

THE IMPACT

ROD
Kenya

RESOURCES ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES
(RODI)

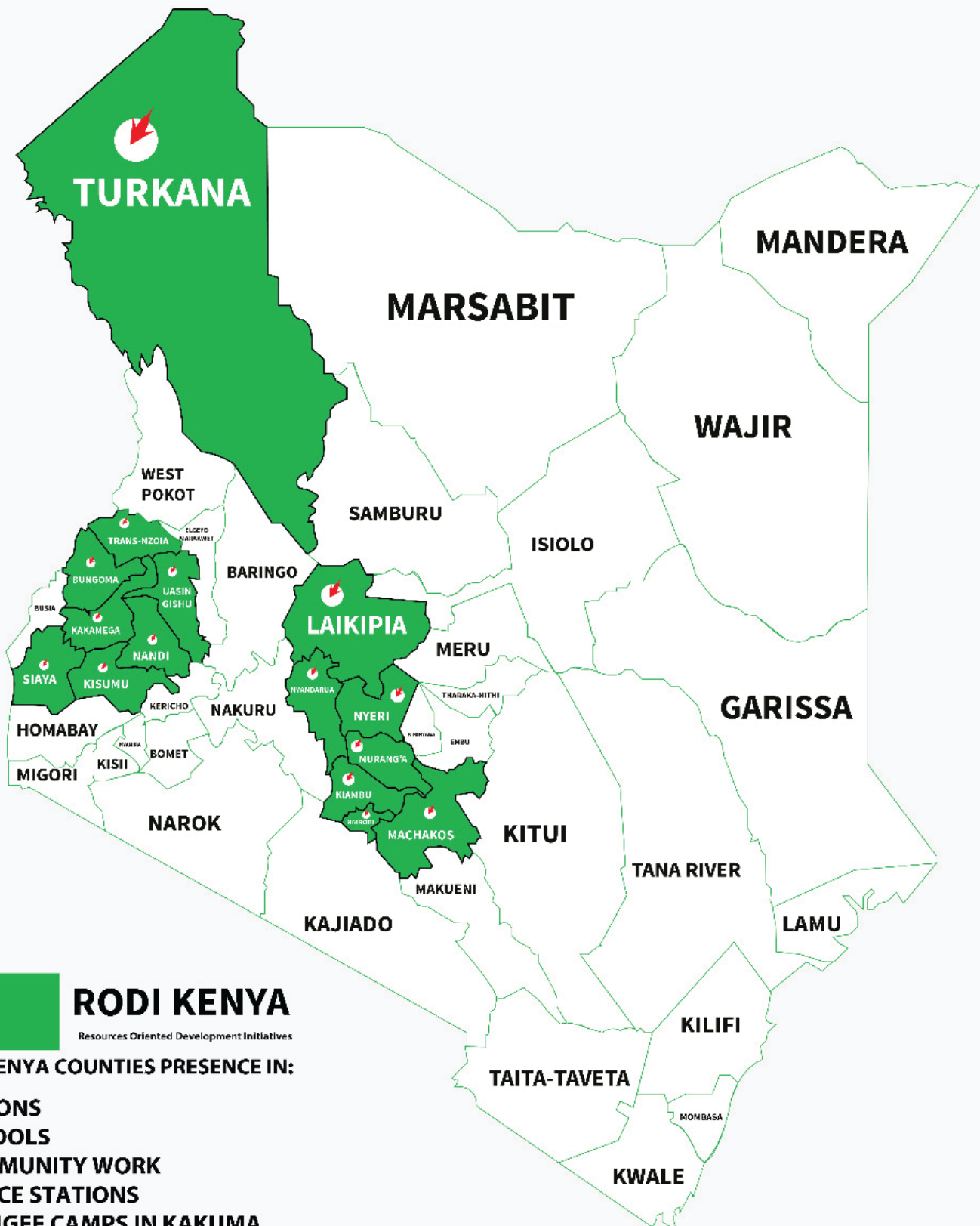


JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024

- THE UNTAPPED RESOURCES IN THE COFFEE INDUSTRY
- ADDRESSING DEPENDENCY CULTURE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- INCULCATING A CULTURE OF LEARNING
- MENTOR THE YOUNG GENERATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
- DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY
- PERMACULTURE IN ACTION
- GOLD IN DAIRY GOAT FARMING



Resources Oriented Development Initiatives



We also work with ex-prisoners and we cover all the 47 counties and beyond Kenya.

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INTRODUCTION TO RODI KENYA

The identity and culture of RODI Kenya is embodied in the vision, mission, core values and principles which represent our orientation during the period 2020 - 2024.

Vision Statement

A sustained food secure, healthy and crime free society.

Mission Statement

To promote human dignity among communities in Kenya and other Eastern Africa countries, through enhanced food security, health and crime prevention.

Core Values

- Integrity
- Accountability and transparency
- Team work
- Creativity and innovativeness
- Appreciation for local resources
- Upholding human rights
- Results oriented

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Esther Bett- Executive Director

As the team leader of RODI Kenya, I am honored to be part of a dedicated team of staff. They have continuously promoted the realization of our mission through various interventions across our core thematic areas. During the July - September 2024 period, we have been able to achieve remarkable progress in policy advocacy for correctional reforms, health and sanitation and community empowerment in food production and nutrition.

I appreciate the communications team capacity to collect and share our experiences on social media improving our publicity and exposure. Hongera, to the RODI staff, their linkages and partners, I look forward to a more productive and collaborative partnership. Appreciation to all our partners, they've strengthened and supported the community projects encouraging change in peoples lives.



A Unified Team

THE UNTAPPED RESOURCES IN THE COFFEE INDUSTRY

RODI Kenya has been empowering farmers in the coffee industry to maximize yield and quality. It is against this background that we realized the untapped resources in the coffee factories.

In the past, coffee factories released the fermentation water into nearby rivers, polluting the only source of water for the community. In addition, the coffee husks were discarded as waste. In one of our training forums with coffee factory managers we realized the fermentation water could be used as an alternative to molasses and coffee husks as an alternative to rice husks in making of biofertilizers such as Bokashi and supermagro.

RODI's team took a sample of the fermentation water and conducted trials to test the suitability of the water in the production of biofertilizers. These trials demonstrated better results compared to molasses.

The RODI team trained coffee factory managers and farmers in Giathugu and Kihuyo factories in Nyeri county on how to utilize these resources in production of biofertilizers. This has resulted in reduced cost in production of Bokashi and supermagro, increasing adoption by many farmers. This initiative has tremendously contributed to reduced water pollution and better use of coffee by-products.



DRIVING CHANGE THROUGH COMMUNITY RESOURCE MOBILIZATION CHAMPIONS



RODI Kenya believes in community members taking the lead in community development initiatives. RODI Kenya works with community volunteers who are passionate in spearheading development dialogues with community members and relevant stakeholders through local resource mobilization.

In July 2024, RODI Kenya invited resource mobilization community ambassadors, from Nzambani, Solio and Joytown for an experience sharing meeting. The aim of the meeting was to enhance their understanding of local resource mobilization and its benefits to the community.

The meeting was a strategic platform to discuss how to involve other community members in the mobilization process. The community leaders shared valuable insights and experiences from various local resource mobilization activities they have undertaken in their respective communities.

During this meeting ambassadors developed action plans for initiating change in their various communities

"as a community ambassador, this forum has shown us the importance of coming together to solve problems in our community enlighten. We plan to jointly work with other community members in Nzambani to repair the damage caused on our roads during the rainy season."
Anthony Mutinda - community ambassador



Progress of the road repair in Nzambani

ADDRESSING DEPENDENCY CULTURE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The culture of dependency remains a significant barrier to sustainable development in most of the communities that we have worked with as an organization. Though complex, this issue is rooted in the longstanding reliance on external aid, particularly from government programs, NGO's and international donors. While these interventions do provide vital relief and resources, they have also, at times, inadvertently promoted a mindset that stifles self-reliance and local innovation.

As an organization faced with this challenge, we have attempted various approaches to address the culture of dependency and promote sustainable community development in Kenya. Our programs focus on building capacity, fostering self-reliance, and empowering communities to take charge of their development. Some of these approaches include: -

- **Community empowerment:** We empower communities to jointly develop their own solutions through community sensitization forums, training, education, and skill development opportunities.
- **Capacity-building:** Programs that focus on entrepreneurship, resource management, and leadership training can help local community leaders become more self-reliant and proactive.
- **From aid to investment:** Encourage a mindset shift where external support is seen as an investment rather than aid, this fosters sustainability. By involving communities in decision-making, they take ownership of their development paths.
- **Strengthening local institutions:** Invest in and support local governance structures and community-based organizations to create accountability structures and empower them to drive development initiatives tailored to their specific needs.
- **Fostering innovation and local solutions:** Encourage local innovation, especially in areas like agriculture, technology, and renewable energy, this can help break the cycle of dependency. This can be achieved through grants, microfinance, and access to markets.



In conclusion, addressing the culture of dependency is essential for fostering sustainable, community-driven development. By empowering community leaders and strengthening local systems, communities can take ownership of their progress and contribute meaningfully to the broader development agenda.

INCULCATING A CULTURE OF LEARNING

RODI aims to instill knowledge, life skills and vocational skills on individuals. We achieve this through supporting institutions with books to add to their libraries.

Courtesy of Book aid International, RODI Kenya received over two thousand books which were donated to four schools and eight prisons.

These books cover a variety of topics including legal practice, nutrition, gardening, bricklaying, computer skills, plumbing and self help books.

“

These books will contribute to rehabilitation of inmates because they will gain practical, vocational and life skills that will benefit them upon release”

”

An officer from one of the prison



Donation at Lodwar womens prison



Donation at Shikusa Borstal



Donation at Kisumu maximum prison

MENTOR THE YOUNG GENERATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Mentorship sessions are crucial for the young generation as it provides invaluable guidance, inspiration and support. During this quarter of the year, we managed to conduct mentorship sessions in different regions for more than a hundred individuals aged 13- 20 years who we first interacted with during our primary school programs .

The mentorship sessions aimed to equip them with all round knowledge covering topics such

as spirituality, peer pressure, emotions, controlling thoughts, anger management and career guidance.

The inclusion of teachers and a professional mentor provided ongoing motivation, guidance, and support, further empowering these young individuals to continue pursuing their passions and navigating life's complexities with a strategic mindset.

**“from this session I have gained
gained knowledge on career choices
and I have become more confident ”
- Henry (student)**



Mentorship session for Central and Nairobi region held at RODI Center



Mentorship at Nasianda primary -Bungoma county



Mentorship at Daisy special school - Kakamega county

GIVING HOPE TO THE YOUTH BY CREATING VALUE FROM BUSINESS TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurship is definitely a value. It's all about taking initiative and being creative in order to achieve something significant. Value creation is a key driver of entrepreneurship. Without creating value, businesses will struggle to differentiate themselves from their competitors, attract and retain customers, and generate profits.

Value creation is therefore essential for entrepreneurs who want to build a thriving business. In order to create value as an entrepreneur, you have to identify a problem that people are willing to pay to have solved. Once you've found a problem, you need to develop a solution that is better, faster, or cheaper than what currently exists.

Finally, you need to get your solution in front of the people who need it. Entrepreneurs are able to create new markets through the introduction of new and improved services, products, and technology.

RODI focuses on imparting entrepreneurial skills that enable individuals to identify business opportunities for self sustainability. Over the last three months we have trained more than 200 youth, 600 prisoners and 300 community members. These skills include value addition, entrepreneurship and marketing which bring an entrepreneurial side to an individual or community.

In 2017, RODI Kenya conducted a youth training forum. This saw youth from various counties come together to learn agroecology, value addition and chemical processing. Muraya, from Muranga was a participant of this program. After the trainings with RODI Kenya and graduation where he was given a certificate, Muraya implemented what he was taught at his small farm. After a while he decided to rent a one-and-a-half-acre farm in Kieni where he began farming of high value crops such as beetroot, cabbage, french beans, potatoes and carrots.

The selling of this produce increased his income which enabled him to buy a car which he used for transporting the crops to various markets. Muraya later on applied for a job as a farm manager on a 50+ acres piece of land. The owner was impressed by his work and employed him. The job plus his farm has managed to sustain his family, he has been able to set up a business for his wife, build a house, educate his children and support his parents.

Muraya's story is one of many success stories that have outcome as a result of the trainings offered by RODI.



Muraya's farm in Kieni



EMPOWERING THE VULNERABLE

TRAINING OF EXPECTANT AND BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS WITH HIV . - URBAN GARDEN AND NUTRITION

CALL Africa partnered with RODI Kenya to train 50 expectant women and breastfeeding mothers living with HIV. They addressed the unique challenges they face and equip them with essential knowledge and skills for improved livelihoods.

During a 10-day training session, the organizations managed to impart knowledge on nutrition, soil fertility, organic gardening and gender child care especially in urban areas. By addressing these areas, the program aimed to enhance both the immediate and long-term

quality of nutrition and care for these families. Looking forward, there is a significant opportunity for partners to step forward and support pre and postnatal care for these young mothers.

Such collaboration would not only build on the successes of this initiative but also ensure sustained support and improvement in the lives of these vulnerable communities



INTEGRATING FARMER MANAGED RESEARCH IN AGRO-ECOLOGY- KEY RESULTS OF THE FARMER MANAGED RESEARCH PROJECT

The project began in 2023 with the aim of testing the organic biofertilizers against the farmer's practice. This included testing of the effects of biofertilizers (super magro, bokashi & tithonia tea) in soil productivity, growth, resilience to pests and diseases, crop weight, moisture content and root strength in kales and maize production. The trials were categorized into:

- i) Bokashi only for planting and top dressing
- ii) Bokashi for planting & tithonia for top dressing
- iii) Bokashi for planting & super magro for top dressing
- iv) Farmers practice

During harvesting, the crops grown with Bokashi and super magro performed best. It was noted that the crops grown matured earlier, the maize was sweeter, the livestock preferred the maize stalk compared to the farmers practice and the stalk decomposed faster.

The farmers noted that during the dry spells, the crops grown with Bokashi were more resilient to pests and strong wind leading to fully productive crops.

Grown using farmers practice



Grown using Bokashi and super magro

The farmers have adopted organic farming leading to an increase in vegetable production and improved health. With increase in vegetable production they are currently learning how to dry vegetables for preservation and sale.

The small-scale farmers who were taught biofertilizer production have now been able to make biofertilizers for other community members. They have come up with a system where they are paid with bags of fertilizer reducing production costs on their side.



Farmers practice



Grown with Bokashi & super magro

DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY

Over the years RODI has worked with five special schools with the aim of training them on vocational skills they can utilize to generate income after completion of school; considering majority of these individuals do not proceed to

higher levels of learning. The skills they acquire not only gives them a means of livelihood, but also builds their self esteem fostering independence

A GLANCE AT DAISY SPECIAL SCHOOL

Daisy Special School has recently seen remarkable benefits from several impactful initiatives designed to enrich the lives of its students.

RODI Kenya staff conducted a training session to equip students and staff with the knowledge to build and maintain vertical gardens, which are ideal for maximizing limited space. By integrating vertical gardens, students learn innovative ways to farm, contributing to their understanding of sustainable practices in urban agriculture.

During the August holiday RODI supported the students with seeds which has enabled them to practice the skills in their homes . The students have been able to grow crops hence promoting food security and income generation .

In addition, RODI supported the school with a dairy cow which has significantly increased the nutrition of the children as they are able to access fresh and nutritious milk that aids in their growth and development.



Ongoing vertical garden training



Support with seeds



Demonstration of dairy cow farming

PERMACULTURE IN ACTION

Permaculture is a design system that focuses on crafting productive, diverse, and resilient ecosystems to meet our needs as humans, while also benefiting all life forms. Permaculture design could also be referred to as ecological design, holistic design, or whole systems design. Three guiding ethics considered in permaculture practices are care for the earth, care for people and fair share of benefits.

The new Kiimani self help group has acquired a wide range of permaculture skills during the trainings conducted by RODI Kenya at Matuu, Machakos county. Matuu is a semi arid area making it unsuitable for most types of farming. Marieta has adopted water harvesting techniques which has enabled her to change this narrative by establishing a permaculture farm with a variety of livestock and crops including bananas, avocados, pawpaw, rabbits and chicken.



Permaculture training at Matuu

Through the sale of her farm produce she is able to manage her household and educate her grandchild. Her farm has become an example to other individuals enabling them to learn and implement in their own farms. Marietas story highlights the benefits of sharing knowledge and information resulting to an empowered society.

GOLD IN DAIRY GOAT FARMING



The Mukurwe Wikurie Self Help Group has made remarkable progress in dairy goat farming resulting to income gains and improved livelihood. The initiative begun in 2021 where RODI supported seven groups with more than 40 dairy goats.

Julius Nduati is one of the beneficiaries. He received a doe that has since given birth to multiple kids over the last two years. With this newfound resource, Julius enjoys fresh milk for his family, eliminating his previous daily expenditure of Kshs 50. Additionally, the goat provides valuable manure for his vegetable garden, enhancing his farming efforts. He also successfully sold one goat for Kshs 7,000, contributing positively to his family's income.

Zacharia Kimani, also received a doe from RODI Kenya. The dairy goat produces approximately 2 litres of milk per day, significantly improving the health of his children. The manure supports his horticulture farming, helping him grow healthier crops and reduce the cost of purchasing fertilizers.

Looking ahead, he plans to sell the male offspring, which will further boost his income.

These success stories exemplify the positive impact of the project by improving nutrition, enhancing agricultural practices, and providing financial opportunities. We look forward to onward growth of such practices.



Zacharia tending to his vegetable garden

TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS INTO COMMUNITY

LEARNING CENTRES

RODI has been strengthening the capacity of 26 schools to establish model centres for school community learning. This is based on the fact that schools are a one stop shop for development, where children, parents and community stakeholders should have holistic learning .

RODI Kenya applies the whole school approach (agricultural, structural and systems) in design and involves all stakeholders while ensuring sustainability of learning initiatives for food production, income generation and environmental conservation.



‘As a parent I am pleased with the work RODI Kenya is doing in training our young children on how to use a small portion of land to produce crops and rear animals.’

Kibet A parent at Kipkenyo Primary



GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Graduation ceremonies are held at various prisons, this is after successful training on various modules including agroecology, value addition and health & sanitation. Awarding certificates boosts the morale of these individuals as they implement the skills in the community.

The certificates increase chances of employment upon release. In this period over 500 inmates have graduated in different modules.



Maranjau prison



Kakamega women prison



Kakamega main prison



Eldoret women prison

FIELD DAYS AND SHOWS

FIELD DAY

Field days are one of the ways RODI aims to empower the community. In July RODI conducted a field day in Maguguni .

The field day on boarded trainers who specialize in organic farming, value addition, poultry rearing, goat keeping, gardening, bee keeping and many more.

These trainings equipped farmers with knowledge skills to enable them to use the resources around them to boost their income and better their health.



ASK SHOWS

RODI Kenya in collaboration with the Kenya prison service participates in agricultural shows. In the recent quarter RODI participated in A.S.K shows in Kisumu, Kakamega and Nyeri to showcase our prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration practices.



LOOKING INWARDLY FOR ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

At RODI Kenya we prioritize institutional strengthening as a core strategy to foster a culture of continuous professional development and innovation while leveraging our existing resources and expertise.

By focusing on internal development, we ensure that our team members are not only aligned with our mission and values but also equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive our goals forward. This strengthening ensures smooth running of activities.

REFLECTION MEETING

RODI had an in house reflection meeting for local resource mobilization and communication. This meeting outlined the importance of documentation of the resources mobilized by the staff. The meeting also highlighted the importance of communication with trainings on how to document, communicate and share

information . Other project meetings were conducted to review on the progress of implementation and identify areas of improvement

FIRST AID AND FIRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING

We conducted an essential training session focused on fire management and first aid to bolster staff preparedness and safety. This comprehensive workshop equipped participants with vital skills to handle fire emergencies effectively and administer first aid with confidence.



ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY REVIEW

The management have reviewed the human resource and finance policy. This is to aid in creating transparency, trust and adhere to regulatory compliance which will contribute to operational efficiency

THE POWER OF STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

AFRICA WOMEN IN AGROECOLOGY - AWOLA AWARDS

RODI's ED Esther Bett graduated from AWOLA mentorship programme. The main objective of the AWOLA initiative is to inspire, mentor, nurture and fast track the leadership development of African women in agroecology.



THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES REFORMS POLICY

RODI Kenya is part of the prison reforms working group which aims to improve on justice system issues such as rights and obligations of offenders, welfare, youthful offenders institutions and aftercare.

Various stakeholders came together to deliberate on key inputs to be considered in the development of correctional service bill as proposed by the state department of correctional services.

Our collaboration with the Prison Reform Working Group is a testament to our commitment to transforming the prison system and ensuring fair, humane treatment for all.



WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN LANDS POLICY

RODI Kenya has partnered with Nyeri county government to develop an integrated policy framework that provides a range of measures and actions responding to key environmental issues that touch on wetlands and riparian land.



INCULCATING A CULTURE OF TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP IN SCHOOLS

Headteachers from various schools working with RODI Kenya had an experience sharing meeting. This included schools from Kisumu, Nandi, Uasin Gishu, Kakamega and Turkana counties.

These experience sharing meetings ensure the goals of the work done by RODI in the schools are well understood by the school management hence building collaboration and partnership between RODI and the respective schools.

RODI shares trainings in schools in various areas including soap making, baking, tie and dye, building of demo gardens and arts & crafts. These skills are taught as not only extra curricular activities but pose as entrepreneurial opportunities

AGROECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

RODI participated in an agroecology symposium at Manor House Agricultural Center in Kitale. This event brought together a vast network of people and institutions to showcase the agroecology products .

CARBON CREDIT WORKSHOP

RODI Kenya participated in a three-day carbon markets and trade workshop organized by PELUM Kenya for network members. Key highlights included understanding climate change science, exploring international legal frameworks, diving into climate finance, mastering carbon footprint measurement and reporting. These highlights cover the essentials for understanding and addressing climate change from a scientific, legal, financial, and practical perspective.



RODI CONFERENCE CENTRE

RODI Centre is located in Ruiru, 25 Km Northeast of Nairobi, 300 meters from the junction of Thika super highway and Eastern Bypass, behind Galana Energies station and 10km from JKIA. Far away from the busy and noisy environment, RODI Center is the best place to spend your day as you enjoy the good scenery of our urban organic farming technologies.

Our meeting rooms feature uninterrupted wireless internet and are designed to accommodate up to 100 guests in a tranquil environment.



RATES

Full board-Bed ,B/fast/2 teas ,lunch &dinner- 5,000

Half board -Bed, b/fast and one meal -3,000

Day Conference 2 teas and lunch-2,000

OTHER PROVISION AT NO COST FOR DAY CONFERENCE PACKAGE.

- Training Hall.
- Drinking water 500 ml (1 bottle in the morning and one bottle in the afternoon)
- Ample parking

Inclusive
Flipcharts, Mark pens, Note book
and Pen
LCD Projector WIFI



Contact us:

Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI)

P.O Box 746-00232 Ruiru- Kenya

Tel +254 743 627 329

Website: www.rodikenya.org

Email: rodikenya@rodikenya.org

