



OPERALIZATION OF MSEA COLD STORAGE AND PROCESSING FACILITIES THROUGH BROADBASED PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

Nairobi Tuesday, 26/03/2025. The Micro Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA) has today formalised a broad-based operationalization partnership with Kenya Development Corporation (KDC) Director General, Ms. Norah Ratemo, House of Procurement General Manager David Wayiera and Africa Mega Agri Corp CEO Samuel Mutisya marking a significant step towards enhancing three cold storage facilities in Meru, Kisii and Nyandarua Counties for small-scale farmers. Present in the meeting was Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Product Design Manager David Chesire and MSEA management team.

MSEA CEO Mr. Henry Rithaa highlighted the Authority's structured economic facilities designed to directly benefit farmers. He emphasized the government's role in facilitating private sector investment in cold storage facilities across Kisii, Nyandarua, and Meru counties. With farmers often forced to sell their produce at half price due to inadequate storage and an estimated 33% of crop such as potatoes being lost at the post-harvest stage. This initiative aims to address these challenges by providing modern storage solutions. He underscored the importance of technology in transforming agriculture, helping farmers improve productivity and earnings. He noted that county aggregation centres will play a crucial role in organizing farmers and linking them to markets. Additionally, he outlined MSEA's key initiatives supporting core investments through KJET, with the government providing 70% financing for acquisition of machinery to support value addition at the cottage industry level. He also highlighted NYOTA, a youth grant program set to run over the next five years to promote youth participation in agribusiness

'I call on all the manufacturers and financial institutions to develop tailored products to support the MSE's ecosystem, with over 215 CIDC's, MSEA supports primary value addition at the cottage level, and this feeds into the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks ecosystem, said Mr. Rithaa.

House of Procurement, Manager David Wayiera confirmed their company's expertise in procurement, supply chain and operationalization of cold storages. 'With CropSoko, our implementing partners, we will utilise their strong presence on the ground and digital infrastructure to enhance markets linkages for the farmers produce; Said Mr Waiyera

Africa Mega Agri Corp CEO, Mr. Mutisya reaffirmed his company's commitment to expanding opportunities for farmers by facilitating both local and international market access, leveraging the Company's trade relations with external markets such as Dubai. The company currently supports 23 counties in aggregation and value creation, helping farmers secure better market linkages and competitive prices for their produce.

KDC CEO Ms Ratemo reiterated the corporation's support for industrial investments, particularly in reducing post-harvest losses. She emphasized the importance of providing machinery and financial solutions beyond aggregation, encouraging investors to focus on value addition. She also congratulated MSEA on this initiative and expressed hope that other counties will adopt similar models to benefit small-scale farmers. KCB and KDC will play a key role in extending financial products tailored to the operationalization of the cold



storage facilities such as the credit support program for SMEs provided by KDC in partnering with India's Exim Bank and the KCB Retailer Finance product.

The partnership represents a major step toward building a sustainable agricultural ecosystem where farmers, investors, and financial institutions collaborate to enhance productivity, market access, and economic growth.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About (MSEA)

The Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA) is a state corporation established under the Micro and Small Enterprises Act of 2012. The Authority is domiciled in the Ministry of Cooperatives and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development.