The SAVE FOOD Mango Project – Facts and Figures

The problem:

A SAVE FOOD Initiative study has analysed mango food losses in Kenya and concluded that currently some 300,000 tonnes of the fruit aren't harvested in time or can't be processed quickly enough before spoiling. Besides pest infestations, key causes include inadequate harvesting, storage and transport capacities – and, not least, a lack of know-how. An exceedingly low export ratio of just 2% and marginal total value added due to non-existing processing capabilities exacerbate the problem, even though global demand for agricultural products, especially exotic fruits, is on the rise.

The project:

The central first step for the SAVE FOOD Mango Project is the deployment of effective processing and packaging equipment in order to generate greater added value within the country and reduce food losses. Partly the issue is also about the processing of fruit that's no longer fit for immediate consumption. In addition to setting up a functioning supply chain, factors such as choosing the right location or identifying suitable mango products for export play a crucial role, as well.

A further aim is to leverage Kenya's favourable geographical location by turning the country into a more organised export hub serving other African markets. Investments planned as part of the Kenyan government's "Vision 2030" project might as well be allocated, at least in part, to the installation of advanced packaging technology. In the end, this would result not only in markedly reduced harvesting and storage losses thanks to more adequate processing methods but also in a sharply higher export ratio – in addition to an improved handling of domestic demand, which is also increasing. Altogether, these enhancements aim to reduce losses along the supply chain by 30,000 tonnes initially.

The figures:

Losses during mango production in Kenya:	approx. 300,000 tonnes (36% of total production)
Kenya’s mango export ratio in 2012:	approx. 2%
Processing ratio in Kenya:	approx. 5%
Share of agriculture in Kenya’s GNP:	approx. 25%
Agriculture investments planned by Kenyan government:	approx. USD 860 million
Potential margin between buying price in Kenya and selling price in Germany:	approx. 1,233%

The project is based on a study by africon GmbH, a consulting company specialising in African issues, which has also taken on the project management lead. After initiating the project at the end of 2013, a phase of growth is now under way, as a new production facility with more capacity was built in 2016. At the SAVE FOOD congress in Düsseldorf on 4 May, africon, together with its long-standing partner, the Kenyan company Azuri Health Ltd., will present the development and successes of the project.