

## MILESTONES OF A.I SERVICES IN KENYA SINCE INDEPENDENCE

**1961-** 50% of the A.I products from Kenya Animal Genetic Resources Centre; then known as Central A. I. Station (CAIS); went to the African farmers

**1964-** The station moved from production of fresh cattle semen to production of Room Temperature semen.

Plans were put in place to establish a National A.I. service subsidized by the Government. Negotiations with the Swedish Government for assistance were made.



**1966-** An agreement was signed in May and on 1st July Kenya National A.I. Service (KNAIS) was launched for the purpose of expanding the coverage of A.I provision in the country and minimize the risk of introduction of notifiable diseases into KAGRC which is a quarantine station.

With formation of KNAIS, A.I fees reduced from between Ksh 30 and ksh 40 to Ksh 10 for a grade cow and Ksh 5 for a zebu.



**1969-** The National Dairy Cattle Breeding Programme was set up to genetically improve dairy cattle population. The programme was aimed at breeding bulls from Kenya dairy cattle population; that are adapted to the local environmental and management.

**1971-** The A.I fees was further reduced to Ksh 1 for all breeds.

**1979-** The peak figure of inseminations was achieved with KNAIS being the major user of KAGRC semen carrying out up to 97% of the inseminations in the country.

**1983-** There was tremendous decline of KNAIS performance.



**1984-** Insemination figures dropped to 385,000 due to inability of KNAIS to sustain the highly subsidized A.I. services. This was further worsened by the unfavorable economic conditions prevailing then.

**1986-** There was a major policy change through the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1986 on Economic Management for Renewed Growth, which introduced cost sharing in A.I services that were hitherto subsidized.

It set the framework for privatization of A.I services with Dairy co-operatives; A.I self Help groups; private veterinarians and private inseminators providing the services.



**1991-** Private A.I service provision commenced and as privatization intensified the demand for semen by Private A.I. service providers increased and superseded that of that of KNAIS. The private sector purchased 80% of the KAGRC semen providing income to the station and the remaining 20% was given to KNAIS free of charge.

**1992-** The performance of KNAIS continued to decline even further and the number of inseminations dropped to 200,000.

The Simmental, the Hereford, Charolais and brown Swiss bulls were phased out due to decreased demand for their demand.

**1996-** A total of 20, 830 doses of Deep frozen semen were exported to Uganda and Malaysia.

**2004-** The Centre liberalized marketing and distribution of its products. It appointed agents and lead farmers to market its products to A.I. service providers. Currently the Centre has 52 agents in high and mid potential areas of the country.

**2011-** The Legal Notice No. 110 of 5th September, 2011 CAIS was transformed to a full-fledged State Corporation which gave KAGRC a greater autonomy in its operations. The Centre is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a non executive chairman appointed by the president.

**2012-** The Centre was awarded ISO 9001:2008 QMS Certificate in September, 2012. The Quality management system is a testimony of the Centre's commitment in delivery of quality service to the customers.

**2013-** The Centre launched Enterprise Resource Planner (ERP) system that has an E-Breeding module and Finance & Administration module that will electronically connect all the departments in the centre and the external clientele who are our agents and AI providers.

