

# KISIMA FARM QUARTERLY NEWS

Quarter 4 2021

At the end of what has been a record year for Kisima, largely thanks to the outstanding performance of our floriculture, but also given the best arable results in five years, the entire Kisima team is both congratulated and thanked for their commitment during 2021!

## FLORICULTURE

In December the first sea freight container left for Europe packed with Kisima flowers and will arrive in the first week of January. The flowers were harvested into a solution and then dipped into an Ethylene gas suppressor before being packed in polythene packets. It will be very interesting to see if this works as it would reduce our air freight.



The 2ha expansion is underway at Floriculture and we have invested in state of the art metal greenhouses.



The rains in December have filled all of our main lagoons and planting has begun of a new rose variety - Nightingale! The packhouse cold stores have been refurbished and are now operating with brand new trolleys ready for Valentines day.

## FARM

Over the last quarter, we have benefitted from the late arrival of the rains on Kisima. It was a little too late for some of our wheat fields but other fields have responded well and in particular our Planet barley is looking great.

Our rotation crops have shown mixed progress. The peas look good and we are continuing to spray in difficult conditions so hopefully, we can keep them standing up and healthy. The Lupins and Linseed have come up well and we will wait to see if they are a productive break crop for Kisima.

The potatoes were planted in exceptionally dry conditions by hand. Following a visit from a German technician our mechanical planter was repaired and we have learnt a great deal from the experience resulting in more uniformed planting. The crop looks good at the moment and we are hoping to stay on top of disease pressure with our Bateman sprayer until the new potato sprayer arrives in January.

All cover crops have been terminated as they were beginning to come into seed but we managed to get community cattle to graze them which was an interesting project.

## FORESTRY

Kisima recently underwent a carbon footprint assessment by Green Earth Climate Action (GECA). Our forestry and arable land use has shown to sequester more carbon than on farm emissions and Kisima is therefore carbon neutral on the farm.

Off farm activities, primarily transportation of flowers, do have a significant carbon footprint, so we are not carbon net zero and we will be looking at ways to reduce emissions in the future.



## FOUNDATION

The building of a girls dormitory has started at Gundua Secondary School which will allow girls to board at school rather than have to travel to school each day.



Charlie Dyer was recently awarded a Distinguished Son of Meru medal and attended the ceremony in Meru. Individuals were selected based on their contribution to the Meru community. Well done Charlie!



The feeding program started up again and around 2,400 children from 6 schools are currently benefitting from the program.

