Rural finance takes centre stage at World Food Day celebrations in Laikipia

LAIKIPIA COUNTY — Access to finance, agricultural innovation and stronger partnerships took center stage at Kenya's World Food Day 2026 celebrations, where the Rural Kenya Financial Inclusion Facility (RK-FINFA) showcased its support for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.

Held from 3 to 5 November at Grajos Farm–Tandare Integrated Agriculture and Demonstration Centre in Laikipia County, the event brought together farmers, government representatives, development partners and other agrifood sector stakeholders under the theme "Innovate Today, Nourish Tomorrow."

RK-FINFA participated alongside BIMAS MFB, UTS SACCO, technical service provider EAMDA and beneficiary farmers. Its exhibition highlighted how financial services and technical support can help farmers invest in their enterprises and strengthen their resilience.

IFAD Country Director Matteo Marchisio visited the stand and met project staff, partner representatives and two beneficiary farmers presenting their products and experiences. Laikipia Governor Joshua Wakahora Irungu also visited the exhibition.

In his remarks during the main event, Marchisio stressed that agricultural innovation must go beyond developing new solutions to ensuring their adoption and wider use among smallholder farmers. He also highlighted the importance of stronger markets, rural employment and climate resilience.

Agricultural Secretary James Wanjohi, delivering a message on behalf of Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe, outlined government interventions to support production. These included subsidized fertilizer, lower fertilizer prices and farmer registration to improve access to agricultural services.

FAO Representative in Kenya Farayi Constance Zimudzi called for modern agricultural technologies to be made accessible to farmers, highlighting the Kenya Integrated Agriculture Management Information System and efficient irrigation technologies.

Governor Irungu urged collective action on food security and increased investment in agriculture, alongside water conservation and environmental protection.

The celebrations concluded with a recognition ceremony, during which IFAD was acknowledged for sponsoring Daily Nation newspaper coverage of the event through RK-FINFA.

For RK-FINFA, the exhibition offered an opportunity to strengthen stakeholder engagement and share beneficiary experiences. The project will continue working with partners to expand inclusive rural financial services, support green investments and improve the resilience of smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.







The Agricultural Secretary representing the chief guest CS Agriculture, H.E Governor of Laikipia County, IFAD Country Director/ Representative to Kenya and FAO Country representative to Kenya with the RK-FINFA team during their visit to the RK FINFA exhibition stand