

The **Notebook #2** Agripreneur's



THE FUTURE FARMER HAS ARRIVED
**HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
ARE REDEFINING AGRICULTURE**

By:

TOM OYWEKA
Founder and Director , Kilimo Corps Africa
National Coordinator , Students For Liberty Kenya



toyweka@studentsforliberty.org



+254 7920 55392



Tom Okech

Editor's Note

Welcome to the second edition of **The Agripreneur's Notebook**, a monthly publication by Kilimo Corps Africa dedicated to exploring the ideas, innovations, and opportunities shaping the future of agriculture in Africa.

Agriculture is changing at an unprecedented pace. From artificial intelligence and digital farming to climate-smart technologies and youth-led enterprises, the sector is undergoing a transformation that demands fresh thinking and bold leadership.

Our goal is simple: to move beyond reporting agricultural news and instead ask a more important question—**what do these developments mean for the future of Africa?**

Each edition examines a current issue, connects it to broader national and global trends, and offers practical insights for young people, policymakers, educators, entrepreneurs, and everyone committed to building resilient food systems.

This month's edition explores the rise of the **Future Farmer**. Across Kenya and beyond, technology is reshaping how food is produced, marketed, and managed. As artificial intelligence, digital tools, and innovation become more accessible, we must ask whether our education systems, institutions, and policies are preparing young people to thrive in this new era.

I hope this publication challenges assumptions, sparks meaningful conversations, and inspires practical action.

Thank you for joining us on this journey as we cultivate ideas, grow enterprises, and help shape the future of African agriculture.

Tom Oyweka Okech
Founder & Editor-in-Chief
The Agripreneur's Notebook

About This Publication

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Tom Oyweka Okech

This Month at a Glance

Current Issue

How AI and digital technologies are changing agriculture.

Focus

Preparing the next generation of farmers.

Key Insight

Technology is transforming agriculture—but people and skills remain at the heart of that transformation.

Takeaway

Africa's agricultural future depends on investing in young agripreneurs.



THE FUTURE FARMER HAS ARRIVED. IS KENYA READY?

How Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Entrepreneurship are Redefining Agriculture

A QUIET REVOLUTION IS TAKING PLACE

While much of the world is debating whether artificial intelligence will replace jobs, another story is unfolding across Kenya's agricultural sector.

Young graduates who once aspired to office careers are increasingly embracing agriculture—but they are doing so differently from previous generations.

Armed with smartphones, artificial intelligence tools, digital marketplaces, and precision technologies, they are transforming agriculture into a business driven by information, innovation, and enterprise.

Recent reports highlighting Kenyan graduates using AI-powered applications to diagnose crop diseases, monitor livestock, forecast weather patterns, and market produce online are not simply stories about technology.

They represent a profound shift in how young people view agriculture—as an industry where knowledge can be just as valuable as land.

This raises an important question:

Is Kenya preparing enough young people for this new era of agriculture?

NUMBERS THAT MATTER

22.5%
Agriculture's direct contribution to Kenya's GDP.

40%
Share of Kenya's workforce employed in agriculture.

70%
Approximate share of rural livelihoods linked to agriculture.

Source : Kenya National Bureau of Statistics



THE BIGGER PICTURE



AGRICULTURE IS ENTERING ITS DIGITAL AGE

The emergence of technology-enabled farming is not unique to Kenya. Across the world, agriculture is undergoing one of the most significant transformations since the Green Revolution.

Artificial intelligence, satellite imagery, Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, drones, robotics, biotechnology, and big data are changing how food is produced, processed, and distributed. Farmers are increasingly making decisions based on data rather than intuition, allowing them to improve productivity while reducing costs and environmental impact.

For Africa, this transformation comes at a critical moment.

The continent is projected to have the world's largest youth population by 2050, while simultaneously facing rising food demand, climate change, shrinking arable land, and increasing pressure on natural resources. These realities demand a new generation of agricultural leaders equipped with digital skills, entrepreneurial thinking, and innovative solutions.

Fortunately, Kenya is well positioned to become one of Africa's leading agritech hubs.

The country already boasts one of the continent's most dynamic digital ecosystems. Mobile money has transformed financial inclusion, smartphone adoption continues to grow, and a vibrant startup ecosystem is developing solutions for farmers ranging from digital marketplaces and weather forecasting to precision agriculture and financial services.

Yet technology alone is not enough.

Innovation only creates impact when people possess the knowledge and confidence to apply it. A drone cannot improve yields if farmers cannot interpret the data it collects. Artificial intelligence cannot transform agriculture if young people lack the skills to integrate it into viable businesses.

The future of agriculture will therefore depend not only on technological advancement but also on investment in human capital.

The countries that succeed will not necessarily be those with the most advanced technologies. They will be those that develop the most capable, adaptable, and entrepreneurial young people.

For Kenya, this presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to position agriculture not as a sector of last resort, but as one of innovation, enterprise, and economic transformation.

GLOBAL TRENDS SHAPING AGRICULTURE Five Trends Defining the Future Farmer

- **Artificial Intelligence**
- **Precision Agriculture & Drones**
- **Digital Marketplaces**
- **Climate-Smart Agriculture**
- **Agribusiness Entrepreneurship**

TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING AGRICULTURE.
SKILLS DETERMINE WHO BENEFITS FROM IT.



KENYA'S OPPORTUNITY

Can Kenya Become Africa's Agripreneurship Capital?

For decades, Kenya has earned a reputation as one of Africa's innovation leaders. Mobile money transformed financial inclusion. A vibrant startup ecosystem continues to develop solutions in fintech, health, education, and logistics. Increasingly, that same spirit of innovation is finding its way into agriculture.

Across the country, young entrepreneurs are establishing hydroponic farms in urban centres, using drones to monitor crop health, adopting digital marketplaces to reach customers, and creating value-added agricultural products that command higher returns. Agritech startups are connecting farmers to credit, weather information, extension services, and new markets in ways that were unimaginable just a decade ago.

Yet these promising developments remain the exception rather than the norm.

Thousands of young Kenyans still graduate every year without the practical skills, business networks, or confidence needed to transform agricultural ideas into viable enterprises. While innovation is growing, it has not yet reached the scale required to fundamentally reshape the agricultural sector.

This is where Kenya has a unique opportunity.

Rather than treating agriculture as a traditional sector, we should begin viewing it as one of the country's most dynamic innovation ecosystems.

Imagine a Kenya where:

- **Every TVET has an Agribusiness Innovation Hub.**
- **Every agriculture student graduates having launched a real enterprise.**
- **County governments actively support youth-led agribusiness incubation.**
- **Young farmers routinely use digital technologies to improve productivity and access markets.**
- **Investors view agritech startups as engines of economic growth rather than niche ventures.**

These ambitions are achievable—but only if institutions work together.

Government can create an enabling policy environment. Educational institutions can produce graduates equipped with practical and entrepreneurial skills. The private sector can provide mentorship, investment, and market opportunities. Development partners can support innovation and capacity building. Most importantly, young people themselves must embrace continuous learning and a willingness to adapt.

Kenya already possesses the ingredients needed to lead Africa's agripreneurship revolution.

The question is whether we will bring them together with sufficient urgency.

INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

Kenya's Competitive Advantages

- Strong digital ecosystem
- Expanding TVET sector
- Strategic regional market
- Diverse agroecological zones
- Growing agritech startup ecosystem
- Young and entrepreneurial population

THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE BELONGS TO COUNTRIES THAT INVEST AS MUCH IN PEOPLE AS THEY DO IN PRODUCTION.





POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Government

Expand investment in youth agripreneurship, digital agriculture, and innovation infrastructure.

TVETs & Universities

Embed entrepreneurship, technology, and experiential learning into every agricultural programme.

Private Sector

Provide mentorship, apprenticeships, market access, and early-stage investment for youth-led enterprises.

Development Partners

Support scalable youth-led innovation rather than isolated short-term projects.

Young People

Invest in continuous learning, embrace technology, and see agriculture as a business capable of creating wealth and solving real-world challenges.

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

Five Priorities for Building Africa's Next Generation of Agripreneurs

As agriculture evolves into a knowledge-intensive and technology-driven sector, preparing the future farmer requires more than access to land or capital. It demands deliberate investments in people, institutions, and innovation ecosystems.

If Kenya is to position itself as a leader in agripreneurship, five priorities deserve immediate attention.

1. Reimagine Agricultural Education

Agricultural education must move beyond theory and production techniques.

Students should graduate with practical experience in agribusiness management, financial literacy, digital agriculture, value addition, branding, and market development. Every learner should leave with the confidence to start an enterprise—not just seek employment.

Education must produce innovators, not merely graduates.

2. Invest in Digital Agriculture

Artificial intelligence, precision farming, remote sensing, drones, and digital advisory platforms are no longer future technologies—they are today's competitive advantage.

Government, educational institutions, and the private sector should invest in making these technologies accessible to young people through innovation hubs, demonstration farms, and affordable digital infrastructure.

Technology should become a tool that empowers every aspiring agripreneur, regardless of background.

3. Strengthen the Link Between TVETs and Industry

Technical skills become more valuable when they are connected to real business opportunities.

Closer collaboration between TVET institutions, agribusinesses, cooperatives, financial institutions, and startups can provide students with internships, mentorship, business incubation, and exposure to emerging market trends.

Learning should not end in the classroom.

It should continue in farms, enterprises, and innovation centres.

4. Build an Entrepreneurial Mindset

One of the greatest barriers facing young people is not a lack of ideas but a fear of taking the first step.

Entrepreneurship education should cultivate resilience, creativity, problem-solving, leadership, and adaptability alongside technical competence.

The future economy will reward those who can identify problems and create solutions.

Agriculture offers countless opportunities for those willing to think differently.

5. Create an Ecosystem for Young Agripreneurs

No entrepreneur succeeds alone.

Young people need access to mentors, affordable finance, business networks, research institutions, markets, and supportive public policies.

When these elements come together, ideas are transformed into enterprises, enterprises create employment, and employment strengthens communities.

Kenya already possesses many of these building blocks.

The next challenge is ensuring they work together as one ecosystem.



The future of agriculture will not be determined by technology alone. It will be determined by how effectively we prepare people to use technology to solve problems, build enterprises, and feed a growing continent.

THE AGRIPRENEUR'S PERSPECTIVE

The Farmer of Tomorrow Is Being Trained Today

Every generation inherits defining challenges. For our parents, it may have been expanding agricultural production to feed growing populations. For today's generation, the challenge is different. We must produce more food while responding to climate change, creating employment, embracing digital technologies, and feeding a rapidly urbanising continent.

This responsibility cannot be carried by yesterday's agricultural systems alone.

It requires a new kind of farmer.

One who is equally comfortable analysing market trends as planting crops.

One who sees technology as a competitive advantage rather than a threat.

One who understands that agriculture is not simply an occupation but a business capable of transforming communities and economies.

Most importantly, it requires young people who are prepared to think differently.

Across Kenya, I continue to meet students, graduates, innovators, and young entrepreneurs who possess extraordinary ideas but often lack access to the mentorship, networks, and opportunities needed to bring those ideas to life. Their potential is not in question.

The challenge is whether our institutions are evolving quickly enough to support them.

This is why the conversation about agriculture must change.

We should stop asking how to make young people interested in farming.

Instead, we should ask how to build an agricultural sector that rewards innovation, enterprise, and leadership.

Young people do not simply want jobs.

They want purpose.

They want impact.

They want the opportunity to solve meaningful problems.

Agriculture offers exactly that opportunity.

As we invest in technology, we must invest equally in people.

As we modernise farms, we must modernise our education systems.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Africa's greatest agricultural resource is not its fertile land—it is its young people. When we invest in their ideas, skills, and enterprises, we cultivate far more than crops. We cultivate the continent's future."

TOM O. OKECH

Founder & Editor-in-Chief
The Agripreneur's Notebook

✉ tomoyueka@gmail.com

in Tom Okech

☎ +254 7920 55392

The ABOUT THE PUBLICATION Agripreneur's



ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

The Agripreneur's Notebook

The Agripreneur's Notebook is the flagship monthly publication of Kilimo Corps Africa. It examines the most important issues shaping agriculture in Kenya and across Africa, connecting current events with enterprise, innovation, technology, policy, and youth development.

Our mission is to inspire informed conversations and practical action that advance agripreneurship and strengthen Africa's food systems.

Every edition seeks to answer three simple questions:

- **What is happening?**
- **Why does it matter?**
- **What should we do next?**

ABOUT KILIMO CORPS AFRICA

Kilimo Corps Africa is a youth-led **think-and-do tank** dedicated to advancing agripreneurship, agricultural innovation, enterprise development, and sustainable food systems across Africa. Through research, capacity building, partnerships, and practical training, we empower young people to transform agriculture into a driver of economic opportunity and community development.

Our Work

- Thought Leadership & Research
- Agripreneurship Training
- Webinars & Masterclasses
- Podcast & Media
- Youth Enterprise Development
- Partnerships & Innovation

Coming Next Month

The Agripreneur's Notebook #3

Can Artificial Intelligence Solve Africa's Agricultural Extension Crisis?

As AI-powered advisory platforms become more common across Africa, can technology bridge the gap left by limited extension services—or are we overlooking the importance of human expertise?

Join the Conversation

We believe the future of African agriculture will be shaped through collaboration. We welcome ideas, feedback, research contributions, partnerships, and conversations from students, farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers, educators, policymakers, and development practitioners.

Let's build the future of African agriculture—together.

Connect With Us



www.kilimocorps.org



kilimocorps@gmail.com



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