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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Funded by the
European Union

This project is funded by the European Union under Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, project grant agreement No 101180225.

Bringing Space and IoT to African Smallholder Farmers

Welcome to the second issue of the KijaniSpace Newsletter.

Over the past months, KijaniSpace has continued its journey from ideas and co-creation towards practical implementation. Insights from our stakeholder workshops are helping shape the solutions we develop, while the Space-IoT Box and IoT technologies are moving into real-world settings in the Lake Victoria Basin.

This issue also highlights the people behind innovation. The Kisumu Talent Training Programme brought together a multidisciplinary group of participants to build skills in Earth Observation, GIS and IoT, culminating in a hands-on hackathon where nine teams developed working prototypes addressing challenges in agriculture and aquaculture.

KijaniSpace has also continued to exchange experiences with the wider European and international space, innovation and technology-transfer communities.

We invite you to explore these developments and follow KijaniSpace as we continue turning data, technology and local knowledge into practical solutions for climate-smart agriculture and aquaculture.

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Three Key Lessons from the Ideation Workshops

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Building on the ideation workshops held in Kisumu, Kenya, and Musoma, Tanzania, three key lessons emerged to guide the next phase of KijaniSpace—from concept development to piloting and scaling.



1. Making Data Actionable

The challenge is not the lack of technology, but making it usable. Stakeholders emphasised the need to turn complex EO and IoT data into simple, actionable insights for farmers and fishers.

Takeaway:

The success of KijaniSpace will depend on its ability to integrate technologies into coherent, user-friendly systems, rather than introducing new standalone tools. The value lies in simplifying complexity—turning satellite and sensor data into clear, actionable guidance for farmers and fishers.

2. Building the Right Ecosystem for Adoption

Barriers such as cost, connectivity, skills, and policy gaps limit real-world uptake.

Takeaway:

The discussions highlighted the need for a system-level approach, combining:

- Affordable delivery models (e.g. pay-as-you-go, low-cost IoT kits)
- Capacity building at multiple levels
- Policy engagement and institutional alignment
- Market linkage and financial inclusion mechanisms

Technology alone is insufficient, ecosystem readiness determines impact.

3. Turning Priorities into Action

Across both countries, stakeholders aligned on key use cases—climate advisory, smart aquaculture, soil and crop monitoring, disease detection, and market access.

Takeaway:

KijaniSpace is now well-positioned to move from ideation to implementation with a focused and validated portfolio of use cases. The priority is no longer “what to build,” but how to operationalise, test, and scale these solutions in real-world conditions.

4. What These Insights Mean for KijaniSpace

Together, these three lessons helped shape the project’s next steps:

- From technology-driven → to user-driven innovation
- From individual tools → to integrated solution ecosystems
- From pilot ideas → to implementation-ready use cases

These lessons marked an important transition for KijaniSpace, providing a stronger foundation for implementation, adoption and impact.

SPACE-IoT SOLUTION BOX FOR CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

*“Empowering Climate-Smart Agriculture with Copernicus and IoT
Innovations for Smallholder Farmers in Africa”*

Report D2.2

Reporting Ideation Workshop Outcomes

Beneficiary: LakeHub

Document Reference: D2.2

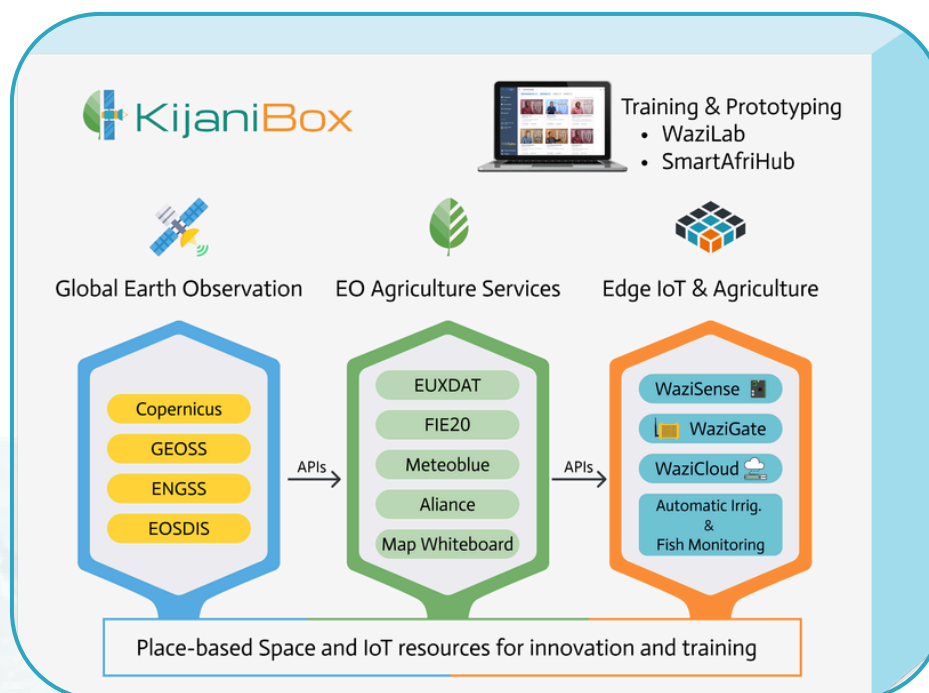
Distribution: Public/Internal

Version: 1.0

Date: March 2026

Learn more in Deliverable D2.2 ([Cordis](#))

SPACE-IOT BOX: MAKING SPACE AND IOT DATA WORK FOR AFRICAN AGRICULTURE



Learn more in Deliverables
D3.1 and D3.2 ([Cordis](#))

The Space-IoT Box gives access to agroclimatic indicators, satellite imagery, weather forecasts, vegetation indices, water-related data, IoT services and training resources. Developers can use the platform to build local applications for crop farming, irrigation planning, fisheries, water monitoring, precision agriculture and climate-risk management.

By combining **satellite intelligence, weather data and local IoT inputs**, the Space-IoT Box helps turn data into practical services that can support farmers, fishers, startups, researchers and public-sector actors in the Lake Victoria region and beyond.

KIJANISPACE IOT DEVICES PREPARED FOR FIELD DEPLOYMENT



In **June 2026**, KijaniSpace took an important step towards the field deployment of its IoT infrastructure. The devices were purchased and delivered to Germany, where the WAZIUP team prepared and repacked them for delivery to Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Six IoT microclimatic observation units were prepared for installation across the three countries in the Lake Victoria Basin.

The devices are designed to connect local field measurements with Copernicus Earth Observation data, supporting more informed and climate-resilient decision-making in agriculture and aquaculture.

This preparatory work marked the transition from digital concepts and engineering to field implementation, bringing KijaniSpace technologies closer to the farmers, fishers and other local stakeholders the project aims to support.

SPACE-IOT BOX INSTALLED AT THE CROP FARMING PILOT SITE IN TANZANIA

Following the preparations for field deployment, KijaniSpace completed the installation of the Space-IoT Box at the Nyakasanga Irrigation Scheme in Tanzania, marking an important milestone for the project's crop farming pilot activities.

The installation established an operational digital infrastructure that combines Copernicus Earth Observation data with IoT monitoring technologies in a real agricultural setting. Located within a year-round rice irrigation scheme, the pilot provides an environment for collecting field data and validating climate-smart agriculture applications and digital advisory services.

Beyond the installation itself, the pilot creates a practical setting for testing how integrated satellite and sensor technologies can support agricultural decision-making, irrigation management and environmental monitoring. Evidence generated through the pilot will also inform the potential future deployment of the Space-IoT Box in other parts of the Lake Victoria Basin.

As implementation continues, the pilot is expected to strengthen collaboration between farmers, researchers, technology providers and innovation stakeholders while supporting the uptake of digital solutions for sustainable agriculture.



MEET THE FIRST KISUMU TALENT TRAINING COHORT

The Kisumu Talent Training Programme was designed to equip participants with practical skills in Earth Observation, GIS, IoT and digital innovation, and to help them apply these technologies to real challenges in agriculture, aquaculture and environmental management.

During **March and April 2026**, KijaniSpace promoted the programme through a focused LinkedIn and Facebook campaign built around three connected messages:

- **Relevance:** Space and IoT technologies were presented as practical tools for addressing challenges in the Lake Victoria region, not as abstract technologies.
- **Opportunity:** The free, online-first programme offered participants a structured learning pathway leading to a hands-on hackathon at LakeHub in Kisumu.
- **Local connection:** Messages shared by local actors, including Ms Margaret Sandra from LakeHub, linked the programme directly to the ambitions and needs of young innovators in the region.

Together, these messages connected the programme's technical content with opportunities to learn, collaborate and develop locally relevant solutions.

The outreach brought together a multidisciplinary cohort of developers, engineers, designers, entrepreneurs and innovators with an interest in applying digital technologies to challenges in agriculture and aquaculture. This mix of backgrounds enabled participants to bring technical, practical and entrepreneurial perspectives to the training and hackathon.

Read more on KijaniSpace website: <https://www.kijanispaces.eu/talent-training-program-round-1/>

BUILDING SPACE-IOT SKILLS: THE LEARNING JOURNEY



After the first cohort was selected, the programme moved from outreach to structured learning. The onboarding session on **14 May 2026** introduced participants to the programme objectives, learning pathway, assignments, participation requirements, digital platforms and the final hackathon.

This first step gave participants a practical roadmap for the programme. WaziLab, Google Classroom, WhatsApp and email were introduced as the main tools for accessing materials, completing assignments, communicating and collaborating.

The first training session on **21 May** then shifted the focus from orientation to technical capability. Participants explored mapping, spatial data, cartography, coordinate systems, remote sensing and GIS, and began connecting these concepts to agriculture, aquaculture, environmental monitoring and climate resilience.

Together, the two sessions established the foundation for the programme: participants understood the journey, gained access to the learning environment and started building the technical knowledge needed to develop Space-IoT solutions.

Participant expectations also reflected this progression. Mr Brian Onzere from Kisumu highlighted the opportunity to strengthen his skills in geospatial technologies, IoT systems and satellite data while collaborating with people from different disciplines.

The weekly expert-led sessions combined **Earth Observation, GIS, IoT, innovation, entrepreneurship and collaborative problem-solving**, progressively building participants' capacity to apply these tools in practice. This learning journey prepared participants for the programme's hands-on finale: the Kisumu Hackathon.

PUTTING SKILLS INTO PRACTICE: THE KISUMU HACKATHON



The first round of the KijaniSpace Talent Training Programme culminated in a two-day hackathon at LakeHub in Kisumu on **24–25 July 2026**. Under the theme “Hack for Aquaculture & Crops Using Earth Observation and IoT Technologies,” young developers, engineers, designers, entrepreneurs and innovators came together to turn their newly acquired skills into practical solutions for challenges in agriculture and aquaculture in the Lake Victoria Basin.

Working in multidisciplinary teams and supported by mentors, participants used Copernicus Earth Observation data and the Space-IoT Box to move from identifying challenges to developing working prototypes. Over two intensive days, teams worked through ideation, technical development, systems integration, business modelling and pitching.

By the end of the hackathon, nine teams had developed functional Minimum Viable Products (MVPs), each accompanied by a business model and pitch.

The teams—**Feed Sync, Nemo, Jonam, Midnight Lab, Terra Tech, Sky Scope, Mwangaza, Soil IQ and Bionode**—approached the challenge from different perspectives, exploring how digital technologies could contribute to agricultural productivity, resource management, environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

An independent judging panel assessed the solutions against six criteria: innovation, problem relevance, technical implementation, feasibility and scalability, user experience, and presentation quality. Beyond the competition, participants gained hands-on experience in turning technical ideas into solutions while strengthening teamwork, communication and entrepreneurial skills. The hackathon demonstrated the progression at the heart of the Talent Training Programme—from learning about Space-IoT technologies to applying them to real-world challenges. The nine prototypes now provide a starting point for further testing and development.

VOICES OF KIJANISPACE: PARTICIPANTS SHARE THEIR PERSPECTIVES

Participants in the first KijaniSpace Talent Training Programme shared their expectations, motivations and perspectives on how technology could help address challenges in their communities. Here are some of their voices.



"I look forward to improving my skills in geospatial technologies, IoT systems, and the practical use of satellite data to solve modern-day challenges in agriculture and environmental monitoring. I also expect to gain hands-on experience, expand my technical knowledge, and collaborate with colleagues from different disciplines, sharing ideas and building innovative solutions together."

Brian Onzere, Kisumu, Kenya



"Technology is a space where women belong."

Michelle Wanjiru from Kisumu, Kenya – a Junior Developer, Backend and DevOps Engineer at Zone01 Kisumu and a participant in the KijaniSpace Talent Training Programme.



Watch Michelle's story on the official KijaniSpace YouTube page [here](#)



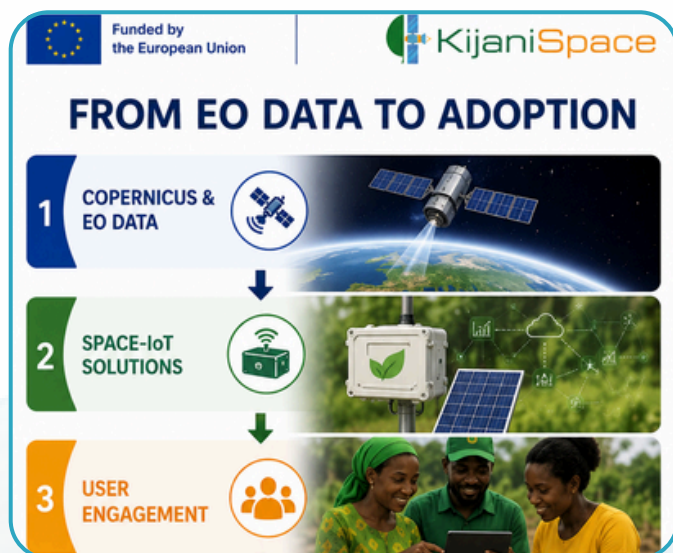
"Technology is about more than innovation; it's about opportunities, it's about solving problems, and it's about empowering communities."

Candy Jannys, KijaniSpace Talent Training Programme participant from Nyakach, Kisumu, Kenya.



Watch Candy's story on the official KijaniSpace YouTube page [here](#)

KIJANISPACE IN THE WIDER SPACE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITY



1. Scaling Earth Observation: KijaniSpace Joins the GAIA Clustering Session

In June 2026, KijaniSpace joined the GAIA online clustering webinar on scaling Earth Observation services. The event brought together projects working on practical EO applications across agriculture, water monitoring, crisis management and environmental domains.

Discussions explored how EO solutions can move beyond research environments towards operational adoption. Represented by Dr Corentin Dupont, KijaniSpace shared experiences from developing EO-based services for African agricultural stakeholders.

The session also provided an opportunity to connect with initiatives including GAIA, SWIM, SNOWCOP and OVERWATCH, opening possibilities for future cooperation and knowledge exchange across the EO ecosystem.



2. KijaniSpace Brings Space-IoT Experience to the WTO

In April 2026, KijaniSpace participated in a high-level workshop organised by the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the implementation of Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement, focusing on incentives for technology transfer to Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

During the three-day workshop in Geneva, Dr Corentin Dupont (InnoTec21 GmbH) presented KijaniSpace as an example of how Earth Observation, IoT technologies and local innovation ecosystems can be combined to support climate-smart agriculture in the Lake Victoria region. He shared how the project combines Copernicus Earth Observation data, IoT technologies and local innovation ecosystems to support climate-smart agriculture in the Lake Victoria region.

3.Connecting with Europe's Space Community at EUSPA

In December 2025, KijaniSpace strengthened its engagement with the European space ecosystem through participation in the EUSPA Consulting Days. Project Coordinator Dr Abdur Rahim Biswas represented the consortium, contributing insights on how Earth Observation and Space-IoT technologies can address real user needs in climate-smart agriculture, food security and sustainable development. The event also provided opportunities to establish new connections and increase the visibility of KijaniSpace within the European space community.



Thank you for reading! We hope that you have enjoyed the latest edition of the newsletter and thank you for following us on our journey! For more information on the project results and outcomes, please feel free to visit us on our website:



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