



AGRICULTURE

Mining Company Base Titanium Links Kenyan Farmers to Global Markets

By DENNIS LUKHOPA — November 16, 2017 No Comments

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Base Titanium, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Australian and UK-listed resources company, Base Resources Limited, is linking Kenyan farmers to international markets.

A new report from Kenya's Vision 2030 Delivery Board, an organization that tracks the country's development initiatives, has found that with Base Titanium's help, more than 800 cotton farmers have been trained, given initial inputs and linked to viable markets.

This programme supports the Kenyan government's efforts to revitalizing the country's cotton value chain.

Kenya's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Co-operatives noted that cotton production in the East African nation has remained below the national demand due to unstable international prices and high cost of production.

The country currently produces an average of 25,000 bales against a demand of 200,000 bales, with the deficit covered through imports from neighbouring countries, including Uganda and Tanzania and from the Far East.

"Community programmes initiated by Base Titanium focus primarily on livelihood development, community infrastructure, health and scholarships to ensure mutual flow of benefits between Base Titanium and local communities," the Vision 2030 Board said in a recent statement.

"Poultry farming, growing of potatoes, sorghum, maize and cowpeas have been implemented through field trials and are now at commercialization phase through training programmes about inputs, soil fertility and pest control to boost yields and profits," said Base Titanium General Manager, Joe Schwarz.

Boreholes, education and health facilities have been developed by the firm since 2013 to the tune of Ksh315 million. One of the projects, Kenya's Magaoni Health Center, serves 4,000 residents with an average of 50 patients daily.

Other projects by the firm includes a blood bank in Msambweni which will be the first blood bank outside an urban center in the country.

Kenya Vision 2030 is the national long-term development policy that aims to transform Kenya into a newly industrializing, middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030 in a clean and secure environment.

Within the last five years, the Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat has successfully managed to co-ordinate the rollout of key flagship projects centered on economic, social and political development.

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