



Water in Agriculture

The Netherlands in Kenya

“The Netherlands, often referred to as Holland, has had one of the world’s most open economies for centuries. The Dutch engage in all forms of business all around the globe.”

Our vision | To achieve a healthy business climate in which Dutch and Kenyan companies enter into mutually beneficial partnerships.

Our approach | We provide sustainable trade and investment support to Dutch companies that are exploring economic opportunities in Kenya. We are involved in government to government dialogue to improve the business climate and encourage Dutch investment in Kenya.

All around the world the Dutch are known for their water knowledge; having reclaimed land from the sea. With the Dutch knowledge on water Kenya could tackle the effects of drought and water shortage to expand their success in agriculture.



Storage Silos

Rain water is the best water. Collecting this rain water is profitable two ways; rain water with its low salinity and high quality can be mixed with other water sources to provide optimal water conditions; and stored rain water can be used in times of drought and when other sources are unavailable. Irrico is producing storage silos in Kenya after a Dutch technological innovation. The silos pack small for transport, are build up easily and store rain water with such a high quality that it is even suitable for drinking.

Types of Irrigation

There are three major types of irrigation; surface, sprinkler and micro irrigation, all with their own pro’s and con’s, The most common type of irrigation used in Kenya is the surface irrigation, where water flows into the field freely. In greenhouses the micro irrigation, with its drip or even fertigation systems (mixed water and fertilizer) is most common. Four major companies provide Kenya with smart irrigation technologies having only exploited 5% of the market

Water sources

When it comes to agriculture not all sources of water are suitable. The most common sources are rainwater, surface water and borehole water. Rainwater can be used two ways, directly as the rain falls and trough collecting and storage called ‘rainwater harvesting’. Surface water is usually publicly owned, which makes contested as a water source on a bigger scale. Private borehole could be a solution, though the quality and quantity of borehole water is uncertain.

E NAI-LNV@minbuza.nl
W www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/landeninformatie/kenia