



# German- African Trainee Program

## Success Story

### A young, dedicated woman succeeds in agriculture

**Abigael Nuna** grew up in a family farm setting with chickens, goats and cows. It wasn't until she studied at Bukura Agricultural College and went for an traineeship on a farm in Germany though that she knew that agriculture was the career she wanted to pursue.

The 6-month practical traineeship, which was organized by AgrarKontakte International (AKI), places Kenyan college students on farms in Southern Germany. Its goal is to achieve knowledge transfer particularly to the youth. They are enabled to learn new things while always reflecting on how they can translate a modern technology, process or method into their context in Kenya. Nuna took the assignment to heart: During her traineeship on a dairy farm, she observed that silage making is an important part of their work. "Even though the winter is long, cows in Germany always have nutritious food for the whole year, which means they give good milk year-round. That's so smart," says Nuna and explains what she did as soon as she returned to the parent's farm: "I've started silage making in a barrel. It is a small beginning, but it will help us avoid food gaps and ensure a constant, high-quality milk supply." Nuna takes care of the family's cows, five of whom are giving milk right now. That's more than the family consumes and is able to sell fresh, so Nuna engages in value-addition and produces yoghurt, sour milk and milkshakes, which are highly in demand in the area.

Another thing that Nuna will never forget is how passionate her host family was about the work on their farm, always striving to do better. She remembers: "Larissa, my host mother, once told me that it is important to accept criticism and be a better person tomorrow than today. I will never forget her advice." Especially as a young woman in agriculture she knows that she has to work extra hard and deliver more than expected. Nevertheless, she would encourage other youth to follow her path into agriculture, a sector whose products will always be in demand.



After returning from Germany, Nuna started a poultry business with a dormant chicken incubator from her mother. She filled it with eggs and within a few months has grown her poultry farm to 400 chicks and chicken. All the profits from selling surplus eggs or chicks go straight back into the business. Where her technical knowledge from college isn't enough, her mother is glad to help her with her practical experience. She is supportive and proud that her daughter is pursuing her business ideas with so much focus: "My daughter knows what she is doing. She wakes up enthusiastic about her work. Seeing her succeed is my biggest joy." Nuna is determined to establish a stable poultry production and become a major distributor of chicks in the area. Looking at the joy and determination for her work, there is no doubt she will make it.

#### The traineeship program in Kenya at a glance:

- Motto „Learning by doing“
- Agricultural sectors: Livestock farming, crop farming, fruit and vegetable farming
- Trainees are agricultural students (ages 18–26) from Bukura Agricultural College
- Part of the special initiative “One World Without Hunger” of the German Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation; implemented as part of the cooperation with Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and its global project “Green Innovation Centres in the agriculture and food sector”
- Goal: To improve the economic and social perspectives of young people in Kenya by promoting self-help

