

Koskei decries low tea prices on the global market

BY NATION
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Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Felix Koskei has expressed concern over falling tea prices.

He said lack of adequate market for the cash crop had led to low returns.

Farmers have been producing a lot of tea but demand has been too low in the international market.

He said: "Farmers' produce is not in high demand due to overproduction. Therefore, the prices keep on falling."

Mr Koskei said the government had set up a price stabilisation fund that will cushion growers from unstable prices. "The price stabilisation fund will be used to purchase the farmers' produce when prices are low so that they do not register losses," he said.

Mr Koskei spoke at Kari

Village in Kirinyaga County when he presided over the launching of four flagship projects being implemented by Agro-chemical Association of Kenya (AAK).

They are spray service pro-

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The percentage of agro-chemicals sold in the country that are counterfeits

vider, container management programme, anti-counterfeit and pest control products board quality mark.

Kirinyaga County Governor Joseph Ndathi called on AAK to work with the Pest Control Products Board to weed out unscrupulous traders who were selling fake chemicals.

AAK chairman Kuria Gatonye said 12 per cent of the agrochemicals sold in the country are counterfeit.