

**THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF AINAMOI DIVISION IN
KERICHO DISTRICT KENYA**

BY

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DECLARATION

I Langat Leah Chelangat Declare that the content of this research report I dissertation is truly my original work, has been a result of my independent research and completed by me. This work has been never presented to any other institution of learning for an academic award.

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APPROVAL

This dissertation resulting from the researchers efforts in the area the role of agriculture in the economic development of Ainamoi division in Kericho District Kenya was under my supervision and now it is ready.

Supervisor

Signed.....

OCHEN MOSES PATRICK

Date:.....

DEDICATION

To my dear parents who worked to see me advance in my education.

To my supervisor Mr. OCHEN MOSES PATRICK for the effort you put in both technical and moral support which has helped me to accomplish this course.

Dedication goes to my husband SAMWEL LANGAT and my children Mercy, Ronny and Godfrey. My friends for your counsel, motivation and all whose names have not been mentioned above for the great job to help me accomplish this work.

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During the conduct and production of this manuscript, many people availed their valuable time and contributed to its success.

First and foremost, I thank God for the gift of knowledge is also grateful to my headteacher David Soi, my husband for paying fees permission and pocket money which kept me up through my studies, constant encouragement and stood by my side and supported me not forgetting my children, my late father Noah Bett, mother Mary Bett, brother David Rotich.

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to examine the role of agriculture in the economic development of Kericho district.

The researcher focused on the proper importance, problems and solutions of agriculture in the economic development of Kericho district. A longitudinal design was developed to compile secondary data from Ainamoi among others from 2006 — 2007. The data was analyzed using Pearson's correlation coefficient which measured the strength and direction between the independent variables.

The findings showed that due to farming among the people of Ainamoi, agricultural practices in Ainamoi is still very low. The results also showed a positive significant improvement of people's standard of living.

The study concluded that farmers should apply fertilizers like coffee husks; mulching and the government setting up constant prices for the products can help to improve on agricultural practices in Ainamoi.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Agricultural sector in East Africa has been and still is the dominant sector characterized by subsistence production. Mainly dependent on family labour and limited in the scale of operation. With the backward development of industry, the major economic activity is agriculture which produces food crops and exports cash crops. It employs over 60% of the population on peasant small scale farms.

In Uganda, coffee and cotton have long been the major cash crops foreign exchange earners. Through today diversification has increased Uganda's export crops to include vanilla, flower, pineapples, fish products, tea, tobacco, leather products, food and beverages, tourism among others.

In 1966, agriculture in the country has undergone considerable transformation. There was a major break through in agriculture production in the mid sixties with the introduction of new agricultural technology based on high yield varieties of crops. The emphasis has shifted to maximum production per unit area and time through multiple cropping and appropriate technology which has raised crop yields.

The majority of the people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture farming for livelihood, for the total of nine million to be free from poverty. There is urgent need- for efficient agricultural production aid rural development. The subsistence farmers are ill equipped with skills and tools. Low out, small farms and poor market access prevails, this discourage increased and sustained agricultural productivity. However,

the quality and quantity are the key issues at the primary sources of agricultural produce. And not only that Ugandans depend on the cultivation, processing transporting and marketing of coffee, it contributes to poverty reduction with economic growth of the country and well being of its people has been and still very significant.

Ainamoi district was part of Kericho district but in 2000 it became an independent district. People in Kericho are agriculturalists. They practice farming, poultry rearing of animals. They grow a variety of crops which include coffee, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, pineapples, rice among others.

However, the mostly grown crops are pineapples and bananas. They rear animals like cows, goats and also practice poultry. Such activities have greatly contributed to the development of Kericho district.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Despite of the measures and strategies undertaken by the government to improve on the agricultural sector in Uganda, agriculture practices in Kericho is still very low and faced with a number of problems. The focus of this study was therefore on finding out the partners how the problems can be solved.

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General objective

General objective of the study was to find out the importance, problems and solutions of agriculture in the economic development of Kericho district.

3.1.2 Specific objectives

- (i) To determine the role of agriculture to the economic development of Kericho district.
- (ii) To find out the problems faced by agriculture in Kericho district.
- (iii) To find out the solutions to the problem of agriculture in Kericho district.

1.4 Significance of the study

The findings from the study benefited in the following.

- (i) People Kericho district were able to adapt to better methods of farming.
- (ii) The findings made people to improve on their standard of living as they were working and were able to meet their basic needs.

1.5 Definition of terms

Soil: It may be defined as a thin layer of earth's crust which serves as a natural medium for the growth of plant. It is the unconsolidated mineral matter has been subjected to and influenced by genetic and environmental factors. Parent material, climate, organisms and topography all acting over the period of time.

Soil fertility: Soil fertility refers to the ability of the soil to yield quality and quantity products.

Fertilizers: These are materials that add nutrients to the soil examples include cow dung, coffee husks, etc.

Intercropping: This is growing of a number of crops on one piece of land.

Poultry: This refers to keeping and rearing of birds

Agriculture: It refers to growing of crops and rearing of animals.

ARDCS: Agricultural Research and Development Centers.

NAADS: National Agricultural Advisory Services

NARO: National Agricultural Research Organizations

1.6 Scope of the study

1.6.1 Subject scope

The research was limited on the importance, problems and solutions of agriculture to the economic development of Kericho district.

1.6.2 Time scope

The period covered a period of 2 years (2006 — 2007) depending on the availability of the data.

1.6.3 Geographical scope

The study covered only selected areas of Kericho district.

1.7 Organization of the study

The study was organized in five chapters. The introductory chapter on featuring the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, significance / justification

of the study, definition of terms, scope I delimitations of the study and limitations of the study.

Chapter two is about review of the related literature according to what is already in place. Chapter three brings the methodology employed in carrying out the research. It includes the research design used, area and population of the study,

The sample selection and size, instruments I tools to collect data.

Chapter four is concerned with the presentation of findings and chapter five brings the conclusions and recommendations and bibliography / references and also appendices.

1.8 Limitations of the study

The researcher faced a problem of finance but it is solved by mobilizing funds from other sources.

Some people were not able to give the information claiming that agriculture was a common economic activity which the researcher was able to answer but it was solved by handing them with care and the researcher told them that the study was for academic purpose.

The researcher was not able to see some of the animals for instance Mr. Mutesasira said that said that his animals had gone to graze but it was solved by the researcher requesting him to be taken to where they were grazing from.

The researcher also faced a problem of un shine during the course of data collection but it was solved by use of the umbrella.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

According to Gesa (2001), the modernization of agricultural sector involves the improvement and transportation approached diversification of agriculture involves the introduction of a variety of activities in the sector for example the growing of traditional and non traditional cash and food crops rearing of animals, poultry among others.

In addition, according to Ddamulira (2004), Kericho LC.5 Chief urged that residents in his district to grow more food for consumption and export. He said that farmers should know that farmers should engage in large scale farming for export.

In addition, according to the New Vision February 14” 2004, National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) is a programme contributing to the modernization of agriculture programmes through the development of market oriented farmers special attention is given to women and youth.

2.1 According to the regular report from the commission on Uganda’s progress in 1997, the share of agriculture and forestry in GDP represented 4.5% in. value added terms and agricultural employment accounted for 6th with an annual decline of 0.2% fore cast for 1998 and 1999, the food industry population in 1997.

According to the information of cooperation, development the nation of the third world have made considerable progress over the past 30 years towards growing enough food to feed the planet. But this progress have been evenly spread. A large and increasing minority of people in the developing countries subsist on as that prevents them from leading a

normally active and health life of the one billion so very poor people in the world, about 450 million can be considered as seriously undernourished.

2.2 To Dr. R.P Shama (2001), organic matter through farming a small part of soils, plays a vital role of food for soils bacteria and fungi which are responsible for converting complex organic materials into simple substances readily used by plants. The intermediate products of decomposition of fresh organic matter help to improve the physical condition of the soil.

The addition organic matter also: improves the working quality or friability of the soil. In association with clay and calcium, it helps to form the aggregates of soil particles to produce the crumb structure. Applied in adequate quality, organic matter serves so much.

According to Seema Yadav (1997), agricultural products like milk is considered as nature's "most nearly perfect food". Most of the known essential nutrients are in milk but its much better source of some than others. Milk and milk products are excellent sources of calcium, proteins and riboflavin. Vitamin A, phosphorus and thiamine are also supplied in good amounts; milk products are included in the diet so as the students or any one for that matter gets adequate calcium intake. Each gram of milk contains about one milligram of calcium, with a glass of milk supplying about one third of the recommended calcium for a student.

2.3 According to the New Vision June 4th 2002, the Diocese on Agricultural Development Project (Diocese of Fort portal), the Diocese of Fort portal is committed to assist the farming community by improving

access to agriculture and livestock extensions services to improve their standards of living.

According to The New Vision (2003) agriculture is a fundamental reality in the lives of Ugandans being the backbone of the country's economy, therefore any efforts to address poverty in Uganda must be geared to agricultural sector. This is one of the main reasons of the government under the plan for modernization of agriculture.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

3.1 Research design

3.2 Type of information

- (i) To determine the role of agriculture to the economic development of Kericho district.
- (ii) To find out the problem faced by agriculture in Kericho district.
- (iii) To find out the solutions to the problems of agriculture in Kericho.

3.3 Source of information

To obtain the above information, the study interviewed farmers at a point of face to face interaction and also by observation which involved actual seeing of the geographical phenomenon with naked eyes. However, some information was obtained from text books and news papers.

3.4 Nature of information

Cross sectional information collected from farmers belonging to different social- economic segments in cross classified to check whether opinions vary in different cross section of the people.

3.5 Area and population of the study

The study was carried out in Kericho district, the study population was of the local people practicing agriculture particularly in Kangulumira, Kamira, Kagayaza and Kikwanya village and zone leaders or village local

councils because these are some of the prominent places where agriculture is practiced.

3.6 Sample size and selection

A sampling frame including some of the farmers accessed to agriculture were consulted and using a systematic random sampling 35 respondents were selected to participate in the study. Purposively, the researcher selected 3 zone leaders, 2 experts in agriculture leaders making a total of 4 key informants. The total number of the sample elements was 39.

3.7 Instruments 1 tools to collect data

The instruments were of two categories. That is observation and interview guide for key informants. The researcher used observation when seeing the various crops and the animals kept by farmers and the researcher used interview when she was asking farmers questions like the importance of agriculture, the problems they were facing. Such instruments were used because the interviewers could easily understand the questions asked.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

Through interviewing different people living on different villages, the farmer was able to find out the following importance.

According to Kigozi a resident of Kigayaza Kangulumire sub-county, the researcher found out that through agriculture the people have been able to get money to run their day today activities and this is through selling their agricultural products to markets. Kigozi explained that he grows various crops and rears a number of animals. The researcher observed various crops which included bananas, pineapples, cassava, gingers among others. However, he majors in the growing of pineapples and he owns over 5 hectares of pineapples. He further explained that he has over 50 heads of cattle where by each produces around 25 litres of milk per day. He uses some for his family and sells the rest to the near by markets. He sells his products while others are taken abroad.

The researcher also found out that through practicing agriculture, the people of Kericho district have been able to take their children to schools. For example Dr. Kayiwa a resident of Kikwanya village explained that he has 5 children and 3 grand daughter but he depends on agriculture to provide education to all of them through selling agricultural products and milk and presently, three of them are in secondary and others in primary.

The researcher also found out that agriculture provides employment to the people. For example Mr. Kiozi's farm employs over 20 people where some work during planting, harvesting while others look after animals. This enables such people earn a daily income.

In addition the researcher found out that through cultivation of crops like potatoes, the people of Kericho district have been able to get animal feeds. For example Miss. Nakawande a resident in Kangulumira reported that he uses potato leaves to feed animals. She said that she doesn't worry about what the animals will eat when the potato leaves are available and the animals were healthy as observed by the researcher.

The researcher found out that waste products from cattle are important in improving on the soil fertility. Mr. Kagwa a resident in Kikwanya said that before he started rearing animals, his crops were growing well but after application of cow dung, both the quality and quantity improved and that he has also resorted to growing a number of crops for example vanilla and tomatoes which he wasn't growing.

The researcher also found out that through agricultural practices, people of Kericho district no longer find it difficult to pay tax to the government. According to Kibode Godfrey he sells no crops where he gets money to pay tax and this enables the government to finance its operations for example construction of hospitals, rehabilitation of the roads among others which leads to the general development.

The researcher found out that through agricultural practices, various infrastructures have been developed for example market trading centres, research institutions like NAADS, NARO and this has led to the development of Kericho district.

The researcher found out that agriculture was a tool to fight poverty in Kericho district. One of the farmers said that despite of the fact that they are in the village but they are better than those in towns. She explained that she sells her milk and some of the crops and also remains with

others for home and consumption. She added that she gets money to care for her children and also save some for un expected occurrences like sickness. Namubiru a resident in Kikwanya village said that if she start talking about the importance of agriculture, she cannot finish and she thinks that she cannot live without it.

The researcher also found out that people of Kericho district sell their products to out side countries. Mr. Kigozi one of the prominent agriculturalist said that he sells his products both in the local markets and exports others abroad and in turn the government has been able to get foreign exchange as he also gets money through such exports and this has led to its development.

The researcher found out that agriculture has led to the development of agro based industries for example cheers industry'. This was because farmers are the ones who supply agriculture products like mangoes, pineapples to such industries.

The researcher found out that agriculture has provided herbal medicine to the people of Kericho. One of the resident of Kikwanya village explained that even she doesn't remember the year she was last taken to the hospital. Nakawungu said that she treats her self and family using local medicine which she grows by her self for example Mulinga, mululuza and ekigajji.

The researcher also found out that agriculture helps to promote tourism attraction. One of the people said that many tourists do come to Kericho to see various agricultural products, some do carry research about agriculture and in turn they provide better ideologies concerning agriculture. According to Kigozi a resident of Kigayaza said that he

receives several tourists every year and thus has led to the development of the district.

Lastly, the researcher found but that agricultural practices in Kayunga district has helped in the environmental conservation and this was through painting of trees.

For example, Godfrey Maka a resident of Kangulumira provides at least ten trees of avaccado, mangoes, jack fruit to every family at free cost. Such trees are referred to as “emitti ejembala”. This has boosted the economic development of Kayunga district.

During research, the researcher found out that farmers in Kericho are faced with a number of problems some of which have been solved by themselves and others ,by the government as explained below;

The researcher found out that farmers are faced with the problem of weather changes. Mr. Kigozi a resident of Kigayaza explained that there are times when the rain fall is too much .lid some times sin shine is more than the expected which leads to destruction of crops.

The researcher also-found out that farmers in Kericho district are faced with the problem of pests and diseases. Miss Nakawunde said that banana weavels, coffee beribora, maize wilt, cassava mosaic, mastitis are a great threat and leads to stunted growth of crops and death of the animals.

The researcher also found out that farmers are faced with a problem of poor infrastructure net work. Most farmers explained that the roads that connect them to the main markets are in poor conditions which also the researcher observed by herself when going to such places of study. Most

roads have got picholes and this makes transportation of the products difficult and make some crops to die in the garden.

The researcher also found out that farmers are faced with the problem of price fluctuation. Mr. Kagwa said that the prices of the products change every season and this affects planhing.

The researcher also found out that farmers in Kericho are faced with a problem of ignorance about the prevailing market price and therefore they end up selling their products at very low prices which makes them operate at a loss.

According to one of the farmers in Kericho, the researcher found out that they are faced with the problem of lack of enough labour. Mr. Kigongo said that he has a family of 9 children but its him alone who is yet the all family depends on him. This leads to less quality output.

The researcher also found out that farmers lack appropriate research institution.

Farmers lack place where they can consult to improve on their family methods.

Mr. Kigongo also added that if such institutions were in place, people could be able to improve on their methods of farming.

One of the resident of Kiwanya village explained that another problem is lack of enough land. Naluwoza said that she would have been in position to plant a variety of crops on a large piece of land and to increase on the number of animals but unfortunately she doesn't have enough land.

The researcher also found out that farmers are faced with a problem of poor farming equipment like pangas, hoes, slashes which make them to produce low quantity for sale hence limiting economic development.

4.2 LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Represents quantities produced in Kikwanya and Kimala villages

Annual agricultural output per village in 1996 measured in (Tons)

Produce	Kikwanya	Kamira
Matooke	52.0	10.4
Onions	10.4	10.4
Tomatoes	10.4	10.4
Ground nuts	1.2	1.2
Pineapples	10	30

The two cases clearly indicate that throughout the year of 1996, Kiwanya village produced 52.0 tons of rice, 10.4 of onions, 10.4 tons of tomatoes, 1.2 tons of ground nuts, 10 tons of pineapple. Where as Kamira produces 10.4 tones of rice, 10.4 tons or tomatoes, 10.4 of onions, 1.2 of G. Nuts and 30 tons of pineapples. Kamira produce more pineapples than Kikwange in 1996 where as Kikwanya produced more tons in 1996 where as Kikwanya produced more tons of rice than Kamira village in the same year.

4.3 Table 2: Represents production of milk in Kericho district during the month of October 1996 to September 1997

Month	Amount in litres
October	809
November	933
December	1073
January	982.5
February	758.5
March	767
April	670
May	632
June	456
July	613
August	316

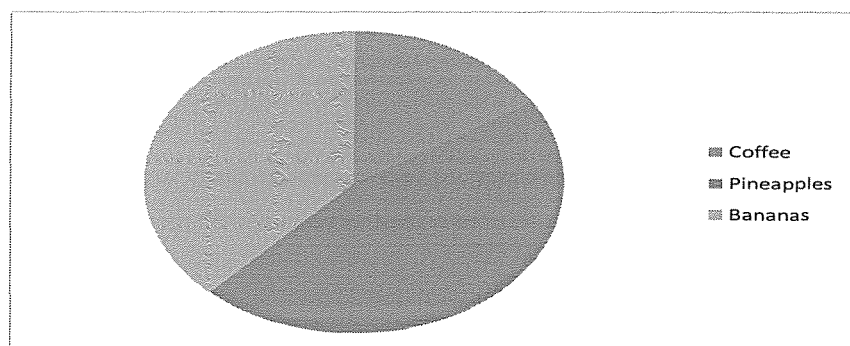
During the years of 1996 to 1997 ranging from October to August the production of milk in October Kericho district was 809 litres, in November the amount in litres was 933, in December it was 1073 litres as in eh table above. However, it was noted that in the month of January that is when Kericho district produced large amounts of milk where as in the month of August the amount reduced to 316 litres as indicated above.

4.4 Table 3: Represents quantities of pineapples produced in the villages of Ketitui and Kaboswa in the years of 1996 and 1997 in tones.

Year	Ketitui	Kaboswa
1996	1,190,000	1,180,000
1997	1,580,000	1,880,000
1998	1,920,000	1,610,000
1999	220,000	330,000

The information from the given table above indicate that **Ketitui** produced more tons of pineapples in the year 1999 which was followed by 1998, 1997 and 1996 where as **Kaboswa** village produce the highest tones of pineapples in 1997,. followed by 1998, 1996 and 1999.

Figure 1: The pie chart showing percentages of some crops produced in Kericho district



It is to timetable from the pie chart above that the largest percentage of crops grown in Kericho district are pineapples which constitutes 46°, followed by bananas which is 38& and the least proportion is that of coffee which is 16°

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Conclusion

The study indicates that much as agriculture has played a fundamental role to the economic development of Kericho district, there is little evidence that the farmers are benefiting. Consequently, there are many problems in the beneficiaries' assessment of farmers that related to research involving the farmers sections of the society.

The poor methods of farming like monoculture, lack of enough labour, lack of enough land and the problem of using poor farming equipments like pangas, hoes, slashers which make them to produce low quantity, the problem of poor infrastructural network are some of the issues that need to be addressed. Those problems need to be solved by the farmers themselves while others by the government.

Government need to be equitably and transparently channeled towards ensuring that the farmers are catered fro in service delivery. This concerns the need to improve on infrastructure of Kericho to kenya in order to help them transport their agricultural products to earn something for their living. It woolen be necessary to ensure that the decisions meant to arrive at the criteria used for improving on agricultural practices are known to farmers in which case they must be simple and clear The problem of price fluctuation has been attributed to the government not setting

up constant prices for agricultural products. Therefore, the government should set up constant price for the products to overcome the problem of price change.

The lack of enough labour has been due to the neglect of the youth to involve themselves in agricultural practices. Therefore the youth should be provided with education concerning agriculture so that they can realize its importance.

5.1 Recommendations

The informants made the following suggestions as a way of ensuring that agricultural practices improve among the people of Kericho.

There is need for application of fertilizers like coffee husks, mulching and using NPK fertilizers to improve on the loss of soil fertility.

There is need for sensitization of the young people and encourage them to be hard working and involve themselves in agricultural practices in order to create thing for themselves instead of remaining redundant doing nothing, but instead should be equipped with courage to work.

Efforts need to be stepped up to improve on the infrastructure of Kericho to ease transportation of goods for the local farmers as they can gain value from their work.

There is also need to avail the gazetted land to those farmers who do have enough land so that they can be able to grow enough crops.

There is also need to set up research institutions where farmers can consult to improve on their farming methods.

Spraying using agricultural chemical for example IAFGO, FINKALL, DITHEN, M45, Ambush should also be applied to reduce on the spread of pests and diseases.

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APPENDIX I

List of key informants

1. Kagwa Resident of Kikwanya
2. Kibode Godfrey a resident of Kalagala
3. Kigozi a resident of Kigayaza Kangulumira Sub County.
4. Maka Godfrey a resident of Kanguumira
5. Nakawunde resident of Walukuba village
6. Nakawungu.a resident of Kikwanya village
7. Namubiru a resident of Kikwanya village.