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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- FIFTH SESSION - 2026

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

REPORT ON:

PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONGRESS HELD IN BOLOGNA, ITALY FROM 25TH TO 29TH MAY 2026:

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PAPERS LAID
DATE: 14 OCT 2026
DAY. WEDNESDAY
TABLED BY: MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK HON. SABINA CHEGE
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE: MIRIAM MOSO

CLERK'S CHAMBERS
DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI

OCTOBER, 2026

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADC	:	Agricultural Development Corporation
BETA	:	Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda
BGRI	:	Borlaug Global Rust Initiative
CBS	:	Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear
CSA	:	Climate-Smart Agriculture
GIS	:	Geographic Information System
HTP	:	High-Throughput Phenotyping
IFAD	:	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IOC	:	International Organizing Committee
IWC	:	International Wheat Congress
KABDP	:	Kenya Agricultural Business Development Project
KALRO	:	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation
KENAFF	:	Kenya National Farmers' Federation
KeLCOP	:	Kenya Livestock Commercialization Project
KEPHIS	:	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
KESAP	:	Kenya Society for Agricultural Professionals
KPI	:	Key Performance Indicator
MTP IV	:	Fourth Medium Term Plan
NARIGP	:	National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project
NARS	:	National Agricultural Research Systems
NAVCDP	:	National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project
NCPB	:	National Cereals and Produce Board
NOPEU	:	National Ordinary People Empowerment Union
NPT / NPTs	:	National Performance Trials
NRF	:	National Research Fund
NUE	:	Nitrogen Use Efficiency
ODM	:	Orange Democratic Movement
PCPB	:	Pest Control Products Board
R&D	:	Research and Development
TPP	:	Target Product Profile
UAV	:	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UDA	:	United Democratic Alliance

LIST OF ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Report Adoption Schedule

Annexure 2: Minutes

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

It is my pleasant privilege and distinct honor to present the Report of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock on the Committee's participation in the 4th International Wheat Congress (IWC4), which was held at the Bologna Congress Center in Italy from 25th to 29th May 2026.

The 4th International Wheat Congress represents the definitive global forum for scientific, agronomic and technological advancement in wheat production. Convened under the auspices of the Wheat Initiative and endorsed by the G20 Agricultural Ministers, this premier convention brought together leading global geneticists, agronomists and policymakers to design climate-resilient architectures for the world's most critical food security crop.

For Kenya, the strategic insights distilled from the IWC4 are not merely academic; they are urgent and critical. Our nation currently navigates a heavy, structurally unsustainable dependency on wheat imports, which exposes our domestic economy to volatile global supply chains, geopolitical shocks, and fluctuating foreign exchange reserves. Simultaneously, our domestic production faces compounding bottlenecks, including unseasonal thermal spikes, erratic rainfall patterns and rapidly mutating fungal pathogens that threaten smallholder livelihoods across primary grain-producing basins like Narok and Uasin Gishu.

During the intensive five-day proceedings, the Committee delegation systematically monitored and evaluated breakthroughs across three primary frontiers: next-generation pangenomics, digital precision agronomy and low-carbon value chain sustainability. We witnessed an international paradigm shift away from generic high-yield breeding toward engineering target environmental "ideotypes", crops specifically designed with modified root systems and programmed flowering dates to survive terminal droughts and acute heat stress.

The core objective of this report is to translate these global scientific milestones into practical, localized policy interventions. To protect our smallholders and insulate the national economy, the Committee has formulated recommendations, including directing the formulation of a unified *National Conservation Agriculture Policy*, digitizing our *National Performance Trials* via high-throughput phenotyping to slash seed-release timelines and re-engineering the *National Fertilizer Subsidy Programme* toward site-specific, regional nutrient blending.

On behalf of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for their unwavering logistical and technical support. I also express my deepest appreciation to the Honorable Members of the Committee and the Secretariat staff whose dedication and technical diligence guided the synthesis and production of this report.

It is now my pleasure to present this report, with the conviction that the swift implementation of its recommendations will modernize our regulatory infrastructure, build climate resilience and ultimately secure Kenya's domestic food sovereignty.

Hon. (Dr.) John Kanyuithia Mutunga, PhD, CBS, M.P.
Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock

1.0 PREFACE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1. This Report details the participation of the Committee in the 4th International Wheat Congress (IWC4), convened at the Bologna Congress Center in Italy from 25th to 29th May 2026. The forum represents the definitive global forum for scientific, agronomic and technological advancement in wheat production. Endorsed by the G20 Agricultural Ministers and organized under the auspices of the Wheat Initiative, this premier convention brought together leading geneticists, agronomists, breeders and policymakers to design climate-resilient architectures for the world's most critical food security crop. Chaired by Professor Roberto Tuberosa (University of Bologna) and Professor Rajeev Varshney (Murdoch University), the congress addressed the urgent theme of sustaining high-quality wheat yield under the compounding pressures of global warming, geopolitical supply chain vulnerabilities, and escalating input costs.

2. For Kenya, a country currently navigating a heavy structural dependency on wheat imports alongside severe domestic production bottlenecks, the strategic insights distilled from IWC4 are critical. The five-day proceedings detailed actionable transformations across three primary frontiers: next-generation genetic interventions, precision and digital agronomy and value chain sustainability and climate resilience.

3. This report synthesizes the core scientific milestones of the congress into practical policy interventions. The integration of these digital, agronomic, and biochemical breakthroughs into Kenya's national agricultural strategy is essential to insulate our smallholders from climate-induced crop failures, modernize regulatory infrastructure and ultimately secure domestic food sovereignty.

1.2 MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

4. The Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock is one of the twenty Departmental Committees of the National Assembly established under **Standing Order 216** whose mandate, among others, is ***"to investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned Ministries and departments"***

1.3 COMMITTEE SUBJECTS

5. The subject matter of the Committee is stated in the Second Schedule of the National Assembly Standing Orders and includes *agriculture, livestock, food production and marketing*.

6. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.

1.4 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

7. The Committee, initially constituted by the House on **27th October 2022** and reconstituted on 6th March 2025, brings together a diverse and experienced team of legislators entrusted with steering the nation's Agricultural and Livestock Policy oversight agenda. Its membership is as follows:

Chairperson
Hon. (Dr.) John Kanyuithia Mutunga, PhD, MP
Tigania West Constituency
UDA Party

Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Brighton Leonard Yegon, MP
Konoin Constituency
UDA Party

Members

Hon. Sabina Wanjiru Chege, CBS, MP
Nominated Member
Jubilee Party

Hon. Gabriel Gathuka Kagombe, MP
Gatundu South Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Ferdinand Kevin Wanyonyi, MP
Kwanza Constituency
Ford Kenya Party

Hon. Monicah Muthoni Marubu, MP
Lamu County
Independent Member

Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
Matayos Constituency
ODM Party

Hon. Patrick Kibagendi Osero, MP
Borabu Constituency
ODM Party

Hon. Justice Kipsang Kemei, MP
Sigowet/Soin Constituency
UDA Party

Hon. Yussuf Mohamed Farah, MP
Wajir West Constituency
ODM Party

Hon. Jared Odoyo Okelo, MP
Nyando Constituency
ODM Party

Hon. Ruth Adhiambo Odinga, MP .
Kisumu County
ODM Party

Hon. Lawrence Mpuru Aburi, MP
Tigania East Constituency
NOPEU Party

Hon. John Okwisia Makali, MP
Kanduyi Constituency
Ford Kenya Party

Hon. David Kiplagat, MP
Soi Constituency
UDA Party

1.5 COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

7. The Committee Secretariat, a dedicated team of technical officers, provides support to the Committee. It comprises the following staff:

Mr. Dennis Mogare Ogechi
Head of Secretariat / First Clerk Assistant

Mr. Victor K. Kilimo
Clerk Assistant III

Ms. Evelyne Orina
Clerk Assistant III

CPA Robert Ng'etich
Fiscal Analyst I

Mr. Shadrack Musyoki
Senior Research Officer

Mr. Gerald Kadede
Legal Counsel II

Mr. Calvin Karung'o
Media Relations Officer III

Mr. John Ng'ang'a
Audio Recording Officer

Ms. Jacinta Maru
Serjeant-at-Arms

1.6 COMMITTEE DELEGATION

8. The Committee's delegation to the 4th International Wheat Congress comprised of:
   1) Hon. (Dr.) John Kanywithia Mutunga, PhD, CBS, MP-Chairperson/Leader of Delegation
   2) Hon. Patrick Osero Kibagendi, MP -Member
   3) Mr. Dennis Mogare Ogechi -Delegation Secretary

2.0 PROCEEDINGS AT THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONGRESS

2.1 DAY ONE: MONDAY 25TH MAY 2026

9. The proceedings of Day One centred on sustainable cultivation systems, soil conservation, crop modelling, digital agriculture and mitigating the carbon footprint of the wheat value chain.

Opening Session

10. The congress opened with welcoming remarks from the institutional host and scientific organizers, setting the baseline for global collaborative R&D in the face of escalating climate shocks. Key opening figures included: Roberto Tuberosa (Conference Chair, Professor Emeritus, Università di Bologna), Rajeev Varshney (International Organizing Committee Chair, Murdoch University), Peter Langridge (Scientific Committee Chair, Wheat Initiative) and Silvia Lorenzini (General Director of Agriculture, Hunting, and Fishing of the Emilia-Romagna Region)

11. Further, there were opening keynote lectures which established the economic and pathological landscapes influencing modern wheat breeding:
    a) Philip Pardey (University of Minnesota, USA): Presented on the "New Realities of Agri-Food R&D Worldwide: Implications for Varietal Innovations in Wheat," mapping shifting global investment trends in agricultural R&D and how public-private partnerships dictate the speed of genetic gains.
    b) Beat Keller (University of Zurich, Switzerland): Delivered a presentation titled "Pathogen-Informed Strategies for Wheat Resistance Breeding," demonstrating how molecular surveillance of fungal pathogens can pre-emptively guide the stacking (pyramiding) of durable resistance genes in elite cultivars.

Session 1: Crop Management, Soil Conservation and Health

12. This session focused on field-level interventions, soil health and practical conservation agriculture metrics necessary to buffer cropping systems against moisture and thermal stress.

13. Regional Case Studies: Presentations highlighted large-scale implementations of conservation frameworks, including Morocco's strategic push toward 1 million hectares of conservation agriculture driven by Moussadek Rachid (INRA, Morocco), demonstrating empirical gains in soil organic matter and water-use efficiency under semi-arid conditions.

14. Agronomic Innovations: Presentations underscored changing tillage paradigms, localized nutrient management and soil microbiota enhancement to build baseline ecosystem resilience before genetic interventions are introduced.

Session 2: Phenomics, Enviromics, Crop Modeling and Digital Agriculture

15. The afternoon session transitioned to digital frontiers, exploring how multi-scale data assimilation can optimize breeding choices and farm-level decision-making.

16. Andries Potgieter (QAAFI, Australia): Opened with "The Digital Wheat Revolution for More Resilient Wheat Production," demonstrating how remote sensing, drone-based high-throughput phenotyping, and machine learning can map spatial crop variability and optimize predictive phenotypic selections.

17. Jean-Pierre Cohan (ARVALIS, France): Detailed methodologies for "Predicting Wheat Yield and Production: Considering Climate Change Effects," isolating key multi-spectral parameters required to accurately forecast localized regional yields amid erratic seasonal weather.

18. Senthold Asseng (Technical University of Munich, Germany): Discussed "Crop Model-Guided Traits for Global Adaptation to Climate Warming," using mechanistic crop simulations to identify ideal target traits (ideotypes), such as modified anthesis dates or deeper root architecture, capable of mitigating extreme heat stress.

19. Pierre Martre (INRAE, France): Concluded with a global analysis on "Global Needs for Nitrogen Fertilizer to Improve Wheat Yield Under Climate Change," balancing the strict requirement for higher grain protein content with environmental sustainability targets.

Session 3: Carbon Footprint and Satellite Monitoring

20. This session addressed the environmental impact of the wheat supply chain and mechanisms for rigorous compliance monitoring.

21. Value Chain Analysis: Tobias Schuhmacher (Germany) mapped the "CO2-footprint of the Wheat Value Chain from Farmers to Mills and Bakers," quantifying downstream processing emissions and discussing strategies for decarbonizing the grain processing sector.

22. Smallholder & Subcontinental Dynamics: Netrananda Sahu (University of Delhi, India) provided crucial data on the "Carbon Footprints and Dynamics of Wheat Farming in India," analyzing the trade-offs between intensive irrigation/fertilization regimes in the Indo-Gangetic Plains and national greenhouse gas mitigation goals.

23. Satellite Verification: Papers in this segment explored the scaling up of satellite-based remote sensing to track tillage, crop residue cover, and real-time nitrogen uptake, providing automated, verifiable reporting metrics for carbon-credit verification and sustainable farming compliance.

2.2 DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 26TH MAY 2026

24. The core themes on day two included: genetic reservoirs, wild relatives and functional genomics

25. Session 4 (Exploring Wheat Diversity, Evolution & Genetic Reservoirs): Chaired by Anna Maria Mastrangelo (CREA, Italy) and Zhiyong Liu (Chinese Academy of Sciences). Key focus centered on expanding the narrow genetic base of elite commercial bread wheat (Triticum aestivum) and durum wheat (Triticum durum). Discussions isolated mechanisms to introgress (transfer) novel landrace alleles and wild relatives (such as Aegilops species) to combat emerging evolutionary biotypes of diseases.

26. Session 5 & 6 (Wheat Genomes, Pangenomes & Functional Genomics): Presenters showcased the shift from single-reference genomes to multi-cultivar pangenomes. This structural genomic charting maps exact structural variants (SVs), copy number variations and functional gene networks responsible for complex agronomic traits.

27. Panel Discussion (Limiting Pesticide Use): Evaluated host plant resistance as a direct substitute for chemical fungicides, matching international regulatory pressures to decrease ecological pesticide footprints.

2.3 DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 27TH MAY 2026

28. The core themes on day three included: innovative breeding pipelines & abiotic stress adaptations.

29. Session 7 (Innovative Wheat Breeding): Chaired by Susanne Dreissigacker (CIMMYT, Mexico) and Curtis Pozniak (University of Saskatchewan, Canada).

30. Eduard Akhunov (Kansas State University, USA) presented "Historical genomics of host-pathogen interaction in wheat," charting the co-evolution of wheat and devastating rust pathogens using historical genomic datasets to guide predictive resistance stack designs.

31. Session 8 (Developing Climate-Smart Wheat for Abiotic Stresses): Focused heavily on matching heat, drought, and salinity stresses. Presentations broke down functional physiological traits including root system architecture (RSA) alterations, stomatal conductance under thermal shock, and biochemical osmotic adjustments.

32. Panel Discussion (International Collaboration): Addressed the global sharing of pre-breeding material and standard material transfer agreements under international treaties to accelerate genetic gains.

2.4 DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, 28TH MAY 2026

33. The core themes on day four included technical tours and practical agro-industrial insights.

34. Day Four moved out of the convention center into field-level reality, highlighting the operational implementation of circular agronomy, centralized genebanks, and large-scale grain processing networks across northern Italy.

2.5 DAY FIVE: FRIDAY, 29TH MAY 2026

35. The core themes on day five were pathology, quality, human health and future horizon architecture.

36. Session 9 (Dissecting Wheat-Pathogen & Pest Interactions): Targeted the molecular pathways of rusts (Puccinia spp.) and Fusarium head blight. Special attention was paid to multi-race resistance stacking to avoid single-gene breakdowns.

37. Session 10 (Wheat Quality, Processing, Nutrition & Human Health): Addressed evolving consumer nutritional expectations. Presentations highlighted reducing allergenic protein fragments while enhancing dietary fiber, zinc and iron densities directly within the grain endosperm.

38. Closing Plenary & Awards: The International Organizing Committee (IOC) presented the Nazareno Strampelli Award 2026 and the Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum (WIT) Early Career Awards, **notably recognizing Kenyan scientist Bernice Ngina Waweru** for exceptional research linking advanced tools with practical field-level wheat improvement.

39. Strategic Handover: Formally announced the hosting frameworks for IWC5 (2028) and IWC6 (2030). Building upon the multi-environment and public-private partnership models highlighted at IWC4, the 2028 framework was structured to further advance translational genomics and practical target environment selections. The IWC6 planning architecture specifically targets long-range 2030 sustainability markers, emphasizing artificial intelligence in global wheat databases, automated bio-surveillance, and carbon-neutral value chain metrics.

4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

40. The delegation, having systematically evaluated the technical proceedings and plenary discourses, makes the following observations to contextualize the advanced scientific breakthroughs into the realities of Kenyan agriculture:

1) **Soil health and conservation agriculture scale-up:** Long-term data presented by the French Syppre network and Morocco's large-scale initiative (targeting 1 million hectares) demonstrated that combining minimal tillage, continuous soil cover and diversified rotations builds baseline climate resilience in semi-arid environments. This approach stabilizes yields in transition zones without requiring expensive chemical inputs.

2) **Digital agronomy and early-stage crop yield forecasting:** High-throughput phenotyping (HTP), unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) remote sensing and early vegetative "spectral fingerprinting" are transitioning from pure research into national regulatory infrastructures. These tools enable accurate yield forecasting and rapid processing for new variety approvals.

3) **Precision nutrient management and fertilizer efficiency:** Congress presentations emphasized that maximizing Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) through precise, phenology-aligned application schedules protects soil microbiomes and reduces input waste while maintaining high grain protein content.

4) **Climate-guided crop ideotypes and varietal development:** Global crop modeling simulations demonstrated that adjusting to climate warming requires breeding specific "ideotypes", varieties with targeted traits such as modified flowering dates to avoid heat stress or deeper root architectures for moisture capture.

5) **Carbon footprint and value chain sustainability:** Structural analysis of the wheat supply chain highlighted that tracking and minimizing carbon and ecological footprints from farm to mill is becoming an international market standard. Verifiable remote-sensing frameworks are now used globally to track compliance.

6) **Fundamental paradigm shift in agricultural biotechnology:** Single-reference genomes are no longer enough to protect crops, forcing global breeding networks to switch to pangenomics to trace complex pest and disease resistance . Scientists agree that breeding traits from wild crop relatives into commercial seeds is now essential to give crops long-term, lasting protection against fast-evolving fungal diseases.

7) **Fungal pathogen dynamics are mutating faster due to altered ambient humidity profiles:** Climate-driven shifts in ambient humidity are accelerating fungal pathogen mutations and somatic hybridization, rapidly breaking down single-gene crop resistance . These volatile microclimates enable aggressive fungal lineages to make swift geographical incursions and bypass established biosecurity barriers, requiring a shift toward multi-race genetic stacking

8) **A Kenyan scientist, Ms. Bernice Ngina Waweru, was part of a team that was conferred the 2026 Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum (WIT) Early Career Award:** This is evidence that domestic scientific talent is performing at global standards of excellence in crop biosecurity and translational research.

5.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

41. The Committee, having considered the proceedings and subsequent observations by the delegation, makes the following recommendations to translate the global scientific milestones into interventions within Kenya's agricultural ecosystem:

1) The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development should formulate, publish and lay before the National Assembly a National Conservation Agriculture Policy and Implementation Framework.

2) The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) should develop, publish and present to the National Assembly a comprehensive Technical Roadmap and Implementation Blueprint for incorporating high-throughput digital phenotyping (HTP) into the National Performance Trials (NPT) framework with a view to reducing the time required to evaluate and release climate-resilient wheat varieties to Kenyan farmers.

3) The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, through the National Fertilizer Subsidy Programme, should issue a policy shift away from the procurement and distribution of uniform, generic fertilizers toward site-specific, soil-blended crop nutrients customized by regional agricultural zones.

4) The Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), in coordination with the State Department for Agriculture, should establish a commercial pilot framework for "Green Wheat Agro-Industrial Clusters" on a combined minimum acreage of 10,000 acres of public land across its holdings. These clusters can serve as national demonstration farms for low-carbon, high-efficiency wheat production, setting standard benchmarks for the domestic milling and baking industries.

5) The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development should reform the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) framework, legally anchoring public seed-development pipelines around localized Target Environment Typologies (TETs) to address climate volatility in primary wheat-producing basins. The selection protocols should be optimized specifically for heat-stress survival during the critical anthesis (flowering) and grain-filling phases, ensuring terminal droughts do not cause total crop failure.

6) The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), in coordination with the State Department for Agriculture, should establish and operationalize an automated, GIS-Mapped Epidemiological Disease Surveillance Framework along designated high-risk agricultural corridors in order to track migratory rust strains in real-time.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
RECEIVED
DATE: 14 OCT 2026
DAY
AFTERNOON
TABLED BY: MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK HON. SABINA CHEGE
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE: MIRIAM MOSO

SIGNED: ..... **DATE:** 14th October 2026

HON. (DR.) JOHN KANYUITHIA MUTUNGA, PhD, CBS, MP
LEADER OF DELEGATION / CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Annexure 1: Report Adoption Schedule

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - FIFTH SESSION - 2026

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

ADOPTION SCHEDULE

We, the undersigned Honorable Members of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock today, Tuesday, 13th October 2026 do hereby affix our signatures to this **Report on the Participation in the International Wheat Congress held in Bologna, Italy from 25th to 29th May, 2026** to affirm our approval and confirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity:

S/NO.	NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	HON. (DR.) JOHN KANYUITHIA MUTUNGA, PhD, CBS, MP - **CHAIRPERSON**	
2.	HON. BRIGHTON LEONARD YEGON, CBS, MP- **VICE-CHAIRPERSON**	
3.	HON. SABINA WANJIRU CHEGE, CBS, MP	
4.	HON. FERDINAND KEVIN WANYONYI, MP	
5.	HON. GEOFFREY MAKOKHA ODANGA, MP	
6.	HON. JUSTICE KIPSANG KEMEI, MP	
7.	HON. JARED ODOYO OKELO, MP	
8.	HON. LAWRENCE MPURU ABURI, MP	
9.	HON. DAVID KIPLAGAT, MP	
10.	HON. GABRIEL GATHUKA KAGOMBE, MP	
11.	HON. MONICAH MUTHONI MARUBU, MP	
12.	HON. PATRICK KIBAGENDI OSERO, MP	
13.	HON. YUSSUF MOHAMED FARAH, MP	
14.	HON. JOHN OKWISIA MAKALI, MP	
15.	HON. RUTH ADHIAMBO BUSIA ODINGA, MP	

Annexure 2: Minutes

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - FIFTH SESSION - 2026

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

MINUTES OF THE 49TH SITTING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 11, 2ND FLOOR, BUNGE TOWER ON TUESDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2026 AT 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT

1. Hon. (Dr.) John Kanyuithia Mutunga, PhD, CBS, MP - **Chairperson**
2. Hon. Brighton Leonard Yegon, CBS, MP - **Vice-Chairperson**
3. Hon. Sabina Wanjiru Chege, CBS, MP
4. Hon. Justice Kipsang Kemei, MP
5. Hon. Patrick Kibagendi Osero, MP
6. Hon. Yussuf Mohamed Farah, MP
7. Hon. Monicah Muthoni Marubu, MP
8. Hon. Ruth Adhiambo Busia Odinga, MP
9. Hon. John Okwisa Makali, MP

APOLOGIES

1. Hon. Ferdinand Kevin Wanyonyi, MP
2. Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
3. Hon. Jared Odoyo Okelo, MP
4. Hon. Lawrence Mpuru Aburi, MP
5. Hon. David Kiplagat, MP
6. Hon. Gabriel Gathuka Kagombe, MP

IN ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

1. Mr. Dennis Ogechi	Clerk Assistant I/Head of the Secretariat
2. Mr. Victor K. Kilimo	Clerk Assistant III
3. Ms. Evelyn Orina	Clerk Assistant III
4. Mr. Shadrack Musyoki	Senior Research Officer
5. Mr. Gerald Kadede	Legal Counsel II
6. Mr. Calvin Karungo	Media Relations Officer
7. Ms. Jacinta Maru	Assistant Serjeant-at-Arms II

AGENDA

1. Prayers
2. Preliminaries/Adoption of the Agenda
3. Communication from the Chair
4. Confirmation of Minutes
5. Consideration and Adoption of:

a) **Consideration and adoption of the Report on the Pest Control Products Bill (NA Bill No. 48 of 2025).**
b) **Consideration and adoption of the Report on Proposed Nuts and Oil Crops Bill 2025.**
c) **Consideration and adoption of the Report on the Participation in the International Wheat Congress held in Bologna, Italy from 25th to 29th May, 2026.**

6. Adjournment/Date of the Next Sitting

MIN. NO. NA/A&L/2026/242: PRELIMINARIES

The meeting commenced at 10.29 a.m. with the Chairperson calling the meeting to order and praying.

The agenda of the meeting was adopted, having been proposed by Hon. Justice Kipsang Kemei, MP and seconded by Hon. Yussuf Mohamed Farah, MP.

MIN. NO. NA/A&L/2026/243: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Confirmation of the minutes was deferred.

MIN. NO. NA/A&L/2026/244: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS BILL (NA BILL NO. 48 OF 2025)

The Committee adopted the report on the Pest Control Products Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 48 of 2025) having been proposed by the Hon. Ruth Adhiambo Busia Odinga, MP and seconded by the Hon. Yussuf Mohamed Farah, MP.

The report was adopted with the following observations and recommendation:

Observations

1) The Pest Control Products Act (Cap. 346) was enacted in 1982, predates the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and the State Corporations Act, and no longer provides for body corporate status or addresses highly hazardous pesticides, biological pest control, digital licensing, climate change and integrated pest management. The existing framework is therefore obsolete and justifies a modern, science-based statute.
2) The majority of the stakeholders, including the Pest Control Products Board, the Council of Governors, the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service, the Ministry of Health, aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya and Nature Kenya, supported the enactment of the Bill subject to specific amendments.
3) The National Environment Management Authority raised extensive concerns that the Bill duplicates functions already provided under the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (Cap. 387), particularly sections 94, 97, 99 and 100, and the Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2020. The Committee acknowledged these overlaps and proposed consequential amendments to the relevant sections of that Act to cure them.
4) Several proposals followed the enactment of the Food and Feed Safety Control Coordination Act, No. 21 of 2026, which commenced on 10th July 2026 and recognises the Board as a competent authority. The Committee adopted the related amendments on the role of the Controller and the multi-annual control plan as consequential to that Act.

5) The Kenya Bureau of Standards sought to anchor standards to the Standards Act (Cap. 496) and to secure a seat on the Board of Directors. The Committee adopted the anchoring of standards to the Standards Act. It resolved the representation concern by including the Bureau, the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service, the National Environment Management Authority and other relevant bodies in the Technical Advisory Committee under Clause 27(8) rather than on the Board.
6) The Council of Governors sought to assign licensing, certification and waste disposal functions to county governments under the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution. The Committee rejected most of these proposals and held that product registration, certification, the enforcement of standards and the disposal of hazardous materials are national functions of the Authority. It adopted provisions for cooperation between the two levels of government and for the consultation of counties in research and local innovation.
7) The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization sought a stronger role for research institutions. The Committee made pre-registration and post-registration studies mandatory and required the Authority to evaluate products in collaboration with research institutions.
8) Several technical proposals, including hazard-based cut-off criteria for highly hazardous pesticides, a fast-track pathway for biological inputs, restrictions on the import of pesticides banned abroad, open-access registries and extended producer responsibility, concerned matters of detail. The Committee found that these belong in subsidiary regulations rather than the primary legislation.
9) The Committee reviewed the penalties in the Bill to ensure they are commensurate with the offences. It adopted amendments to criminalise the sale of unregistered products, to deter the poisoning of protected wildlife and to allow members of the public to report pesticide misuse to the Authority.
10) The Bill operationalizes constitutional rights, including the right to a clean and healthy environment, consumer protection and the right to food. It also aligns Kenya's regulatory regime with the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Conventions and with the country's obligations under the World Trade Organization.

Recommendation

The Committee recommended that the House **approves the Bill**, subject to the incorporation of the amendments set out in the Schedule of Proposed Amendments under Chapter 7.0 of the Report.

MIN. NO. NA/A&L/2026/245: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON PROPOSED NUTS AND OIL CROPS BILL 2025

The Committee adopted the report on the proposed Nuts and Oil Crops Bill, 2025 by the Hon. Owen Yaa Baya, M.P. having been proposed by the Hon. Yussuf Mohamed Farah, MP and seconded by the Hon. Ruth Adhiambo Busia Odinga, MP.

The report was adopted with the following observations and recommendations:

Observations

1) The nuts and oil crops subsector is a critical driver of Kenya's agricultural economy, contributing approximately KES 28.9 billion in 2025 across 13 scheduled crops. However, domestic edible oil production remains severely underdeveloped, forcing the country to import over 95% of its edible oil requirements at an annual cost exceeding KES 100 billion (KES 128.7 billion in 2025).
2) The Committee observed that a dedicated Nuts and Oil Crops Development Board can be reconciled with the public sector reform objectives under Kenya Vision 2030, the

Government's State Corporations Rationalization Programme. Parliament has already reinstated standalone boards for tea, coffee and sugar, which demonstrates that targeted regulation of a strategic crop coexists with the rationalization agenda. The Committee observed that structuring the Research Institute as the technical arm of the Board, as the Ministry proposed, removes the risk of duplicated mandates and administrative overhead.

3) The Committee observed that the existing framework under the Crops Act (Cap. 318), the Agriculture and Food Authority Act (Cap. 317), and the Crops (Nuts and Oil Crops) Regulations, 2020 (Legal Notice No. 164 of 2020) has not delivered development of the subsector. The Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate (NOCD) operates within an omnibus authority whose priorities have favoured tea, coffee and sugar, leaving oil and nut value chains with inadequate financing, weak extension support and stagnant research. A dedicated statutory framework therefore responds to a demonstrated market failure rather than duplicating an effective regulator. The reinstatement of standalone boards for tea, coffee and sugar confirms that specialized regulation does not fragment agricultural governance.
4) The Committee observed that the devolution concerns under the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution are addressable through the amendments proposed by the Ministry and the Kenya Law Reform Commission. Clause 20 already assigns localized crop development, pest control, local market infrastructure and nursery registration to county governments. The proposed new Clause 35(2) empowers county governments to appoint county crop inspectors, which aligns the Bill with devolved agricultural functions. Confining the national Board to national licensing and levy administration preserves county revenue rights under Article 209(4) and the constitutional separation of the two levels of government.
5) The Committee observed that the concerns regarding Clauses 37, 26 and 31 are curable through targeted drafting rather than through rejection of the Bill. The search and seizure powers under Clause 37 can be amended to require a court-sanctioned warrant, which safeguards the rights to privacy and property under Articles 31 and 40 of the Constitution. The appeals mechanism can establish an independent, low-cost administrative tribunal before recourse to the High Court, which secures access to justice for smallholder farmers under Article 47.
6) The Committee observed that the financing concern is curable by incorporating a statutory commodity cess modelled on Malaysia's Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) Act, 1998 and Ghana's Tree Crops Development Authority (TCDA) Act, 2019. A dedicated cess would make the Board self-sustaining, ring-fence subsector revenue for research and extension, and reduce reliance on the exchequer, which aligns the Bill with Cabinet Press Release Issue No. 1 of 2025. The subsector already generates an estimated KES 13 billion in import levies and related fees, which can finance the new institutions without additional exchequer allocations.

Recommendations

1. The legislative proposal should be progressed to publication, subject to the incorporation of the clause-by-clause amendments proposed by the Office of the Attorney General, the Kenya Law Reform Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.

2. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development should work with the sponsor during the publication process to incorporate a self-sustaining commodity cess, structure the Nuts and Oil Crops Research Institute as the technical arm of the Board, align both bodies with the State Corporations Act and Mwongozo, and safeguard devolved county functions, so as to drive subsector development, local value addition and edible oil import substitution.

MIN. NO. NA/A&L/2026/246: **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONGRESS HELD IN BOLOGNA, ITALY FROM 25TH TO 29TH MAY, 2026**

The Committee adopted the report on the Participation in the International Wheat Congress held in Bologna, Italy from 25th to 29th May 2026 having been proposed by the Hon. Patrick Kibagendi Osero, MP and seconded by the Hon. Ruth Adhiambo Busia Odinga, MP.

The report was adopted with the following observations and recommendations:

Observations

1) Soil health and conservation agriculture scale-up: Long-term data presented by the French Syppre network and Morocco's large-scale initiative (targeting 1 million hectares) demonstrated that combining minimal tillage, continuous soil cover and diversified rotations builds baseline climate resilience in semi-arid environments. This approach stabilizes yields in transition zones without requiring expensive chemical inputs.
2) Digital agronomy and early-stage crop yield forecasting: High-throughput phenotyping (HTP), unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) remote sensing and early vegetative "spectral fingerprinting" are transitioning from pure research into national regulatory infrastructures. These tools enable accurate yield forecasting and rapid processing for new variety approvals.
3) Precision nutrient management and fertilizer efficiency: Congress presentations emphasized that maximizing Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) through precise, phenology aligned application schedules protects soil microbiomes and reduces input waste while maintaining high grain protein content.
4) Climate-guided crop ideotypes and varietal development: Global crop modeling simulations demonstrated that adjusting to climate warming requires breeding specific "ideotypes", varieties with targeted traits such as modified flowering dates to avoid heat stress or deeper root architectures for moisture capture.
5) Carbon footprint and value chain sustainability: Structural analysis of the wheat supply chain highlighted that tracking and minimizing carbon and ecological footprints from farm to mill is becoming an international market standard. Verifiable remote-sensing frameworks are now used globally to track compliance.
6) Fundamental paradigm shift in agricultural biotechnology: Single-reference genomes are no longer enough to protect crops, forcing global breeding networks to switch to pangenomics to trace complex pest and disease resistance. Scientists agree that breeding traits from wild crop relatives into commercial seeds is now essential to give crops long term, lasting protection against fast-evolving fungal diseases.
7) Fungal pathogen dynamics are mutating faster due to altered ambient humidity profiles: Climate-driven shifts in ambient humidity are accelerating fungal pathogen mutations and somatic hybridization, rapidly breaking down single-gene crop resistance. These volatile microclimates enable aggressive fungal lineages to make swift geographical incursions and bypass established biosecurity barriers, requiring a shift toward multi-race genetic stacking
8) A Kenyan scientist, Ms. Bernice Ngina Waweru, was part of a team that was conferred the 2026 Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum (WIT) Early Career Award: This is

evidence that domestic scientific talent is performing at global standards of excellence in crop biosecurity and translational research.

Recommendations

1) The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development should formulate, publish and lay before the National Assembly a National Conservation Agriculture Policy and Implementation Framework.
2) The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) should develop, publish and present to the National Assembly a comprehensive Technical Roadmap and Implementation Blueprint for incorporating high-throughput digital phenotyping (HTP) into the National Performance Trials (NPT) framework with a view to reducing the time required to evaluate and release climate-resilient wheat varieties to Kenyan farmers.
3) The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, through the National Fertilizer Subsidy Programme, should issue a policy shift away from the procurement and distribution of uniform, generic fertilizers toward site-specific, soil-blended crop nutrients customized by regional agricultural zones. The Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), in coordination with the State Department for Agriculture, should establish a commercial pilot framework for "Green Wheat Agro-Industrial Clusters" on a combined minimum acreage of 10,000 acres of public land across its holdings. These clusters can serve as national demonstration farms for low-carbon, high-efficiency wheat production, setting standard benchmarks for the domestic milling and baking industries.
4) The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development should reform the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) framework, legally anchoring public seed development pipelines around localized Target Environment Typologies (TETs) to address climate volatility in primary wheat-producing basins. The selection protocols should be optimized specifically for heat-stress survival during the critical anthesis (flowering) and grain-filling phases, ensuring terminal droughts do not cause total crop failure.
5) The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), in coordination with the State Department for Agriculture, should establish and operationalize an automated, GIS Mapped Epidemiological Disease Surveillance Framework along designated high-risk agricultural corridors in order to track migratory rust strains in real-time.

MIN. NO. NA/A&L/2026/247: ADJOURNMENT / DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 12.03 p.m. The next meeting would be held on Thursday, 15th October 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

SIGNED: ..... **DATE:** 14/10/2026

HON. (DR.) JOHN KANYUITHIA MUTUNGA, PhD, CBS, MP
CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK