



AgriFoSe2030

Agriculture for Food Security 2030
- Translating science into policy and practice



Local and regional variations in conditions for agriculture and food security in Kenya

Kenya has largely depended on the agricultural sector as the base for economic growth – accounting for 65% of national exports and 70% of informal employment in rural areas. The turn of the 21st century has recorded improvements in agricultural production. This has been attributed to increased use of fertilizers and adoption of high-yielding seed varieties. Despite these achievements, consumption has consistently outstripped production in most crops. There are concerns that the national narrative in the implementation of agricultural policies and development of support structures has ignored regional variations (physical and socio-economical) that characterize the agricultural landscape in Kenya. Evidence to this is the regional variations of famine and productivity in the country. This brief is based on a literature review which examines local and regional variations in conditions for agriculture and food security in Kenya. It looks at their implications for a more targeted and localized support across the agricultural value chain by responsible institutions.

Distribution of key crops and livestock in Kenya

A synthesis based on a literature review led to the subdivision of the country into nine agricultural regions. It was established that there are large regional differences in the distribution of key crops and livestock. High yield of cereals (maize and wheat) and industrial crops (tea and coffee) are

Key messages

- There is great diversity in the distribution of crops and livestock, markets and value chains throughout Kenya.
- While supporting modern value chains and increased market opportunities for Kenyan smallholder crops and pastoralists, it is important that governments – at county and national level, assure that the transition from subsistence to commercial farming is complemented with social protection programmes targeting the poor and most vulnerable.
- Kenyan smallholders are negatively affected by increased climate variability, inadequate extension, low technology adoption and limited access to inputs and markets. Improved climate forecasting, extension services, innovations and value chains adapted to local conditions are needed.
- The Kenyan Government has re-organised agricultural institutions to fit into a system approach with increased stakeholder participation. Improved clarity and transparency are necessary on the various roles and expectations of this modern Kenyan agricultural system and its actors.

mostly found in the highlands west of the Rift of Kenya. Notable counties that lead in the production of cereals are Trans-Nzoia, Uasin Gishu (maize) and Narok (wheat). Other counties; Kericho, Nandi, Bomet, and Nyamira - located in the west of the Rift Valley - account for 62% of the national tea production. Kenya's semi-arid lands of the east, are at the top in the production of dryland crops sorghum, millet, cowpeas, and pigeon peas. The South Rift and North Rift and north eastern regions account for the highest proportion of indigenous cattle (under pastoralism) such as goats, sheep and camels.

Constraints and opportunities in the agricultural value chain in Kenya

The agricultural value chain constitutes suppliers, financial services, support services (such as agro-processing), value addition and marketing. It entails



:Table 1: A brief summary of constraints and opportunities in increasing smallholder productivity.

Constraints and challenges	Opportunities and responses
<p>Climate change and variability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent droughts and extreme weather alter conditions for agricultural production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote drought tolerant crop varieties Increase co-production of knowledge between extension and farmers Improve skills in prediction and dissemination of seasonal climate forecast
<p>Extension and technology adoption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited access to extension, inadequate education and low-income levels are undermining adoption of new technologies among smallholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise policies to ensure demand-driven extension services Ensure farmers ability to relate modern technology to increased productivity and higher profits
<p>Deterioration of land resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shrinking size of smallholder farms Reduced soil fertility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support adoption of suitable agronomic practices and sustainable agricultural intensification Expand irrigation farming in arid and semi-arid lands Implement land reforms
<p>Market infrastructure for agricultural produce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate repair and maintenance of roads Limited agricultural service providers and value addition opportunities in rural and remote areas Too many players along the value chain, reducing farmers' benefits of being connected to value chains and markets Stringent entry requirements into international markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance role of county governments in road and infrastructure maintenance in rural areas Invest in training farmers in the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) tools. Provide certification of production procedures, of both export and non-export crops to enhance value addition opportunities Develop local value chains and market opportunities
<p>Limited farm level resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural production comes at high costs for farmers Low lending to the agricultural sector (relative to other sectors) where small-scale farmers face credit access constraints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale up the implementation of social protection programmes Upscale and remove barriers in the markets of farm input supply Enhance access to suitable financial services to farmers

the flow of products, knowledge and information, and finance needed to organize producers and other stakeholders. There are challenges at every stage of agricultural value chains –from input supply all the way to marketing of the produce. But for each of the challenges, there are opportunities that need to be harnessed as shown in Table 1. In consideration of these opportunities, the Government’s commitment to safeguard producers’ interests along the value chain and implementation of social protection programmes will potentially give impetus to the paradigm shift from subsistence to agribusiness as envisaged by the Government.

Institutional and policy framework in Kenya

The agricultural policy framework in Kenya can historically be sub-divided into three broad periods. The post independent period (1963-1980s) was characterized by government-formed institutions, increased government support to the agricultural

sector and a strong performance of the agricultural sector. The liberalization period (1980s and 1990s) witnessed government implementation of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) reforms. Unfortunately, the reforms led to a decline in agricultural production due in part to the inability of the private sector to take up the role of the underfunded parastatals. The current stakeholder participation period (2001-present) coincides with political reforms in Kenya. The period is associated with increased use of farm inputs, increased stakeholder participation, and the development of agricultural policies and institutional reforms.

Regarding reforms, the re-organization of the long serving Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) into the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and the establishment of the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) are examples of reform development. AFA was established under an Act of Parliament where all agricultural institutions that existed were put under the umbrella of AFA.



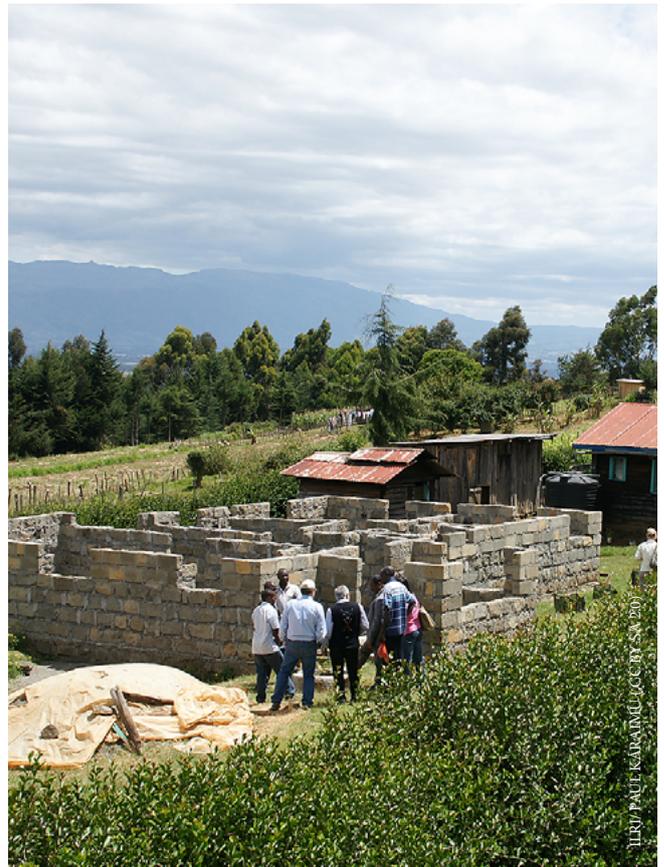
This has put agricultural programmes under common objectives and improved coordination. The policy and institutional reforms are intended to enable a system approach in the agricultural sector. Thus, agricultural institutions are viewed by the Government as components whose synergistic functions should lead to attainment of the set objectives. See the policies relevant to agriculture during this most recent period in box below.

Recent policies with relevance to the agricultural sector:

- Economic Recovery Strategy (ERS) 2003-2007
- Kenya Vision 2030
- Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture (SRA)-2004-2014
- Agriculture Sector Development Strategy (ASDS) 2010-2020
- Crops Act No. 16 of 2013
- The Agriculture and Food Authority Act 2013
- Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Act 2013

Recommendations and way forward

1. The great diversity in the agricultural sector in Kenya is crucial to recognise in the design of extension support and in guiding the future development of KALRO's regional centres and in the location of relevant institutions within the agricultural value chain.
2. Farmers, including small-scale farmers, need to be better connected to market and agro-value chains. However, deliberate efforts are required by the Government to assure that the transition from subsistence to commercial farming is complemented with social protection programmes targeting the poor and most vulnerable, not able to benefit from increased market access. These efforts can create a solid base from which agricultural production can increase.
3. The systematic approach adopted by the Government is expected to create an enabling environment for competitive agriculture and



livestock sectors. Clarity is required on specific components of the agricultural system such as farm inputs, agro-processors and markets. This will help pinpoint the specific role of institutions and private sector actors in the development of agro-value chains for specific agricultural and livestock products.

This brief was written by Charles W. Recha Department Geography, Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya.

It is based on the AgriFoSe2030 report "Local and regional variations in conditions for agriculture and food security in Kenya".

We thank the AgriFoSe2030 programme and the Swedish International Development Agency for the financial support provided.

Review acknowledgement to AgriFoSe2030 Communication and Engagement Team and Cheryl Sjöström, Lund University.

For more information contact:
charles.recha@egerton.ac.ke

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