

Influence of Right to Land ownership on performance of Women owned agricultural development projects in Nyamira County, Kenya

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Abstract: The purpose of the study was to examine the influence of right to land ownership on performance of women owned Agricultural development projects. The research adopted a descriptive survey research design. Data was collected by use of questionnaire for quantitative data and interview schedules for qualitative data. The Target population for Nyamira Township ward was 3262 farmers spread in Nyamira town, Gianchore and Siamani sub-locations based on Nyamira County Development Integrated Plan. The sample size was done by use of stratified random sampling spread across the three sub-locations and it aimed to capture at least 344 respondents spread across. Data analysis employed quantitative and qualitative methods. In analyzing Quantitative data, the questionnaire was coded and entered into the computer for descriptive statistics computation. Data was analyzed by utilizing descriptive statistics and inferential analysis using statistical package for social science (IBM-SPSS). The association between the independent and dependent variables was determined by Correlation analysis. Presentations were done in the form of frequency distribution tables and percentages. Data from open-ended questions were categorized into themes in accord with research objectives and presented in narrative form along with quantitative presentation.

1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Agricultural development provides opportunity that enables provision of basic needs including food and providing means of employment. A study found out that approximately 1 billion individuals are hungry today - half of them farmers, three-quarters of them are poor and are found in less industrialized countries living in rural areas - over 2 billion persons get by on less than 2 U.S dollars a day (World Economic Forum Report, 2011). Kenya economy is dependent on agriculture; progress on its development has been affected by factors such as climate change, severe drought and unreliable rainfall (Karlo, 2010). Agriculture contributes about 26 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and indirectly adds a further 27 percent through links with agro-based and associated industries (Omiti, 2009, Government of Kenya (GoK), 2009). Growth in the agricultural sector has been observed to contribute to overall economic growth in Kenya (Meijernink and Roza, 2007). Agriculture therefore remains the engine of national economic growth in Kenya; estimates show that 1 % increase in the sector's growth results in a corresponding 1.6 % growth in the overall economy and impact the performance of nearly all other sectors. In spite of this, food security remains largely elusive in Kenya (Langat et al., 2011).

In Kenya, researchers have found out that agricultural productivity and crop yields would increase by roughly 20 percent if women are given the equal access to the same resources as males (Saito et al., 1994). In Nyamira County agriculture is the main economic activity, driven by a favorable climate, vast farms suitable for commercial tea and coffee, subsistence agriculture and dairy farming. Women contribute in terms of labor and production process; however in terms of ownership they are seriously affected. The task of overcoming such obstacles and limitations can be very discouraging and difficult, even though females have progressively succeeded in overcoming some of them (Yemisi et al., 2009). To improve the capacity of African and developing countries in meeting their food demand and food security issues, there is

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need for women to assert their roles and be recognized. Women should be given equitable access to land, credit facilities, farming extension services and enhanced tools as well as benefit in classes and membership in cooperatives coupled with rural benefits (Winrock, 2001). It's against this backdrop that the research was done so as to critically evaluate the influence of women participation on performance in agricultural development projects in Nyamira township ward in Nyamira County.

Statement of the Problem

Women practicing farming in Kenya are the pillars of African development and agricultural projects. Poats (1991) found that women, especially in developing parts of the world play a very important role in agricultural production and various activities as field workers, farm owners, managers, and sales agents. Research conducted according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) found out that more than two thirds of all females in Africa are working in the agricultural sector and produce nearly 90 percent of food on the continent. Rural development is the foundation of agricultural development in the less industrialized countries (including Kenya).

Kenya's economy is heavily dependent on the agricultural sector accounting for 24% of the GDP and employs about 75% of population who live in the rural areas deriving their livelihoods and income directly or indirectly from agriculture. Nyamira County depends entirely on agriculture as its major lifeline in the Economy. From this backdrop investing in agricultural sector for rural development is critical to increase agricultural output. The role of women is also very crucial in the overall success of energies towards rural development in increasing agricultural productivity (Kotze, 2003). Women are involved in agricultural activities than males particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and provide most labor for a number of agricultural activities as they represent about 90 percent of the labor force in direct arable crop production (Ogunlela & Aisha, 2009).

Nyamira County depends on the agriculture sector as its major lifeline with women the key and important drivers in the sector. However, women have no equal right as males in ownership of property due to cultural malpractices (Ogunlela & Aisha, 2009). Male dominance in various income generating activities forces women to be dependent on the men regardless of the effort they put in to propel their socio-economic for advancement. Limited accesses to resources and opportunities limits women in terms of agricultural productivity thus it remains low relative to their potential. In Kenya women constitute about 75 percent of Kenya's agricultural workforce; however gender inequalities challenge their productivity, including right to ownership, land productivity, farming methods and socio-cultural practice (Institute for Development Studies, 2006). This study sought to investigate the influence of women's participation on performance of agricultural development projects in Nyamira County.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to examine the influence of Right to ownership of Land on performance in agricultural development projects in Nyamira County.

Objectives of the Study

The study was guided by the following objective:

1. To examine the influence of Right to land ownership on performance of women owned agricultural projects in Nyamira County in Kenya.

Research questions

The study was guided by the following questions;

1. What is the influence of Right to Land ownership on performance of women owned Agricultural development projects in Kenya?

Research Hypothesis

The study was guided by the following hypotheses:

1. H_1 : There is a significant relationship between ownership of Land and performance of Agricultural development projects.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Right to land ownership on performance of Women owned Agricultural development projects.

Right to own land is defined when three conditions are met as mentioned by Duncan and Ping (2001) including legal recognition, social recognition, and enforcement by the external authorities. If any of these elements is missing, then the land ownership right is incomplete. Gender differences in access to land continue to be high throughout the globe irrespective of the country's development level (Namubiru-Mwaura, 2010). Some women, in groups or individually own land on which they practice agriculture even though the widespread existence of non-recognition of this ownership legally. Namubiru-Mwaura (2010) further adds that as much as women own land, they have limited control over the decisions regarding land use dependent on how significant their production and income are to their partners or other lawful owners of the land. Additionally, for those women owning land in partnership with their husbands or other family members, again they have no control over the land use decisions.

According to Knight (2010), land ownership is important to participation in agricultural development projects as it is the basis for land use decisions. Despite the considerable benefits accompanying ownership of land, women in the rural regions of the world seldom own land and they are restricted to the subsistence food production. According to Kimani (2008), the legislative land rights are recognized within the official and lawful frameworks of various governments. When it comes to addressing the land ownership rights of rural females, it has termed difficult to translate the customary land rights into law.

According to Feder and Noronha (1987), the connection between rights of land ownership and participation in agricultural projects is established in many ways including the presence of land rights eradicates the expropriation uncertainty and anxiety which inspires farmers to make an enduring agricultural investment on land and to implement superlative agricultural techniques. Also, Feder and Noronha (1987) further add that land title makes it possible for farmers to access credit and thus without land ownership rights, it is impossible for one to access credit for agricultural inputs. The right to own land informs its usage and this is important to participation in agricultural projects since land is the medium for the agricultural activities. According to Bartecchi (2003), in the patriarchal society, the right of land ownership among women is limited and this limits their participation and performance in agricultural development projects. Bartecchi (2003) attributes to this scenario to limited agricultural decisions and economic power to increase productivity. This is because land ownership has an economic power in that those who own land have access to financial resources to address the challenges of accessing agricultural inputs. According to Chanza (2011), the ability of the women own land would increase their ability to make land use decisions including agricultural decisions and have greater access to financial resources and thus increasing their participation and performance in agricultural development projects.

A research by Deere et al. (2004) concluded that a larger percentage of women in rural Peru have limited rights to land ownership and for those, that own land, their decisions on agricultural development projects are controlled by the male family members. The study indicated that the inability to have the right to own land reduced the participation and performance of females in agricultural development projects in rural Peru due to the women's inability to make agriculturally related decisions and limited access to credit as land is an important collateral in the Peruvian financial lending institutions.

A study by Rao (2011) indicated a few women owning land in South Asia and for those owning land, the land has less value than those the men own. Majority of the South Asian females have no right to own land and the men have control over agricultural decisions. These findings concur with Ramachandran (2008) reporting that even though the Indian women have a legal right to land ownership, lack of independent resources for finances and traditional gender roles burr these females from purchasing land and thus limiting their participation in agricultural activities.

According to Kameri-Mbote (2005), women in Africa have limited rights to own or have control over land which affects their participation and performance in agricultural development projects. Kameri-Mbote notes that males in the African countries are the main controllers of land and women are only given the rights to access and utilize the land but the decisions on the land use are controlled by their spouses. Other studies have concurred with these findings with Ngoga (2012) reporting only an insignificant portion of land titles in the women's hands in Rwanda and Carpano (2010) reporting limited land ownership among the rural Tanzanian women.

A study by Kibwana (2002) indicated that as much as the Kenyan Constitution guaranteed females the right to own land, in practice the access to land by females is severely restricted by custom and this bars women from owning land. The study found out that only 4 percent of the land in Kenya is owned by women and even so, the husbands act as the intermediaries and this negatively influences women’s full participation in agricultural activities. Another study by Mbogori (2014) reported that the patrilineal inheritance systems in Kenya bars women from owning land. In the patrilineal inheritance system, the land is passed down to male generations and thus women have no place in owning land. As a result, women have limited control over land use including agricultural activities and thus diminishing their participation and performance in agricultural development projects.

3. THEORETICAL APPROACH

People-Centered Development Approach

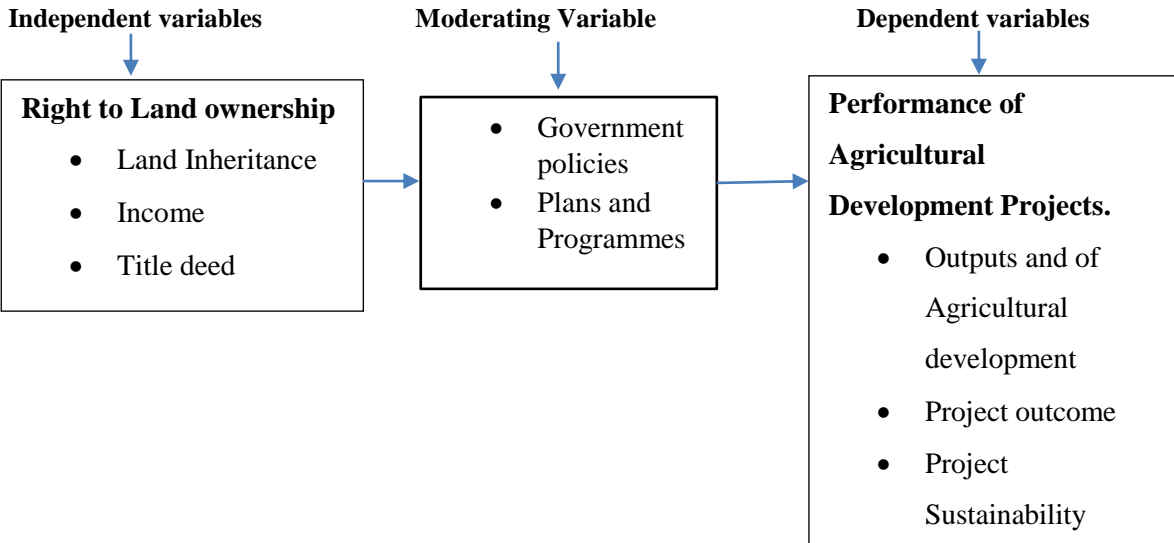
The study was modelled on the people-centered development approach proposed by Korten David in 1984. According to Davis (2005), the people-centered development is an approach whereby society members intensify institutional and personal abilities to mobilize and manage resources to yield justly distributed and sustainable improvement to enhance their quality of life. The people-centered development method is founded on the participation of persons, sustainability, and empowerment.

The people-centered development approach encourages the members of the society to be accountable for their own growth through controlling their resources, accessing applicable information, and participating in activities that result in their own development (Coetzee & Graaff, 2001). The approach encourages small-scale actions including participation in agricultural activities to enhance economic self-reliance. As such, the women as active members of the society need to be responsible for their own development through overcoming the barriers that restrain their participation and performance in agricultural development projects. They can only overcome such barriers through empowerment which is one of the pillars of the people-centered development approach.

As applied to this study, the theoretical base underpinning the study emphasizes on women taking the initiative to actively participate in agriculture for their own betterment. The approach encourages women empowerment to overcome the socio-cultural practices in society that limit their participation and performance in agricultural development projects and thus take an active role in making their own decisions and access land, a critical resource for increased performance of women in agricultural productivity. Enhanced participation and performance of women in agricultural development projects would result in personal enrichment, self-sustenance, and general community development.

Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework of Right to ownership of Land on performance in agricultural development projects;



4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design for this study was descriptive survey research design. The study used a questionnaire as a tool of data collection. The target population for this study was 3262 farmers representing the women farmers in Nyamira Ward, spread in the three locations Nyamira 800, Gianchore 1100 and Siamani 1362 according to the Ministry of Agriculture Nyamira Sub-County (Nyamira County, 2015). The study used stratified random sampling method. Questionnaires were utilized to collect quantitative data. Key informant interview was used to collect qualitative data. Pearson correlation coefficient was used to test the relationship of hypothesis H_{01} there is significant relationship between Right to ownership of land and performance of women owned agricultural development projects.

The researcher targeted 344 respondents of the target population of 3262.

The following formulae was used to determine the sample that was used during the study

$$n = \frac{NZ^2 \times 0.25}{d^2 \times (N-1) + (Z^2 \times 0.25)}$$

Where

n=Sample size required

N= Total target population

d= Precision level (usually 0.05 or 0.01)

Z= Number standard deviation units of sampling corresponding to the desired Confidence level (Cole 2009).

Substitution

N= 3262

d= 0.05

Z= 1.96 Z Factor 95% confidence level

The confidence level used was 95% and 0.05 precision levels

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{3262 \times 1.96 \times 1.96 \times 0.25}{0.05 \times 0.05 \times (3262-1) + 1.96 \times 1.96 \times 0.25} \\ &= 3,132.8248 / 9.1129 \\ &= 344 \end{aligned}$$

The sample size was 344 smallholder farmers.

nh- Sample Size for the stratum h

Nh- Population Size for the Stratum h

N- Total population size

n- Total Sample size

Hence, sample size for the smallholder farmers' representatives was

$$nh = (Nh/N) \times n$$

$$nh = (800/3262) \times 344 = 84.365 = 84$$

$$nh = (1100/3262) \times 344 = 116.00 = 116$$

$$nh = (1362/3262) \times 344 = 143.65 = 144$$

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Sub-Locations	No. of farmers in the Stratum	Sample Population
Nyamira Township	800	84
Siamani	1100	116
Gianchore	1362	144
Total	3262	344

Table 0-1: Number of Farmers in the stratum sub-locations

5. DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

Right to ownership of Land and performance in Agricultural Development Projects.

STATEMENTS	SA	A	N	D	SD
Title deed is registered under my name	101 (36.1%)	129 (45.9%)	4(1.6%)	32 (11.5%)	14(4.9%)
I Control all the expenses related to the farm	78(27.9%)	193(68.8%)	9(3.3%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
I Can make decisions on how to use the farm	83(29.5%)	174(62.3%)	23(8.2%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
I choose what I want to plant	96(34.4%)	175(62.3%)	9(3.3%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
I Allow people to walk into my farm	78(27.9%)	51(18.1%)	4(1.6%)	18(6.5%)	129(45.9%)
I Use the farm to practice agriculture	96(34.4%)	17(62.3%)	9(3.3%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)

Table 0-1: Presentation of Findings on Right to ownership of Land and performance in Agricultural Development Projects

Six statements were developed to measure the extent of influence of Right to ownership of land and performance in Agricultural development projects. The statements were; Title deed is registered under my name , I Control all the expenses related to the farm , I Can make decisions on how to use the farm, I choose what I want to plant, I Allow people to walk into my farm, I Use the farm to practice agriculture

The results in Statement (1) Title deed is registered under my name indicate that majority of the farmers 45.9% agree that the title is registered in their name, 36.1% strongly agree that title is their name, 11.5% disagree that the land is not in their name, 4.9% strongly disagreed and 1.6% felt Neutral about title deed. The results in Statement (2) I Control all the expenses related to the farm indicate 68.8% agree on having direct control on expenses, 27.9 % strongly agreed on making expense on farm while 3.3% were neutral on farm expenses. The results in Statement (3) I Can make decisions on how to use the farm indicate 62.3% make decisions, 29.5% strongly agreed on making decisions and 8.2% felt neutral on decision making. The results in Statement (4) I choose what I want to plant indicate 62.3% make decisions on what they plant, 34.4% strongly agreed on the choice of plants and 3.3% felt neutral on the choice of what is planted in the farm. The results in Statement (5) I Allow people to walk into my farm indicate that 45.9% strongly disagreed, 27.9% strongly agreed, 18.1% agreed, 6.5% disagreed and 1.6% felt neutral. The results in Statement (6) I Use the farm to practice

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agriculture indicate that majority of the farmers at 62.3% use the farm for agriculture, followed by 34.4 % strongly agree and 3.3% felt Neutral on farm usage relating to Agriculture.

Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis is a statistical method used to study the strength of a relationship between variables. If correlation is found between two variables it means there is a systematic change in one variable, there is also a systematic change in the other. In addition, a positive correlation coefficient depicts a direct relationship between the variables i.e High numerical values of one another relate to high numerical values of the other while a negative correlation coefficient depicts an inverse relationship i.e the high numerical values of one variable relate to the low numerical values of the other. If the correlation coefficient is closer to zero, the correlation between the variables is weak. If the correlation coefficient is closer to one, the correlation between the variables is strong.

Presentation of the Correlation Analysis of Right to Land Ownership and Performance of Women owned Agricultural projects.

Variables		General Improved Agricultural Performance
Right to ownership of Land	Pearson Correlation	0.655
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.107
	N	280

The results show that there is a positive and strong correlation 0.655 between Right to ownership of land and performance of women owned Agricultural development projects. With regards to the first objective which aimed at examining the influence of Right to ownership of Land on performance of women owned Agricultural development projects. 45.9% of the sampled population have the title deed registered in their name, 68.8% control all the farm related expenses, fencing, 62.3% make decisions regarding management of the farm, 62.3% make decisions on what they plant on the farm, 45.9% allow people to walk and work in their farm. This implies that farm ownership asserts management control in practicing agriculture. Hypothesis testing using Pearson correlation showed that there is a strong correlation of 0.655 thereby accepting the alternative hypothesis H_1 : There is a significant relationship between ownership of land and performance in Agricultural development projects. This is supported by various studies such as Chanza (2011), the ability of the women own land would increase their ability to make land use decisions including agricultural decisions and have greater access to financial resources and thus increasing their participation and performance in agricultural development projects. The study paper recommends that the Government should be able to support women by creating an enabling framework that makes it easier for their performance and recognition in Agricultural development projects. Policies should be friendly that encourage the womenfolk in the rural areas.

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