

### **Negotiations with County and National Government departments: Cooler plant and land for construction of Cooler House**

There were a series of community mobilization meetings as well as round table meetings with both County and National Governments departments where construction of a cooler house and provision of milk cooler were discussed. The national government (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, directorate of Agriculture) through the county department of cooperatives promised to provide a 3,000 litres milk cooler to the Umande Cooperative Society. The county government through the area Member of County Assembly (MCA) committed to donate a land where the cooler house would be constructed which would also serve as the offices for the cooperative society. Subsequently, the county government of Laikipia donated 0.5 acre piece of land at Karachi public ground (approximately 5km from Nanyuki-Meru Highway) where the cooler house would be constructed as well other facilities such as yoghurt processing unit, agrochemicals shop, and feeds making and storage units.

### **Negotiations with the Cooperative Society on partitioning of roles and responsibilities in the construction process:**

Modalities of engagement including society's contribution in terms of labour and materials as well as supervision of the construction process. There was a series of consultative meetings with the members of the Umande cooperative society to agree on how to proceed with the construction work and the contributions by various parties.



Figure 5: One of the consultative meeting with Cooperative members and area MCA on the construction of the cooler house

In summary, the outcome of community mobilization meetings were i) commitment by the cooperative members to provide various construction materials and unskilled labour such as digging/scoping the trenches; ii) commitment to supply hard core, ballast, day-to-day supervision of the construction work as well as unskilled labour; and iii) CETRAD to finance the skilled labour and purchase other materials that were required for the construction of the cooler house. As a result of these negotiations, all the construction materials promised by the SACCO were delivered on time and the construction works supervised promptly.

### Construction of Cooler House

After community mobilization and awareness creation meetings, the cooler house was constructed and completed albeit few finishing. The cooler house comprises of the main operation compartment for the cooler machine, a store, laboratory and power house (housing standby generator). The cooler machine was also delivered and successfully installed and tested. It will be functional in the next few months.



Figure 6: Cooperative members digging trenches for the foundation (left) and ongoing slabbing (right) during construction phase





figure 4 in table 1 of Dairy Coops in a Day and Dairy Coops in a Day milk is received (left) and the