



## KEPHIS PLANT QUARANTINE AND BIOSECURITY STATION (PQBS)

Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) is the government parastatal whose responsibility is to assure the quality of agricultural inputs and produce to prevent adverse impacts on the economy, the environment, and human health, <https://kephis.org>

KEPHIS was first established under the State Corporations Act in 1996 and later formed under the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service Act 2012 and its mission is to provide a science-based regulatory service by assuring plant health, quality of agricultural inputs and produce for food security, globally competitive agriculture, and sustainable development.



“We offer our diagnostic services to individual farmers, commercial businesses, exporters, importers agricultural research institutions, seed companies, on-Governmental Organisations, universities among others”.

The KEPHIS Plant Quarantine and Biosecurity Station (PQBS) Muguga is one of over 20 stations in KEPHIS. Its main mandate is plant protection through facilitation of safe transfer of plant genetic materials by preventing the introduction of plant pests, diseases and noxious weeds. The station’s role started way back in 1931 with Quarantine services in East Africa operating from Amani in Tanzania. In 1951, the quarantine facility was transferred from Amani to the present site at Muguga where it served the three East Africa countries (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) until July 1977 under the ministry of

Agriculture and later the then Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). It was later handed over to KEPHIS upon its formation in 1996. The station stands on an isolated 4 hectare land, 30 Km west of Nairobi and 6Km off Zambezi junction along Nairobi- Nakuru Highway.

The station has various laboratory sections for effective diagnostic of plant pathogens, invasive species, and their identification. Services offered include diagnosis of plant pests ranging from viruses, viroids, bacterial, fungal pathogens, identification of nematodes and insect pests, Virus clean-up of plant germplasm as well as capacity building on matters related to pest diagnostics and management. The laboratory is also the designated Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) regional reference laboratory for Plant Health and is ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accredited.

The station also hosts the germplasm research, production, and distribution facilities for the International Potato Centre (CIP), International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Pyrethrum Processing Company. Activities include virus cleanup and indexing, tissue culture multiplication and distribution of pathogen free planting material to stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa.

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