muskmelon	<i>Cucumis melo</i> L.
Carrot.....	<i>Daucus carota</i> L.
Celery / Celeriac	<i>Apium graveolens</i> L.
Chicory.....	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.
Chinese cabbage.....	<i>Brassica chinensis</i> L.
Chirvil.....	<i>Anthriscus cerefolium</i> .
Collards / Kale.....	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>ancephala</i> DC
Coriander.....	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>
Cucumber.....	<i>Cucumis sativus</i> L.
Dill.....	<i>Arethum graveolens</i> L.
Eggplants.....	<i>Solanum melongena</i> L.
Endive	<i>Cichorium endivia</i> L.
Garden cress.....	<i>Lespidium sativa</i> L.
Karella	<i>Cucumis</i> spp.
Kohlrabi	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>gongylodes</i> .
Leek	<i>Allium porrum</i> L.
Lettuce	<i>Lactuca sativa</i> .
Okra	<i>Hibiscus esculentus</i> L.
Onion.....	<i>Allium cepa</i> L.
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i> (Mill) Nym.
Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i> L.
Pea.....	<i>Pisum sativum</i> L. <i>Sensulato</i> .
Pepper.....	<i>Capsicum</i> spp.
Pumpkin/Squash/Courgette	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> L.
Radish	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> L.
Rhubarb	<i>Rheum rhaponticum</i> L.
Rutabaga.....	<i>Brassica napus</i> var. <i>napobrassica</i> L.
Spinach	<i>Spinacea oleracea</i> L.
Swiss chard.....	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> .
Tomato	<i>Solanum lycopersicon</i> .
Turnip	<i>Brassica rap</i> L.
Water cress	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i> Ribr.
Water melon.....	<i>Citrullus</i> spp.
Coconut.....	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> .

The Crops(Amendment) Bill, 2023

Cashewnut *Indigenous Vegetables.*
(*Blacknightshade, Spider plant, etc.*).
Guava.....*Psidium.*
Fruit trees (*Mangoes, Avocado, Citrus, Pawpaw, etc.*).
Miraa *catha edulis.*

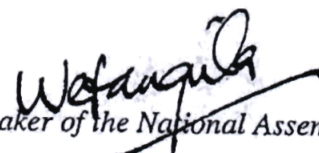
The Crops(Amendment) Bill, 2023

I certify that this printed impression is a true copy of the Bill passed by the National Assembly on Wednesday, 29th April, 2026.



Clerk of the National Assembly

Endorsed for presentation to the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 142 of the National Assembly.



Speaker of the National Assembly

PRINTED BY THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

JUSTICE

High Court nullifies Ruto's public debt audit taskforce

The High Court has declared unconstitutional President William Ruto's decision to establish a taskforce to conduct a forensic audit of Kenya's public debt, ruling that the team unlawfully duplicated the constitutional mandate of the Auditor General.

Justice Lawrence Mugambi, in his judgement, said President Ruto had no power to create a body that had an overlapping role to that of an independent constitutional office.

He declared Executive Order No.4 of 2024, unconstitutional and invalid. He dismissed the Attorney General's argument that the president was acting within his powers, as the team was allegedly to help the Executive in policy formulation and coordination.

In the case, Nakuru-based surgeon Gikari Magare and a Kenyan in the UK Eliud Matindi argued that auditing public debt is a constitutionally mandated function of the Auditor General, not a taskforce appointed by the Executive.

The Presidential Taskforce on Forensic Audit of Public Debt was appointed in June 2024. The taskforce was part of austerity measures following the President's withdrawal of the contentious Finance Bill 2024.

Its mandate was to audit public debt within 90 days and report back to the President. It would be chaired by Nancy Anyango and deputised by Prof Luis Nancyschi.

But the petitioners argued that: "The office of

the Auditor General is independent. Duplicating roles is a waste of scarce public resources since the taskforce will essentially be performing the roles of existing public offices, contrary to the constitution."

Law Society of Kenya (LSK) said it would not participate in the taskforce, arguing the move is unconstitutional as the mandate rests solely with the Auditor General. In a statement, the society said creation of the taskforce usurped the powers of the Auditor General under Article 229 of the Constitution.

The article requires the Auditor General to audit the public debt within six months after the end of each financial year, the LSK noted, citing a recent High Court ruling that affirmed the auditor's role in public audit matters.

"Taking cognisance of the provisions of Article 229 of the Constitution and the interpretation of the said provisions by the court, it is our considered view that the establishment of the taskforce is unconstitutional," the LSK said.

The team was to be led by Nancy Anyango while the Institute of Public Accountants of Kenya chair Philip Kaikai, former LSK president Faith Odhiambo, Institute of Engineers of Kenya president Shammah Kileme and Vincent Kimosop were tapped to serve as members of the taskforce. Dr Abraham Ruto and Dr Aaron Thegeya were to serve as joint secretaries.

[Kamau Murthoni]

Gachagua reveals his political wild card if impeachment stands

► Former DP says he has groomed youthful leaders to lead Mt Kenya if impeachment is upheld

► Praises John Methu and Edwin Sifuna as leaders of the future, insisting he is ready to sacrifice his own presidential ambitions for Opposition unity.

NDUNG'U GACHAGUA, NAIROBI

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has unveiled a political succession plan for the Mt Kenya region, saying he has groomed a team of youthful leaders to take over should the courts uphold his impeachment and bar him from contesting elective office ahead of the 2027 General Election.

He said he had established a clear leadership structure in Mt Kenya region that would never confuse his community in case he was out of the political game plan. He said the leadership structure he has established is made up of youthful leaders he had tremendous respect for.

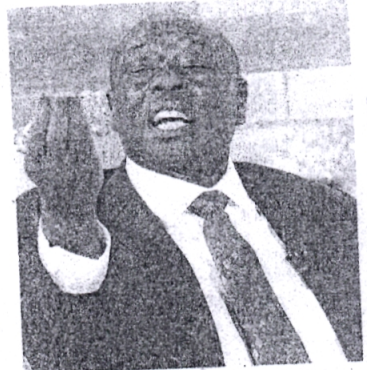
While heaping praise for Nyandarua Senator John Methu, whom he recently appointed as the designate secretary general for his Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) and the lead campaigner of the just-concluded Ol Kalou by-election, Gachagua said his youthful leaders were more lethal than him. "I have tremendous respect for the young people. I'm one serious leader who believes in our youth. If you look at the guys around me, they are all young. They delivered the win in Ol Kalou by-election," he said.

He said his decision to mentor the youthful leaders was aimed at correcting the mess he claimed former President Uhuru Kenyatta left in Mt Kenya region, saying he left a leadership gap when he exited office. "I've been mentoring young leaders within my region because I don't want a situation where we could be where President Uhuru left us. He did a lot for this country and we respect him for that. But on regional politics, there was one gap. He did not mentor anybody. I have decided, consciously, in consultation with the elders to prepare the leaders of tomorrow."

He said he was preparing one of the youthful leaders to either seek presidency or running mate position after getting wind that some allies of President William Ruto has been pressurising him to interfere with the court process to permanently bar him from seeking an elective office. "Most MPs from Mt Kenya have gone to Ruto asking him to interfere with the courts and make sure Gachagua is barred from ever running because 'if he runs he'll finish us,'" he said.

He added: "I have very bad news for you. I have young men and women who have come of age. In the unfortunate event that Ruto interferes with the court process and I'm barred from ever running, I have men and women ready to run. The community and I will agree to pick one and I can tell them those young people I have are more lethal than Gachagua."

He exuded confidence that in a contest between one of his allies and Ruto, the allies would garner more votes than the President, saying they were energetic and that the country was



DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua during an interview with KTN at his Karen home on Wednesday. [Kanyiri Wahtto, Standard]

craving for youthful leadership. "Even if today anything happened to me, I've established successfully a clear leadership structure that the community will never get confused. If I'm not there, they know who to pick and move on."

In what appears as his wild card in the event he was barred from running from office, Gachagua also praised Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, saying their match with Methu would trigger a revolution in the country. He encouraged Sifuna to pursue his political ambitions and not to be discouraged by those asking him to shelve his presidential ambitions over claims he was not ripe for Presidency. "Sifuna should not listen to that nonsense. He's above 18. The law says anybody above 18 can be president. He should pursue his dream. All dreams are valid. In fact that is one young man if given the opportunity would also like to mentor."

He said time had come for the country to embrace youth leadership who has for a long been told that they are leaders of tomorrow. "I believe the greatest resource for our country is our youthful population. We have got good leaders. They have no history of corruption. They are untainted. They are not tribal. They have no blood with anybody. They are not vengeful. We are short of actions."

Additionally, Gachagua reiterated his commitment of uniting with the Opposition lead in unseating Ruto next year, saying he was ready to sacrifice his ambitions for a united course.

"If I am not successful in that quest and colleagues persuade me otherwise that to remove Ruto, I need to give way to someone else, I will do so willingly and unconditionally and my supporters and I will support that son to a man."

"I don't even have to be anything today. Nobody. I don't have a salary. I don't have a position. I occupy no position. But I influence things in all matters. Every point of reference in this country. I'm answers me daily. I don't have to be anybody's influence change of government for the better. I am willing to sacrifice anything to bring change and governance in this country. I'm willing to sacrifice anything including my mental ambition to make sure Ruto is one."

Jgachane@standardmedia.co.ke

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT | FIFTH SESSION

THE SENATE

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA

THE CROPS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023 (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO. 8 OF 2023)

The Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bills No. 8 of 2023) was read a First Time in the Senate on 17th June, 2026 and thereafter stood committed to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries for consideration. The Committee is required, under Standing Order 145(5) of the Senate Standing Orders, to facilitate public participation on the Bill and to take into account the views and recommendations of the public when the Committee makes its report to the Senate.

The Bill seeks to amend the Crops Act, Cap. 318 by including Achioti (*Mrangifera*) – *Bixa orellana* in the First Schedule as a scheduled crop. The rationale is to recognize the economic potential of Achioti, a drought-resistant and pest-free crop introduced in Kenya's coastal region in the 1970s, whose seeds produce bixin, a natural dye widely used in food processing and cosmetics.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 118 of the Constitution and standing order 145(5) of the Senate Standing Orders, the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries now invites interested members of the public to submit any representations they may have on the Bill by way of written memoranda.

The memoranda may be submitted to the Clerk of the Senate, P.O. Box 41842-00100, Nairobi, hand-delivered to the Office of the Clerk of the Senate, Main Parliament Buildings, Nairobi or emailed to clerk.senate@parliament.go.ke and copied to agriculturecommittee.senate@parliament.go.ke to be received on or before Friday, 7th August, 2026 at 5.00 p.m.

The Bill and a digest that summarizes the contents and context of the Bill may be accessed on the Parliament website at <http://www.parliament.go.ke/the-senate/house-business/bills>.

Notes: This advert cancels and supersedes the advert on this subject matter that appeared on page 5 of the Daily Nation Newspaper and page 5 of the Standard Newspaper on Wednesday, 22nd July, 2026.

J. M. NYEGENYE, CBS,
CLERK OF THE SENATE.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



13TH PARLIAMENT | FIFTH SESSION

THE SENATE

DIRECTORATE OF LEGAL SERVICES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

**CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC VIEW RECEIVED ON THE CROPS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023 (NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY BILLS NO. 8 OF 2023)**

Clerk's Chambers,
The Senate,
First Floor, Parliament Buildings,
NAIROBI.

AUGUST, 2026

STAKEHOLDERS

1. Council of Governors – CoG
2. County Assemblies Forum – CAF
3. CAB International – CABI

No.	CLAUSE	STAKEHOLDER	PROPOSAL	RATIONALE	COMMITTEE
1.	General comment	Council of Governors	They support the inclusion of Achiote (Mrangi) in the First Schedule to the Crops Act.	No objection to the proposed amendment.	Accept the proposal. - The Committee notes that although Achiote was already recognized as a scheduled crop through gazette notice, this was under subsidiary legislation, which expires after ten years under Section 21 of the Statutory Instruments Act. By placing Achiote directly in the Crops Act,

No.	CLAUSE	STAKEHOLDER	PROPOSAL	RATIONALE	COMMITTEE
					Parliament makes its scheduled status permanent, immune from expiry, and backed by primary legislation.
2.	General Comment	County Assembly Forum	AFA be mandated to put in place comprehensive regulations providing for the development, handling, licensing, and export of Achiote (Mrangi) within six months of the adoption of the Committee report.	This will ensure the economic potential of the crop is fully realized.	Reject the proposal. regulations are already in place, specifically the Crops (Bixa) Regulations, 2025, which provide a framework for the crop's management and commercialization. The objects of these Regulations are to safeguard the quality and safety standards of bixa and its products; enhance productivity and

No.	CLAUSE	STAKEHOLDER	PROPOSAL	RATIONALE	COMMITTEE
					income of growers and other value chain actors; promote the growth and development of the bixa sub-sector; and attract investment opportunities while improving the efficiency of agribusiness services in the industry.
3.	General Comment	CAB International	They support the inclusion of Achiote (Mrangi) in the First Schedule to the Crops Act but ensure safeguards and standards are in place to maximize economic benefits while	- That global demand for Bixa orellana is rising, with potential benefits for Kenya's agricultural diversification, SME growth, and export competitiveness. - They argue that Kenya could position itself as a leading exporter if the crop is formally recognized and supported through breeding programs and commercial standards.	Accept proposal to include Achiote as a scheduled crop. - The Committee notes that Bixa orellana is already a scheduled crop under the Crops Act and that the Crops (Bixa) Regulations, 2025 provide the

No.	CLAUSE	STAKEHOLDER	PROPOSAL	RATIONALE	COMMITTEE
			minimizing ecological risks. • They propose that safeguards on weed risk assessment, agronomic research, pest control, and commercial quality standards be incorporated to ensure sustainable promotion and export competitiveness.		necessary regulatory framework to incorporate safeguards and quality standards.



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Westlands Delta House 2nd Floor, Waiyaki Way.
P.O. BOX 40401-00100,
Nairobi.

Tel: (020) 2403314, 2403313
E-mail: info@cog.go.ke

Ref: COG/6/48 VOL.73 (134)

4th August 2026

J.M Nyegenye, CBS
Clerk of the Senate
The Senate
Clerk's Chambers
NAIROBI

Dear Mr. Nyegenye,

SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA ON THE CROPS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023 (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO. 8 OF 2023)

Greetings from the Council of Governors.

We refer to your letter Ref. SEN/DSEC/SCA/CORR/07/2026/431 dated 31st July 2026 inviting the Council of Governors to submit comments on the Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The Council has reviewed the proposed amendment to the Crops Act, Cap. 318, which seeks to include **Achiote (Mrangi) – *Bixa orellana*** in the First Schedule as a scheduled crop.

In view of the above, we wish to inform you that the Council has **no objection** to the proposed amendment and supports the inclusion of Achiote (Mrangi) in the First Schedule to the Crops Act.

Please accept assurance of our highest esteem and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Mwiti, EBS
Chief Executive Officer



COUNTY ASSEMBLIES FORUM (CAF)

Flamingo Towers, 5th Floor Wing B, Mara Road, Upper Hill P.o Box 73552- 00200 Nairobi Kenya Tel: 0701 046 933
Email: communication@countyassembliesforum.org www.countyassembliesforum.org

MEMORANDUM ON THE CROPS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023 (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO. 8 OF 2023)

TO: Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye, CBS,
Clerk of the Senate, Parliament of Kenya.

FROM: County Assemblies Forum

DATE: 6th August 2026

SUBJECT: CAF Memorandum on the Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1. The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) is the coordinating body of the 47 County Assemblies in Kenya. The primary mandate of CAF is to promote networking and synergy among the 47 County Assemblies, coordinate intergovernmental relations and enhance good practice in legislative development. Our Mission is to provide effective leadership and coordination of the 47 County Assemblies and through policy and legislative action, promote a conducive working environment for all its members, and in that way deliver quality services to the people.
2. As a critical pillar of devolution, CAF is committed to legislative processes that strengthen the Agricultural capabilities of the people of Kenya.

2.0. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The primary objective of the Bill, as sponsored by Hon. Tandaza Kassim Sawa, MP, is to amend the First Schedule of the Crops Act (No. 16 of 2013) to formally recognise Achiot (Bixa Orellana) as a scheduled crop.
- 2.2. Achiot, locally known as "Mrangi", is a drought-resistant shrub primarily cultivated within the coastal regions of Kwale and Lamu.
- 2.3. The crop is of significant industrial value as its seeds produce bixin, the world's second most vital natural colorant, used extensively as a healthy alternative to synthetic dyes in the global food, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic sectors.
- 2.4. Current data indicates that Kenya produces approximately 1,500 tons of Achiot seeds annually and maintains a position as the second top exporter globally, given that larger producers like Brazil consume their output internally
- 2.5. Despite this potential, the sector has remained underutilised due to a historical lack of financial incentives, marketing support, and formal inclusion in the national agricultural framework.

3.0. CAF's POSITION

- 3.1. CAF Upon review of the extant legal framework, it is observed that the **Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives** has already exercised the powers conferred by **Section 7(2)** of the Crops Act to declare *Bixa Orellana* a scheduled crop. This



declaration was formalised via Gazette Notice No. 2164, dated 13 March 2020.

- 3.2. Further, It is noted that the sponsor of the Bill, Hon. Tandaza Kassim Sawa, informed the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock that he was unaware of the 2020 Gazette Notice at the time of drafting the legislation.
- 3.3. Notwithstanding the crop's status as a scheduled entity, the Committee established that no regulations currently exist to govern the development, handling, licensing, or export of Achiote.
- 3.4. In light of the above, CAF recommends that :-
 - a) We recommend that the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) be mandated to put in place comprehensive regulations providing for the development, handling, licensing, and export of Achiote (Mrangi)
 - b) These regulations should be established within six months of the adoption of the Committee report to ensure the economic potential of the crop is fully realized.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

HON. SETH MWATELA KAMANZA
CHAIRPERSON CAF

5 August 2026

J.M. Nyegenye, CBS
The Clerk of the Senate,
Clerk's Chambers
Parliament Buildings
P.O. Box 41842-00100,
NAIROBI, KENYA

Dear Mr. Nyegenye,

Re: Memorandum on the Crops (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (National Assembly Bill No.8 of 2023)

Compliments from CAB International (CABI).

In Kenya, the production and utilisation of Achiote (Mrangi) – *Bixa orellana*, which is currently considered a **minor specialty crop**, is low. However, demand is surging globally, driven by its growing use as a natural food colorant, in pharmaceuticals, and as a textile dye. The inclusion of *Bixa orellana* in the Scheduled crops under the Crops Act presents a significant opportunity for breeding advancements and the establishment of commercial-quality standards tailored to the crop. Currently, the absence of such standards makes production difficult and meeting quality requirements challenging.

The expansion of associated sectors, including nurseries for seedling cultivation and value-added Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) serving diverse markets, underscores the potential economic benefits of increased *Bixa orellana* production. Therefore, positioning Kenya as a leading exporter is a compelling rationale for the inclusion of Achiote (mrangi) – *Bixa orellana* as a horticultural crop in the First Schedule of Act No.16 of 2016; Part 3 – **Crops lacking a breeding program**. However, before capitalising on this opportunity, it is recommended that:

- A weed risk assessment (WRA) be done prior to its wider promotion in Kenya to ensure that there is no risk of *Bixa orellana* becoming invasive in the future, and if there are any risks, that there will be plans in place to mitigate them
- Immediate agricultural research be commissioned to delineate the crop's agronomic requirements and good agricultural production practices
- Measures be put in place to mitigate the risk of introducing highly destructive and invasive pests associated with *Bixa orellana* through importation of planting material
- Comprehensive commercial quality standards be established for *Bixa orellana* to facilitate production that meets the domestic and export quality standards.

We are honoured to have been invited to provide our input on the bill.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Daniel Karanja
Regional Director
CABI Africa

