



Center for
Transformational
Leadership

STATUS OF SERVICE DELIVERY
IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

NYANDARUA COUNTY SOCIAL AUDIT REPORT

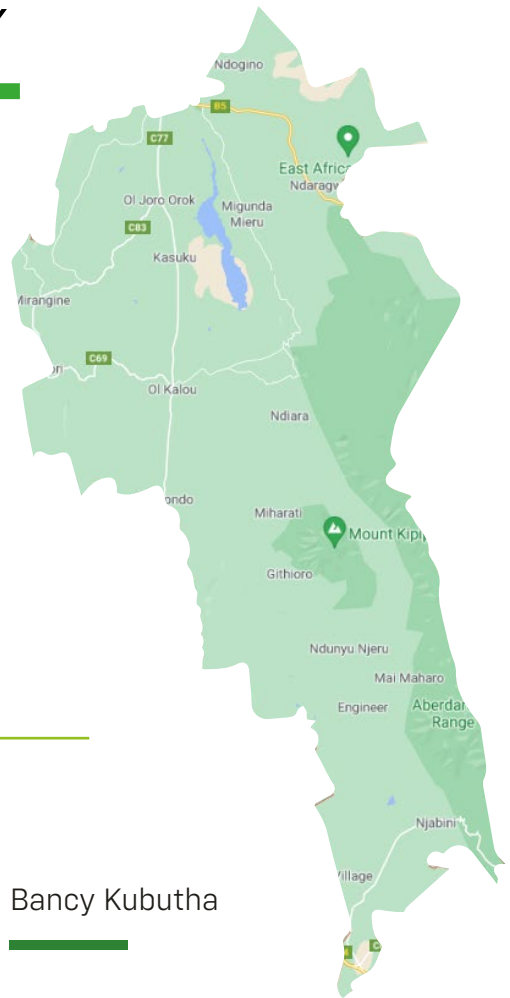
A CASE OF CROP PRODUCTION
IN OL' KALOU SUB-COUNTY,
NYANDARUA COUNTY



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PUBLISHED BY:



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WITH FUNDING FROM URAIA TRUST



Kenya's National Civic Education Programme

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04

Acknowledgements

05

Introduction

05

Project Overview
Overview of social accountability - 6
Legal provisions - 6

08

Methodology

09

KEY FINDINGS OF THE
SOCIAL AUDIT
• Best Practices in Delivery of
Agricultural Services

11

Challenges in Delivery of
Agricultural Services in
Nyandarua County

16

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

19

ANNEXTURES
Annex 1: Guiding Questions
for Key Informant Interviews

20

Annex 2: Guiding Questions
for Focus Group Discussions

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Center for Transformational Leadership (CTL) would like to thank URAIA Trust for supporting the development of this Social Audit Report.

We appreciate Chief Officers in the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Nyandarua County for supporting the social audit process and for the valuable inputs made to this report during the public engagement meeting.

We thank also thank the Members of the Implementation and Agriculture Committee of the County Assembly for participating in the public engagement and informing recommendations in this report. We appreciate Sub-County and Ward Administrator in Ol Kalou Sub-County for supporting the social audit process.

We appreciate CTL staff, Peter Rono, Paul Njuguna, and Nickson Mwiraria, who worked tirelessly to analyse data collected from farmers and compile this report. We extend our sincere appreciation to social audit teams in Ol Kalou Sub-Counties who volunteered their time to gather information from citizens and conduct physical visits to social audited health facilities.



INTRODUCTION

Center for Transformational Leadership is a local NGO based in Nakuru County. CTL works with local communities in Nakuru and Nyandarua Counties to undertake social accountability work using participatory tools including community scorecards, social audits, citizen report cards and budget analysis. Through its social accountability work, CTL seeks to enhance delivery of quality services to the public by providing constructive feedback to service providers. The social accountability work whose findings are contained in this report was undertaken during implementation of a project dubbed, Ajibika: Towards Increased Citizen Engagement.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CTL initiated the Ajibika: Towards Increased Citizen Engagement project in Nyandarua County in 2019 with an overall goal of enhancing citizen participation in governance processes at county level. It had three core components namely educating citizens on their rights and responsibilities, supporting citizens to monitor service delivery at county level and strengthening civil society network for structured engagement with the county government. The 15-month project was implemented in Nyandarua County and was made possible by the generous support of URAIA Trust

Project Objectives

The overall goal of the *Ajibika: Towards Increased Citizen Engagement* project was to contribute to an informed, empowered and democratic society. Specifically, CTL sought to:

1. Increase the awareness of the constitution of Kenya, devolution, public finance management and citizen participation among citizens in 3 sub-counties so that they can exercise their civic rights and responsibilities
2. Build the capacity of citizens in the focus sub-counties to monitor and demand quality services from the county government of Nyandarua

Expected Outcomes

The project was intended to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Increased citizen awareness and knowledge of their rights and responsibilities as contained in the Constitution of Kenya
- Increased citizen engagement in county governance and development processes in Nyandarua County

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

As an approach, social accountability allows citizens to engage with service providers with the aim of improving service delivery and enhancing transparency and accountability in public affairs. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 expanded democratic space allowing citizens to engage in governance by highlighting principles of good governance. One of the biggest gains of the Kenya Constitution is the acknowledgement of the Sovereignty of the People in Article 1 (1) and subsequent entrenchment of citizen participation both as a national value and principle (Article 10 (2a) and as a requirement in determining how public resources are utilized. These provisions allow citizens to actively participate in governance processes at all levels.

Social accountability tools such as social audits and community score cards allow citizens to give feedback to duty bearers on the status of services delivery based on how they experience services delivered to them. These tools enhance interactions between citizens and duty bearers, a process that leads to improved service delivery. Further, the nature of these interactions can significantly increase cost effectiveness in utilization of public funds, better prioritization and planning of projects to ensure they meet the needs of target citizens and enhance objectivity in monitoring public projects and services. The process can also improve access to quality services for citizens and increase effectiveness of development projects initiated by government. As such, social accountability tools enable citizens to monitor public spending with respect to service delivery to ensure public resources are utilized in a rational manner and without wastage.

LEGAL PROVISIONS

Kenya has a comprehensive legal framework to guide management of public affairs that include Constitution of Kenya (CoK), 2010 and other laws, policies and guidelines. This framework stipulates the conduct of public officers and dictates how public affairs should be conducted.

Chapter Six of the CoK, 2010 encourages public officers to make objective, impartial, decisions guided by honesty and integrity. Further, in Article 133 (1) the Constitution established the Public Service Commission (PSC) and requires it to ensure public servants uphold high professional ethics, observe high standards in efficient, effective, as well as economic utilization of public resources and accountability in administrative acts. PSC is also mandated to ensure transparency in provision of timely, accurate information to the public.

In stating the objectives of devolution, Article 174(c) of the CoK highlights the intention of devolution as *'to give powers of self-governance to the people and enhance the participation of the people in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them'*

The CoK continues to highlight openness and accountability including public participation in financial matter as one of the principles of public finance in Article 201(a). Other legal legislations that support accountability in Kenya include:

- a. The Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act (Cap. 65), 2003
- b. The Public Officer Ethics Act, 2003
- c. The Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012
- d. The Public Procurement and Disposal Act, 2005
- e. The Civil Service Code of Regulations, 2006

Other legislations that support social accountability through public participation and dissemination of information to citizens at County level include:

1. Sections 30 and 92 of the CGA that requires Governors to promote and facilitate citizen participation in development of policies and plans, delivery of services and submit a report to the County Assembly annually on how citizens are participating in County Government Affairs.
2. Section 9 (1) of the County Government Act (CGA) that requires Members of the County Assembly (MCA) to maintain close contact with electorates and consult with them on issues under discussion in the County Assemblies.
3. Sections 94 and 95 of the CGA that require the County Government to establish mechanisms to facilitate public communications and access to information with the widest public outreach using media that may include television stations, information communication technology, public meetings among others
4. Section 96 of the CGA that requires the County Government and its agencies to designate an office or officer for purposes of ensuring access to information and enact a legislation to ensure access to information for which reasonable fees may be imposed
5. Section 115 of the CGA that requires the County Assembly to develop laws and regulations that give effect to the requirement for effective citizen participation in development planning and performance management within the County



METHODOLOGY

This social audit was developed through a very interactive process that saw 1040 citizens in Ol Kalau sub-county participate. Here is the methodology that CTL used to conduct the social audit:

Activity	Description
Preparatory Activities	CTL mapped key stakeholders including Ward Administrators, County Assembly, farmer group leaders and other NGOs working in the agricultural sector and informed them of the intention to conduct a social audit. Courtesy visits were made to the department of agriculture in the county to introduce the initiative.
Community Sensitization Meetings	Meetings with the community were conducted in the sub-county – one in each ward. These meetings provided a platform to introduce social audit as a tool for monitoring agricultural services to farmers, the process of conducting the social audit and how it will benefit farmers. Community members identified social auditors during these meetings while considering women, youth and PWD representation in social audit teams. A total of 232 farmers participate in the community sensitization meetings.
Training of Social Audit Teams	3 social audit teams identified by farmers during the community sensitization meetings were trained on the social audit process. They were oriented on the data collection tool and an action plan developed to guide the information gathering process
Information Gathering	The 3 social audit teams were supported to gather information from farmers across the sub-county through focus group discussions. Purposive sampling procedure was used to select participants of the FGDs. In total, 48 FGDs were conducted where 1040 farmers participated in the information gathering phase of the social audit process.
Data Analysis	Social audit data was analysed using the inductive method. The key findings presented in this report were extracted through thematic and narrative analysis. The thematic content analysis was used to establish common patterns while a narrative analysis was used to make sense of informant responses.
Validation of Social Audit Findings	Social auditors were supported to conduct 6 community validation forums across the sub-county. The validation sessions provided a platform for clarifying key findings and gathering additional information. 172 farmers drawn from the different FGDs conducted during the information gathering phase participated in the validation sessions.
Public Engagement Meeting	A public engagement meeting was convened by CTL. The meeting brought together participants from the department of Agriculture in Nyandarua County, members of the agriculture committee and committee on implementation of the County Assembly, selected farmers from all 4 wards of Ol Kalau sub-county and social auditors. The key findings from the social audit report were shared and feedback or commitments received from duty bearers present.
Compilation of the Social Audit Report	CTL compiled a social audit report containing the key social audit findings and way forward as discussed during the public engagement meeting.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE SOCIAL AUDIT



CTL worked with a team of 12 social auditors to undertake social audit work in Nyandarua County. The team audited a total of agricultural services in four wards within Ol Kalou sub-county. The audit focused on four main components namely Agricultural Extension Services, Farm Input Subsidies, Marketing of Agricultural Inputs and Facility Support.

In addition to identifying areas that require improvement in delivery of agricultural services, the social audit work took note of best practices for purposes of encouraging duty bearers to adopt and standardize those practices across the county. Below are key findings emerging from the social audit exercise:

BEST PRACTICES IN DELIVERY OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES



1. Provision of Extension Services to Farmers at No Cost

Across the four wards where the social audit was undertaken, farmers are aware that the county government provides agricultural extension services through the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Extension services are provided to farmer groups for free. This best practice allows farmers to access extension services regularly from a central location and makes it easier for extension officers to develop field visit schedules.

2. Use of Demonstration Plots to Provide Extension Services

Demonstration plots provide a good platform where farmers can learn and share their experiences. The department of agriculture has set up demonstration plots in Kaimbaga ward to aid in delivery of extension services. This best practice enables extension offers to showcase best agricultural practices to farmers by holding on-farm sessions, which is a classic example of the old saying - seeing is believing. Demonstration plots also enhance the quality of extension services that the department of agriculture offers farmers. During the social audit, farmers who had benefited from extension services reported notable improvements in crop yield as a result of the extension services offered by the county government.



3. Distribution of Subsidized Farm Inputs from Local Offices

The social audit revealed that in areas like Kaimbaga ward, distribution of subsidized farm inputs is done through local offices. Farmers in these areas reported that after paying for subsidized fertilizer, the government delivers the inputs to the chief's office and farmers are able to collect it from there instead of travelling all the way to the main depot at the county headquarters. This best practice ensures that subsidized farm inputs are easily accessible to farmers and reduces the cost of transporting the inputs to their farms significantly.

4. Development of Potato Legislation

The social audit revealed that the county government of Nyandarua has enacted a legislation that regulates packaging of potatoes. According to the potato legislation, farmers are required to package their potato produce in 50 kg bags. This best practice reduces exploitation of farmers by middlemen.



5. Procurement of Farm Equipment

The county government has invested in farm equipment including planters, shellers, harvesters and tractors to enable it to provide machinery leasing services to farmers at subsidized rates. The social audit revealed that these equipment are situated in Machine and Nyahururu. This best practice enables the county government to support farmers to undertake large scale crop production on their farms.

CHALLENGES IN DELIVERY OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES IN NYANDARUA COUNTY



1. Low Awareness on Agricultural Services among Farmers

Across Ol' Kalau Sub-County, the social audit revealed that though most farmers are aware that the county government offers agricultural extension services, awareness on how to access those services remains low. Out of the 1040 farmers who participated in the audit, 72% do not know where extension service offices are located nor do they know how to contact extension officers whenever they need the service.

Further, 81% of farmers are not to be aware of other the agricultural services soil testing and mechanization services that the county government of Nyandarua offers. This has a negative impact on the uptake of agricultural extension services as well as the other agricultural services that the County Government of Nyandarua has put in place to support farmers increase their yields.

2. Agricultural Extension Officers Rarely Conduct Field Visits

In all the four wards where the social audit work was undertaken, 92% of farmers stated that extension officers rarely conduct field visits as was the case before devolution. For instance, in Mirangine ward, farmers reported that before devolution took effect, agricultural extension officers were conducting random field visits to farms with an aim of improving crop production. This is no longer the case.

Only 8% of farmers said extension officers had visited their farms and this was after they made requests either via phone calls or through farmer groups when the extension officers held group sessions. This means that only farmers that request for the service or are members of groups that receive extension services benefit from those services. Farmers who are not in these two categories have to find alternative ways of accessing extension services from private practitioners or stay without them all together.

3. Inadequate Staffing in the Extension Service Function

From the social audit, it was evident from farmers and government officials that the extension service function in Nyandarua experiences significant staff shortage. At the time of the social audit, Ol Kalou sub-county only had 11 extension officers servicing farmers in the sub-county.

In an ideal scenario, the extension services function should have 5 officers who are subject matter specialists in crop management, agribusiness, land development, home economics (agri-nutrition) and irrigation. For each these specialists, there should be a Ward Agricultural Extension Officer (WAEO) who coordinates extension activities undertaken by agricultural extension officers at the ward level. However, Kaimbaga and Karau wards each has one extension officer, while in Mirangine and Rurii wards, there are two extension officers in each ward. This poses a great challenge in terms of provision of extension services due to the vast geographical area that the wards cover.

Other than irrigation, which is not domiciled in the department of agriculture, extension officers are expected to provide services in all the four subject matters. In addition, the extension officers are required to implement projects and programmes that have been funded by development partners. Currently, two programmes and projects are being undertaken by the County Government of Nyandarua – the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) and Kenya Climate Smart programme.

The main reason why the county experiences shortage of extension officers is the delay in replacing retired officers. In 2016/17, there were 27 extension officers in Ol Kalou Sub-County compared to the current 11. With most of the current extension officers approaching retirement age, the shortage is expected to worsen over the next few years. The shortage of extension workers hinders effective transfer of agricultural technology and information on crop production to farmers.

6. Access to Extension Services Based on Proximity to Government Offices

The proximity of farmers to government offices emerged as one of the factors that determine access to agricultural extension services. According to farmers who participated in the social audit, the closer a farmer is to government offices, the higher the chances of accessing extension services. The opposite is also true, the further farmers are from government offices, the lesser their chances of accessing extension services. For instance, farmers in Gwa Nyaga in Mirangine ward complained that they have not been receiving extension services while some farmers in Gwa Kiongo had received extension services since the agriculture office is located in the center.

7. Low Awareness on Farm Inputs that the Government Provides

From the social audit, it was evident that most farmers have limited knowledge on subsidized inputs that the government provides with fertilizer being the only input that farmers are aware of. This is despite the fact that the county provides a wide range of seedlings through its subsidy program including garden peas, spinach, kales, cabbages, sunflower, pyrethrum, macadamia, avocado, passion fruit, bamboo and tree tomato seedlings.

Even though awareness of the fertilizer subsidy programmes seems to be high – at least 78% of farmers in the county are aware of it, only 32% of them have information on the process of accessing the fertilizer. While distribution of subsidized fertilizer and free seedlings should be open to all farmers of Nyandarua, the social audit revealed that distribution is done through the farmer groups that extension farmers offer services to at a rate of sh. 1800 per 50 kg bag. This means that farmers who are not members of farmer groups do not receive input subsidies. Each ward gets 240 bags, each weighing 50kgs, which means only 240 farmers benefit from the program in each ward.

8. Inadequate Facilitation for Agricultural Extension Officers



Poor facilitation of extension officers emerged as a major challenge in provision of extension services in Nyandarua County. The social audit revealed that extension officers are not provided with airtime to facilitate calls to farmers to follow-up on issues raised and ensure that they're able to resolve their problems or provide them with technical backstopping remotely. It was noted that on average, an extension officer spends about sh.100 of his/her own credit per day calling farmers.

Additionally, extension officers are only provided with transport facilitation occasionally. This is mostly because even though there provision for fuel may be available, the sub county office does not have a means of transport – the vehicle and motorcycle allocated to the agricultural office are broken down, and the office lacks a designated driver.

The audit also showed that extension officers often experience delays in disbursement of the funds they need to support field extension activities from the county. In most instances, they are forced to spend their own money and when they submit claims for reimbursement of amounts advanced, they process takes too long and in most cases, the amounts are not refunded.

While the county has set up several demonstration plots, it was noted that financial support for those plots is largely drawn from donors. The plots are established under the projects or programmes that are supported by IFAD and GIZ. This puts the sustainability of demonstration plots at risk in the event the donors pull of or the programmes/projects come to an end. All these issues hinder effective delivery of extension services to farmers in the county.

9. Distribution Of One Fertilizer Type Irrespective of Crops Cultivated

The type of fertilizer applied to crops varies depending on the chemical composition and nutrient requirements of each crop. The social audit revealed that government only distributes one type of fertilizer to farmers through the subsidy programmes. Farmers that reported having accessed fertilizer subsidies said they only received DAP fertilizer for planting irrespective of which crop they planted or the health of the soil in their farms.

This means that the subsidized fertilizer does not provide farmers with optimum nutrients for some of the crops they grow. Additionally, there are high chances that the fertilizer affects production due to the fact that the government does not provide soil correction

measures that might be required for the land to become more productive.

10. Low Access to Farm Subsidies by the Most Vulnerable

The social audit revealed that access to farm subsidies was a challenge to farmers who are most vulnerable such as PWDs and those that are extremely poor. According to farmers, there seems not to be a set criteria for identifying farmers who are most vulnerable and in need of support to ensure that the inputs reach those who need them most. In addition to this, the cost of the subsidies, particularly the fertilizer, as well as transportation from collection points adds more barriers to accessing farm input subsidies for farmers in these groups.

11. Late Distribution of Subsidized Farm Inputs

100% of farmers participated in the social audit and have benefited from the government fertilizer subsidy programme reported that despite registering and paying for subsidies early, distribution of the subsidies was done way after the planting season has passed. For instance, farmers stated that fertilizer subsidies are distributed as late as the month of June they had already planted their crops. As such, farmers are forced to raise more funds to buy fertilizer at market price because they can't keep waiting for the subsidized fertilizer to arrive as the rainy season passes.

In one instance, a farmer in Karau ward noted that she had put the fertilizer she received from the subsidy programme in the store so she can use it in the next planting season. Due to the late distribution of farm subsidies, farmers feel inconvenienced since they are required to pay for the inputs in advance then raise more money to buy the same inputs at market prices during the planting season.

12. Quality of Seedlings Supplied to Farmers

According to farmers who had received avocado seedlings from the county

government in Karau ward, the survival rate of those seedlings is extremely low. The farmers reported that some of the seedlings that they planted did not grow as expected while others dried up. The farmers explained that the climate in Nyandarua is not conducive for growing the kind of avocado seedlings that the government is distributing citing that seedlings that they purchased from private companies perform better in the area.

13. Poor Condition of Roads in the County

One of the major challenges that the farmers noted is the poor road infrastructure of the feeder roads. The poor road infrastructure reduces the efficiency of transportation of their farm produce to the market. This results in exploitation of farmers by middlemen by offering very low prices for their produce citing the challenges in getting these agricultural produce from the farm gate.

14. Minimal Effort to Help Farmers Access Markets

During the social audit, farmers felt that there was minimal effort by the county government in facilitating access to markets for their produce. Some of the reasons given for this is the lack of exhibition centers and agricultural shows where farmers can access markets. In addition, they cited the slow progress in construction of markets such as the Loliondo market and the market in Ol Kalou town.

It is important to note that the crop development department does not offer marketing services. This is because the marketing docket is the trade and cooperatives ministry. However, the department through its extension officers link farmers to companies that are contracting especially on potatoes and snow peas.

15. Slow Implementation of the Potato Legislation

Although the legislation on packaging of potatoes in 50kgs bags was passed, the farmers noted that the implementation of the same was not being done as the potatoes are

still packed in large sacks. As such, this resulted in continued exploitation by middlemen. However, during the interface meeting, it was noted that the implementation would be a challenge as it disadvantaged those who were buying the potatoes. This is because Nyandarua County is among the few counties that had passed this law. Therefore, in the marketplace it would be hard to market potatoes from Nyandarua since other regions packed their produce in large sacks.

16. Inadequate Soil Testing Services

In the social audit, all the farmers did not know the county offers soil testing services, how it could be accessed and how they could pick soil samples. The lack of information on soil testing services as well as its benefits to the farmers make the efforts in restoration of the soils to be able to produce at the desired levels difficult.

From the service providers it emerged that the department has a mobile scanner that can be used for soil testing and the service is free to all farmers. Additionally, the soil testing facility at the Agricultural Training College (ATC) is complete but does not have a technical officer to make it operational. However, in the advertised positions by the Public Service Board, one technician would be employed for the facility.

17. Inadequate Cold Storage And Value Addition Facilities

In all the four wards that the social audit was undertaken, the farmers noted that there was lack of technical support to farmers on value addition especially training. The lack of technical support in value addition has contributed to the farmers selling their produce in raw form and at low prices.

Another issue that emerged from the focus group discussion with the farmers is that they were not aware of any cold storage facilities in the sub county. From the social audit it was

realized that the only cold storage facility in the county was in Murungaru, Kinangop Sub County. Although it is complete, it is not working.

The cold storage facilities prolong the freshness of agricultural produce so that the produce could be sold at a later time period especially when there is less of the produce in the market. As such, the effect of the lack of cold storage facilities is that the farmers are forced to sell their produce at a period where there is a glut in the market whereby their produce fetches low prices.

However, it emerged that the county had plans to establish cold storage facilities for potatoes and a pack-house for other horticultural produce. The plans are to have an agricultural hub that will be the collection point for other collection centers. This would require establishment of 4 other cold storage facilities per sub-county.

18. High Cost of Mechanization Services

Across the sub-county, 97% of farmers reported that they do not know of any efforts by the county government to provide mechanization services to farmers. This is despite the county having two mechanization stations in Nyahururu and South Kinangop. These stations have tractors that can help farmers with tillage, planting (maize and potatoes), harvesting (potatoes) and shelling (maize) at subsidized rates. However, the cost of transporting the equipment from the two stations to farms where farmers can utilize them is extremely high.

19. Lack of Agri-Financial Linkages

The other challenge that emerged from the social audit is the lack of financial linkages for farmers to enable them expand their agricultural activities. This would be in terms of enhancing their ability to access loans to finance purchase of farms inputs or equipment. This is despite the presence of agricultural loans like Kilimo biashara loans that the department facilitates farmers to access by having extension offices at ward level sign application forms for farmers.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Develop a Human Resource Policy on Recruitment, Training and Promotion of Personnel

One of the major challenges that negatively affects service delivery in the agricultural sector is the low staffing among extension officers that has been as a result of a lack of policy on replacement of retired staff and recruitment of new staff. Although the county government has advertised for 10 extension officers in the whole county, this would do little to tackle the challenge of low staffing as there are more officers who are retiring in the year. As such, the human resource policy would help in addressing this challenge by putting in place measures that would address recruitment and replacement of staff on a given time period.

Additionally, it would also help to incorporate recruitment of interns into the department. The other issue that the human resource policy would seek to address is the issue of career progression, training and re-trainings for the staff so as to reduce biases when opportunities arise. The policy should also seek to include sponsoring other courses

such as diplomas and degrees should an officer choose to advance his/her knowledge within their field

2. Adopt More Ways of Offering Extension Services to the Farmers

From the social audit it emerged that the majority of the farmers were not benefiting from the extension services being offered by the department. This is because the county has been using a demand driven and group approach in offering services to the farmers. However, due to the need to create demand by farmers who may be using traditional methods of farming and are not in groups, there is a need to adopt more ways to the current one being used.

One of the ways that could be adopted is through the use of field days and field visits at ward level and on a rotational basis. This would enable extension officers and other players in the agricultural sector to impart knowledge to many farmers who would have not benefited from the demand driven and group approach to extension services.

The second method is to decentralize agricultural extension offices to location level.

This would increase the interaction between the farmers and the extension officers and thus accrue the change benefits that extension services is aimed at impacting these farmers. The third way is to tap into technological advancements to offer extension services. These include provision of digital materials (audio-visuals), use of hotlines and bulk SMS systems to disseminate information on crop management.

3. Improve the Flow of Information to the Farmers

One of the main challenges identified by the farmers is there was a lack of communication on the agricultural services and activities being conducted by the crop development department. As such, the farmers suggested that the department use the existing structures in place at the community to pass on the information. This would include the use of Nyumba Kumi and village groups. This would help in raising awareness of services such as soil testing, mechanization and farm inputs to ensure increase in the uptake of these services.

Additionally another popular way in which they could communicate to the farmers especially on field activities is through the use of public address systems that would announce field days and field visits. Similarly, they suggested that setting aside a specific date that would be popularized as a field day to ensure that farmers set aside the day to learn about crop management as well as other agricultural activities.

4. Incorporate a Training of Trainers (TOT) Model in Extension Services

To ease the workload on extension officers as well as provide farmers with new experiences from their fellow farmers, there is a need to incorporate a TOT model in extension services. The TOT farmers would be the resource persons in their community on matters relating to certain knowledge on crop management.

To enhance their capabilities, there would be a need for training. These trainings would be in the form of farmer field schools, residential training and farmer exchange programs to facilitate learning from different parts of the county and country and trainings to facilitate learning from different parts of the county and country

5. Facilitate Residential Training Courses for Farmers

As the county has the Agricultural Training College (ATC), it was suggested that the county facilitates residential training courses for farmers. This is because it was noted that the facility is being underutilized even though it has facilities that could be used by farmers to board. As such, the facility could offer short training courses to farmers on various aspects in agriculture for more than a day to ensure that a specific knowledge on the subject matter is reinforced.

6. Facilitate Agricultural Officers

To ensure that extension officers are able to reach farmers at the field, there is a need to facilitate their transportation. As such, the county should ensure that there are available modes of transport that are well maintained. Drivers should also be provided to take them where they are required. This would ensure that the extension officers are able to offer their services effectively to farmers within their areas.

Additionally, since there are farmers that seek extension services via the phone, there is a need to provide an allowance to the extension officers to effectively communicate to the farmers. This would ensure that extension officers provide enough information to farmers during backstopping as well as follow up on farmers` issues on whether they were resolved after seeking extension services.

7. Engage Farmers when Developing Programmes and Projects

It was noted that during the social audit, farmers wanted to be involved before programmes and projects that targeted them are developed. This is because they wanted to provide their input on their needs as well as how the particular programme or project would be implemented. This would help in targeting the farmers` most important need as well as reducing the challenges that farmers pointed out such as low awareness and implementation.

8. Develop a Revolving Fund and Policy Targeting the Farm Input Subsidy Programmes

The fertilizer and mechanization programmes continue to face major challenges in their implementation. As such, there is a need to create a revolving fund and policy to help address some of these challenges. The creation of a revolving fund would set aside monies that would be used to procure and distribute the farm inputs even when there are shortages that result from late disbursement of funds. Additionally, it would solve the issue of late distribution of farm inputs since some of these activities are season specific.

The policy would cover issue of the targeted beneficiaries of the farm subsidies, how the targeted beneficiaries would be identified, the channel that will be used to distribute these farm inputs and the modes of payment.

9. Improve Efforts on Value Addition, Marketing and Linkages to Agricultural Financial Services

As interventions to challenges in production are looked at, there is a need to look at other solutions in the agricultural value chain so as to encourage farmers to increase production. One of the main solutions is conducting regular training on agribusiness and value addition to encourage vertical integration by

farmers. This would enable them to get better prices and thus better mark-ups to improve their livelihoods. Additionally, there is a need to supply value addition equipment that farmers could hire.

The county should also make sure that there is quick completion of markets and also look at completing existing stalls such as the Loliondo Market and the Ol Kalou town Market to encourage trade within these areas. More effort should also be put in popularizing market days as well as organizing exhibitions to market the agricultural produce and products.

Due to scarce resources, there is also a need to encourage Public Private Partnerships (PPP) with an aim of creating synergies with business that are aimed at making interventions at the agricultural value chain.

10. Advocate for a Policy on Packaging of Potatoes in 50kgs bags

Due to the disadvantage Nyandarua gets when enforcing the packaging of potatoes in 50kgs bags, there is need to advocate for a national policy on the same. This would ensure that all counties work within the same regulations that aim at safeguarding the farmers from exploitation.



ANNEXTURES

Data Collection Tools

ANNEX 1: GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

County Chief Officer and Sub-County Agricultural Officer)

Section A: Agricultural Extension Services

1. How are extension services structured in Nyandarua County? (location of extension services, coverage)
2. How many extension officers are deployed in each sub county
3. How many farmers is each extension officer expected to support each month?
4. What strategies does the county use to provide extension services? E.g. demonstration plots, field visits, field days, online information hubs etc
5. How does the county facilitate extension workers to perform their duties? E.g. transport, trainings, communication
6. What challenges does the department face in providing extension services to farmers?
7. What plans does the department have to improve service delivery in extension services?

Section B: Access to Farm Inputs

1. What farm subsidies does the county provide farmers?
2. What criteria does the county use to select beneficiaries of farm subsidies program?
3. When are farm subsidies distributed to farmers and how does the county distribute them to farmers?
4. What measures does the county have in place to ensure subsidies reach the targeted farmers on time?
5. How does the department of agriculture ensure that the farm subsidies distributed under the farm subsidies program are of high quality?

Section C: Marketing

Value Addition Support

1. Which value addition projects do you know of that the county government of Nyandarua County has set up?
2. What kind of support does the county government provide to farmers to add value to their products? Tips: training, technical support to cooperatives, equipping value addition facilities

Accessibility of Market for Agricultural Products

1. How does the county government help farmers to access markets for their products? Tip: exhibitions, agricultural shows, exchange visits
2. What legislation has the county government put in place to safeguard farmers in marketing their products?
3. What infrastructure has the government put in place to enable farmers to access markets for their produce? Tip: probe construction of roads from farms to main roads, building farmer markets, stalls, cooling plants etc

Section D: Facility Support

1. What strategies has the county provided for farmers to get financial support to grow their farming businesses? E.g. cooperative support, linkage to financial institutions to get loans or insurance etc
2. How does the county help farmers with mechanization of farming activities? Tip: probe provision of tractors to harrow farms, harvesters etc
3. How does the county help farmers in accessing soil testing services? Tip: ask about availability of soil testing units, location and cost
4. Does the county offer storage facilities to farmers? If yes, which crops are stored in those facilities?
5. What other strategies does the county have in place to ensure farmers are able to store and value add on their produce?

Annex 2: Guiding Questions for Focus Group Discussions

Section A: Agricultural Extension Services

Accessibility of Extension Services

1. Does the county government offer extension services?
2. Do you, as a farmer, know where to get extension services? If yes, have you ever accessed the services?
3. If you have, what did you do to get the agricultural extension services? Tip: had to request for them, extension officers were doing routine field visits etc.
4. What strategies does the county government use to provide extension services to farmers? E.g. demonstration plots, sms system, field visits, field days, online information hubs etc.
5. In your view, is it easy to access extension services from the county government? Why - give reasons.
6. What challenges do farmers face in accessing agricultural extension services?

Quality of Extension Services

1. How often do you receive agricultural extension services?
2. If you request for extension services, how long do you wait before you get the service?
3. How often do extension officers follow-up with you to ensure that your challenges are fully resolved?
4. What has the county government done to help farmers get quick information on crop or animal management like disease detection, application of insecticides or herbicides etc? E.g. sms system, extension officers on call etc

Cost of Extension Services

1. How much does it cost you to get extension services?
2. If you pay for these services, how is the payment done?
3. If you pay for the services, are you issued with a receipt?
4. What can be done to improve extension services offered by the county?

Section B: Subsidized Farm Inputs

Availability of farm inputs (Fertilizers, Seeds/Seedlings, Fungicides/ Insecticides etc)

1. Are you aware that the county offers subsidized farm inputs to farmers?
2. Does the county government of Nyandarua provide subsidized farm inputs to farmers?
3. If yes, which farm inputs are provided to farmers?
4. How many kgs of each farm input is provided to farmers?
5. How does the county government determine the amount of subsidies to give farmers?

6. How do farmers pay for the subsidized inputs?

Accessibility of Subsidized Farm Inputs

1. How does the county identify farmers who will benefit from the subsidized farm input program?
2. In your view, does the subsidized farm input program benefit the farmers who need them most? Why do you think so?
3. What does the process of accessing subsidized farm inputs look like?
4. What challenges do farmers experience in accessing the subsidized farm inputs?
5. Which criteria do you think should be used to identify beneficiaries of subsidized farm input programs?

Distribution and Quality of Subsidized Farm Inputs

1. Which month of the year are farm inputs distributed?
2. In your opinion, is this the right time for farmers to get farm inputs? Why?
3. How are the farm inputs distributed?
4. Do the seeds or fertilizers provided by the county give you high yields? Why do you say so?

Section C: Marketing

Value Addition Support

1. Which value addition projects do you know of that the county government of Nyandarua County has set up?
2. What kind of support does the county government provide to farmers to add value to their products?
Tips: training, technical support to cooperatives, equipping value addition facilities

Accessibility of Market for Agricultural Products

3. How does the county government help farmers to access markets for their products? Tip: exhibitions, agricultural shows, exchange visits
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Section D: Facility Support

1. What strategies has the county provided for farmers to get financial support to grow their farming businesses? E.g. cooperative support, linkage to financial institutions to get loans or insurance etc.
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5. What other strategies does the county have in place to ensure farmers are able to store and value add on their produce?



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