

# Nakuru Agricultural Show 2012

**N**akuru Annual ASK Show was held on 4th to 8th July 2012. It was officially opened by the show patron His Excellency, President Mwai Kibaki.

The President's was accompanied by key government officials including Agriculture minister Hon Dr. Sally Kosgei, Livestock Development minister Hon. Mohamed Abdi Kuti, Agriculture PS Dr. Romano Kiome, Acting Head of Civil Service and Secretary to the Cabinet Mr. Francis Kimemia, State House Comptroller Prof Nick Wanjohi and Lee Kinyanjui among other entourage.

The President encouraged Kenyans to take advantage of agricultural shows countrywide to learn new technologies and build lasting bridges to increase production and incomes.

With regard to horticulture farming, he said the government was investing Shs 560 million in Rift Valley region in the next three years and urged farmers to invest more in horticultural crops.

He lauded this year's ASK theme: Enhancing technology in agriculture and industry for food security and

national growth, which he said, fitted well with Vision 2030 blueprint.

He called on Kenyans to adopt and promote the use and application of technologies in production, agro-processing, and manufacturing to industrialize the country and therefore create employment and investment opportunities for the youth. "This is critical because agriculture remains the most important sector for the growth of our economy and for the livelihoods of most of our people. It is for this reason that, even as we invest more in social sectors, we have to keep in mind that we need better educated and healthy people so that they can be more productive." The president said.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Sally Kosgei called on the government to respect the Maputo declaration by allocating ten per cent of its national budget to the agriculture sector, in its war to fight hunger and poverty. She pointed out that during the last financial year; the ministry was allocated eight per cent, but dropped to 2.6% this financial year, putting a strain on the



implementation of its programmes. "Despite the limited budgetary allocation, my ministry is implementing food security programmes, Economic Stimulus Programme and the promotion of traditional food crops such as millets, sorghums and root crops", the minister said.

Among those who showcased, included Amiran K. Ltd, Elgon Kenya, Everris, Holman Brothers, Kenya seed, Horticultural Crop Development Authority, Kenya Agricultural Research Institute and Equity Bank Among others. It was a well attended show.

