

Graceland Orchards

Newsletter

Issued in December 2025



Message from the Board Chairman

Dear Shareholders, Farmers, Partners, and Friends,



newsletter.

We are pleased to share an update on our activities and progress during the second half of 2025. This period marked a significant phase of consolidation and growth for our lemon development program in Kilifi and Kwale counties. Through close collaboration with farmers, county governments, and partners, we continued to strengthen the lemon value chain while promoting sustainable, climatesmart agriculture. In order to more closely interact with our stakeholders' and better coordinate our activities in the coast region, our CEO Ms. Esther Muthoni relocated to Malindi. We were also privileged to visit one of our successful farmers in Kajiado and her story is given later in this

Thank you for your continued trust and commitment.

Program Overview: July–December 2025

Our core focus during the second half of the year was to: - Expand lemon acreage and improve orchard management - Strengthen farmer capacity through training and extension support - Improve access to quality inputs and seedlings - Enhance market linkages - Deepen partnerships with county governments and private sector actors.



Key Highlights

1. Farmer Registration & Orchard Expansion



- Registered new farmers across Kilifi County.
- Supported the establishment of lemon orchards.

2. Seedlings & Input Support

- Distributed certified lemon seedlings sourced from KALRO.
- Facilitated access to fertilizers, organic manure, and crop protection products through partnership with KALRO.
- Promoted proper spacing, soil preparation, and mulching to improve early tree survival and yields.
- Secured funding from KCB for the purchase of seedlings for the farmers.



3. Farmer Training on setting up of nurseries

- Conducted farmer field training sessions with KALRO officer Rashid Katama
 - The farmers were trained on nursery site selection, types of nursery, seed extraction, seed bed preparation and sowing.
 - Integrated pest and disease management.
 - Pruning, nutrition, and irrigation management.
 - Climate-smart farming practices.
 - Grafting and budding methods.



4. Climate Resilience & Water Management

- Promoted water harvesting techniques, including water pans and drip irrigation systems.
- Encouraged intercropping and soil conservation measures to enhance resilience during dry spells.
- Worked with farmers to adopt drought-tolerant rootstocks (rough lemon), as we trained them on grafting.



5. Market Linkages & Value Addition

- Engaged potential off-takers, traders, and processors interested in consistent lemon supply.
- Continued discussions on forward contracts and structured buying arrangements.
- Explored opportunities for value addition, including juice extraction and essential oils, as medium-term prospects while also looking into setting up our own processing plant by 2027.

6. Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement

- Strengthened collaboration with the County Government of Kilifi.
- Engaged financial institutions and development partners to explore farmer financing solutions.
- Maintained active dialogue with shareholders on performance and strategic direction.

Social & Economic Impact

- Increased knowledge on household income diversification for participating farmers.
- Enhanced farmer knowledge and adoption of improved lemon production practices.
- Contributed to local employment through nursery establishment and logistics.
- We visited Mrs Helen Nkaiserry's farm in Kajiado and were amazed that within one year of planting seedlings acquired from Graceland Orchards, her plants have started flowering and bearing fruits. She shared with us the challenges she had faced and the solutions she had found. This challenges included having to fence off the 3 acres she had planted lemon trees, to keep off the wild animals. She has also received advise on plant management and disease control from Mr. Rashid Katama of KALRO. She encouraged lemon farmers to persist in their effort to grow lemons despite the challenges they may face, because she has seen that her persistence has borne fruit.





Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Periodic dry spells affected early-stage orchards in some locations.
- Pest and disease pressure required intensified monitoring and farmer sensitization.
- Logistics and input distribution highlighted the importance of localized aggregation hubs.
- Lack of financing has led to the slow uptake of seedlings.

These insights will inform program improvements in 2026.

Outlook for 2026

Looking ahead, we plan to: - Scale up farmer participation and orchard productivity – Distribute seedlings to the farmers. Seek funding for the setting up of the processing plant. Find markets for existing produce. We hope to establish ourselves as the Lemon Value Chain promotion champions by helping the farmers who are already producing lemons especially in Kilifi and Kwale counties, find markets for their produce. We are also exploring the possibility of leasing existing citrus fruit processing plants to process existing lemon produce. This may require that we seek funding to buy the produce from the farmers.

Appreciation

We sincerely thank our shareholders for their continued confidence, our farmers for their dedication, and our partners for their invaluable support. Together, we are building a resilient and profitable lemon value chain in coastal Kenya.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2026!

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