

Base Titanium breathes life into Kwale residents



📷 A beneficiary of Base Titanium-Tuk apprentice project. Photo/COURTESY

Since Base Titanium set foot in Kwale County in 2011 and started mining operations in 2014, the company has been a pace-setter in the mining sector and game changer in turning around fortunes for the local community.

According to the Base Titanium General Managing External affairs and Development, Joe Schwarz, the company has spent more than Sh1 billion on its community developments, which include Sh320 million in social infrastructure, Sh485 million in livelihood enhancement programmes, Sh135 million on health and Sh175 million on education.

However, it's in agriculture that the company has redefined how Corporate Social Responsibility programmes can have real sustainable and meaningful change in the lives of the local community.

"We have been working with local small-scale farmers to introduce and support cultivation of a variety of crops as both a source of food and for generation of incomes to the families," Base Titanium General Manager Environmental and Community Affairs Colin Forbes said.

"Base works with various stakeholders to provide training and expertise. We also provide the initial inputs to allow farmers to transition to new crops."

The company has partnered with the Kwale County to revive cotton. The programme which started with initial 10 volunteer farmers now has close to 1,000 farmers with over 800 acres under cultivation. Base Titanium has assisted the farmers form a cooperative society to help pool resources and streamline delivery of support services.

"We have also managed to bring Australian apparel company 'Cotton On' to offer direct market for the harvest. Furthermore, the farmers also generate more revenues from oil extracted from the cotton while cotton seed is sold as a livestock feed," he said.