



SUKARI DIGEST

January 2025-Edition



Welcome to the Sukari Digest

A New Year of Growth, Together



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Dear Valued Farmers, Partners, and Colleagues,

As we step into 2026, we do so with a profound sense of gratitude and optimism. The start of a new year is always a moment for reflection and forward-looking ambition, and this edition of the Sukari Digest perfectly captures the spirit that defines our shared journey.

We are incredibly proud to share stories that illuminate the very heart of what we do: nurturing growth, both in our fields and in our people. These narratives are not just about individual success; they are testaments to the power of partnership, commitment, and a shared belief in a brighter future.

You will read about Philip Ochieng Owiti, whose remarkable journey from Field Assistant to Community Champion embodies the dedication and leadership we cherish. His story is a powerful reminder that with hard work and integrity, growth is not just possible, it is inevitable.

You will also meet Odiwuor Oscar Kitoy and Stephen Okoth, two brilliant young minds whose academic triumphs were made possible through Sukari Industries Limited educational scholarship. Their stellar achievements are a beacon of hope and a direct investment in our collective future, proving that when we remove barriers to education, we unlock extraordinary potential.

We also highlight our recent community engagement at Shiloh Church in Opoya, a deliberate step to strengthen dialogue and ensure our services remain accessible and responsive. This initiative underscores our ongoing commitment to building trust through open communication and reliable support.

Together, these stories form a mosaic of progress. They show that our strength lies not only in the quality of our sugarcane but in the strength of our relationships with our employees, the youth in our communities, and every farmer we are privileged to serve.

Thank you for being an essential part of our Sukari community. ***Here's to a prosperous and collaborative 2026!***

Warmly,

EDWARD AHONOBADHA
Communications Manager
Sukari Industries Limited



Introduction

For decades, sugarcane farmers have relied on varieties that prioritise sugar recovery and reliability at harvest. CO 421 stands out as one of the long-established varieties known for its high sucrose content and dependable milling performance. Although newer varieties have entered the market, CO 421 remains relevant where quality and predictable factory returns are a priority.

Origin and Release

CO 421 originated from the Indian sugarcane breeding programme, specifically from Coimbatore, which is historically associated with high-sucrose cultivars. It was introduced into Kenya during the early phases of varietal diversification to complement local breeding efforts by providing strong sugar recovery characteristics under tropical conditions.

Growth and Maturity Profile

CO 421 is a medium- to late-maturing variety, generally reaching optimal harvest between 16 and 18 months. It exhibits moderate tillering

and produces firm, well-filled stalks with good juice quality. Early growth is relatively slow compared to newer varieties, making early field management particularly important.

Yield and Ratooning Performance

Under good agronomic management, CO 421 typically produces 24 to 32 tonnes of cane per acre, equivalent to approximately 60 to 80 tonnes per hectare. Yield performance is stable rather than aggressive, with the variety placing greater emphasis on juice quality than sheer biomass.

Ratooning ability is moderate. While first ratoons can still be economical, yield and stalk population tend to decline faster than in newer Kenyan-bred varieties. For this reason, CO 421 performs best when replanting cycles are not excessively prolonged.

Disease and Stress Tolerance

CO 421 shows moderate tolerance to common sugarcane diseases but is generally more sensitive to disease pressure than modern varieties. It performs best where clean seed

cane, good field hygiene, and timely rousing are practiced. The variety is also less tolerant of prolonged moisture stress and therefore benefits from consistent rainfall and good soil moisture retention.

Adaptability

CO 421 is best suited to fertile soils with reliable moisture availability. It responds well to fertiliser application and good weed control, making it more appropriate for farms with moderate to high management input levels. It is less suited to marginal or low-input environments.

Relevance to West Kenya Sugar

Within the West Kenya Sugar belt, CO 421 can still be productive where farmers maintain good field management and harvest at full maturity. Its relatively predictable sucrose levels support factory efficiency, but its declining ratoon vigour means it should be planted selectively rather than extensively. When well managed, it remains a useful complement to more robust, adaptable varieties.

Farmer’s Management Tip

To maximise returns from CO 421, plant at the onset of rains, prioritise early weed control, and apply balanced fertilisation to support stalk development. Harvesting should be done strictly at maturity to capture its sucrose advantage, and fields should be replanted promptly once ratoon yields begin to fall.

Conclusion

CO 421 is a classic sugarcane variety whose strength lies in sugar quality rather than high tonnage. While it may no longer suit all production systems, it continues to serve farmers and millers who value reliable sucrose recovery under good management conditions.



From Field Assistant to Community Champion:

The Inspiring Journey of Philip Ochieng Owiti



In the verdant fields of Minya Village, North Kanyikela Location, one man's story stands as a beacon of what's possible when dedication meets opportunity. Philip Ochieng Owiti, at 41, has woven together a remarkable tapestry of professional achievement and community impact that continues to inspire everyone who knows him.

A Foundation Built on Determination

When Philip walked through the gates of Sukari Industries in 2013 as a Field Assistant, he carried with him more than just ambition—he brought an unshakeable belief in the power of hard work and a vision for what he could become. Those early days in the fields weren't merely a job; they were his classroom, where every interaction with farmers and every challenge in sugarcane production became a lesson that would shape his future.

Rising Through the Ranks

Philip's ascent tells a story that resonates deeply: excellence never goes unnoticed. In 2016, his consistent performance and natural leadership earned him a promotion to Field Supervisor. Here, he didn't just manage—he inspired, coordinating field activities with a personal touch that farmers genuinely appreciated. By 2018, his reputation for integrity and strategic thinking propelled him to Field Superintendent, where his influence expanded across entire operations.

Then came 2025—a year that would mark a crowning achievement. Philip's appointment as HOA – Nyaondo Weighbridge wasn't simply a promotion; it was a testament to twelve years of building trust, one day at a time, one farmer at a time.

Walking the Talk: A Farmer's Heart

What truly sets Philip apart is this: he doesn't just advise farmers—he is one. With 10 acres of his own sugarcane swaying in the breeze, Philip understands the early mornings, the anxious waits for rain, the satisfaction of a healthy crop, and the sting of setbacks. His fields are more than farmland; they're his laboratory, his proof of concept, his connection to every farmer he serves.

This authentic dual perspective makes him magnetic. When Philip speaks about crop management or productivity improvements, farmers lean in. They see their own struggles reflected in his journey and their own dreams validated by his success.

A Legacy in Motion

Today, Philip Ochieng Owiti is more than an employee or a farmer—he's a living example of what Sukari Industries and the farming community can achieve together. In Minya Village and throughout North Kanyikela Location, his name sparks conversations, his methods inspire adoption, and his story fuels hope.

Philip's journey reminds us that true success isn't measured solely in promotions or acreage, but in the lives touched, the community strengthened, and the path illuminated for those who follow. His story is still being written, and the best chapters may yet be ahead.

This is the power of one person's commitment—to excellence, to community, to believing that growth is something we achieve not alone, but together.



From Uncertainty to Excellence:

Stephen's Journey to Success



Student Profile

A Stephen Okoth is a 2025 KCSE candidate from Friends School Kamusinga who achieved an impressive A Plain with 82 points. Hailing from Mivoyi in Ndhiwa Subcounty, Stephen was a beneficiary of the Ndhiwa Sukari Industry Sponsorship Program throughout his secondary education from Form 1 to Form 4. Testament to the Power of Educational Sponsorship

Stephen's Testimony

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Sukari Industry for the support in payment of my school fees from form one to form four."

When Stephen Okoth began his secondary education journey at Friends School Kamusinga, he carried with him not just dreams, but also the weight of uncertainty about how his education would be financed. Thanks to the Ndhiwa Sukari Industry Sponsorship Program, that uncertainty transformed into opportunity, and opportunity blossomed into outstanding achievement.

The Impact Of Consistent Support

Being a beneficiary of the Sukari Industry sponsorship program gave Stephen more than just financial relief—it gave him peace of mind. With his school fees paid consistently and on time from Form One through Form Four, Stephen was able to:

- Remain in school without interruption
- Focus fully on his studies without financial worry
- Maximize his time and potential in the classroom
- Develop the discipline and dedication needed for excellence

“This enabled me to stay in school most of the time and made me able to maximise my time in school,” Stephen reflects.”

A Driver For Excellence

The support from Ndhiwa Sukari became more than financial assistance—it became a source of motivation and purpose. Stephen shares:

“The support of the Ndhiwa Sukari really encouraged me to work tirelessly and to be self-driven so that I can also give back to the community and change the story, not only in my family but also to the community at large in the near future.”

This sense of responsibility and gratitude fueled Stephen’s determination, ultimately contributing to his exceptional performance: an A plain with 82 points in the 2025 KCSE examinations.

Dreams For The Future

Stephen’s success has opened doors to pursue his passion for engineering. He aspires to study Mechanical Engineering (Industrial Production) at the university level and continues to hope for Sukari Industries Ltd support through this next phase of his educational journey.

His vision extends beyond personal achievement. Stephen dreams of returning to Ndhiwa Sukari Industries Ltd as a qualified engineer, creating a full-circle story of transformation:

“I would wish to come back and join the Sukari Industry in future as an engineer so that I can give back and show my heartfelt gratitude.”

A Message Of Gratitude

In Stephen’s own words:

“I dedicate my success to the Ndhiwa Sukari for their support because I do not think I could have made it on my own. I promise to be an ambassador of Ndhiwa Sukari for their kindness and good deeds.”

The Bigger Picture

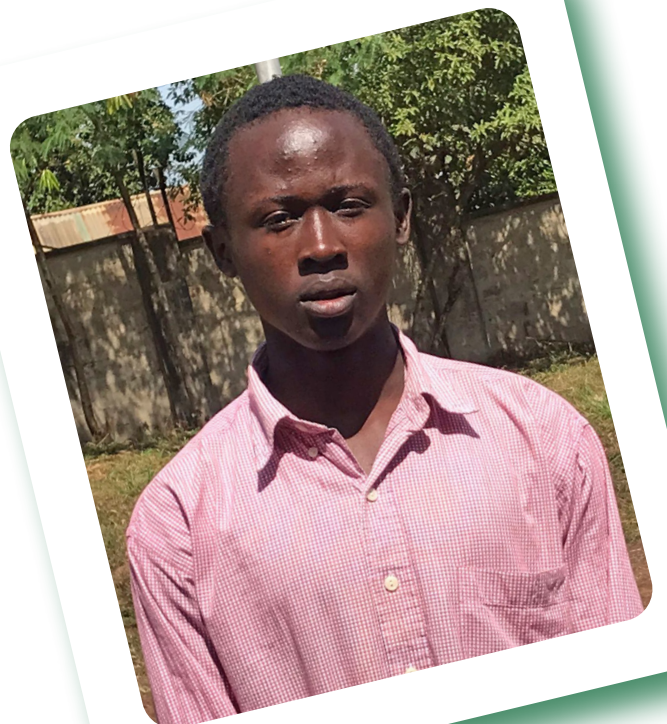
Stephen Okoth’s story exemplifies the transformative power of educational sponsorship. When students are given the opportunity to focus on learning without the burden of financial uncertainty, they don’t just succeed—they excel, they dream bigger, and they commit to paying it forward.

From Mivoyi to Friends School Kamusinga, from uncertainty to an A plain, Stephen’s journey is a testament to what becomes possible when industry invests in education and when young people are given the chance to reach their full potential.

Thank You, Ndhiwa Sukari Industries Ltd.

For believing in potential. For investing in futures. For changing lives.

This success story demonstrates the lasting impact of the Ndhiwa Sukari Industry Sponsorship Program and its commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders, professionals, and community change-makers.



A Journey of Transformation:

Odiwuor Oscar Kitoy's Success Story



From Uncertainty to Excellence

Four years ago, a young student named Odiwuor Oscar Kitoy stood at a crossroads. With dreams of education but limited means, his future hung in the balance. That's when Sukari Industries Limited stepped in, offering not just financial support, but a lifeline to his aspirations.

The Power of Belief

Throughout his four years at Kanga High School, Odiwuor experienced more than just educational sponsorship. He found something equally valuable: someone who believed in him. This belief became the foundation upon which he built his academic success.

"Your sponsorship covered my education needs and gave me peace of mind," Odiwuor reflects. "I was able to concentrate fully on my studies without the constant worry that plagues so many students."

Rising to the Challenge

The investment in Odiwuor's education paid dividends. With the burden of school fees lifted and his mind free to focus on learning, he threw himself into his studies with determination and purpose. The generosity shown to him became fuel for his ambition.

A Remarkable Achievement

The results speak for themselves. After four years of dedicated study, Odiwuor completed his high school education at Kanga High School with an impressive A- grade, scoring 80 points in his national examinations. This achievement represents not just academic excellence, but the culmination of hard work, support, and unwavering belief.

More Than Grades

But Odiwuor's success story isn't measured in grades alone. The sponsorship from Sukari Industries Limited transformed more than his academic transcript—it transformed his entire outlook on life.

"Your support helped me academically, but it also inspired me to believe in myself and my future," the 19-year-old shares. "The kindness, commitment, and encouragement I received shaped not just my education, but who I am becoming."

Looking Forward

Now, standing at the threshold of his next chapter, Odiwuor has his sights set on higher education. With aspirations to pursue engineering at the university level, he's ready to take the lessons learned and the confidence gained into the next phase of his journey.

His success at Kanga High School is proof that when opportunity meets determination, remarkable things happen. It's a testament to what's possible when someone invests not just in education, but in a young person's potential.

A Legacy of Gratitude

Today, Odiwuor carries with him a profound sense of gratitude and a commitment to make the most of the opportunities he's been given. His story serves as an inspiration to other students facing similar challenges and as validation for organizations like Sukari Industries Limited that their investment in education truly changes lives.

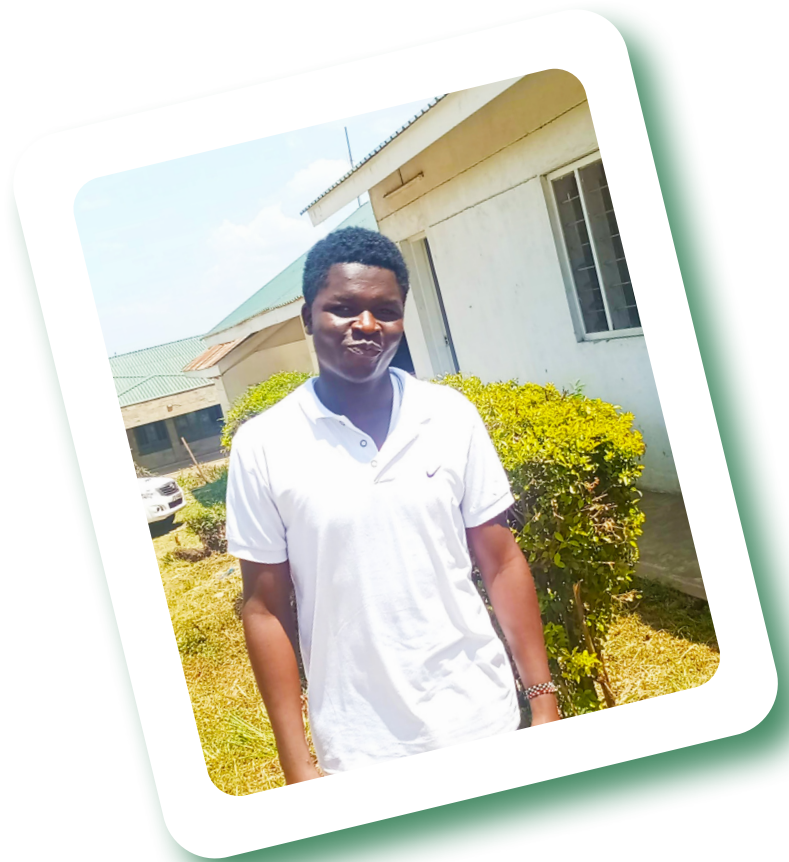
"I will always remember your support," Odiwuor promises. "And I will strive to make the best use of the opportunity you gave me."

The Ripple Effect

Odiwuor's achievement is more than one student's success—it's evidence of the transformative power of educational sponsorship. His A- grade represents countless hours of study, the peace of mind to focus on learning, and the confidence that comes from knowing someone believes in you.

As he prepares for the next level of his education, Odiwuor Oscar Kitoy stands as a shining example of what's possible when talent meets opportunity, when belief meets determination, and when a community invests in its youth.

His journey from an uncertain student to a high-achieving graduate is not just his success story—it's a success story for everyone who played a part in making his dreams possible.



Building Trust Through Community Engagement:

Shiloh Church Outreach



On 10 January 2026, Sukari Industries Limited strengthened its connection with the farming community through a successful outreach and sensitization session with congregants at Shiloh Church, Opoya. This engagement reflected the company's commitment to responsive customer service, inclusive stakeholder dialogue, and sustainable partnerships with farmers and local communities.

Creating Platforms for Meaningful Dialogue

The session provided an open forum where farmers and community members learned about the Sukari Industries Customer Care Desk and the proper channels for submitting queries, complaints, and service requests. The outreach team underscored how structured communication ensures faster response times and more effective service delivery, while also highlighting opportunities for farmer recruitment and long-term collaboration with the company.

Introducing the Toll-Free Customer Care Line

A cornerstone of the engagement was the introduction of Sukari Industries' toll-free customer care line—0800 723 399—presented as a reliable and transparent link between farmers and the company. Congregants received clear guidance on how the Customer

Care Desk supports them through timely responses, improved service coordination, and dependable communication. Participants also learned that they could visit Sukari Industries' customer service offices for personalized, face-to-face support.

Community Response and Commitment

The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive. Congregants expressed appreciation for the company's direct engagement, willingness to listen, and provision of practical solutions for accessing services. Many noted that the toll-free line has already simplified communication and enabled faster issue resolution.

Significantly, the community pledged to use the service responsibly and to share the customer care contact details with fellow farmers and neighbors—extending the outreach's impact well beyond the church walls.

Strengthening Trust and Visibility

This outreach considerably enhanced Sukari Industries Limited's visibility, goodwill, and trust within the community. It reinforced the company's reputation as a farmer-focused, accessible, and customer-oriented organization while raising awareness of services that support efficient problem-solving and improved farmer satisfaction.

A Model for Community Engagement

The Shiloh Church engagement exemplifies the power of proactive community outreach. By bringing information and services directly to the people, Sukari Industries demonstrated how trust is built, relationships are strengthened, and long-term partnerships are nurtured. Through initiatives like these, the company continues to invest in sustainable community relations and a shared vision of growth with its farmers and stakeholders.

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