

**FACTORS AFFECTING EXTENSION
SERVICES AND FAVOURABLE EXTENSION
METHODS THAT CAN EASE EXTENSION
SHORTAGE IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF
UASIN GISHU COUNTY**

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

- Agriculture form the largest part of Kenya's economy. The agricultural sector has benefited from extension services in enhancing productivity among small scale and large scale farmers
- However Due to the bad economic times the government has been unable to meet most farmers need in terms of research and extension service.
- There are very few extension officers in the country and are ill equipped with knowledge on the current farming trends, market issues and farmer's needs.
- Therefore this research was aimed at bringing to lime light on the factors affecting extension service delivery and give the method/approaches that can be utilized to improve these services



Aim of the study

- The aim of this study was to investigate the factors affecting access and use of extension services by the farmers &
- Recommendation on the challenges as well as the most effective methods with least constraints to be applied in extension.



Introduction

- Agricultural extension date back to the 1900, the major successes in kenya are in the years between 1960-1970 where the major activity was to disseminate hybrid maize technology
- The government provide extension services through the ministry of agriculture.
- The main reason is to respond to challenges that farmers face as well as to promote productivity in the rural areas to boost national development



Extension methods

- Group method
- Demand driven
- Individual counseling
- Farm and home visits
- Method demonstration
- Tours and field trips
- Method demonstration



Literature Review

- Extension is defined as a system that facilitate the access of farmers, their organizations and other market actors to knowledge, information and technologies
- Facilitate their interaction with partners in research, education, agribusiness, and other relevant institutions and assist them to develop their own technical, organizational and management skills and practices
(Christoplos, 2010)



History of Agriculture Extension

- Agricultural extension in Kenya is provided through the ministry of agriculture. The ministry formulates national agricultural policy to guide in improving the service delivery to farmers. The ministry has a desire to transform the public extension service to a system that is cost effective, responsive to farmer needs, accountable and with inbuilt sustainability. (Guatam and Anderson 1999)



Types of extension approaches

- Several approaches have been tested, and adopted by countries in Africa to improve the technology dissemination process.
- **There are common characteristics which all extension approaches share:**
- All function through non-formal education
- All have content related to agriculture
- All use communication techniques and aids
- All seek to improve the capabilities of rural people.



Other areas pursued by extension officers

- Income source diversification
- Promotion of productivity through enhanced technologies
- Promotion of farm level processing (value addition to products)
- Linkages to markets



Research methodology

- The study applied a case study research design. It is an intensive descriptive and holistic analysis of the entity
- It was an investigation of a single entity so as to gain insight to a larger case(Uasin Gishu County)
- Stratified sampling and simple random sampling technique was used to select respondents



Sample size

- A sample of 52 respondents which comprised of 40 farmers and 12 extension officers was chosen to represent the entire population. The sample is 40% of the entire population of 130 population



Data collection procedures

- Questionnaires ,observation and interviews were used in data collection of farmers
- The questionnaires were administered and collected later for the extension officers .
- The data was then analyzed using frequency tables and percentages



DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

- Data presentation was done using tabulation method under each objective.
- Qualitative data analysis was done by categorizing the data into themes of the study
- The interpretation of the data was done as per the objectives of the study.

RESULTS OBTAINED

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Primary level	19	47.5
Secondary level	10	25.0
Diploma level	8	20.0
University graduate	3	7.5
Total	40	100

Level of education of the respondents

Table 4.5 Education level of the farmers

From the data collected it shows that majority of the respondents have primary level of education which means that most of them are illiterate.



Awareness

- Many farmers indicated that they are not aware of the availability of extension service. This is shown by 65% respondents who said they are not aware of the extension services.
- Only 35% said they are aware of the availability of extension services and more so they rarely visit the extension office for service.
- Many of them indicated that they only visit the extension office annually to collect the government subsidized fertilizer



Cont.

- The officers indicated that the farmers are aware of the availability of the extension service as affirmed by the 75% respondents.
- Which is contrary to the response from the farmers whom 65% said they are not aware.

Most effective method with least constraints

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Farm & home visits	2	16.7
Group demonstration	8	66.7
Field days	1	8.3
Workshops & seminars	1	8.3
Tours & field trips	0	0
Bronchoures & leaflets	0	0
Total	12	100

Most effective extension method with least constraints

Table 4.21 Effective extension methods with least constraints



cont.

- The data collected have shown that the most effective methods and with least constraints is the group demonstration and farm and home visits.
- The officers found the methods effective because the groups were very cooperative and were willing to participate in the demonstrations.
- The other advantage of this is that the farmers are able to see and to put into practice what they have been taught.
- It is also cost effective because many people come together to one point other than individual visit.



Cont.

- Both the literate and the illiterate benefit because they are able to see and do it practically and ask questions where they have not understood
- The farm and home visits was found to be very effective because its more personalized and therefore the farmers are free to ask question s pertaining their individual problems
- Feed back is readily obtained and the farmer is satisfied.



Challenges faced by the extension officers during service delivery

- Poor transport and accessibility
- High illiteracy levels
- High poverty levels
- Low officer to farmer ratio



Support given by the government

- Financial support
- Workshops and seminars
- Facilitation of shows and exhibitions
- Employment of adequate staff
- Logistical support
- Ask shows facilitation



Most effective method with least constraints Summary

- Group demonstrations
- Farm and home visits
- Field days
- Workshops and seminars
- Tours and field trips
- Brochures and leaflets




Conclusion

- There are many factors that challenge the provision of extension service in the Uasin Gishu county and that these challenges are majorly on social economic factors that if dealt with well the county can be well reached and the services delivered easily to the farmers.
- The extension methods employed in the county have worked but more effort need to be put in order to make the farmers aware of the services since many of them are unaware.



Recommendation

- The government should give staffing of extension officers priority since the current officers are already burnt out due to the large areas covered and the high population assigned.
- The officers should also be given incentives and motivation to encourage them to go an extra mile in reaching out to farmers.
- The farmer to officers ratio should be reduced since this is really affecting service delivery because the gap is too wide.

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- Many farmers are illiterate and this is really affecting the service delivery. Therefore programs like adult education need to be introduced to curb this challenge
 - The government should always conduct audits and make follow-ups of the extension services because the farmers look like they have no idea what extension service is ,yet there are people entrusted with the responsibility to provide services.