

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DESK

PYRETHRUM PRODUCTION HAS BEEN STEADY

Board nets Shs. 360m.

THE Pyrethrum Board of Kenya expects to earn about Shs. 360-million from the 1980/81 projected pyrethrum output, the board's chairman, Mr. J. K. Muregi announced in Nakuru on Wednesday.

Last year pyrethrum earned farmers Shs. 220-million from a production of 10,000 tons while in the previous year Shs. 124-million was earned. In 1977 the farmers earned Shs. 104-million. Production has been steady and the projected output for 1981/82 of an estimated 17,500 tons is expected to earn about Shs. 400 million.

The newly appointed chairman disclosed this when he held his first informal meeting with the members of the board in Nakuru's Pyrethrum Board offices.

Mr. Muregi hailed the board for undertaking to promote the industry despite the fact that some previous years were not productive.

He pointed out that 99 per cent of the commodity is exported which he said, contributed tremendously to the nation's foreign exchange earnings.

Saying that the purpose of the board is to ensure maximum production and reasonable returns to the farmers, Mr. Muregi urged the growers to intensify their efforts in the production of plant with high pyrethrum content in order to earn good money.

Mr. Muregi advised the farmers that while the board endeavoured to consider strategies necessary for greater production relevant to their welfare, "you should also assist and strive to work hard to uplift the pyrethrum industry."

Report by K.N.A.

The chairman who was flanked by the Nyanza P.C., Mr. I K. Cheluget, a board member and the Rift Valley acting P.C., Mr. Njuguna Ndoro, announced that a Shs. 3-million pyrethrum bureau had been constructed in Nakuru and is expected to be operating soon.

• Cotton farmers in Kirinyaga District have invested Shs. 635,612 with the Cotton Board with the aim of buying the local ginnery at Wanguru Town.

This follows an agreement reached in 1970 between the Cotton Board, which owns the ginnery, and the Kirinyaga Cotton Farmers Co-operative Society.