



MWEA IRRIGATION SCHEME

National Irrigation Authority | Mwea East & West Sub-Counties, Kirinyaga County | Est. 1954

30,600 acres

Irrigated area (20,000 main + 10,600 expansion)

15,905

Farmers (Participatory Irrigation Mgmt)

175,000+ MT

Est. annual rice output (179,154 MT in 2025/26)

Stats

- **Net Area Area:** 30,600 acres, and ongoing Mutithi Expansion to increase to 35,000 acres
- **Water:** Rivers Nyamindi & Thiba; Thiba Dam (15.6M m³) stabilises supply
- **System:** Basin irrigation, partially lined open canals;
- **Crop:** Basmati 370 rice (commonly known as *Pishori*)

Scheme Management (PIM)

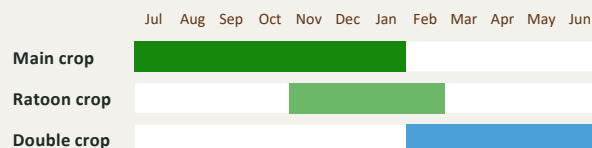
- Scheme Management Committee, IWUA, Dispute Resolution Committee, Farmers' organizations (cooperatives)
- Joint Management with NIA

**FARMERS COMPLY WITH THEIR OBLIGATIONS
IN AGREEMENTS WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

Key Stakeholders – We do not work alone

- **NGAO:** Enforces implementation of water distribution programme and Land disputes resolutions
- **IWUA / WRUA:** Irrigation water distribution plan; river water sharing
- **MIRGM / SACCO:** finance farmers on farm inputs
- **MIAD:** certified rice seeds, research, new varieties
- **KALRO:** New rice varieties and pest management
- **CaDPERP:** Capacity building of farmers on crop husbandry and irrigation water management
- **County Government:** Collaboration on roads maintenance, agro-chemical safety, bird control
- **Millers & traders:** 100+ millers buy and process paddy

Three Cropping Programmes



- **Thiba Dam** enables whole-scheme cropping and all 3 programmes

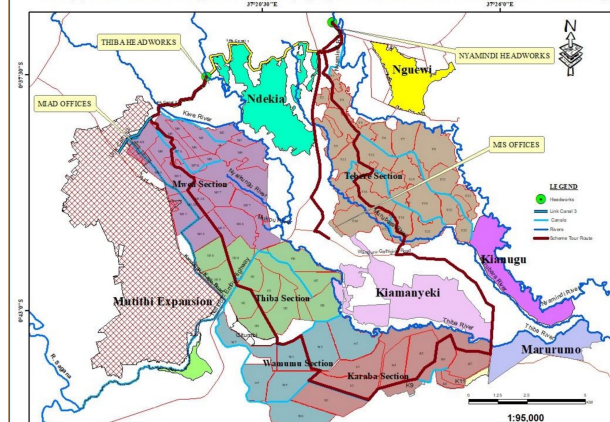
Production and Value Addition Opportunities

- **Mechanization**
 - Land Preparation - 36720hrs – well developed
 - Transplanting - 50,000hrs (under trial)
 - Harvesting – 34,425hrs
- **Production;** Fertilizer 3,500MT, Rice seed: 612 MT
- **Output:** 175,000+ MT yearly; Over KES 13.1B direct to farmers on paddy
- **By-products:** Rice straw baled for sale, bran for animal feeds, rice husk- soil amendment bio-char & cement companies
- **Opportunities for** Agricultural equipment providers, financial institutions, Agrovets, Millers
- **New thinking** - Private-Sector partnerships on Irrigation Infrastructure Maintenance; Capacity Building of IWUA leaders and farmers

Challenges

- **Golden Apple Snail:** invasive menace
- **Inadequate funds:** Maintenance of irrigation infrastructure (on-farm canals, roads, passages, canal lining)
- **Vandalism:** Water control gates – affecting water distribution

MWEA IRRIGATION SCHEME LAYOUT MAP.



Mwea Irrigation Scheme layout map

