



**TEGEMEO INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL  
POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT**

**MAKING AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS WORK FOR THE RURAL POOR IN  
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**PROCEEDINGS OF A DISEMINATION WORKSHOP**

**ON**

**ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES AND COMMUNITYS'  
VOICE/PRESENCE IN GOVERNANCE OF FOOD SECURITY RELATED  
INITIATIVES HELD AT THE ST. MARTIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
HALL, NYAHURURU ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2011**

*Acknowledgement*

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## **Introduction**

Improving agricultural productivity is crucial in enhancing food security and accelerating pro-poor growth. Various functions in implementation of programmes/projects that are geared towards mitigating food insecurity and poverty reduction have been decentralized to the local level (district and below) as a way of increasing responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency. This has been achieved by establishment of organs through which various functions are effected and by involvement of various stakeholders, including the farmers. To ensure that initiatives are/remain relevant to the needs of local communities particularly the poor and vulnerable, it is important to continually review the governance mechanisms that are in place at these local levels. A key objective of the agri-food systems project is to promote policies and governance mechanisms for sustainable agri-food systems. It seeks to contribute to the understanding of why current policies, institutions and governance mechanisms have not enhanced ability of the rural poor, women and the vulnerable to secure sustainable livelihoods, food and income security and a revitalized natural resource base.

It is against this backdrop that Tegemeo Institute of Egerton University undertook studies in Mbeere, Kirinyaga and Nyandarua to establish the local level structures responsible for various food security-related initiatives, their composition and the existing linkages both upstream and downstream as well as horizontal linkages. In addition, the Institute captured the perception of local stakeholders on dimensions of governance that are relevant to making agri-food systems work for the poor and vulnerable namely, the satisfaction, participation and their influence. This study is within the broader project on **“Making Agri-food Systems Work for the Rural Poor”** being carried out in collaboration with other local and regional partners.

Preliminary results show that the structure is still limiting farmers’ involvement in decision making, in resource allocation and in ensuring programmes and projects remain accountable. In addition, current funding levels seem to be curtailing the convening of various organs/committees and wider farmer representation. Farmers on the other hand seem to have minimal understanding of the projects in which they are participating in although there was an above average perception on satisfaction with benefit derived from the projects. There was also little knowledge on existing civil society groups, their agenda/mandate and influence on the committees.

Tegemeo Institute organized for a workshop to disseminate its findings and get feedback from the community. The workshop drew participants from farmer groups, civil societies and NGO working in Nyandarua North, agricultural line ministries and the provincial administrations. The workshop was officially opened by Ms Pauline Dola, the District Commissioner for Nyandarua North.

## **Proceedings**

### **Session I: Welcoming Remarks and Introduction**

#### **Dr. Lilian Kirimi, Tegemeo**

The chair, Dr. Lilian Kirimi welcomed the participants to the workshop and invited Mr. Crispus Kariuki to start off the workshop with a word of prayer. Thereafter she invited the participants to introduce themselves after which she welcomed Professor J.M. Mathooko, the Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Extension, Egerton University to address the workshop participants.

#### ***Professor Mathooko, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Extension, Egerton University***

The DVC thanked the chair.

Egerton University is an old institution which was started in 1939 by Lord Egerton who resided at Njoro. He saw the need of coming up with an institution dealing with agriculture. He started with three students who were policemen. Currently, the institution has more than 14,000 students. We have University colleges in Kisii, Laikipia and Mt. Kenya- Chuka University College and one campus- Nakuru Town Campus College.

Egerton University is a known institution in East, Central and West Africa. I have been at the institution for the past 20 years and we have been receiving students from all over Africa especially West Africa. Tegemeo Institute is part of the university under the research and extension division. The institute is involved in agricultural policy analysis in the country. We are here to listen to the research findings from ongoing research on policy and governance in the Agri-food system. It is important that research findings be disseminated to farmers because they are the ultimate beneficiaries. The University has various projects that it is implementing with the communities such as; beekeeping, soil conservation, tree planting e.g. in the Mau Escarpment where the university has planted thousands of trees each year. The university is also breeding an animal called llama which originated from South America. The animal is kept for meat, wool, and milk. The university wants to educate the farmers on its husbandry. The university is also involved in the utilization of local indigenous tree for herbal medicine with the local communities.

After his speech the DVC welcomed the Nyandarua North DAO Mr J.K. Mutuma to invite the DC to official open the workshop.

#### ***Ms Pauline Dola, District Commissioner-Nyandarua North,***

Nyandarua North has a total area of 683 Km<sup>2</sup> it is composed of four divisions, 14 locations and 36 sub locations. The district has around 44 primary schools and 19 secondary schools. Vision 2030 has identified agriculture as the main driver of GDP and its direct contribution to GDP is

27 percent, 85 per cent raw materials and 80 per cent employment. One of the Millennium Development Goal is to reduce absolute poverty by 50 percent. In order to achieve this, promotion of drought tolerant crops can be very crucial especially in the ASAL areas where they are better adapted. The lower part of Nyandarua is dry and serious affected by drought; people residing in this region normally rely on relief food. The area is also faced with the problem of pastoralists who cross over from the neighboring Laikipia District who pose the problems of crop destruction, animal diseases and insecurity. Grazing destroys some important crops like green grams, sweet potato and pigeon peas. Nyandarua settlement scheme has the highest number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs') (4, 000 people) with 700 families living in a camp at Gakungu and 23 families in Kilima. The major challenges in the District involve, destruction of crops by animals, drought and forest fires. 24,000 people in the district are food insecure and seriously affected by drought. We have done a special report on the matter and sent it to the Ministry of Special Programmes. The agri-food systems project is very important to the farmers in the District because it promotes production and marketing of drought tolerant crops like sunflower, rape seed, dolichos and lima beans. Five farmers groups have been trained on the agronomy of crops. We appreciate the work being done by Tegemeo and its partners. There are several other food security project in the District which have been able to help the farmers and they include; Njaa Marufuku Kenya, KAPAP at SHoMAP. The projects have helped raise the standards of living of the small holder farmers in the district. People in Ndaragua are very hard working and we ask Tegemeo Institute to extend any potential help. We will be very supportive and ready to learn. With those few remarks, I declare the workshop officially open. Thank you and God bless you.

The DVC thanked the DC for her opening remarks and invited Dr. Mercy Kamau to present the Agri-food system project goals, research study objectives and the expected outputs from the workshop.

***Dr. Mercy Kamau, Research Fellow-Tegemeo institute***

She thanked the DVC and started by informing the participants about the project which is funded by IDRC. We are privileged to have our colleagues from KARI Dr. Maureen Miruka and Dr. Immaculate Maina. These are the research officers who were very instrumental in selecting the study areas. We also have other sites in Mbeere and Kirinyaga. We are also privileged to have another officer Ms. Mary Mwale from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Northern Kenya and Other Arid lands of Kenya. She also sits in the food security steering committee. In this Agri-food Systems project we were working closely with farmers, farmers groups, civil societies and the respective line ministries. The objective of the project are:

1. To identify and promote local innovations and adaptation strategies that work for the poor rural men and women to cope with food security vulnerabilities.

2. To adapt and scale up technology and **market innovations** for promoting orphan crops that enhance food security, increase incomes and ecosystem integrity in selected areas of Malawi, Kenya and Uganda.
3. To analyze and **promote specific policies and governance** mechanisms for sustainable agri-food systems.
4. To determine mechanisms for scaling up agri-food systems and sustainable agriculture

From today's workshop the output what is expected

- *Introduce Agri-food Systems Project*
- *Share findings from a recent study on Governance*
- *Get Feedback from Stakeholders*
- *Chart a way forward/Action plan*

The chair thanked Dr. Mercy for her presentation and informed the participant that results from the study will be presented later. She informed the participants that session I had ended. In session II the DAO and the chair of the stakeholder forum were to present food security initiatives in the district.

## **Session II: Presentation on Food Security Initiatives in the District**

### ***Mr. J.K. Mutuma, District Agriculture Officer-Nyandarua North***

Rain fed and Irrigated farming is mainly practised in the district. Horticulture is the predominant agricultural sub-sector in the district and generates the highest percentage of the household's income. Production of Irish potatoes and Tomatoes is notable in the district. About 45% of horticultural production depends on drip and furrow irrigation. Nyandarua North District has great potential for adequate food, cash crops and livestock production. Regarding Food Security and Poverty Reduction objectives, the Ministry is implementing a number of programmes in this District, such as: NALEP/SIDA, NALEP/GOK, Njaa Marufuku Kenya (NMK), Small Holder Horticultural Marketing Programme (SHoMaP), Water harvesting, 3G potato project, Extending Agro dealers Network (EADN). Farmers in the districts are faced by several challenges that include; high harvest losses due to inaccessible roads during wet weather that incidentally coincides with the peak production period of most horticultural produce; limited value addition due to lack of agro processing facilities in the district; high farm input prices and field operation costs vis a vis the market prices; non-payment of pyrethrum dues to farmers (farmers have abandoned it production); lack of organised marketing systems and well set legal frame work governing the marketing groups, hence exploitation of farmers by middlemen; agricultural commodity prices fluctuating ;high dependency of rain fed agriculture which leads to over

supply at times; deteriorating levels of soil fertility and land degradation; diminishing of cultivatable land due to continued land subdivision; low adoption of appropriate technologies due to high cost of technologies; and unreliable weather condition due to climate variability.

***Mr. Ndambuki Mbugua, Chairman District Stakeholder Forum***

Nyandarua North Stakeholder Forum was formed in June 2005. The members are drawn from government institutions, private sector, financial institutions, civil society organization and farmers. The membership in 2005 was 26 but it now stands at 39 members. The forum has an account with equity bank, is registered with the social services and has a constitution. The mandate of the forum is to improve the welfare and living standards of the Nyandarua farming community, strengthen the partnership/cooperation between stakeholders, plan and promote sustainable development initiatives in the district and improve the status of the poor in the community. The objectives of the forum are: to contribute towards enhanced food security and increased income at household level; improve extension service delivery; solicit and consolidate resources required for community development; educate the community on their rights and empower them to make decisions; disseminate new and appropriate technologies; and promote and monitor environmental conservation and biodiversity in agriculture development. The role of stakeholders in food security initiatives is to participate in field days, organize and hold exhibitions and demonstrations. The forum is able to carry out the planned activities from its own resources. The major weakness of the forum is that the Stakeholders are not centrally accountable in terms of resources, responsibility, work ethics and calendar of activities. Moreover, competition between related stakeholders and non-sector department participation is limited by their internal programmes and scarce resources. The Stakeholder Forum partners include ; Bayer East Africa, Farm Chem, Syngenta East Africa, Kenya Seed Company, Osho, Twiga Chemicals, Seminis, Equity bank, Taifa Sacco, Nyala Sacco, Approtech, KENFAP, Tree is life, and EADN.

After Ndambuki presentation the chair thanked the presenters and handed over the chairing for the third session to the DAO Mr. J.K. Mutuma.

**Session III: Presentation on the Governance Structures in Food Security Initiatives in the District**

Mr. Mutuma the chair of session informed the participant that results from the study by Tegemeo Institute would be presented and thereafter the floor opened for questions on all the presentations made. The chair invited the presenter of research findings. Mr. Moses Matui presented on behalf of the research team.

*See ppt in pdf.*

**Session IV: Plenary Discussion and the Way Forward**

***Prof. Mathooko***

Mr. DAO, why is it that some committees have guidelines on who should be the members yet we have a new constitution which allows anyone to sit in any committee?

***Mr. Ndambuki Mbugua***

Mr. DAO, I would like to emphasize on Professors' question, why are farmers not represented in some of the committees?

***Madam Grace***

My comment arises from the recommendations about harmonization. Every committee has its roles and in most cases farmers do not attend meetings, yet we use meetings as a platform for farmers to raise their issues e.g. NALEP. Harmonization is good, but when farmers are electing their group leaders, in some committees, they don't usually elect practicing farmers which is a challenge to harmonization. On the other hand, harmonization of farmers with different interests' e.g. livestock farmers, forestry, cropping etc is not possible.

***Question by Farmer***

Mr. Gitau talked about vertical and horizontal linkages, what parameters were used to assess the horizontal linkages?

***Response by Mr. Gitau, Research Fellow-Tegemeo Institute***

It was observed that some officials in one committee were also committee members of other committees convened at the same level. Hence they were aware of issues arising in those committees and thus the informal horizontal linkage.

***Response by Dr. Mercy***

We talked to various officials through the various committees from the village all the way to the district level it was not clear or evident how the different committees are linked. However, since in some cases same officials sit in more than one committees, this results in an informal horizontal linkage. For example, the DAO could be chairing more than one committee both at the district level.

***Response by DAO***

There are some horizontal linkages from the village to the district level. For example, DAC appoints sub-DCU which is supposed to report back to DAC, while DAC reports back to the District Stakeholder Committee. Therefore small committees report back to the large committees hence there is some form of linkages amongst the different committees.

***Question by Charles Kamau from KENAPOFA***

Irish potato farmers have a problem, we have committees from the village, location, division and district level, but due to lack of funds it becomes difficult for farmers at the grass root level to attend meetings at the district level, therefore issues like marketing also become a problem. How can we be helped as potato farmers?

***Response by DAO***

Before I respond to your question, when and how do you choose your leaders and how long is the official term?

***Charles Kamau***

When the officials are elected, they can fail to perform due to lack of funds, yet the farmers may be thinking that the committees are in place and performing.

***Question by Duncan from KENFAP***

We as KENFAP have tried to help potato farmers but we have failed, because when policies are put in place, farmers kick them out yet they are the beneficiaries of the policies. Sometimes farmers abuse us especially those ones from Nyandarua. For example, farmers are supposed to market their potatoes in a 110kg bag but other farmers exceed the required quantity and also sell at lower prices. We constantly encourage farmers to form farmer groups. Milk and horticulture farmers have formed groups and they have been able to successfully voice their marketing issues to their advantage. We always want to help you farmers but at times we are unable, so how do you want us to help you?

***Response by DAO***

What we want is to strengthen farmer groups because acting as individual farmers will not help much. You must join cooperatives and farmers organization. This is because when you are in group you have power and that is what we are encouraging as KENFAP and Ministry of Agriculture, but the problem is with the producers.

***Response by Mr. Ndambuki Mbugua***

The potato issue is a difficult topic, the government of Kenya has laws but the problem is enforcement of the laws. When something is gazzetted, it becomes a law. There is a law that states that one bag of potato should not exceed 110 kgs, however, farmers are not adhering to the law and continue exceeding the 110 Kg limit.

***Response by DAO***

The farmers should not exceed the 110kgs as gazzetted, infact they not only exceed the required quantity but they also sell at low prices.

***Response by Dr. Mercy***

In Meru, farmers used to monitor the situation and they were in agreement that they don't want the potato bag to exceed the required limit. The enforcement of the law in Meru started with the farmers; therefore, it should start with farmers. Participation and awareness is very critical and now we have counties, Nyandarua County can now decide enforce the law. After deciding on what you want to do as farmers, you can communicate it to the DAO but the enforcement should start with you.

***Response by DAO***

Farmers should form marketing groups to transport and market their produce as a group. You farmers should form groups and put your own laws about what you want to achieve as a group. We have been training farmers but they don't register in groups.

***Question by Mr. Duncan***

More funds should be directed from the district to divisional level. This will enable development projects like NALEP and NMK to be sustainable and achieve their food security goals. Funds from the government should be increased to help the poor farmers through farmer groups. This can be achieved through the use of Youth Development Funds, ALEF, and CDF. This should be done by group leaders, lobby groups, focal area development committee which will be achieved through group meetings and capacity building to educate farmers on the availability of the devolved funds by June.

***Question by Dr. Mercy***

Are these funds meant to help the farmer groups or to strengthen the committees?

***Response by Mr. Ndambuki Mbugua***

It is difficult to get money directly from the government because of the conditions attached. Mr. Duncan wanted the money from the government to go through the Stakeholder Forum because they offer it at low interest rates.

***Question by Farmer***

According to the statistics by DAO, Nyandarua West has 19,138 farm families, and we have been told that farmers should form groups with the help of other partners like the ministry of Agriculture, how will that be possible?

***Response from the participants***

Through training which should be given by CBOs', NGOs', MOA, and faith based institutions.

***Question by Farmer***

We should have been given the figures of those that were interviewed in order to assess whether the project is really targeting the rural poor.

***Response from Dr. Maureen Miruka, Senior Research Officer–KARI***

As from the way we have been trained, all farmer groups are self help groups, we are supposed to register them as legal entities i.e. as companies in order to make them legal entities. Farmers should come together and form lasting groups that will enable them to benefit from the available funds. Farmers should have their objectives clearly stated and with a time frame. They should understand that it is possible for them to meet the conditions of getting the funds from the women and youth development kitties by registering their groups and opening up bank accounts.

***Response by DAO***

There is need to build the capacity of the farmer groups to enable them comply with the lending terms and conditions of the devolved funds. This is possible through sensitization of the farmers through meetings like barazas and also linking them with the lending institutions.

***Farmer***

I want to say that when teaching groups on compliance with the terms of lending institutions, it should be made clear that credit must be repaid. Therefore it is good to encourage the farmers to get involved in income generating activities to enable them pay the principle, interest and make profit.

***Madam Grace***

Farmers have the upper hand they should be willing to learn so as to exploit the available opportunities. They should be trained to on how to meet the terms and conditions put in place by lending institutions.

***Dr.Lilian Kirimi, Research Fellow-Tegemeo***

What we want to do is to sensitize farmers about the credit. It is therefore important to get credit experts to teach them.

After the plenary discussion, the chair thanked all the participants for their contribution and informed them that it was time to draw an action plan or way forward given the recommendations from the research finding and also from issues raised during the plenary discussion.

***See the way forward matrix in pdf.***

***Question from farmer***

Who is to be consulted in case of anything-i.e. in the matters that we have discussed in this workshop? The reason as to why I am seeking clarification is because all of us could like to go and train the farmers, so in case we need any support, do we go Tegemeo, Egerton University or the Ministry of Agriculture?

***Response by Prof. Mathooko***

You farmers are very lucky, many studies have been carried out by socio-economists and the results show that access to funds is a major constraint faced by farmers. However, there are many ways of getting funds in most cases you must write a proposal and this needs some expertise.

***Madam Mary Mwale***

We are here to know the structures, the study belongs to you and the recommendations are yours at the end of the day we want to see that the food security issues are addressed. The recommendations given should not be ignored, we should see whether they are adequate and turn them into action plans. According to the recommendations, what is the action, what is the time frame and who is going to do it?

***Farmer***

With respect to the first recommendation, we should think of how to link the different committees together so that they work together as a team. We should also have lead people to help us.

***Farmer***

We should bring all the groups together and find the common interest in those groups concerning food security initiatives.

***Farmer***

We must own the projects because they meant to help us as farmers.

After the exercise the chair thanked all the participants for their contribution and invited DVC to give the closing remarks

***Closing Remarks, Prof. Mathooko***

The Prof. thanked the chair and the participants. I am very happy for the discussions we have had today and even for the way forward that we have come up with. We have talked about potatoes and the marketing constraints that the farmers are facing, so Mr. Chairman and DAO, we need experts to teach the farmers about market participation. Also, the postharvest losses issues should be addressed. Tegemeo institute has already carried out a study about post harvest loss minimization. You should follow all the things we have discussed today. For the community to

work with the university they require to write proposal. Egerton University shall continue partnering with the communities but you but you must show interest. Let me say that personally I am happy from the contribution that the participants have made, thank you very much and may God bless you all.

The chair thanked the DVC for the closing remarks and invited Mr. Mbugua the chair of the Stakeholder Forum to give vote of thanks.

***Mr.Mbugua***

On behalf of the Nyandarua North farmers I would sincerely like to express our gratitude on this workshop. Special thanks also go to the farmers for availing themselves to come and be educated. I again thank all of you for coming. I am greatly indebted to St. Martins for giving us venue for the meeting. I thank Dr. Lilian for taking us through the programme.

The workshop was closed with a word of prayer.

## ANNEX 1: WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

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**Making Agri-food System Work for the Rural Poor**  
**St. Martins Catholic Church Hall, Nyahururu**  
**March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

### Programme

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>9.00 – 9:30 am</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>Session I</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <b>Chairing: Director Tegemeo Institute</b>
9:30 – 10:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction: <b>All participants</b></li><li>• Welcoming Remarks: <b>Local Administration</b></li><li>• Opening Remarks: <b>Director, Tegemeo Institute</b></li><li>• Overall Goal and Workshop Objectives/Outputs: <b>Tegemeo Institute</b></li></ul>
<b>Session II</b>	<b>Presentation on the Food Security Initiative in Nyandarua North</b> <b>Chairing: Tegemeo Institute</b>
10.30 – 11:00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food Security Initiatives in the District : <b>DAO, Nyandarua North District</b></li><li>• Role of Stakeholders in Food Security Initiatives: <b>Chair, District Stakeholder Forum</b></li></ul>
11.00 – 11.30 am	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>Session III</b>	<b>Presentation on the Governance Structure in Food Security in the District-Tegemeo Institute</b> <b>Chairing: DAO, Nyandarua North</b>
11.30 -12:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specific Objectives and Methods of the Study:</li></ul>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tegemeo Institute</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Findings/Results from the Governance Study :</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tegemeo Institute</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q &amp; A</li> </ul>
<b>Session IV</b>	<b>Plenary Discussion and Way Forward</b> <b>Chairing: DAO, Nyandarua North</b>
12.30 – 1:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plenary Discussion &amp; Way Forward:</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>All participants</b></p>
1:00 -1.15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing Remarks</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Deputy Vice Chancellor-Research &amp; Extension, Egerton University</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote of thanks</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair, District Stakeholder Forum</b></p>
1.15 pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Departure</b>

## ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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40	Njagi, Mary S.	Ministry of Agriculture	270 Nyahururu	0720896725	
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48	Wamaitha, Regina	Kabari Matangi	1025 Nyahururu	0711422812	
49	Wambeti, Terry	Birishiba- Kibati	939 Nyahururu	0725256134	
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