



SOIL SCIENCE CLUB PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

Center of Excellence: Rift Valley National Polytechnic, Kenya

Reporting Date: 18 September 2026

1. Introduction

Rift Valley National Polytechnic (RVNP), as one of the pilot Centers of Excellence under the **CSAYNG Soil Science Club Program (SSCP)**, has commenced implementation of the planned activities aimed at strengthening learners' understanding of soil science, soil conservation, sustainable land management and the importance of healthy soils. Following the inception and orientation of facilitators, the Polytechnic initiated the process of establishing the Soil Science Club and engaging learners in practical and educational activities.

2. Activities Completed

The first step involved **mobilizing and identifying learners interested in soil science and related environmental and agricultural activities**. This resulted in the establishment of the Soil Science Club, which currently has approximately **30 members**.

The club has also established its leadership structure to facilitate effective coordination and learner participation. The current office bearers include a **Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary**. The club is supported by **Mr. Kennedy Keya as Patron** and **Charles Kibeu as Assistant Patron**.

Members have been introduced to the **Semester 1 Theme: "Discovering Soil."** For Month One, learners have been oriented to the Soil Science Club and introduced to foundational concepts, including **"What is Soil?"** The planned engagement incorporates group discussions and a monthly soil-science nugget.

On **18 September 2026**, club members participated in a **fruit-tree planting activity in collaboration with CKL Africa**, held to commemorate CKL Africa's **120 years since establishment**. The activity provided learners with a practical opportunity to connect soil science with tree establishment, environmental conservation and sustainable land management.

3. Key Achievements and Observations

The establishment of the club has generated positive learner interest, with approximately **30 learners already registered**. The formation of a leadership structure provides a foundation

for continued coordination and learner ownership. The initial activities have also demonstrated that practical environmental activities, such as tree planting, can effectively complement classroom-based soil science learning.

4. Challenges and Support Required

The major challenge at this stage is the **limited availability of appropriate soil science practical tools and resources**. The club requires equipment for demonstrating **soil sampling**

techniques, including augers, sampling tubes, soil corers, sample bags, labels and other basic field equipment.

The club also requires resources for demonstrating the **Hydrometer Method for Particle Size Analysis**. This method is important because it enables learners to determine the relative proportions of **sand, silt and clay** in a soil sample. Through sedimentation, soil particles settle at different rates according to their size, and hydrometer readings are used to estimate the distribution of particle sizes and classify soil texture. Access to hydrometers, sedimentation cylinders, balances, dispersing agents and related laboratory equipment would therefore significantly strengthen practical learning.

Additional support is required in acquiring **soil test kits** for demonstrating basic soil properties and fertility indicators, including pH and selected nutrients. Other teaching materials and practical resources would further enhance implementation.

5. Conclusion

RVNP has successfully initiated the Soil Science Club and established a foundation for sustained learner engagement. With continued technical guidance and access to practical resources, the club is well positioned to expand activities that promote understanding, conservation and sustainable management of soils.

Appendix A:

Photo 1: Soil Science Club members participating in the fruit-tree planting activity with CKL Africa on 18 September 2026.



Photo 2: Soil Science Club members during the club establishment/orientation session.



Photo 3: Soil Science Club leadership and members.

