



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

COMMENTS MATRIX FOR THE DRAFT KENYA AGRICULTURAL DATA, INFORMATION AND DIGITAL POLICY, 2026 AND THE DRAFT DIGITAL AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION BILL, 2026.

Name of Person/Organisation: ...VIFFA CONSULT LIMITED.....

Date:11TH MARCH 2026.....

DRAFT POLICY

S/No.	Provision in the draft policy	What is your proposal/input?	What is your justification for the proposal/input?
1.	1.3 Scope of the Policy This policy applies to all agricultural stakeholders in Kenya, including government agencies at both levels of government, farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, cooperatives, agribusinesses, research institutions, and technology providers	This policy applies to all agricultural stakeholders in Kenya, including government agencies at both levels of government, farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, cooperatives, agribusinesses, research institutions, technology providers, Entrepreneurs support organizations (ESOs), Agri tech and blue tech startups	Entrepreneurs support organizations (ESOs) such as SOTE HUB, FieLabs Innovation Lab among others play a critical role in supporting startups innovating in the agricultural and blue economy sector Agri tech and Blue tech startups are different from technology providers which is a broad term that covers BIG tech companies. Kenya through MTPIV-BETA seeks to promote local innovation and startups hence the importance of their distinct recognition in driving innovation in agriculture and blue economy (fisheries). This aligns with 3.3 (vii)
2.	2.2 Status, Challenges and Opportunities 2.2.2 Digital Agricultural Technologies Challenges (1) Opportunities (2)	(1) Agri tech and blue tech innovation suffer from county levies such as CESS, Branding licenses which impede their competitiveness (2) Financial and human resource investments through increased budgetary allocation as per AU recommendation, establishment of dedicated Agri tech and blue tech funding mechanisms and PPP driven innovation capacity building, coupled with strengthened institutional capabilities offer significant potential for sustainable scaling. modernization the sector through the establishment of a Kenya Agricultural Digital Information Centre, hold promise for sustainable	(1) CESS makes innovation within the agricultural and blue economy sector uncompetitive due its arbitrary application, lack of harmonization across counties, and contribution to double taxation (2) There is need to mention proposed solutions for the challenge of access to finance and HR challenge rather than mere mention

		scaling, fostering productivity, resilience, and market access in a devolved system.	
3.	2.5 Summary of Key Issues, Opportunities and Best Practices c) Weak Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework	The challenge of CESS, Branding licenses among others must be raised underpinned on arbitrary application, lack of harmonization across counties, and contribution to double taxation	This is consistent with recommendations under 2.2
4.	3.3 Guiding Principles (vii)	Innovation and Private Sector Engagement: The Policy will promote innovation, entrepreneurship and private sector participation, including Agri Tech, Blue tech startups and supporting ESOs, research institutions and other technology firms.	There is need to mention Agri tech, blue tech and ESOs to ensure consistency
5.	3.4.1 Agricultural Data, Information and Knowledge Management System	County Governments will: (i) Establish dedicated County Data Management Units, mandated to oversee data governance, ensure compliance with national standards and coordinate investment in secure, interoperable systems across all agricultural sub-sectors and trade sector	Agribusiness, Agri tech, blue tech and ESO are businesses whose details sit within trade sectors at the county hence the need for inclusion
6.	3.4.2 Digital Agricultural Infrastructure	(ii) Collaborate with the private sector, Agri Tech, Blue tech startups and supporting ESOs, research institutions and development partners to scale proven, farmer-centred digital solutions	Agri tech, Blue tech startups and ESOs are the means through which innovation reaches farmers and fisherfolks
7.	3.4.3 Digital Agricultural Services	(ii) Collaborate with local innovators and startups in the delivery of digital agricultural services	In line with governments ambition of creating jobs and economic opportunities for Kenyan youth as per MTPIV-BETA there is need to ring fence these opportunities
8.	3.4.5 Enabling Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework	A-County Governments will: (iii) Review and harmonies CESS, Branding Licenses and other relevant licenses to Agricultural and blue economy sectors B-National and County Governments will: (ii) Develop a framework aligned with Kenya National Data Governance Policy to facilitate interoperable digital agriculture systems to enable seamless data sharing across national and county governments and with relevant non-state actors.	A-The review and harmonization will remove double taxation and make MSMEs and startups competitive hence creating more jobs in line with BETA B-There is need to align with broader data governance policy under Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy
	3.4.6 Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues (a)	A-National & County Government will: (i) Collaborate with the private sector, Agri Tech, Blue tech startups and supporting ESOs, development partners, and civil society to upscale inclusive digital agriculture solutions and public-private partnerships. B-County government will (ii) Facilitate farmer access to digital platforms through extension services, farmer groups, community digital hubs and local ESOs/incubation hubs	A-Agri tech, Blue tech startups and ESOs are the means through which innovation reaches farmers and fisherfolks and aligns with recommendations under 3.4.2 B-The inclusion of local ESOs/ Incubation hubs seeks to strengthen PPP with county governments and increase reach
	4.2 Institutional Framework 4.2.1 National Level Actors	The membership of the Technical advisory committee will be: National Association with most Agri tech and Blue Tech ESO/Incubation hubs	Agri tech and Blue tech ESOs are critical technical stakeholders supporting startups and innovators in agriculture and blue economy in Kenya

DRAFT BILL

S/No.	Clauses in the draft bill	What is your proposal/input?	What is your justification for the proposal/input?
1.	PART I—PRELIMINARY	3. The object of this Act shall be to— (e) provide a framework for collaboration among national and county governments, Agri Tech, Blue tech startups and supporting ESOs, private sector and research institutions on digital agriculture.	A-Agri tech, blue tech startups and ESOs are the means through which innovation reaches farmers and fisherfolks and aligns with policy recommendations under 3.4.2
2.	PART II—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRE Board of the Centre. 5 (1)	the Principal Secretary for Blue Economy or a person designated in writing by the Principal Secretary;	The policy covered both agriculture and fisherfolks which falls under blue economy hence the need to have a representee
3.	PART II—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRE Functions of the Centre.	6. The functions of the Centre shall be— (L) i collaborate with Agri tech and blue tech ESOs and Incubation centres	Promote PPP with private incubation centres driving support for Agri tech and blue tech startups
4.	PART III—ROLE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS Functions of County Governments.	16. The functions of county governments shall be—(g) Review and harmonies CESS, Branding Licenses and other relevant licenses to Agricultural and blue economy sectors	The review and harmonization will remove double taxation and make MSMEs and startups and aligns with policy recommendation on the same
5.	PART VI—DIGITAL AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIONS Establishment of national agricultural innovation hub	22. (1) The Centre shall in collaboration with Agri tech and blue tech ESOs and Incubation centres establish and operate a national agricultural innovation hub for the purpose of incubating, testing and scaling of digital technologies. 23. The county governments in collaboration with the Centre, Agri tech and blue tech ESOs and Incubation centres, shall establish and manage county-specific digital agriculture incubation centre for the purpose of promoting innovation, building the capacity of agricultural value chain actors and the adoption of digital technologies.	Government must collaborate with local Agri tech and blue tech ESOs and Incubation centres such as SOTE HUB, FIELABS among others who have the expertise of running such programs to promote private sector and homegrown solutions hence creating jobs in line with MTP IV-BETA