

**INFLUENCE OF INTERNATIONAL DONOR FUNDING
STRATEGY ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION: A CASE OF
TECHNOSERVE KENYA**

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for an academic award in any other University.

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This project has been submitted for consideration with my approval as the University supervisor.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research project to my parents who have constantly encouraged me throughout my academic struggle until I achieved my cherished academic dream.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

DECLARATION.....	ii
DEDICATION.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....	x
ABSTRACT.....	xi
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.1.1 Concept of Strategy	3
1.1.2 The Concept of Internationalization of Aid Strategy	5
1.1.3 International Donor Funding Strategy	5
1.1.4 Alleviation of Poverty	7
1.1.5 International Donor Funders Strategy in the Agricultural Sector in Kenya	8
1.1.6 Technoserve Kenya	9
1.2 Research Problem.....	10
1.3 Research Objective.....	12
1.4 Value of the Study.....	12

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	14
2.1 Introduction	14
2.2 Theoretical Foundation	14
2.2.1 The Modernization Theory	15
2.2.2 The Dependency Theory	16
2.3 International Donor Funding Strategies in Agriculture.....	18
2.4 Poverty Alleviation through Agriculture.....	19
2.5 Empirical Studies and Knowledge Gap	20
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	22
3.1 Introduction	22
3.2 Research Design	22
3.3 Population of the Study	23
3.4 Sample Design.....	24
3.5 Sample Frame.....	25
3.6 Data Collection.....	25
3.7 Data Analysis	26
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	28
4.1 Introduction	28
4.2 Questionnaire Response Rate.....	28
4.3 Background of Information.....	29

4.3.1 Respondent Gender.....	30
4.3.2 Respondent Marital Status.....	31
4.3.3 Respondent Level of Education.....	32
4.3.4 Respondent Farm’s Acreage.....	33
4.3.5 Respondent Length of Time of Being a Mango Farmer.....	34
4.4 Benefits Accrued from International Donor Funded Project	35
4.5 Discussion of Findings	42
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ...	44
5.1 Introduction	44
5.2 Summary	45
5.3 Conclusion of the Study	46
5.4 Recommendations and Implications of the Study.....	47
5.5 Limitations of the Study.....	48
5.6 Areas for Further Study.....	48
REFERENCES.....	50
Appendix: Research Questionnaire.....	56

LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1: Response Rate.....	29
Table 4.2: Communalities	35
Table 4.3: Contribution of Extracted Variable.....	38
Table 4.4: Transformation Table	39

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 4.1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender	30
Figure 4.2: Distribution of Participants by Marital Status.....	31
Figure 4.3: Respondent Level of Education	32
Figure 4.4: Respondent Farm's Acreage	33
Figure 4.5: Respondent Length of Time of Being a Mango Farmer	34
Figure 4.6: Scree Plot.....	41

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AGRA	-	Africa Agricultural Status Report
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
UN	-	United Nations
US	-	United States
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
UKAID	-	United Kingdom Agency for International Development
CIDA	-	Canadian International Development Agency
GIZ	-	Germany Agency for International Cooperation

ABSTRACT

The objective of the study was to examine influence of international donor funding strategy on poverty alleviation: a case of Technoserve Kenya. A descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The study targeted farmers who were beneficiaries of Technoserve Kenya's Yieldwise project that was funded by Rockefeller foundation. The study employed the use of purposive sampling. The study therefore targeted 55 famers who formed part of the study respondents with focus on Machakos County. The data for the study was collected using a questionnaire. The data was analyzed using quantitative methods. Factor analysis was utilized, which is a statistical method used to describe the variability among the variables observed, correlated in terms of a lower number that is potentially unobserved known as a factor. The study found that the respondents had done farming for a sizeable duration of time and thus could offer reliable information. The study found that the key benefits accrued from international donor funding included: quality of my produce has guaranteed my access to a ready market with, access to agricultural extension services, improved access to financial support, and through Yieldwise project, I am able to access a ready market for my farm produce. The study concluded that international donor funded project led to improved market access, access to finance, and access to agricultural extension services. The study recommended that the management of Technoserve should support poverty alleviation through the agriculture by ensuring that the employees are committed to the course and that they are trained on how well they can well use the donor funding to ensure that the farmers get the best services for maximum yield. For the successful of poverty alleviation Technoserve needs to align its operation in relation to what the farmers actually require. The study also recommended that Technoserve need to have adequate resources which are well coined to poverty alleviation through agriculture. The management should ensure that every step of strategy implementation and its objectives is allocated adequate resources as well as the personnel to ensure that farmers benefit maximum.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

International donor funding in agriculture is crucial strategy in alleviation of poverty since agriculture is a key economic driver in the business environment. Poverty alleviation is one of the critical elements that international donor funders have focus on. As Lawson (2013) observes, different strategies have been developed and implemented to help address poverty in developing countries. Agriculture is the mainstay of more than 60% of the African population. In developing countries like Kenya, the international donors use different approaches to ensure that their goals are addressed. According to Johnstone (2016), international donors' entry strategies in helping address poverty include funding international organizations such as USAID who donate funds to NGO's and forming foundations to help address poverty alleviation strategies. Furthermore, Eyben (2011) observes that developed countries also have governmental and multi-governmental institutions designed to ensure that international assistance is achieved through governmental aid organizations such as the USAID and UKAID and multinational organizations such as the EU.

This study was guided by the modernization theory and the dependency theory. The modernization theory describes how nations and societies transform from traditional societies to modernity. The theory observes that modernization is a change process in the social and economic systems which are perceived to be most progressive. The theory explores the basis for donor funding.

Dependency theory suggests that the provision of donor funding is one of the key approaches to poverty alleviation. Donor funds directed to developing countries are aimed at sustaining their economic position rather than elevating it. Donor funds in most of the cases have been directed to developing countries with natural resources rather than those in dire need (Saad-Filho, 2005). Through international donor funding, these countries feel indebted to the developed countries hence continue to trade in primary resources, hence not maximizing the value of their products. According to Miller (2014), international aid is given a lot of significance in the developing countries in that it is captured in key development tools such as annual budgets. The strategic donor funding is utilized to address different developmental challenges which are crucial in helping the underdeveloped countries to embrace and spur the development process.

Despite many studies suggesting that international assistance is critical to the progress of the developing countries, most of the countries seem to still face the same challenges that international aid aimed to cure. No research has been conducted on the perspective of evaluating the international aid in achieving its goal of promoting universal development around the world. Thus, this study aims to bridge this gap.

Agriculture being the mainstay economic activity in Kenya, since independence, a significant amount of international donor funds has been directed to promote it as a strategy to alleviate a majority of Kenyans from poverty. Despite a lot of funds being pumped in the agricultural sector, most Kenyans remain largely poor. This study will therefore evaluate how effective the strategy is in alleviating poverty with a focus on Technoserve Kenya farmers.

1.1.1 Concept of Strategy

Strategy refers to a plan which have been designed in an organization to achieve a particular function. Organizational strategy is important because it provides clear directions, sets priorities right and provides a clear decision making framework amidst changing conditions. It is a game plan used by management to enhance operations, mark out and expand market share and achieve organizational objectives. It is a tool that guides day to day actions and evaluates progress against realistic, quantifiable measures. Strategic response ensures an organization remains relevant to its publics while still achieving their organizational goals.

According to the dynamic theory of strategies, (Porter1991), strategic response is a fundamental prerequisite for success of organizations in a dynamic environment. Most successful organizations have had to adopt different technologies and models to provide relevant products and services to beneficiaries. No organization can retain the required effectiveness levels without constantly responding to environmental changes This is expounded in the change management book. (Grey, 2017). Strategic response entails the timely development and implementation of these technologies and models.

These responses are said to be strategic because they match the internal structure of the organization with the changing environment ensuring that opportunities are maximized and threats are minimized. While at it, monitoring the success rate of the strategic response is also a critical measure to ensure that the response is strategic and not just a spontaneous reaction to environmental changes.

Organizations have to constantly adopt different technologies and models to provide relevant products and services to beneficiaries (Grey, 2017). Strategic response therefore entails the timely development and implementation of these technologies and models. These responses are said to be strategic because they match the internal structure of the organization with the changing environment ensuring that opportunities are maximized and threats are minimized. While at it, monitoring the success rate of the strategic response is also a critical measure to ensure that the response is strategic and not just a spontaneous reaction to environmental changes.

Strategy according to Aosa, (2013), entails matching the organizational capabilities with the external environment so as to exploit the existing opportunities. Strategy is important because it provides clear directions, sets priorities right and provides a clear decision making framework. Whereas organizations could have clearly laid out procedures towards achieving their long term goals, these procedures could be rendered null and void by some unexpected external or internal forces.

In this regard, organizations should be able to adjust accordingly to the inevitable changes and still be able to exploit opportunities and minimize negative effects of the changes. In the context of this study, adoption of new strategies is critical to the affected organizations because while foreign aid has been deteriorating over the years, the problems / challenges facing smallholder farming in Kenya have remained adamant and as such still require to be solved.

1.1.2 The Concept of Internationalization of Aid Strategy

Internationalization of the aid strategy is the approach by different international development players offering aid from one country to the other. The aid is mostly from developed countries to the developing countries. It is given with an aim of meeting a developmental goal (Lawson, 2013). This concept dates back to the rebuilding of the European economies after the Second World War.

The American Marshall Plan successfully helped revamp the economies of its European allies after the devastating World War II formed the justification of the role of international donor programs in helping developing worlds (Johnstone, 2016). The developing countries being characterized by low production capacity and limited foreign reserves; aid has served a critical role as a key impetus in alleviating poverty in these countries (Briggs, 2017).

The developed countries became key players in the internationalization of donor aid as they either formed government backed institution to facilitate the aid process or directly supported initiatives aimed at alleviating poverty through funding the initiatives. Furthermore, private citizens were encouraged to help alleviate poverty and suffering by donating to poverty alleviating initiatives (Shannon, 2018).

1.1.3 International Donor Funding Strategy

In international donor funding, the donors facilitate developmental initiatives through governmental institutions, multinationals and NGO's. The Marshall plan aid started as an avenue to help alleviate the poverty. The focus was on the developing nations by offering funds for implementation in an effort to address the identified deliverables.

The developmental sectors initiatives cut across all the including health, education, agriculture, environment to governance (Monkam, 2012). The international donors through agencies or personal initiatives complement governments to address different developmental problems (Gulrajani, 2015). According to Lawson (2013), international donor funding was popularized since the mid of the 20th century and has become a key aspect in development assistance.

According to Gulrajani (2015), international donors have emerged as influential actors in the alleviation of poverty across the world. With the continuous emergence of different challenges that have resulted in enhancement of the world poverty, the past half-century has witnessed a proliferation of many donors and donor initiatives. Global challenges such as the HIV/AIDS, global warming, and natural calamities have highly had a great devastating impact on people from the developing world.

Most of the donors are from the developed world and fund initiatives in different developing countries with the goal of reducing poverty level and enhancing the livelihood of the people in these countries. Through funding the different initiatives, the donors capacitate locals to enhance their productivity and their income levels (Gulrajani, 2015). This ultimately leads to improved livelihoods of farmers.

1.1.4 Alleviation of Poverty

Poverty alleviation strategies are geared towards mitigating poverty levels. The majority of the world's population living in poverty, this strategy has become a key area of interest in the development circle (Behrendt, 2018). According to Christiaensen, Demery & Kuhl (2011), most of the world challenges such as unsustainable utilization of resources, poor access to food, water and sanitation are directly related to poverty. Poverty alleviation is a key goal for the international development actors including governments, development agencies, donors and other stakeholders. Poverty is mostly impacted on developing countries where these actors focus on poverty alleviation initiatives on them.

According to Odusola (2017), the world poor live on less than \$1.9 a day with 45% of the world composed of the poor, most of who are from the developing country. In sub-Saharan Africa, 47% of the population is poor. The economy of the Sub-Saharan African country being largely agricultural based, strategies to alleviate poverty have focused on enhancing agriculture. To combat high poverty levels in the region, different development actors including governments have developed a tendency to prioritize agricultural development.

With limited funds from the governments in most of the sub-Saharan African countries, different intervention targeted to enhance agricultural productivity as a way of ensuring that poverty is reduced been quite minimal (Thorbecke, 2013). This has continuously left a big gap which has always been filled by nongovernmental actors including multinational organizations and local and international NGO's. These institutions are focused on enhancing the agricultural efficiency and enhance the capacity of the farmers to enhance productivity.

1.1.5 International Donor Funders Strategy in the Agricultural Sector in Kenya

International donors are individuals, private or governmental organizations that offer funds for specific developmental initiatives to be accomplished. International donors' funders have taken a key interest in enhancing the capacity of the Kenyan farmers to be more productive as a strategy of addressing the poverty challenge. Through multinationals and NGO's, the international donors fund different initiatives such as capacity building on the current agricultural practices, offering extensional services and creating market linkages for farmers.

According to Fischer, &Qaim (2012) multinational developmental agencies such as USAID have been at the forefront of enhancing efficiency in agricultural productivity. The international donor funders operating in Kenya range from foreign government-funded organizations such as: USAID, UKAID, CIDA and GIZ among others; foundations such as the Ford Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, independent NGO such as AGRA, Technoserve, multinational organizations such as the European Union, Faith-based and individual initiatives.

These multinational donor funders have specific objectives hence their fund activities have been designed to meet their goals. The farmers have as a result been able to enhance their productivity and the ability of their products to reach the market, enhancing their earning from the sector through the different projects. Some of the donors are focused on supporting agriculture as an avenue to alleviate poverty while others explore other strategies such as health sector and education.

The international donor funders at the same time fund different activities and initiatives aimed at poverty alleviation. Agriculture is the mainstay and pillar of a majority of Kenyan residents. Therefore, most of the donors have focused on funding agricultural related projects to enhance sustainability and maximum economic impact.

1.1.6 Technoserve Kenya

Technoserve is a non-governmental not for profit organization that works with poor farmers by connecting them with information and market opportunities. The organization which began in 1968 in Ghana has its presence in over 40 developing countries from sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The organization was founded on the premise that most of the poor farmers lacked skills, knowledge, and tools to lift themselves out of poverty hence the need to ensure that they are facilitated (Technoserve, 2018).

To meet its goals, Technoserve facilitates farmers by providing capacity building opportunities to farmers, providing them with proper farm inputs and extension services together with providing market linkages by utilizing technology-based innovative approaches. The activities offered by Technoserve to farmers ensure that they enhance efficiency in productivity and reaching out to the market (Technoserve, 2018).

To meet its mission, Technoserve Kenya utilizes different avenues to raise funds. The organization partners with donor organizations and seek funding from private individuals. The donor funders help in funding the activities of Technoserve, hence indirectly impacting on its role in alleviating poverty in Kenya (Technoserve, 2018).

1.2 Research Problem

International donor funding strategy has been utilized as a key strategy in addressing world problems since the end of the Second World War. The success of the Marshall plan fronted by the US resulted in the adoption of international aid as a strategy for enhancing fair development across the globe (Finch, 1945). Donor funding is mostly targeted in helping alleviate key world problems such as poverty in the developing world.

In sub-Saharan Africa, international donor funders have focused on poverty alleviation strategies with a key focus on agriculture. Agriculture accounts for up to 65% of the livelihood of the sub-Saharan residents. The significance of agriculture in the poverty alleviation strategies of international funders is as a result of the majority of citizens who practice it (Page & Shimeles, 2015).

In Kenya, donors have continuously played a critical role in advancing agriculture since independence. Agriculture being the mainstay of the Kenyan citizens as 75% of the citizens, directly and indirectly, rely on it for their livelihood. Furthermore, agriculture directly contributes to 25% of the Kenyan GDP. Both government and non-governmental stakeholders play a critical role in supporting the agricultural sector.

Non-governmental organizations such as Technoserve Kenya source for funds from international donors to support farmers to enhance their productivity and access to market as a strategy to enhance income levels among the citizens (Boulanger, Dudu, Ferrari, Causapé, Balié & Battaglia, 2018). Christiaensen, Demery & Kuhl (2011) conducted a study on the role of agriculture in poverty reduction in low-income countries. The research was conducted through a systematic review of literature.

The quantitative study focused on Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Niger. The researchers established that agriculture has a great potential of enhancing the income level of farmers hence enhancing their ability to overcome poverty. The researcher observed that the agricultural potential has been highly underutilized in low-income countries as a result of poor funding and promotion of agricultural activities. Hence, the need for international development actors to directly enhance local farmers' capacities to exploit their underutilized potential.

A study by Whitfield, Dougill, Dyer, Leventon, & Stringer (2015) on conservation agriculture in Zambia observe that international donor has an underlining goal in their interest in the sector. The study which utilized a quantitative study methodology established that the international donors are mostly interested in the conservation aspect of agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa, and have less interest in alleviating the poverty levels of the residents.

The growing concerns of global warming, sustainable agriculture is perceived as a key way of mitigating it, hence despite the significant funds that have been offered, the poverty levels in Zambia remain high. A significant portion of the funds does not serve the primary purpose but end up in the pockets of expatriates while the remaining is largely mismanaged.

In a study conducted by Atela, Tonui & Glover (2018) on Farmers' agency and experiences of agricultural change in rural Kenya sampled 342 maize farmers in Nakuru County. The study established that even though there are many international donor-funded agricultural projects designed to alleviate poverty, there is no specific measure to effectively evaluate if the goal attained are sustainable to the farmer.

Cherono& Patrick (2017) on the influence of procurement management on the performance of donor-funded projects in Kenya. The study employed a descriptive research approach and established that international funded projects rarely met their ultimate goals. Funds are mostly misappropriated especially in the procurement process resulting in the ineffective implementation of donor objectives. The agricultural sector has continuously attracted donor funding as it is perceived to be vital in ensuring that the more than 42% of its population living below the poverty level is assisted to overcome the challenge. Donors fund different subsectors in agriculture.

The need to identify the specific role played by international donors in enhancing the alleviation of poverty is therefore crucial as different researchers present different views on the subject. This study will, therefore, seek to answer the research question: What is the influence of international donor funding strategy on poverty alleviation to farmers in Technoserve Kenya?

1.3 Research Objective

The objective of the study was to examine the influence of international donor funding strategy on poverty alleviation: a case of Technoserve Kenya.

1.4 Value of the Study

This study is beneficial to international donors, development stakeholders, policymakers, government, researchers and members of the public. It therefore provides relevant finding to all the parties in agriculture development ecosystem. This aim of this study was to give future guidance and appreciation which will be achieved in the following ways;

First, the study is valuable to the donors and other developmental stakeholders including the government as they would make fully informed decisions with the understanding of the relationship between international donor funding strategy in agriculture and poverty alleviation. Through the provision of funding in the agricultural sector, the donors expect the outcomes of their initiative to impact on people by enhancing their agricultural productivity positively. Hence, through this study, a clear role played by the international donors funding in agriculture to alleviate poverty stands to emerge.

Second, the study enables policymakers to come up with better policies in ensuring that donor funding strategy in agriculture is able to meet the goal of alleviating poverty effectively. The utilization of donor funding strategy in agriculture is critical in ensuring that the ultimate goal is achieved. Through the study, the policymakers would be well informed on the effectiveness of utilizing international donor funding in alleviating poverty.

Finally, this research increases theoretic value of studies around strategic responses. It largely contributes to the modernization theory and the dependency theory. Besides that, it creates a gap for future researchers to further study the possible innovations, which can solve in totality dependence on foreign aid as well as strategies that can be adopted to enhance upscaling subsistence farming to commercial farming in developing countries. It provides a database for references on the roles of international donor funding strategy in alleviating poverty through agriculture. It provides this crucial data for interpretation and analysis. It is also through this data that the international donors with other developmental stakeholders are able to effectively evaluate this strategy to ensure better outcomes of agriculture alleviating poverty are achieved.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a review of the literature regarding the role of international donor funding strategy on agriculture as a strategy to alleviate poverty in Kenya. The theoretical underpinning of donor funding will be explored through reviewing of specific theories related to the subject. Furthermore, an empirical review of different studies will be provided in the section.

The theoretical framework explored the different theories that explore the underpinning of the study. The Modernization and Dependency theories helped in providing an in-depth understanding of the study subject and help bring to the fore the relationships between the study subjects.

The empirical review explored different studies to bring out the knowledge gap that this research seeks to fill. This involved reviewing different past studies, their concepts, context and methodology employed by each researcher was focused on to facilitate the understanding of how the variables of the study relate.

2.2 Theoretical Foundation

This section covers two theories; the modernization theory and the dependency theory were explored. These theories are relevant to this study on the influence of international donor funding strategy on poverty alleviation. The two theories will be illustrated by the researcher and each of the theories demonstrated on how they relate to the study's variables.

2.2.1 The Modernization Theory

The modernization theory describes how nations and societies transform from traditional societies to modernity. The theory was postulated in 1966 whereby Shmuel Noah Eisenstadt, observes that modernization is a change process in the social and economic systems which are perceived to be most progressive. It is based on the adoption of the social, economic and political systems that were developed in Western Europe and North America as a result of the industrial revolution. These systems have been spread across Asia, Eastern Europe and South America. It is also through the adoption of the westernized systems, pre-modern societies are changed through providing economic, political and social change making them modern societies (Eisenstadt, 1973).

Alvin (2017) in his analysis of the modernization theory, observes that it developed by historical elements. Alvin (2017) urges that the modernization theory was incepted at the end of WWII, which saw the emergence of the US as the world superpower and the weakening of its western Europe allies (Britain, Germany, and France). With the US goal of asserting itself as the leader of the world, it initiated the Marshal plan to help in the reconstruction process of European economies that had been devastated by the war. The need to counter the spread of communism around the world also helped advance modernization. Furthermore, the disintegration of colonial empires around the world, which leftmost new states in need of new development models to achieve economic growth. These historical factors resulted in the need for the replication of the already developed systems from the western world to the rest of the world.

In the modernization theory, the modern societies are perceived to be more productive, with established political systems and capacity to ensure that quality development is achieved. According to Shannon (2018). Modernization is interpreted as either Americanization or Europeanization; hence, the traditional societies tend to incorporate the embrace of American and western institutions as a critical approach for their modernization process. The developed countries reinforce this notion by directly getting involved in the modernization process of the less developed countries. The developed countries such as Britain and the US provide direct assistance in the form of funds and resources to capacity build the developing society into modernization. The modernization theory relates to this study in that it explores the basis for donor funding. The strategic donor funding is utilized to address different developmental challenges which are crucial in helping the underdeveloped countries to embrace and spur the development process (Black, 2018).

2.2.2 The Dependency Theory

The dependency theory was first postulated by Raul Prebisch in the 1950's where he observed that the economic growth in advanced economies did not translate for the same to the poorer countries rather it brought them more challenges. The poorer countries tended to export raw materials to industrialized countries, at a lower price. The industrialized countries then produce usable products which give them high-profit margin. Prebisch in the theory urges that for the less developed countries to benefit like the developed ones, there is a need to ensure that they add value to their primary products by trading in final products which give higher margins (Saad-Filho, 2005).

Prebisch in the dependency theory, illustrates the basis of sustained poverty in developing countries is at the benefit of the industrialized countries. In disputing the solution suggested by Prebisch, Margulis (2017) observes that it is quite impossible for developing countries to benefit from trading in processed product effectively. First, these countries lack the relevant technologies for adding value to their products. Second, there is a lack of political will by the industrialized countries to allow developing countries to disrupt their industries by denying them access to raw products. Lastly, the developing countries' internal market is not large to effectively support the economies of scale that is used by established industry competitors from the first world.

The dependency theory relates to this study in that it explores ways through which developing countries' situation is sustained in the global economy. With the developed countries aiming at sustaining the status quo in the trade of resources, they tend to explore different approaches. Mahoney & Rodríguez-Franco (2016) suggests that the provision of donor funding is one of the key approaches. Donor funds directed to developing countries are aimed at sustaining their economic position rather than elevating it. Donor funds in most of the cases have been directed to developing countries with natural resources rather than those in dire need. Through international donor funding, these countries feel indebted to the developed countries hence continue to trade in primary resources, hence not maximizing the value of their products. The agricultural products as being one of the key primary products traded at the international market by developing countries, poverty which the international donor funding targets, is effectively sustained (Smith, 2018).

2.3 International Donor Funding Strategies in Agriculture

International donor funding strategy is a key tool in the developmental process in sub-Saharan Africa being one of the least progressed regions in development across the globe. According to Eyben (2011), donor aid was fronted as a key tool to help tackle the economic challenges facing developing countries across the globe. The success of direct foreign intervention in the US utilized in the reconstruction of Europe through the Marshal plan. Direct donor funding from developed countries was observed to be a major strategy to ensure that these challenges are addressed.

In a study by Gulrajani (2015), it was observed that international donor funding strategy in sub-Saharan Africa is focused on different development facets. There are donor funders who focus on poverty alleviation, governance, human rights, infrastructural development among others. Despite millions of dollars being utilized, little has been achieved. Gulrajani (2015) study reviewed different literatures that aimed at promoting the role of donor funding through reforming donor organizations. The study established that to ensure success, there was a need for donors to focus on incorporating the local's perspectives to meet the goals of the funds utilized.

In the 1960's which was characterized by most of the developing countries gaining independence, international donor funding aimed at assisting the new government to put in place institutions and governance systems that are the basis for development (Greenhill, Prizzon & Rogerson, 2016). The 1970's formed the genesis of donors focusing on rural development in the sub-Saharan Africa where a majority of her population resided (Newman & Posner, 2018).

2.4 Poverty Alleviation through Agriculture

Agriculture has been found to have a great contribution to the reduction of poverty which is way above the effect brought about by the income of farmers. Development of agriculture can facilitate the growth in the economy as well as facilitating job creation outside the agricultural sector (IFAD 2011). The increased agricultural productivity leads to increase in the supply of food, reduction in the prices of food, as well as creating job opportunities to many citizens. The increase in income from the agricultural development can lead to increased demand of goods from other sectors of the economy.

Additionally, agricultural diversification has been seen to be significant for the development of a country. This can be supported by the fact that the rural areas have 70% below poverty level and thus diversification could serve best. According to Haggblade *et al* (2012) about a quarter of the rural population are employed outside agriculture and this amounts to 35-40% of the rural incomes. The rest which is above 40% getting their earnings from practicing agriculture.

It has therefore been depicted that agriculture can serve as the primary engine which can facilitate growth as well as increasing the income level in the country. According to the documented literature no poor country has been able to reduce poverty through agriculture. Additionally, none of the countries has been able to achieve poverty reduction without necessarily improving agricultural productivity. It is thus seen that development in agriculture is the primary step to eradicate poverty.

2.5 Empirical Studies and Knowledge Gap

Andersson & Gabrielsson (2012) did a study on food security in Kenya and Uganda. The study focused on farming strategies utilized by two rural women groups in Kenya and Uganda. The researchers utilized descriptive research design. The study established that through sustained collective action, aided by external actors' agricultural productivity in rural areas in Kenya and Uganda is enhanced. Hence serving as a strategy to ensure that the prevailing poverty situation is effectively addressed.

Beuchelt and Zeller (2011) looked to build up the difficulties among Nicaragua's natural and reasonable exchange espresso makers who used ecological and social accreditation conspires as a technique to successfully get to advertise. The examination used quantitative and subjective overview of ordinary and guaranteed espresso ranchers; whereby the ranchers were arbitrarily chosen. The study established that the certification strategy promoted by NGO's and their international donors though resulted in higher farm gate prices for certified farmers, it had a little impact on their household incomes.

Njoroge (2012) explored a study on the role of foreign aid in alleviating poverty through agriculture sub-Saharan Africa with a focus on Kenya. Using descriptive study design, the researcher utilized random sampling The researcher focused on 53 international donor funded projects. The study established that foreign aid in agriculture played minimal role in alleviating poverty as most projects focused on unsustainable goals.

Mwadalu & Mwangi (2013) did a study on the role of sorghum in promoting food security in the county. The study used cross-section survey to study sorghum projects in Machakos and Makueni districts. Random sampling was utilized to choose 78 donor funded sorghum projects in the study area. The study established that with the donor support, the semi-arid is a high sorghum productive area. The high productivity hence will not only enhance food productivity but also enhance the income of the farmers.

Hassan (2016) conducted a study on the influence of dependency on relief food program intervention on farmers' participation in crop production in Mandera County. Using descriptive research design, the researcher randomly sampled 338 farmers using proportionate stratified method. The study observed that the relief food program funded by international donors reduced the productivity of the farmers. Hence, the researcher recommended that there is a need for donors to redirect their funds to agricultural production to enhance agricultural performance and productivity, which have a high potential to increase the farmer's income and reduce the area's poverty levels.

This chapter highlighted different theories and empirical studies that informed the basis for this study. Two theories to support the role of international donor funding in agriculture as a strategy to alleviate poverty were covered; the dependency theory and the modernization theory. The empirical studies established a clear research gap for the study.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an outline of the research approach that was utilized in conducting the study. The chapter described the research design, the target population, sample and sampling techniques that would be utilized by the researcher in conducting the study. The source of the data was primary information which was obtained through a questionnaire.

This section also demands that the researcher understands and considers the unique characteristics of the study subjects for effective inference to be obtained (Flick, 2014).

This ensured that the researcher was able to meet the objectives of the study in a timely manner. Hence well interpreted based on the findings.

The section furthermore covered how the data for the study was collected and the analysis methods that were employed by the researcher. Also, in the section, the researcher brought to the fore how the study data was presented and the criteria adopted to make the study successful.

3.2 Research Design

The study adopted descriptive research design. A descriptive research design is defined by Mugenda (2013), as an approach that is critical in a study whereby the researcher observes different variables under study without influencing them in any way.

This approach allowed the researcher to depict the study participants in the most accurate way. The descriptive research design was the most appropriate approach for this study as it ensured that the different variables for the study are well explored for a realistic conclusion to be arrived at.

The study utilized questionnaires to collect data from the target population. This enabled the study to generalize the study findings on the role of international donor funding in agriculture as a strategy to alleviate poverty within the parameters set for the hypothesis.

3.3 Population of the Study

According to Newman, (2000) population refers to a set of group of elements, things and individuals. According to Bhattacharjee, (2012) a population is a unit of analysis which the researcher is interested to study its characteristics. It entails all the participants implicated with this study.

The study targeted farmers who were beneficiaries of Technoserve Kenya's Yieldwise project that was funded by Rockefeller foundation. The Yieldwise project was implemented for a period of one year (April 2017 to March 2018). The project reached out to 360 Mango farmers in Machakos County. The beneficiaries of this project were the target population of the study.

The Technoserve Kenya's Yieldwise project manager and lead farmers also formed part of the target population for the study. The manager was a key respondent since he had implemented this program towards meeting the deliverables set by the donor. He was also mandated in adopting strategies on farm practices that are feasible for the beneficiaries of this project.

3.4 Sample Design

The sample design is the framework utilized by a researcher to choose the sample size to be utilized in a study (Mugenda, 2013). A sample for a study is the representative of the target population that is used by a researcher to generalize the findings for the whole population. Therefore, sampling is a process of selecting a sample from the target population (Flick, 2014).

The study employed the use of purposive sampling. This is a sampling design whereby a researcher targets specific respondents that he believes are key and reliable in ensuring that the study objectives are successfully met. Hence, the sample include the beneficiary farmers of the Yieldwise project. To get the sample utilized in the study, the sampling frame involved applying the model advocated by Saunder, Lewis & Thornhill (2009);

$na = (n \times 100)/re\%$, where:

na - the actual sample size

n - the minimum estimated sample size

re% - the estimated response rate expressed as a percentage.

The expected response of at least 75% which is in line with Mugenda (2013) observation that for a research survey to be conclusive in terms of data analysis, at least a response rate of 50% has to be achieved. The researcher needs to target at least 10% and above of the target population as the respondents. For this study the researcher utilized 11.6% and therefore, the actual sample size to be used in the study is;

$$\begin{aligned} na &= \{(11.6/100 \times 360) \times 100\}/75 \\ &= 55, \text{ hence, the study will have a sample size of } 55. \end{aligned}$$

3.5 Sample Frame

Sample frame is the source from which a sample is drawn. It indicates the spread to the sample in a given population according to Kothari (2004). Sample frame entails a list of all those within a population who can be sampled, and may include individuals, households or institutions (Ogula, 2005).

Technoserve Kenya provided a list of farmer producer business groups in different locations within Machakos County. Stratified random sampling divided the population into strata of five producer business groups where the members were evenly selected from each group. The researcher interviewed 11 farmers under each of these groups. The target farmer respondents were registered under these established producer business groups.

The study therefore targeted 55 sample population who formed part of the study respondents with focus on Machakos County. The sample was picked from farmers who were one of the main targets by donors on poverty alleviation. The sample frame was also representative of the population hence reliable because it helped to minimize sampling bias.

3.6 Data Collection

The data for the study was collected utilizing the questionnaire as the key tool. The questionnaire is a tool that is composed of a set of questions gathering information on individuals. Questionnaires are critical tools of data collection as they ensure that the collected data is objective hence ensuring that a researcher is able to reach a more realistic conclusion for their findings (Mugenda, 2013).

A pilot study was conducted to guarantee the reliability and validity of the tool. The pilot study was conducted on five beneficiary lead farmers from Machakos County. The farmers participating in the pilot study was excluded from the final data collection process. The participants were encouraged to be honest and not biased for objectivity. The researcher also guaranteed them on information confidentiality.

The data for this study was collected through manually administering questionnaires to the farmers. Face to face interviews were conducted on Technoserve Yieldwise project manager and the farmers with the help of a research assistant. This was important as it helped the researcher to get insight on the organizational perceived impact of their donor-funded activities in agriculture on poverty alleviation.

3.7 Data Analysis

According to Burn and Grove (2003), data analysis is the means by which the collected data is processed to provide meaningful information. The data from the field in Machakos County was thoroughly checked to ensure completeness, consistency and accuracy. The data was then coded and tabulated to facilitate data analysis.

The researcher further analyzed the data and presented the results in form of percentages, frequencies, graphs and tables. The researcher additionally used descriptive statistics such as the mean and standard deviation to also present the data. This enabled presentation of the data in an organized and logical manner. SPSS and Microsoft excel were also used to accurately produce the output of the data.

The study utilized descriptive statistics which involved calculating the means, standard deviation, percentages and frequencies. The data from the farmers was presented in forms of figures, graphs, tables pie and bar charts. The researcher achieved this through the provision of summary of the various themes identified during the study and presenting it in narrative manner.

Factor analysis was utilized, which is a statistical method used to describe the variability among the variables observed, correlated in terms of a lower number that is potentially unobserved known as a factor. Factor analysis was critical in removing redundancy and duplication from the variable correlated. It is a representative of variables that are correlated with the derived variables (Kline, 2014). After analysis, the study's findings were presented in form of figures, tables and charts.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

International donor funding strategy is a key tool in the developmental process in sub-Saharan Africa. With sub-Saharan Africa being one of the least progressed regions in terms of development across the globe. The funding has been promoted as a strategy to enhance development processes.

Donor aid has been fronted as a key tool to help tackle the economic challenges facing developing countries across the globe. With the success of direct foreign intervention that the US utilized in the reconstruction of Europe through the Marshal plan, direct donor funding from developed countries was observed to be a major strategy to ensure that these challenges are addressed.

International donors funders have taken a key interest in enhancing the capacity of the Kenyan farmers to be more productive as a strategy of addressing the poverty challenge. This chapter presents the findings on the influence of international donor funding strategy on poverty alleviation to farmers in Technoserve Kenya. The chapter introduces the analysis conducted as per the research objective.

4.2 Questionnaire Response Rate

This part analyzes and presents information on the questionnaires. These are the questionnaires that were returned from the field. The findings on the duly filled questionnaires and unreturned questionnaires are presented in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Response Rate

Response	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Filled in questionnaires	47	85.5
Un returned questionnaires	8	14.5
Total Response Rate	55	100

Source: Field Data (2019)

From table 4.1 out of the sampled population, 47 questionnaires were returned duly filled in making a response rate of 85.5%. The response rate was representative and was adequately used to answer the research question. Kothari (2009) stated that a response rate which is above 50% is appropriate for data analysis as well as reporting. In addition, he stated that a response rate of 60% is good and that of 70% is excellent.

4.3 Background of Information

The background information included gender, marital status, level of education, farm acreage, and the length of time they have been farming Mangoes. The findings are presented in the following subsections:

4.3.1 Respondent Gender

The respondents were requested to indicate their gender and the findings were presented in Figure 4.1.

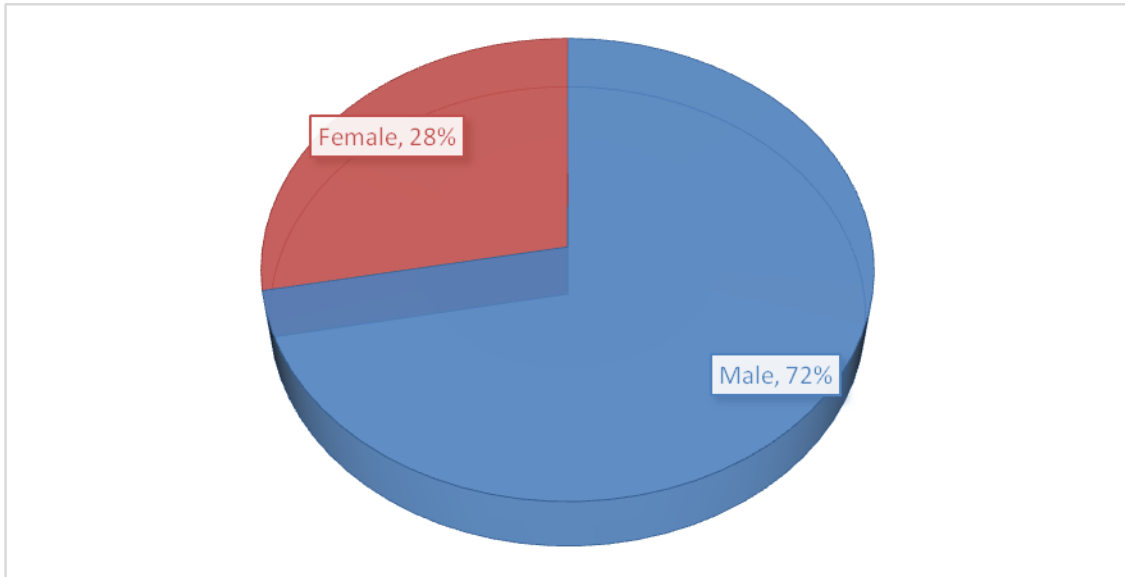


Figure 4.1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Source: Field Data (2019)

From the findings in Figure 4.1, majority (72%) of the respondents were Male while 28% were Female. Therefore majority of the respondents were male and this also depicted that they were the ones who were mostly involved in farming and committed towards adopting the good farm habits and practices.

4.3.2 Respondent Marital Status

The respondents were requested to indicate their marital status. Accordingly, the findings are as presented in Figure 4.2.

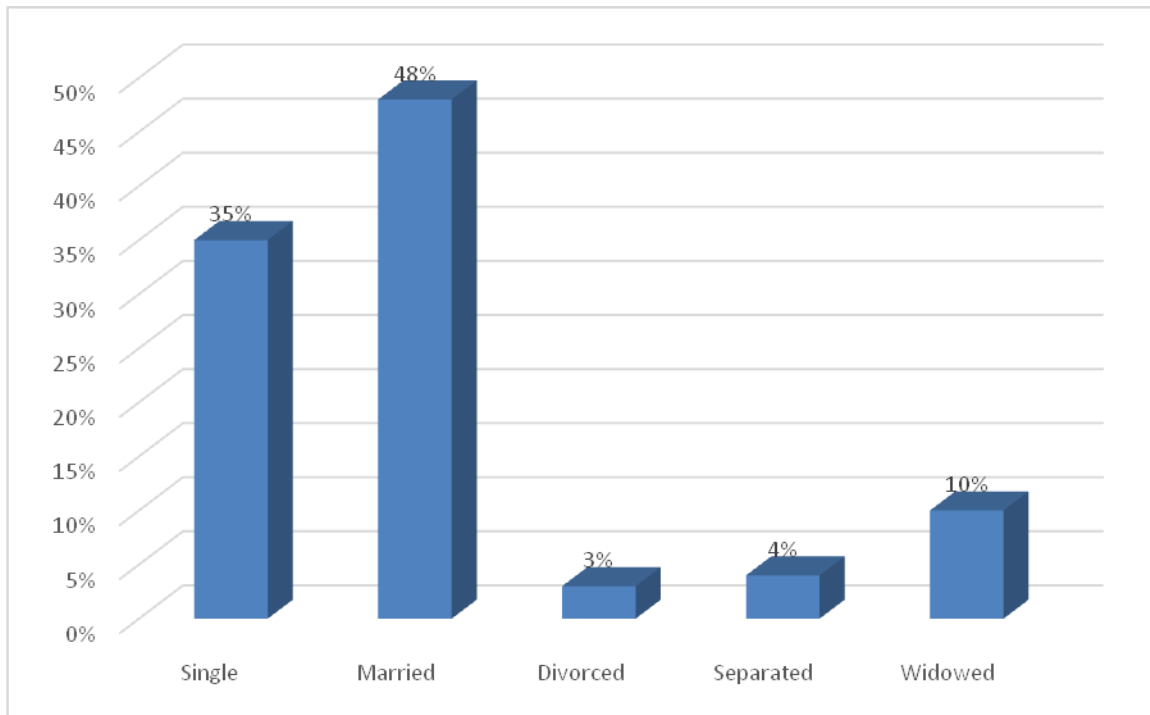


Figure 4.2: Distribution of Participants by Marital Status

Source: Field Data (2019)

From the findings most (48%) of the respondents indicated they were married, 35% were single, 10% were widowed, 4% were separated while 3% were divorced. This implies that most of respondents were married and thus could share the responsibility and ease the burden in the case of farming Mangoes.

4.3.3 Respondent Level of Education

The respondents were requested to indicate their level of education. Accordingly, the findings are as presented in Figure 4.3.

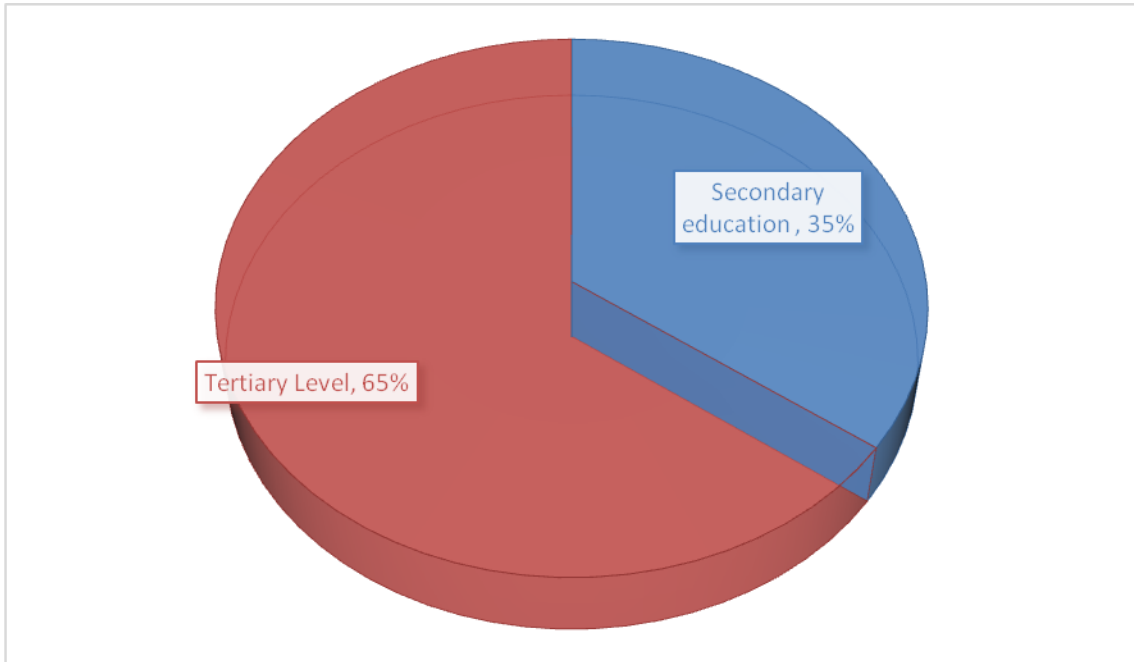


Figure 4.3: Respondent Level of Education

Source: Field Data (2019)

Form the findings majority (65%) of the respondents had tertiary level of education while 35% had secondary level of education. These respondents well demonstrated their communication skills and commitment to participate in this study. This depicts that majority of the respondents were learned enough to be able to participate in the study and give the appropriate information.

4.3.4 Respondent Farm's Acreage

The respondents were requested to indicate their farm's acreage. Accordingly, the findings are as presented in Figure 4.4.

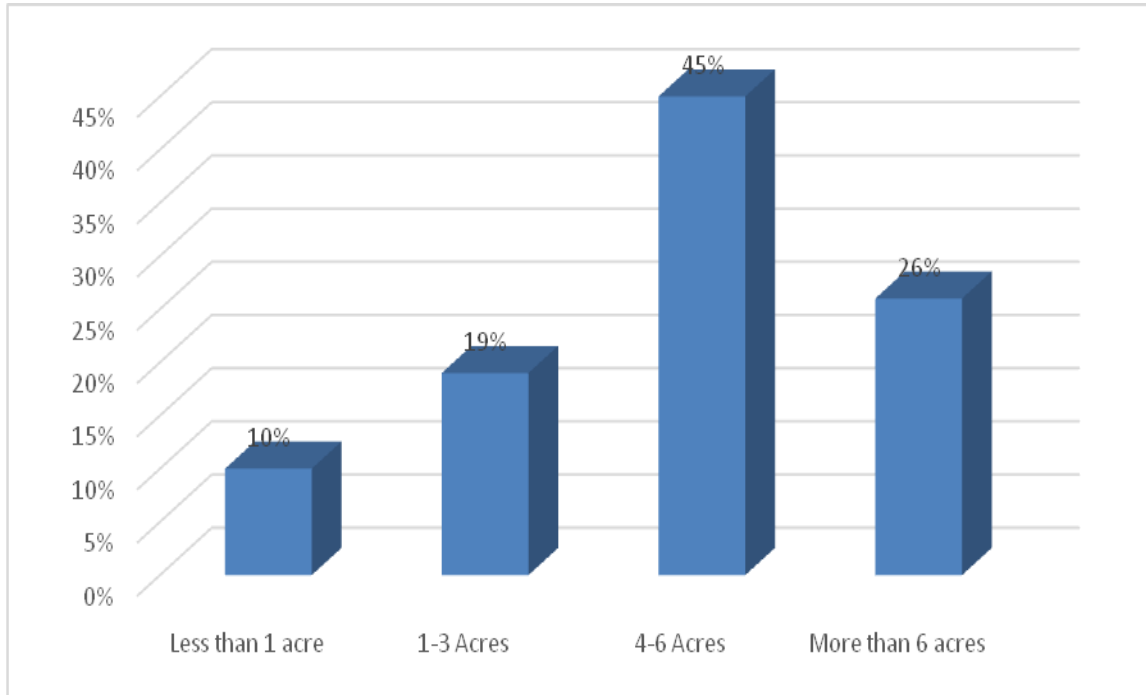


Figure 4.4: Respondent Farm's Acreage

Source: Field Data (2019)

From the findings most (45%) of the respondents indicated that they had between 4-6 acres, 26% indicated more than 6 acres, 19% indicated 1-3 acres, while 10% indicated less than an acre. This depicts that most of the respondents had enough land to practice Mango farming.

4.3.5 Respondent Length of Time of Being a Mango Farmer

The respondents were requested to indicate how long they have been farming Mangoes. Accordingly, the findings are as presented in Figure 4.5.

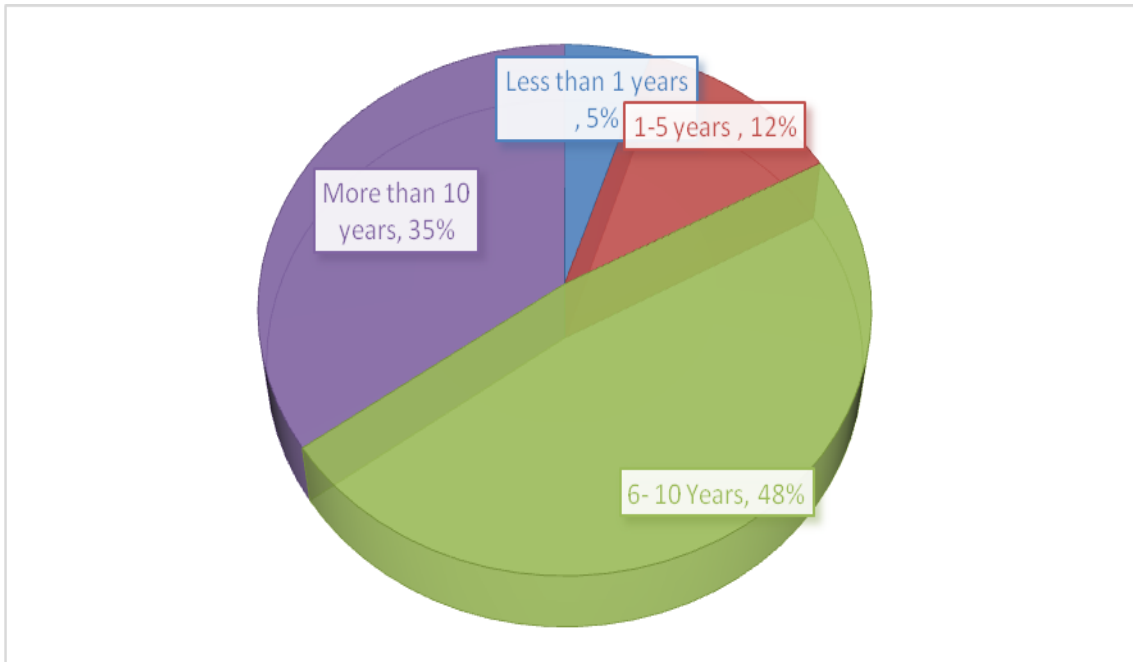


Figure 4.5: Respondent Length of Time of Being a Mango Farmer

Source: Field Data (2019)

Form the findings most (48%) of the respondents indicated they have been farming Mangoes for a duration between 6-10 years, 35% indicated more than 10 years, 12% indicated between 1-5 years, while 5% indicated less than 1 year. This depicts that the respondents had done farming for a sizeable duration of time and thus could offer reliable information.

4.4 Benefits Accrued from International Donor Funded Project

To establish the key benefits which accrued from international donor funded project that address poverty, data was analyzed through factor analysis in order to establish the most important benefits that were considered during decision making when addressing poverty issues. The benefits are shown in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Communalities

Statements	Initial	Extraction
Training on crop management	1.000	.455
Provision of quality crop input	1.000	.638
Access to agricultural extension services	1.000	.930
Improved access to financial support	1.000	.827
Improved access to the Mango market	1.000	.663
To access to skills, talent and latest technology	1.000	.737
Enhanced efficiency in farm utilization	1.000	.403
Yieldwise project introduced new and better farming methods	1.000	.728
Yieldwise project enhanced access to quality farm inputs	1.000	.804
Enhanced the amount of produce per acreage	1.000	.713
Reduction in post-harvest losses	1.000	.812
Yieldwise project has enhanced my farm income earnings	1.000	.804
I have been able to acquire some properties as a result of my farm earnings	1.000	.651

I have been able to buy basic items for myself and family and meet their basic needs.	1.000	.708
I have been able to meet the educational needs of my family members	1.000	.724
I have been able to reduce my debts	1.000	.363
I have been able to reinvest in my farm	1.000	.783
Through Yieldwise project, I am able to access a ready market for my farm produce.	1.000	.826
There is an established market capacity that effectively handles our produce.	1.000	.720
I have embraced technological tools that have eased access to customers.	1.000	.757
The quality of my produce has guaranteed my access to a ready market	1.000	.933
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.		

Source: Field Data (2019)

The study sought to establish the key benefits accrued from international donor funded projects to address poverty. According to table 4.2 it was revealed that most benefits had an extraction value greater than 0.7 proportion of variance. The benefit with the highest extraction value was the quality of my produce has guaranteed my access to a ready market with 0.933, followed by access to agricultural extension services with 0.93, improved access to financial support with 0.827, through Yieldwise project, I am able to access a ready market for my farm produce with 0.826.

The additional benefits with high extraction value included reduction in post-harvest losses with 0.812, Yieldwise project enhanced access to quality farm inputs with 0.804, Yieldwise project has enhanced my farm income earnings with 0.804, I have been able to reinvest in my farm with 0.783, I have embraced technological tools that have eased access to customers with 0.757, to access to skills, talent and latest technology with 0.737, Yieldwise project introduced new and better farming methods with 0.728, I have been able to meet the educational needs of my family members with 0.724, there is an established market capacity that effectively handles our produce with 0.72, enhanced the amount of produce per acreage with 0.713.

It was further found that the respondents have been able to buy basic items for myself and family and meet their basic needs with 0.708, improved access to the Mango market with 0.663, I have been able to acquire some properties as a result of my farm earnings with 0.651, provision of quality crop input with 0.638, training on crop management with 0.455, enhanced efficiency in farm utilization with 0.403, and I have been able to reduce my debts with 0.363.

Table 4.3: Contribution of Extracted Variable

Component	Total Variance Explained					
	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	8.081	38.481	38.481	8.081	38.481	38.481
2	3.168	15.087	53.568	3.168	15.087	53.568
3	1.972	9.392	62.961	1.972	9.392	62.961
4	1.757	8.367	71.328	1.757	8.367	71.328
5	.951	4.528	75.856			
6	.874	4.160	80.016			
7	.761	3.623	83.638			
8	.663	3.157	86.795			
9	.612	2.913	89.708			
10	.475	2.261	91.969			
11	.448	2.132	94.101			
12	.301	1.431	95.533			
13	.248	1.183	96.715			
14	.207	.988	97.703			
15	.164	.779	98.482			
16	.111	.530	99.012			
17	.093	.442	99.454			
18	.077	.366	99.820			
19	.033	.159	99.979			
20	.004	.021	100.000			
21	-1.003E-013	-1.014E-013	100.000			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Source: Field Data (2019)

According to Table 4.3 the components with an Eigen value which was above 1.00 are the first 4 components. The 4 components explain 71.328% of the total data variability. The 4 components are probably adequate for making significant operational decisions in relation to international donor funding and address of poverty.

The components are the benefits with the highest extraction value which includes: quality of my produce has guaranteed my access to a ready market with, access to agricultural extension services, improved access to financial support, and through Yieldwise project, I am able to access a ready market for my farm produce.

Table 4.4: Transformation

Component Matrix^a				
	Component			
	1	2	3	4
Training on crop management	.133	.071	.602	.265
Provision of quality crop input	-.132	.721	.238	-.208
Access to agricultural extension services	-.475	.744	-.353	.158
Improved access to financial support	-.398	.657	-.486	-.022
Improved access to the Mango market	.704	-.282	.009	.295
To access to skills, talent and latest technology	.772	-.248	-.043	.277
Enhanced efficiency in farm utilization	.623	.121	-.001	-.023
Yieldwise project introduced new and better farming methods	.826	.088	-.182	.075
Yieldwise project enhanced access to quality farm inputs	.796	.362	.086	.178
Enhanced the amount of produce per acreage	.788	.279	.091	.085
Reduction in post-harvest losses	.850	.087	-.278	-.061

Yieldwise project has enhanced my farm income earnings	.796	.362	.086	.178
I have been able to acquire some properties as a result of my farm earnings	.758	-.182	-.198	-.058
I have been able to buy basic items for myself and family and meet their basic needs.	.758	.319	-.080	.159
I have been able to meet the educational needs of my family members	-.483	.195	.502	.448
I have been able to reduce my debts	-.013	.035	.217	-.561
I have been able to reinvest in my farm	.491	.262	.169	-.667
Through Yieldwise project, I am able to access a ready market for my farm produce.	.863	.265	-.020	.104
There is an established market capacity that effectively handles our produce.	.512	.265	.259	-.566
I have embraced technological tools that have eased access to customers.	-.129	.436	.725	.157
The quality of my produce has guaranteed my access to a ready market	-.491	.757	-.300	.171
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.				
a. 4 components extracted.				

Source: Field Data (2019)

The scree plot indicates that the twenty-one benefits accrued from international donor funding. The findings are as presented in Figure 4.6.

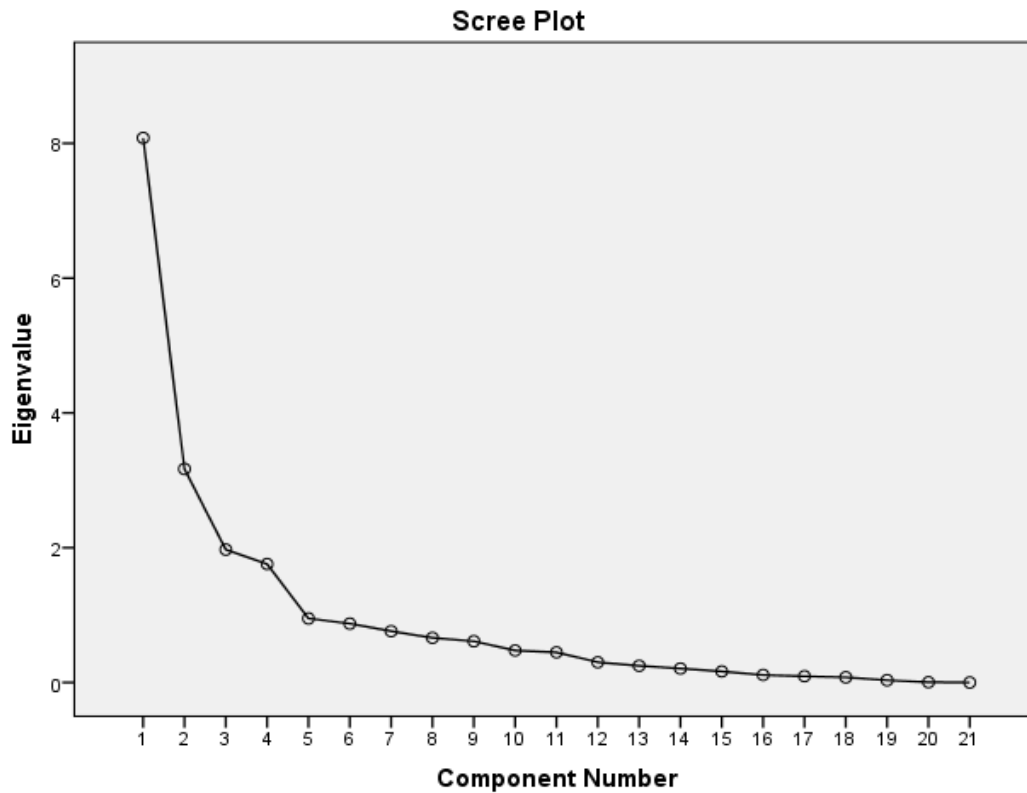


Figure 4.6: Scree Plot

Source: Field Data (2019)

From Figure 4.6, the study depicts that the key benefits which accrued from international donor funded project that address poverty included; improved market access, access to finance, and access to agricultural extension services. These benefits are of help to the farmers in the Yieldwise project.

4.5 Discussion of Findings

The study found that the key benefits accrued from international donor funding included: quality of my produce has guaranteed my access to a ready market, access to agricultural extension services, improved access to financial support, and through Yieldwise project, I am able to access a ready market for my farm produce. In addition, the study found that international donor funded project led to improved market access, access to finance, and access to agricultural extension services. In a study by Gulrajani (2015), it was observed that international donor funding strategy in sub-Saharan Africa is focused on different development facets. There are donor funders who focus on poverty alleviation, governance, human rights, infrastructural development among others.

Despite millions of dollars being utilized, little has been achieved. Gulrajani (2015) study reviewed different literatures that aimed at promoting the role of donor funding through reforming donor organizations. The study established that to ensure success, there was a need for donors to focus on incorporating the local's perspectives to meet the goals of the funds utilized. The findings are related to dependency theory in that the provision of donor funding is one of the key approaches. Donor funds directed to developing countries are aimed at sustaining their economic position rather than elevating it.

Donor funds in most of the cases have been directed to developing countries with natural resources rather than those in dire need. Through international donor funding, these countries feel indebted to the developed countries hence continue to trade in primary resources, hence not maximizing the value of their products.

The agricultural products as being one of the key primary products traded at the international market by developing countries, poverty which the international donor funding targets, is effectively sustained (Smith, 2018). In addition, the findings agree with a study by who stated that Eyben (2011), donor aid was fronted as a key tool to help tackle the economic challenges facing developing countries across the globe. With the success of direct foreign intervention that the US utilized in the reconstruction of Europe through the Marshal plan, direct donor funding from developed countries was observed to be a major strategy to ensure that these challenges are addressed.

The study found that the benefits for Yieldwise project included access to training on how well to practice Mango farming. The farmers were given tips on how they can improve productivity and have the maximum yield. The study further found that in relation to market access the respondents were able to get improved prices on their products as they had adequate and quality yields. The study found that Yieldwise project introduced new and better farming methods, as well as enhanced access to quality farm inputs. All these was through international donor funding. In a study by Gulrajani (2015), it was observed that international donor funding strategy in sub-Saharan Africa is focused on different development facets. There are donor funders who focus on poverty alleviation, governance, and human rights, infrastructural development among others.

Despite millions of dollars being utilized, little has been achieved. Gulrajani (2015) study reviewed different literatures that aimed at promoting the role of donor funding through reforming and changing donor organizations. To ensure success, the study established that there was a need for donors to focus on incorporating the local's perspectives so as to meet the goals of the funds utilized.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

International donors have emerged as influential actors in the alleviation of poverty across the world. With the continuous emergence of different challenges that have resulted in enhancement of the world poverty, the past half-century has witnessed a proliferation of many donors and donor initiatives. Global challenges such as the HIV/AIDS, global warming, and natural calamities have highly had a great devastating impact on people from the developing world.

Most of the donors are from the developed world and fund initiatives in different developing countries with the goal of reducing poverty level and enhancing the livelihood of the people in these countries. Through funding the different initiatives, the donors capacitate locals to enhance their productivity and their income levels. This ultimately leads to improved livelihoods of farmers.

Multinational donor funders have specific objectives hence fund activities that are designed to meet their goals. In that, while some are focused on supporting agriculture as an avenue to alleviate poverty others explore other strategies such as education. With agriculture being the mainstay of a majority of Kenyan residents, most of the donors have focused on funding agricultural related project to have a maximum impact. The chapter presents the summary, conclusion, and recommendations of the study which are contained in the subsequent sections.

5.2 Summary

The study found that majority of the respondents were male and this also showed that they were the one who were mostly involved in farming. The study also found that most of respondents were married and thus could share the responsibility and ease the burden in the case of farming Mangoes. The study found that majority of the respondents were learned enough to be able to participate in the study and give the appropriate information. The study also found that most of the respondents had enough land to practice Mango farming.

The study found that the benefits for Yieldwise project included access to training on how well to practice Mango farming. The farmers were given tips on how they can improve productivity and have the maximum yield. The study further found that in relation to market access the respondents were able to get improved prices on their products as they had adequate and quality yields. The study found that Yieldwise project introduced new and better farming methods, as well as enhanced access to quality farm inputs.

The study found that the respondents had done farming for a sizeable duration of time and thus could offer reliable information. The study found that the key benefits accrued from international donor funding included: quality of my produce has guaranteed my access to a ready market with, access to agricultural extension services, improved access to financial support, and through Yieldwise project, I am able to access a ready market for my farm produce. In addition, the study found that international donor funded project led to improved market access, access to finance, and access to agricultural extension services.

5.3 Conclusion of the Study

The study concluded that majority of the respondents were male and this also showed that they were the one who were mostly involved in farming. The study also concluded that most of respondents were married and thus could share the responsibility and ease the burden in the case of farming Mangoes. The study concluded that majority of the respondents were learned enough to be able to participate in the study and give the appropriate information. The study also concluded that most of the respondents had enough land to practice Mango farming.

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5.4 Recommendations and Implications of the Study

Based on the study finding the following recommendations are made: On policy the study recommends that the management of Tecnoserve should support poverty alleviation through the agriculture by ensuring that the employees are committed to the course and that they are trained on how well they can well use the donor funding to ensure that the farmers get the best services for maximum yield. For the successful of poverty alleviation Technoserve needs to align its operation in relation to what the farmers actually require.

On theory the study recommends that more research should be done with regard to dependency theory to help established how well the theories are coined with regard to application in real life. The researcher should relook the criticism levelled against the international funding theories and help come up with alternative that will help neutralize the criticism. This would ensure that the recommendations given by various theories are well articulated with matters of donor funding and poverty alleviation.

On practice the study recommends that Technoserve need to have adequate resources which are well coined to poverty alleviation through agriculture. The management should ensure that every step of strategy implementation and its objectives is allocated adequate resources as well as the personnel to ensure that farmers benefit maximum. The team involved in poverty alleviation process should have adequate training for them to have the necessary skills that will increase the rate at which farmers are well provided with the right skills for farming.

5.5 Limitations of the Study

Certain respondents lacked confidence during the data collection time as they feared disclosing some vital information. Others feared exposing the weaknesses of their farming process. Getting feedback from the targeted respondents was also another hurdle. This was due to their busy schedule that required their attention in the various farms.

Respondents also feared that releasing some of their confidential information could be leaked to their agricultural rivals, which in turn could be used against them. To encounter this, the researcher solved the problem by introducing the authorizing letter from the institution. The researcher also gave them assurance that the data collected would be used for the purposes of academics only.

Collection of the data became a big challenge due to shortage of time. This is because the researcher has an employment and most of the time occupied with office work. Getting permission from the management to go for data collection was not that easy. All in all, the researcher managed to collect the data as per the stipulated time. The researcher also would wait for too long before securing a chance to interview the respondents. Sometimes the researcher would even get one questionnaire filled in a day.

5.6 Areas for Further Study

The main focus of the study was to establish the influence of international donor funding strategy on poverty alleviation to farmers in Technoserve Kenya. The area of study was in Machakos County and thus the study had a limited scope. Further research is recommended to establish how international donor funding influence poverty alleviation to other agricultural sectors other than Technoserve.

In addition, a research study can be formulated to carry out the challenges facing international donor funding on poverty alleviation to farmers. From the conclusions and the findings, the study ought to recommend an in-depth research to be conducted to establish whether international donor funding has relation with other aspects of farming in Kenya other than just poverty alleviation.

Further since international donor funding act as the primary drivers of progress within an organization which helps improves its performance the study recommends further research to establish the relationship between international donor funding and performance within the various organization. This would ensure that the researcher identify areas of concern with regard to international donor funding and performance of various organizations.

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APPENDIX

Appendix: Research Questionnaire

I am carrying out a study on the role of international donor funding on agriculture as a strategy to alleviate poverty in Kenya with a focus on Technoserve Kenya farmers. This questionnaire has been constructed so as to help me gain information that will be useful for meeting the purposes of the study.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. Gender

Male

Female

2. Marital status (tick where appropriate)

Single Married Divorced Separated Widowed

3. level of education?

Primary education

Secondary education

Tertiary Level

Any other (Specify)

4. What is your farm's acreage?

Less than 1 acre

1-3 Acres

4-6 Acres []

More than 6 acres []

5. How long have you been a farming Mangoes?

Less than 1 years []

1-5 years []

6- 10 Years []

More than 10 years []

SECTION B: BENEFITS ACCRUED FROM INTERNATIONAL DONOR FUNDED PROJECT THAT ADDRESS POVERTY

6. Kindly indicate the extent to which you have benefited from the Yieldwiseproject based on the factors in the table.

Factors					
	1	2	3	4	5
Training on crop management					
Provision of quality crop input					
Access to agricultural extension services					
Improved access to financial support					
Improved access to the Mango market					
To access to skills, talent and latest technology					

7. Please indicate other benefits derived from the Yieldwiseproject

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.....

.....

Agricultural productivity

8. Indicate the extent to which the international donor funded project enhanced your agricultural productivity.

Factors	1	2	3	4	5
Enhanced efficiency in farm utilization					
Yieldwise project introduced new and better farming					
Yieldwise project enhanced access to quality farm inputs					
Enhanced the amount of produce per acreage					
Reduction in post-harvest losses					

9. Please indicate any other benefit accrued on agricultural productivity as a result of Yieldwise project

.....

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.....

Increase in income

10. Indicate the extent to which the international donor funded project enhanced your income.

Factors	1	2	3	4	5
Yieldwise project has enhanced my farm income earnings					
I have been able to acquire some properties as a result of my					
I have been able to buy basic items for myself and family					
I have been able to meet the educational needs of my family					
I have been able to reduce my debts					
I have been able to reinvest in my farm					

11. Please indicate any other benefit accrued in regard to increased income as a result of Yieldwise project?

.....

Improved market access

12. Indicate the extent to which the international donor funded project enhanced your market access.

Factors	1	2	3	4	5
Through Yieldwise project, I am able to access a ready market					
There is an established market capacity that effectively handles					
I have embraced technological tools that have eased access to					
The quality of my produce has guaranteed my access to a					

13. Please indicate any other benefit related to improved access to the market as a result of Yieldwise project?

.....

THE END

THANKS FOR PARTICIPATION