Research Article   Open Access

Project Beneficiary Involvement in Project Identification and Performance of Farmer Group Projects in Nakuru County, Kenya.

Mercy Chepkemoi[1], Wanyoike M. Daniel [2]
1. Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology,
2. Senior Lecturer, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology,

Abstract: The main objective of the study was to establish the influence of Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification on performance of Farmer Group projects in Nakuru County, Kenya. The study was based on stake holders theory. Descriptive research design was used for this study. The research focused on 260 farmer group projects in Nakuru County that are benefiting the National Agricultural Rural Inclusive Growth Project in Molo, Naivasha ,Njoro, Bahati, and Kuresoi North Sub Counties. The sample size was 72 respondents and simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents. Data was collected through structured questionnaires. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences Version 25 was used for analysis. Both descriptive and inferential statistics was used to examine the data. Frequencies means and percentages were used to analyse descriptive statistics., Pearson's correlation and multiple regression models was employed to understand more about the relationships between the variables in inferential statistics. Tables displayed the results of the analysis. The study results showed a strong positive statistically significant correlation between project beneficiary involvement in project identification on performance of Farmer group projects in Nakuru County. (r=813 ;p=0.000<0.05).From the regression analysis (R Square = 0.631) which shows performance of farm project is 63.1% as explained by the independent variables under this study while 36.1 % is the variation due to other variables which have not been covered in this study.

Keywords: Farmer group projects, Project beneficiary, Project identification

I.   INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Farmer group projects have emerged as transformative forces in Sub-Saharan Africa, instrumental in elevating rural livelihoods and improving agricultural productivity (Place,2020). These projects act as critical starting points, facilitating improved income generation, resource optimization, and the adoption of sustainable farming methods within farming communities .The effectiveness and impact of Farmer Group projects heavily rely on robust project management. Project management principles and methodologies are applied within these agricultural initiatives, especially in farmer group programs, to ensure structured planning, execution, and monitoring of activities aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity . Engaging beneficiaries, who are the primary recipients within the targeted communities, emerges as a pivotal factor influencing the success of these projects(Nyang, Webo, Roothaert, 2019).

Project Beneficiary involvement stands as a crucial driver of project performance. Active participation, empowerment, and ownership among beneficiaries contribute to improved livelihoods, community development, and sustainable agricultural practices . Where communities actively participate in planning and execution, projects exhibit higher levels of sustainability and success. The absence of consistent and meaningful involvement with beneficiaries often leads to the failure of development programs (Ogula & Hojer, 2019). Incorporating beneficiaries throughout the project lifecycle - from selection to planning, execution, and monitoring - is considered a pivotal determinant of project success According to Balozi & Gabissa(2020) active involvement enhances the likelihood of project success and aligns the project's objectives with the needs and aspirations of the intended beneficiaries. By examining project management within agriculture and progressively narrowing the focus onto Project Beneficiary involvement, it becomes evident that engaging beneficiaries is not just desirable but crucial for ensuring the success, sustainability, and alignment of Farmer Group projects with the needs of local communities.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Smallholder subsistence agriculture holds immense potential for driving economic growth and development in Nakuru County, Kenya. Recognized as a key driver of the economy in Vision 2030 (World Bank, 2020), the agricultural sub-sector plays a crucial role in enhancing food security, generating income, providing employment, and fostering wealth creation (County Government of Nakuru, 2023). Farmer group projects have emerged as vital mechanisms for advancing the economic interests of rural communities in Nakuru County, allowing farmers to collaborate and benefit collectively from agricultural activities. The involvement of beneficiaries in such projects has been identified as a means to improve outcomes, align interventions with community needs, and promote ownership and sustainability, thereby enhancing project efficiency and effectiveness (Perrini, Vurro, & Costanzo, 2020).Despite substantial investments by developmental partners like the World Bank and SIDA in agricultural and rural development projects across Nakuru County, performance challenges persist. They identify the major challenges as low productivity, underutilized land, inefficient markets, and limited value addition(ROK,2019).Previous studies like Niyonizigiye (2022) examined sustainability of agricultural projects, neglecting Project Beneficiary involvement's impact on project performance. Mandala (2019) studied stakeholder participation in urban projects, ignoring performance outcomes. Raymond (2019) focused on environmental factors in construction, while Masasabi and Ngari (2019) assessed real estate projects without considering Beneficiary involvement. While these studies provided valuable insights into certain aspects of Project Beneficiary involvement and project performance, they did not comprehensively analyse the collective influence of Project Beneficiary involvement across various stages of project development such identification, planning, implementation, and monitoring. This study aims to close this gap and establish the influence of Project Beneficiary involvement on performance farmer group projects in Nakuru County, Kenya.

1.2 Specific Objective

To establish the influence of Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification on   performance of Farmer Group projects in Nakuru County, Kenya.

1.3 Research Hypotheses

H_{01}:Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification has no statistical significance on performance of Farmer Group projects in Nakuru County, Kenya

II.   LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review
2.1.1   Stakeholders Theory

The theory was proposed by Freeman in 1984. Stakeholder theory states that every person or group that has an indirect or direct impact on the attainment of an organization's goals is considered a stakeholder. In addition, McAbee (2022) said that stakeholders' interests, requirements, and perspectives should be considered throughout project decision-making and implementation. Every manager in an organisation, from the CEO on down to the individual in charge of a specific project, is responsible for managing the company's stakeholders. Therefore, it is essential that the project manager listen to all stakeholders and take their needs into account in order to ensure the project's success.

Through this approach, project managers are able to recognise the importance of stakeholders' contributions to the project's planning and execution. The notion states that stakeholder connections should be considered since they contribute to better project organisation, which in turn increases the likelihood of a project's success (Silvius & Tharp, 2019). Instead of centring on owners, as was the case in the conventional view, the Stakeholder Theory seeks to change the emphasis. Alternatively, this approach takes a broader view by include not just the organization's suppliers and communities but also its financiers, political organisations, government authorities, workers, and consumers. To help managers identify these stakeholders and effectively manage their connections and interests, the Stakeholder Theory lays forth a framework for doing just that. It was stated by Ketokivi and Mahoney (2019).

Stakeholder Theory provides a solid theoretical framework for understanding the influence Project Beneficiary involvement at different stages of Farmer Group projects in Nakuru County, Kenya. The theory, the emphasizes the significance of involving stakeholders in project identification. Stakeholder Theory underscores that recognizing and managing the interests and needs of diverse stakeholders, including the local community and various relevant parties, is crucial for project success. By actively engaging stakeholders throughout these project stages, the theory promotes collaboration, transparency, and accountability, thereby enhancing the projects' relevance, efficiency, and overall performance.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

Mugenda and Mugenda (2019) describe conceptual frameworks as hypothesized models that specify the model under research and the nature of the relationship between independent and dependent variables.
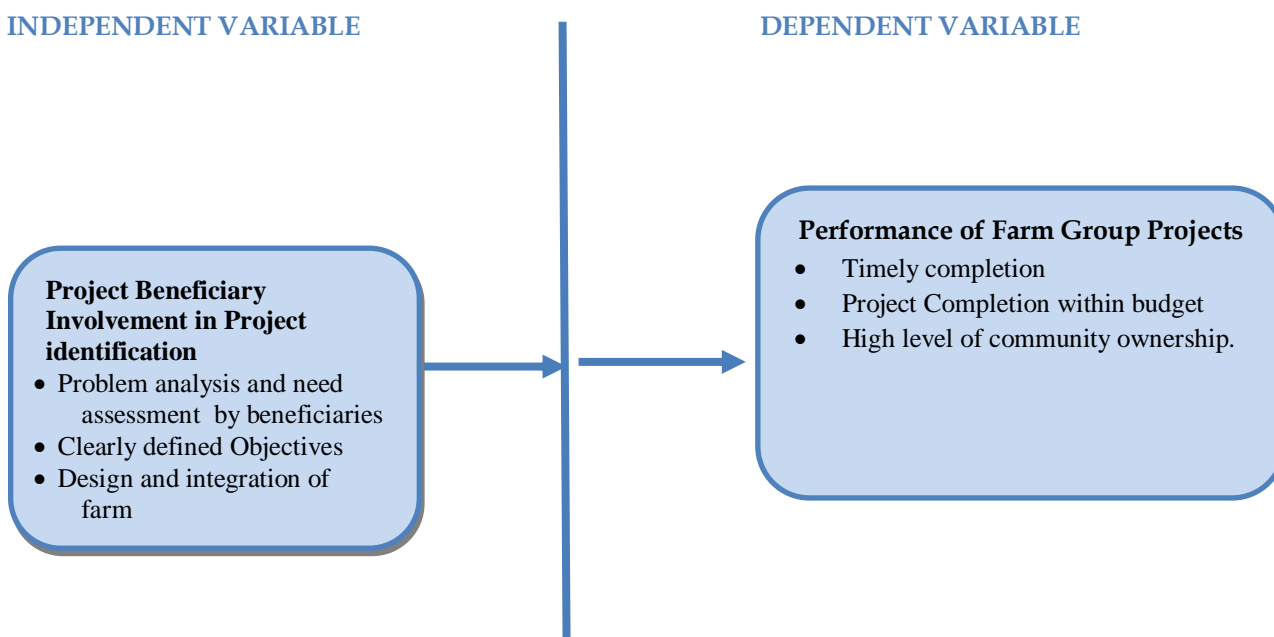
INDEPENDENT VARIABLE   DEPENDENT VARIABLE

Performance of Farm Group Projects
- Timely completion
- Project Completion within budget
- High level of community ownership.

Project Beneficiary Involvement in Project identification
- Problem analysis and need assessment by beneficiaries
- Clearly defined Objectives
- Design and integration of farm

Fig 2.1: Conceptual Framework

2.3 Review of Literature on Variables

2.3.1 Project Beneficiary Involvement in Project identification

Project Identification is a collaborative and evaluative procedure that involves assessing a situation, recognizing a problem, and understanding the needs, interests, priorities, and resources of stakeholders (Thomet and Vozza, 2020). According to Meredith and Mantel Jr. (2019), it is a method of evaluating individual projects or a group of projects, selecting the one that aligns with the organization's objectives to address a specific problem. The quality of project identification is crucial, as a well-conducted process can significantly enhance the potential benefits for beneficiaries .To identify project needs effectively, it requires an understanding of the operational environment, awareness of emerging opportunities or challenges, and a creative examination of various factors that may be influential (Nyandemo & Singh, 2019). According to Chandra (2019) project ideas can originate from various sources such as technical experts, local leaders, entrepreneurs, government initiatives, and international community goals. In essence, project identification involves a thorough and thoughtful exploration of conditions, problems, and potential solutions to choose the most suitable project aligned with organizational objectives and beneficial outcomes. Altschuld & Kumar (2020) found that to decide on what projects to be developed as effective solution to the problem beforehand, a process of project selection should be guided by needs identified.

In order to achieve organizational objectives, project identification entails evaluating and selecting individual projects or groupings of projects (Chikati, 2020). It is important for projects to be tied to the correct objectives and tackle at least one of the main problems of the stakeholders. This might be in the form of accelerating growth, reducing costs, improving cash flow, or making a positive social effect. Beneficiaries' participation in beginning improves project performance, according to Ruwa (2019). Involvement in requirements collecting, solution development, and project identification leads to projects that are completed on time, under budget, and with long-term viability. It achieves this by increasing project acceptability and instilling a sense of ownership, both of which have an impact on KPIs. The identification phase is a key component of all project management cycles. Beneficiaries can assist identify a project that is relevant, beneficial, viable, and tenable.

2.4 Empirical review

Based on the Speak Out initiative that FVA ran in four districts in Rwanda; Karongi, Nyanza, Gisagara, and Nyaruguru Mukamana and Kalimba (2022)set out to assess the impact of stakeholder involvement on project performance in the country. A total of 562 stakeholders, including 400 VAWG survivors, 100 club representatives, and 62 Speak Out project personnel, were the subject of the research. The results showed that the performance of the Speak Out Project is significantly affected by stakeholder engagement in project identification ($\beta 1$= 0.144, p=0.007).

Henry (2019) used the African Inland Child and Community Agency for Development in Kibra, Kenya as a case study to explore how the project identification process affects project performance. The study found that stakeholders were actively involved from the start to the finish of the project. Having said that, the majority of respondents did not believe that stakeholder participation was always encouraged or that stakeholder mapping was always undertaken before a project began. Effective issue identification throughout the AICCAD TVET project discovery process improves TVET project performance, according to the study findings

Kihuha (2019) performed study to clarify the role of stakeholders in the development and implementation of UNEP projects in Kenya. Descriptive statistics were used in the analysis, as part of an exploratory study method. According to the study, initiatives that involved stakeholders in the planning process for resource allocation and all phases of the project performed better than those that did not.

 Bazimya (2023) performed research in Musanze District to determine the influence of stakeholder engagement in project identification on project performance. The study team in Rwanda investigated the Musanze District WASH Project, which was carried out by MNIFRA and financed by MINIFRA, a trilateral effort including the Rwandan, Dutch, and UNICEF governments. The vast majority of respondents (31.7%) ranked the influence of planning on project performance as high; 19.5% rated it as very high; 9.8% rated it as moderate; 17.1% rated it as low; and 22.0% as extremely low.

Road building projects in Kilifi County were studied by Omondi and Kinoti (2020) to determine the impact of stakeholder engagement on project performance. It was determined that road building projects in Kilifi County, Kenya, were greatly affected by the level of stakeholder involvement during project identification. According to the research, road building projects heavily relied on stakeholder input to determine whether projects were feasible, useful, and able to pass muster with the local populace.

ⅢRESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

According to Jansen (2023) research design refers to the overall plan, structure or strategy that guides a research project, from its conception to the final data analysis. A good research design serves as the blueprint for how you, as the researcher, will collect and analyse data while ensuring consistency, reliability and validity throughout your study.This study used a descriptive research design. The goal of descriptive research is to provide a detailed account of the researched population, context, or phenomena. The questions of "when," "where," "what," and "how" are the primary focus. Considering a research issue, instead of asking why (Longe ,2023).

3.2Population

The research focused on 260 farmer group projects in Nakuru County that are benefiting the National Agricultural Rural Inclusive Growth Project (Appendix) (NARIGP, 2023). The project areas within the county include Molo, Naivasha,Njoro, Bahati, and Kuresoi North Sub Counties. One lead farmer from each group, for a total of 260 respondents, was the target of the research

3.3 Sampling Frame

The units of analysis was farmers practising farm forestry. These are the main actors, beneficiaries and decision makers with regard to adoption of farm forestry practices. In this context, farmers who practice farm forestry were the respondents since they are the decision makers on how land should be managed and therefore, farm forestry being one of the land management systems, they will be of great importance.

3.3 Sampling size and Sampling technique

The study targeted 260 lead farmers. To calculate the sample size Slovin's(1960) Formula was used. The Slovin's Formula is given as:

n = N/ (1+Ne2),

Where:

n = sample size,

N = population size and

e is the margin of error (10% or 0.1)

N=260, e=0.1

Therefore

N=260/1+260x 0.12

=260/3.6

=72.22

n=72

The sample size was 72 respondents

The study adopted simple random sampling technique. Simple random sampling is a type of probability sampling in which the researcher randomly selects a subset of participants from a population. (Thomas,2023). Simple random sampling ensures that each member of the population has an equal chance of being selected. This promotes representativeness, meaning the selected sample is more likely to accurately reflect the diversity of the entire population of farmer group projects in Nakuru County.

3.5 Data collection Instrument

Data was collected using a closed questionnaire

3.6 Data analysis and presentation.

Data obtained from the questionnaires was first cleaned and edited before being coded. The analysis was done using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) Version 25. The data was analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Descriptive analysis was done using means and standard deviations to describe the basic characteristics of the population. Inferential statistics involved the use of Pearson's Product Moment correlation and multiple regression models to determine the nature of the relationship between the variables. The multiple regression model was assumed to hold under the equation;

$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \varepsilon$

Where;

Y = Performance of Farmer group projects

β_0= Constant

X_1 = Project Beneficiary Involvement in Project identification

β_1 is the regression coefficient

ε = the estimated error of the regression model.

IV RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Response Rate
Table 4.1 : Response Rate

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Expected Responses	72	100
Received Responses	60	83
None Responses	12	12
Total	**72**	**100**

The researcher issued 72 questionnaires that where 60 % were successfully filled and returned for analysis thus giving the study an 83 % response rate. This response rate was deemed adequate for the purposes of the study. In the opinion of Mugenda & Mugenda (2019), a 50% response rate is satisfactory, 60% is good, and more than 70% is considered very good.

4.2 Descriptive Analysis

The study evaluated the views of the respondents on the influence of Project Beneficiary involvement on performance of Farmer Group projects in Nakuru County, Kenya.

4.2.1 Descriptive Analysis for Project Planning Practice

The study sought the respondents' view on the influence of Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification on performance of Farmer Group projects Their views are as shown in Table 4.2.

Table 4. 2: Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification

Statement	n	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Std. Dev
Project Beneficiary involvement significantly contributed to identifying the actual problems and needs within the community	60	31(52)	27(45)	0(0)	2(3)	0(0)	4.45	0.675
The involvement of beneficiaries ensured that project identification aligned with the real needs of the Farmer Group.	60	35(58)	19(32)	0(0)	4(7)	2(32)	4.38	0.976
Farmers actively participated in defining project objectives, ensuring alignment with their expectations and priorities.	60	2(3)	3(5)	0(0)	30(50)	25(42)	1.68	0.725

There was active participation of beneficiaries in work planning in the projects.	60	3(5)	4(7)	0(0)	38(63)	15(25)	2.03	0.991
Beneficiaries' participation significantly influenced the decision-making process in selecting the project.	60	2(3)	4(7)	0(0)	10(17)	44(73)	1.50	1.033
The selected project aligned closely with the preferences expressed by the beneficiaries	60	35(58)	19(32)	0(0)	5(8)	1(2)	4.37	0.974
The group members were instrumental in identifying available resources within the community.	60	2(3)	1(2)	0(0)	25(42)	32(53)	1.60	0.867

The results in Table 4.2 suggest that majority(97%) of the respondents agreed that their Project Beneficiary involvement significantly contributed to identifying the actual problems and needs within the community (Mean = 4.45; Std. Dev = 0.675). The finding correspond with those of Berry et al .(2019) that revealed that beneficiary involvement contributed to identifying community issues and concerns.

Most (90%) of the respondents agreed that the involvement of beneficiaries ensured that project identification aligned with the real needs of the Farmer Group. (Mean = 4.38; Std. dev =0.976). The findings are in agreement to findings from a study by Matiwane and Terblance(2022) that revealed that 20.8% of the project participants and 30.2% of the extension officers indicated that the felt needs of the project participants were only mostly met.

The findings also indicate that majority(92%) of the respondents disagreed that the Farmers actively participated in defining project objectives, ensuring alignment with their expectations and priorities (mean = 4.35; Std. Dev =1.022). According to Nair (2023) involving stakeholders in goal setting, shows them that you value their opinions and perspectives, and that you are willing to listen and learn from them. This can also help you identify and address any potential risks, issues, or gaps in your project, and create a sense of ownership and commitment among your stakeholders

Moreover, it was generally concurred by most (91%) of respondents that there was active participation of beneficiaries in work planning in the projects. (Mean = 4.45; Std. dev =0.675). The findings, however, suggest that majority(90%) of the respondents disagreed that Beneficiaries' participation significantly influenced the decision-making process in selecting the project(Mean = 4.37; Std. Dev =0.974). The findings were in contrast with findings by Muniu ,Gakuu and Rambo(2019) that stakeholders participated in decision making process which gave them a chance to make decisions about the choice of the type of the project they could afford to support and where they wanted the project infrastructure to be placed. Finally, 52% of the respondents disagreed that during planning the project team determines the optimal tree spacing, arrangement and design based on the selected species and objectives (mean = 2.87; std dev = 1.486).The findings revealed that (90%) of the respondents agreed that the selected project aligned closely with the preferences expressed by the beneficiaries (Mean = 1.5; Std. Dev =1.033). Ononogbu(2023)reported stakeholders involvement

ensured that project outcomes align more closely with the evolving needs and preferences of the Project Beneficiary community.

Finally, majority(95%) of the respondents disagreed that the group members were instrumental in identifying available resources within the community (Mean = 1.6; Std. Dev =0.867). A study Ijirika and Ogbugo (2019) established that community members (specifically traditional leaders) were involved in mobilising resources through various fund raising programmes to ensure CBOs effectively implement their community development programmes.

4.3 Inferential Statistics Findings

This section discusses the inferential statistics findings analysed from the data collected in respect of the Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification on   performance of Farmer Group projects.

4.3.1 Influence of Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification on   performance of Farmer Group projects

The study determined the influence of Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification on   performance of Farmer Group projects using Pearson's Correlation as shown in Table 4.3.

Table 4. 3: Pearson's Correlation between Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification on performance of Farmer Group projects

Variable		Performance of Farmer Group projects
Planning	Pearson Correlation	.813*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000
	N	60

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 4.3 presents the results of Pearson's correlation analysis examining the relationship between Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification and the performance of Farmer Group projects. The Pearson correlation coefficient is 0.813, with a highly significant p-value of 0.000 (two-tailed), indicating a strong positive correlation. This implies that there is a substantial and statistically significant connection between the degree of Project Beneficiary participation in project identification and the overall performance of Farmer Group projects. In essence, these findings suggest that increased involvement of beneficiaries in the project identification phase is associated with a notable improvement in the performance of Farmer Group projects. This underscores the importance of actively engaging beneficiaries in the early stages of project development for optimal project outcomes

The analysis of the findings indicated p=0.000 which is less than sig. value (α=0.05) therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and the study concludes that   Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification has a significance influence on performance of Farmer Group projects in Nakuru County, Kenya. These findings are supported by a study by Diing et.al (2022) that indicated Project Beneficiary participation in project identification had significant influence on sustainability of community water point projects.

4.4 Regression Analysis

4.4.1 Regression Model Summary

The study conducted a regression analysis to find out the strength of the relationship between independent and dependent variables as shown in Table4.4

Table 4. 4:Regression Model Summary

<table>
<tr><td colspan="11" align="center">Model Summary</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td colspan="6" align="center">Change Statistics</td></tr>
<tr><td>Model</td><td>R</td><td>R Square</td><td>Adjusted R Square</td><td>Std. Error of the Estimate</td><td>R Square Change</td><td>F Change</td><td>df1</td><td>df2</td><td colspan="2">Sig. F Change</td></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>.794a</td><td>.631</td><td>.618</td><td>.53215</td><td>.631</td><td>48.747</td><td>4</td><td>55</td><td colspan="2">.000</td></tr>
</table>

a. Predictors: (Constant), Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification

The study sought to examine relationship between independent variable (Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification) and dependent variable(Farmer Group project performance). In the Table 4.4 the value of R = 0.794 and the coefficient of determination (Rsquare) amounted to 0.631 .This suggests the notion that Farmer group project performance is influenced by 63.1 % by factors ;project identification, while 36.9 % is attributed to other factors that are not the subject of this study.

4.4.2Multi-regression Analysis of Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification

The study also conducted a regression analysis to establish the regression coefficients. Table 4.5 shows the results

Table 4. 5:Regression Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.754	.162		4.649	.000
		.738	.251	.660	2.945	.005

a. Dependent Variable: Performance of Farmer Group Projects
The study also conducted a regression analysis to establish the regression coefficients connecting the independent and dependent variables as illustrated by the equation illustrated below: .
$Y = \beta0 + \beta1X1 + +\varepsilon$

The results indicated the suitability of the regression model which was interpreted as follows.
$Y = 0.754 + 0.738X1 + \varepsilon$

The results revealed that a change of 1 unit in Farmer group project performance was subject to a change of 0.738 unit in Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification and while at the same holding other factors (0.754) constant.The findings on Project Beneficiary involvement on project identification correspond with findings by Oduor et al. (2019) concluded that farmer participation in project identification has significant influence on sustainability of smallholder projects.

<div align="center">V. CONCLUSION</div>

The study concluded that Project Beneficiary involvement significantly contributed to identifying the actual problems and needs within the community .Involvement of beneficiaries ensured that project identification aligned with the real needs of the Farmer Group .In addition farmers did not actively participate in defining project objectives, ensuring alignment with their expectations and priorities. Beneficiaries' participation did not significantly influenced the decision-making process in selecting the project. The selected project aligned closely with the preferences expressed by the beneficiaries. Finally group members were not instrumental in identifying available resources within the

community. Finally, the Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification has a significant influence on the performance of Farmer Group projects.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The researcher recommended that project implementers and planners should strengthen mechanisms for engaging beneficiaries in the project identification phase to ensure a comprehensive understanding of community needs. They should also develop strategies to encourage active participation of farmers in defining project objectives, aligning initiatives with their expectations. Farmer groups and beneficiaries should actively participate in project identification processes to contribute insights into actual problems and needs within the community. Farmer groups should advocate for a more prominent role in decision-making to ensure that projects selected closely align with the expressed preferences and priorities of the beneficiaries. The Project coordinating Unit should recognize the significance of Project Beneficiary involvement in project identification and consider this factor when evaluating project proposals. They should encourage participatory approaches that involve farmers in decision-making, fostering a sense of ownership and accountability for project success. The Ministry of Agriculture should provide training and capacity-building programs for both farmers and project implementers to enhance their skills in participatory decision-making and project planning. Farmer Group Members should collaborate and share local knowledge to identify available resources within the community by taking an active role in resource mapping exercises to contribute to the sustainability and efficiency of project implementation.

This study sought to establish the influence of Project Beneficiary involvement on performance of Farmer Group projects in Nakuru County. Similar studies should be done to compare the influence of Project Beneficiary involvement on Farmer Group project performance across different counties in Kenya. This comparative analysis can shed light on regional variations and the impact of local contextual factors on the effectiveness of Project Beneficiary involvement. Finally, a study should be done to explore the role of technology in facilitating Project Beneficiary involvement in project planning, implementation, and monitoring. Assess the impact of digital platforms, mobile applications, or other technological tools in enhancing communication and collaboration between project stakeholders..

REFERENCES

[1] Place F ,Analysing the causes of variation in farmer groups' outputs: challenges with methodology and data collected in Central Kenya's highlands, *Agric. Syst. 82(3)*,2020 ,pp257-272

[2] Nyang M, WebOS C., Routhier R.L. ,*organizational influence among east African smallholder farmers. analysing five different meandered agricultural technology fund projects. A review of 5 project initiatives of the MaendeleoAgricultural Technology Fund*, in FARM-Africa Working Paper, FARM-Africa,London,2020.

[3] Ogula, P. A., & Hojer, M. . Incorporating stakeholder views into long-term city planning in Kisumu, Kenya. *Journal of Environmental Management and Planning,51(5*), 2019,613-630

[4] Balozi, M. and Gabissa, G ., Impact and Efficiency of Beneficiaries' Role in the Long-Term Sustainability of Donor-Funded Projects.*Researchgate,2020*

[5] World Bank ,*National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project Appraisal*: Nairobi: World Bank,2020.

[6] County Government of Nakuru , agriculture, rural and urban development sector MTEF 2023/2024 – 2025/2026. agriculture, livestock and fisheries sub sector report. Nairobi: Government Press,2023.

[7] Perrini, F. and C. Vurro, social entrepreneurship: innovation and social change across theory and practice, in Social entrepreneurship. Springer ,2020,p.57-85

[8] Republic of Kenya, National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP).Nairobi :Ministry of Agriculture ,Livestock and Fisheries,2019.

[9] Niyonizigiye L,,*project completion report Burundi - Bututsi agropastoral development*. Bujumbura: African Development Bank Group,2022.

[10] Mandala, E. ,*effects of stakeholder participation in project management on the final product of Kenyan road construction projects: a case study of Bondo Sub County, Siaya County*. Unpublished Master's Thesis of the University of Nairobi,2019.

[11] Raymond, N. M.,. The factors influencing the success of building construction projects in certain Kenyan parastatals. *Journal of Business and Project Management, 3(5),*2019,39–56.

[12] Masasabi, H. W., & Ngari, C, Impact of Sacco-funded real estate projects in Nairobi City County, Kenya: what factors influence project performance? Business and Change Management: *A Strategic Journal, 6 (2)*,2019,pp. 1542 –1555.

[13] Mcbee, J . Stakeholder Theory: A Comprehensive Overview. *Wrike,2020.*

[14] Ketokivi, M., & Mahoney, J. T. , An Approach to Stakeholder Theory Based on Transaction Costs., *Transaction 15(1)*, 123-133.

[15] Thomet, N., & Vozza, A,. *design manual. step-by-step tool to support the development of cooperatives and other forms of self-help organizations*. International Labour Organization,2020.

[16] Mugenda.,O & MugendaA,*research methods : quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods approaches* Nairobi: Centre for Innovative Leadership & Governance,2019.

[17] Altschuld, J. W., & Kumar, D. ,*needs assessment kit: needs assessment: an overview (vol. 1)*. New York:SAGE Publications, Inc.

[18] Chikati, J.,participatory project identification and planning, a regional partnership for resource development publication.2nd edn ,Nairobi: Signal Press Ltd,2020.

[19] Mukamana & Kalimba P, The Impact of Stakeholder Engagement on Rwandan Project Outcomes. A Project on Speak Out. *GSJ 10(1)* ,2022.

[20] Henry, W,project achievement and the project's identification process: the african inland child and communities organisation for development's vocational education project in Kenya's Kibra Constituency. Unpublished Master's Thesis: University of Nairobi,2019.

[21] Kihuha, P. , monitoring processes and performance of global environment facility projects in Kenya: a case of the UN Environment Programme (Doctoral Dissertation, Kenyatta University),2019.

[22] Mugenda,O and Mugenda,A.,*quantitative and qualitative approaches and mixed methods third edition*.(Nairobi:ACTS,2019,

[23] Nyandemo, S, Singh,*aspects of project planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation*.Nairobi,Unpublished Masters Thesis. University of Nairobi,2019.

[24] Chandra, P. ,*project planning, analysis, selection, financing, implementation, and review*. Tata McGraw Hill Education Private Limited.

[25] Ruwa, M.,*impact of stakeholder engagement on the success of grant-assisted initiatives: The Kinango Integrated Food Security and Livelihood Project (Kifslp) in Kwale County, Kenya*. Master's Thesis. University of Nairobi,2019.

[26] Bazimya.S.,Examine How Stakeholders' Participation in Project Identification Influence Project Performance, Case Study: Musanze District . *Cognizance Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies, 3,(11)*,2023, pp. 524-533

[27] Omondi, K., Kinoti, K. ,Road building projects in Kilifi County, Kenya: how stakeholders were involved and how well they performed. *International Academic Journal of Information Sciences and Project Management, 3(6)*, pp.274-292

[28] Longe, B (2023) Types, Examples, and Methods of Descriptive Research Designs.*Formplus*

[29] National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP*),about us.Retrieved from https://narigp.go.ke,2023.*

[30] Slovin, E. , *Slovin's formula for sampling technique*.retrieved from https*://prudencexd.weebly.com/,1960*

[31] Thomas, L., Simple Random Sampling | Definition, Steps & Examples. *Scribbr. Retrieved from https:// www. scribbr. com/ methodology /simple-random-sampling/,2023.*

[32] Faddy, W.,*theories and practices in social research question construction for interviews and questionnaires.4th edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,2023.*

[33] Berry L.H., Koski J., Verkuijl C., Strambo C., Piggot G , *making space: how public participation shapes environmental decision- making. Stockholm Environment Institute* Retrieved from https://www.sei.org,2019.

[34] Matiwanei; S. E. &Terblanché .The influence of beneficiaries needs on project success or failure in the North West Province, South Africa. *South African Journal of Agricultural Extension 40(1)*,2022.

[35] Nair, A ., how can you use goal setting to improve stakeholder engagement. Retrieved from https://www.linkedin.com/advice/3/how-can-you-use-goal-setting-improve-stakeholder-5vfcf,2023.

[36] Muniu, F. Gakuu, C and Rambo, C ., Community Participation in Project Decision Making and Sustainability of Community Water Projects in Kenya. *OSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)22(7): 1*, 2019,pp.10-24.

[37] Ononogbu, V,*dissatisfaction with project outcomes - agile to the rescue*. Retrieved from https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/dissatisfaction-project-outcomes-agile-rescue-victor-orie-ononogbu-geivf/?trk=article-ssr-frontend-pulse_more-articles_related-content-can,2023.

[38] Ihejirika, J., & Ogbugo, E. , Influence of Traditional Rulers in Resource Mobilization towards Community Development Projects in Rivers State. *International Journal of Innovative Psychology & Social Development, 6(2)*,2019,pp.98-112.

[39] Diing. J, Nyonje.R, Mbugua, J & Mutuku, J ., Influence of Participatory Project Identification on Community Water Point Projects in Turkana County, Kenya.*Open Journal of Social Sciences .10(3)*,2022.