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POVERTY REDUCTION IN KENYAN RURAL AREAS: THE ROLE OF NJAA
MARUFUKU KENYA IN GIKINDU LOCATION OF KIHARU DIVISION
MURANG'A NORTH DISTRICT

By

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DECLARATION

This project paper is my original work and has not been submitted for examination in any other university

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DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to my children, Nduta, Wambui, and Karega. This need be an encouragement to them, that with determination there is no mountain too big to weather. Hence, determination is greater in worth than in numbers.

I would wish to remind them the words of Henry Ford, ' you can't build a reputation on what you're going to do.' They should therefore stop at nothing but what they are set to achieve.

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With a lot of gratitude, I wish to acknowledge the support accorded me by my Family members (Husband Humphery K Karega, children Nduta, Wambui, and Karega) during the period of my MA study.

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Special acknowledgement go to my project supervisor, Professor Mburugu who guided me through this work with unlimited zeal.

ABSTRACT

The main aim of this study was to assess the success of Njaa Marufuku Kenya in reducing poverty and hunger among households in Gikindu location of Kiharu division Murang'a North district. The study was set to achieve the following specific objectives namely;

1. To examine ways in which beneficiaries utilize NMK funds to reduce poverty and hunger.
2. To establish the extent of beneficiaries involvement in decision making on activities of reducing poverty and   hunger.
3. To establish the impact of NMK cash grant on poverty and hunger reduction among the beneficiaries.
4. To examine challenges facing implementation of activities of NMK in reducing poverty and hunger.

The target population included both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households of NMK program in Gikindu location. A total of 120 respondents were sampled in the study on a fifty–fifty basis for both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. Four key informants were used in the study to supplement the study findings. To complement each other, both the questionnaire and in-depth interviews were carried out. The raw data from the field was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and MS excel. Descriptive statistics was used in interpretation of findings.

Respondents outlined various activities in utilization of NMK funds, they included; buying of dairy goats both for individuals and members, buying farm inputs (fertilizers, chemicals), revolving funds, trainings, establishing nurseries and buying poultry among other activities.

Findings revealed that most of the respondents were involved in decision making process in a number of activities However, 20% of the respondents reported to be involved in capacity building decision to a low extent. However, most of the key informants noted

that participating beneficiaries were not adequately involved in decision making process as most of stakeholders patronage and unilaterally made decisions.

Majority of NMK beneficiaries (91%) acknowledged that NMK cash grant had positive effect in reduction of poverty and hunger among the households. Only a small proportion of 9 % of respondents acknowledged no effect. Comparison of livelihood of benefiting and non benefiting households showed that NMK program beneficiaries were better off since they had projects that generate income for their households.

The study outcome indicated that there are numerous challenges that affected the implementation activities of NMK program. The major challenges hindering the implementation activitiess to a high extent were high cost of inputs (100%) unfavourable weather condititons (85%), education 80%, modern technology 76%. On the other hand,weak cordination of major stakeholders affected the program to a moderate extent (60%) and unfavourable land tenure impacted the program to a high extent 55%. Key informants further helped identify more challenges that include; misappropriation of grants funds by individual groups, incompetent group leadership, ineffective coordination of stakeholder's activities, education level of the beneficiaries and delay in disbursement of cash to approved groups projects.

The study recommendation was that the government should consider extending the olive branch to the rest of the of non-beneficiaries through screening, supporting of poor farmers groups locked out by stringent NMK program approval procedures in order to ensure that most people are reached out in the program. To mitigate misappropriation monitoring and evaluation should be carried out regularly in order to ensure that monies were used for the intended projects.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYM

ASALs :	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
BBS:	Broad Base Survey
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CIGs	Common Interest Groups
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
ERS	Economic Recovery Strategy
FA:	Focal Area
FAO	Food Agriculture Organization
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
GOK:	Government of Kenya
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs:	Millennium Development Goals
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs:	Nongovernmental Organization
NMK	Njaa Marufuku Kenya
PRA:	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SHGs	Self help Groups
Sida:	Swedish International Development Agency
SRA	Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's International Fund
WFS	World Food Summit
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study.

The role played by Agriculture in Kenya's economy cannot be overlooked. Both urban and rural people are mainly reliant on agriculture either through direct cultivation or value chain of agricultural commodities. This is supported by the fact that agriculture contributes directly 26% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 60% of the export earnings (Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture 2004 – 2014: 2004). Through links with manufacturing, distribution and service related sectors, agriculture indirectly contributes an additional 27% of the GDP (Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture 2004-2014:2004). Kenya is said to have experienced moderately high growth rates during the 1960's and 1970s, her economic performance during the last two decades has however been reported to be below her potential. The phenomenon has resulted into a decline in per capita income (Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture 2004-2014: 2004). Despite the importance of Agriculture in the Country's GDP and the fact that 80% of the rural households depend on Agriculture, the farming households have however remained among the poor and hungry.

The Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965, on African Socialism and its application to planning in Kenya noted that poverty, disease, and ignorance were among the major most development challenges in Kenya. It also recognized the fact that in Kenya Agriculture was the dominant sector of the economy, encompassing the entire country and providing a living for the majority of Kenyan families. It was therefore identified as an important tool in creation of employment, increasing per capita income and also in poverty reduction (Republic of Kenya: 1965).

Drought is singled out as one of the natural disasters having the greatest socio-economic impact and affecting the greatest number of people. When drought results in famine, more people are affected and this disrupts day to day activities of households, villages,

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communities and even governments. The drought phenomenon has a direct relationship with hunger and poverty, especially for peasant farmers who depend on rainfed agriculture for their livelihoods. The frequency of droughts and floods in Kenya has increased in the last three decades, with more pronounced effects in Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASALs). This has caused crop failure, loss of livestock and increasing land degradation, further exacerbating the effects of drought and floods that ultimately contribute to poverty and hunger.

Gikindu location of Kiharu division of Murang'a North District is a farming area where the farming households are dehumanized by high poverty levels. In a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) conducted in 2002, it was found that over 80% of the farm families are entirely dependent on crop and livestock production. However, the same report indicated that average yields for main crops grown are very low, 3 bags of maize, 1 bag of beans per acre and 3 litres of milk per day per cow. The yields are not even adequate to meet even food requirement for the farm families whose average is 7 persons per household as indicated by a Broad Base Survey (BBS) conducted in the same location in 2003. In addition, the location has no cash crops, the maize and beans are also sold to meet some other needs leaving the farm families hungry.

In problem identification and ranking in the PRA and BBS surveys in the same area, lack of adequate income to start income generating activities and to implement some of the recommended agricultural technologies has been ranked high. The farm families have usually asked for financial support alongside the extension packages. The Government of Kenya and other key Stakeholders have attempted to address the issue of poverty and hunger through interventions such as extension approaches meant to assist farmers to increase and improve their productivity. Among them is the National Extension Program that was funded by the World Bank. However, Anderson, Feder, and Ganguly (2006) observed that the design was meant for accountability of Front Line Workers to their supervisors with respect to their quantity of work but not with respect to quality and the benefits the farmer households will derive.

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Another one is the Focal Area approach funded by the Swedish Government and works through alienation of geographical areas (GOK: 2005). Activities of a FA area are concentrated in one fiscal year after which the extension agents shift to another FA. During the one year period, the community is expected to be mobilized, sensitized and form commodity oriented groups along which to conduct their Agriculture, and Livestock activities (Ruto, 2007). The Program again is tailored by the donor agency, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and the farmers are expected to fit in it regardless of their context.

In evaluating the Green Belt Movement activities, and concern of uplifting the living standards of the poor, Michaelson (1994) says that the activity need be more than just planting of trees but more so educational with an aim to change peoples mental attitude. But peoples' mental attitude cannot be achieved without involving them in decision making.

However in 2004, the Government came up with a home grown approach, Njaa Marufuku Kenya (Eradicating Hunger and Poverty in Kenya), which is an agriculture sector program that focuses on the poor and vulnerable through capacity building, empowerment and provision of safety net measures aimed at fast tracking MDG-1.The approach gives farmer groups an opportunity to design their activity and develop a proposal for the same. This home grown program was developed for implementing and fulfilling MDG-1, whose target is to halve the number of poor and hungry people in Kenya by the year 2015. The goal of the program is therefore to contribute to reduction of poverty, hunger and food insecurity among poor communities in Kenya. It targets the extremely poor and vulnerable community members, empowers them through capacity building and provision of sustainable resource support.to enable them participate fully in economic activities. Njaa Marufuku Kenya supports community driven, agricultural development initiatives that increase productivity, enhance the generation of rural incomes, address health and nutritional improvement and restore and conserve the natural resource base. The farmer groups are given grants of between Ksh.120,000 to 150,000.

The groups are supposed to implement their activity of choice within their own timetable and to also source for their facilitators for capacity building.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

More than half the world's population lives below the poverty line. Poverty and deprivation continue to afflict human kind especially in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa is worst hit despite the many attempts to curb them. To scholars and developmentalists the cause of poverty is deprivation. To others, it is a product of unfair distribution of resources, unfair power relation, biased polices and lack of coordination in development efforts. Many billions of dollars have been spent in taxes, loans, and development aid to improve living standards. These not withstanding, poverty continues to persist and ravage human kind. Studies have indicated that poverty particularly in Africa is attributed to natural calamities, colonialism changed the course of African economies to meet the colonizers needs; while African governments have failed to balance nationalistic issues with sustainable economic strategies (Mwenga: 2008).

The poor according to Syokaki consultants (2005) are defined as those members of the society who are not able to afford minimum basic needs which include food, shelter and clothing. Being poor therefore is to be unable to meet the universally recommended minimum basic requirements for human survival. Yapa (1993) asserts that poverty is not about failed development, poor technology, lack of resources, mismanagement, or poor planning, but rather that it represents a routine, everyday, normal manifestation of the very process of economic development. He further asserts that poverty is a situation where a household is unable to satisfy its basic needs for food, clothing, shelter, health care and functional literacy.

More than half of Kenya's population live below absolute poverty line. Poverty is therefore the single most and biggest challenge facing Kenya today. According to Kenya Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2001-2004, 13.4 million Kenyans live below poverty

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line. Rural people form 80% of Kenya's population who include farmers, pastoralists, fisher folks, workers and unemployed youth. The rural people in Kenya rely mainly on agriculture for their livelihood, which barely meets their requirements. The Government and other key stakeholders such as the World Bank, Sida, Catholic Relief Services and other NGOs have over the years implemented various interventions in the agriculture sector aiming to curb poverty and hunger. Most of the donor interventions have conditions. Despite all the interventions done through donor funding, little has been done on homegrown approaches. The focus of this study therefore was to evaluate NMK as a Government of Kenya (GOK) homegrown intervention in poverty reduction.

In the year 2004, the Government launched the new and home grown approach to poverty and hunger reduction, it was in particular developed by the Agriculture Sector Ministries to fast track MDG-1. It addresses empowerment and support to poor community groups, support to private sector-led food security innovations and community nutrition improvement interventions including community based school meals program. This approach recognizes the farmer households as major stakeholders in addressing the issue. It empowers the poor through cash grant of between Ksh.120,000 to Ksh. 150,000 and the farmer groups implement their choice activity (NMK: 2007). NMK therefore attempts to address the issue of poverty and hunger through offering grants to the farmers groups. The activities funded are those of farmers area of interest. The decision and enterprise choice is done by the farmer group members (NMK: 2007). The groups also source and pay their instructors through the NMK funding, since NMK seeks to empower the poor by training them to take positive charge of their lives and thus change of mental attitudes and lift themselves out of poverty and hunger.

NMK is recipient oriented as opposed to the other interventions that emphasize what the donor wants to achieve. However, no studies have been undertaken to evaluate whether NMK, an approach that provides cash grants to farmer groups is an approach that would reduce household poverty and hunger in Kenya's rural areas. This study therefore sought to find out the effectiveness of NMK in reducing poverty and hunger among households in Kenya.

1.3 Research Questions

1. In what ways has NMK contributed to reducing poverty and hunger among farmer households in Kenya?
2. How effectively do farmers participate in poverty and hunger reduction when involved in decision making towards issues that affect them?
3. How do the beneficiary groups evaluate NMK cash grant in poverty and hunger reduction among households?
4. What challenges are there in implementing the NMK activities among farmer households?

1.4 The goal and objectives of the study

The NMK approach has recognized that the farmer households have a stake in the fight against poverty and hunger and involved them in deciding how to be assisted, when and how to implement the assistance.

The goal of this study was to assess the success of NMK in reducing poverty and hunger among households in Kenya's rural areas.

1.4.1 Specific Objectives

1) To identify NMK benefiting households in reduction of poverty and hunger in Gikindu location.
2) To examine ways in which beneficiaries utilize NMK funds to reduce poverty and hunger.
3) To establish the extent of beneficiaries involvement in decision making on activities of reducing poverty and hunger.
4) To establish the impact of NMK cash grant on poverty and hunger reduction among the beneficiaries.
5) To examine challenges facing implementation of activities of NMK in reducing poverty and hunger.

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1.5 Study rationale

Agriculture is still a major sector in Kenyan economy, however poverty level in Kenyan agriculturally rich regions has been on the increase in the past few decades. This has resulted in significant decline in agricultural productivity. If these trends are not checked Kenya will be way below achieving the 1st millennium goal by 2015. Several studies have been conducted on poverty with particular attention on programs and measure of policies used in reduction of poverty in Kenya. There is still a lot that needs to be done in this area; this study sought to assess the success of homegrown NMK poverty reduction program in rural Kenya

It is very much imperative to recall vicious food shortages in Kenya. This study is important as it assesses the issue of poverty and hunger in relation to homegrown programs. In the recent past the country has witnessed worst food shortage crisis and has resulted into the country overlying on food donation by neighbors and international well-wishers. This in its very best undermines and jeopardizes agriculture as a key contributor sector to the economy.

The study findings and recommendations are of importance to the agricultural Sector Ministries and other players in the formulation of policies meant to address the issue of hunger and poverty in Kenya.

The study would fill knowledge gap by illuminating the achievements, improvement areas and challenges of NMK program in executing its main role of reducing hunger and poverty among the Kenyan rural areas.

The study is useful to NMK secretariat in making key decisions on changes necessary in the implementation of the NMK cash grant activities, whether there is need to increase the grant accorded to groups and advise the government accordingly. The findings also form a basis for other interested parties in conducting similar or a more advanced research.

1.6 Scope and limitation of the study

This study focuses on contribution of home grown approach NMK in reducing poverty and hunger among households in Murang'a North district. Gikindu location was chosen

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for this study due to rampant poverty levels and reduced agricultural productivity within Kiharu division.

This study had two major dimensions that is national and rural dimension. Rural dimension focuses mainly on the key contributions of NMK program in reducing poverty and hunger among the rural divide. National dimension focuses on overall contributions and constrains of NMK program in poverty programs in Kenya today. This study had the following limitation; strict time line and high costs.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Rural Areas

They are defined as large and isolated areas of a country, often with low populations where people farm or depend on natural resources, including the villages and small towns that are dispersed through these areas, also includes large settlements in the former homelands, created by colonial masters (Republic of Kenya: 1999).

Hunger

Hunger is a feeling experienced when one has a desire to eat. Hunger is a most commonly used term to describe the social condition of people who frequently experience, or live with the threat of experiencing the physical sensation of hunger.

Poverty

It means a condition of deprivation of basic capabilities or a condition of having insufficient resources or income (Government of Kenya: 2001). From a social dimension view, poverty is manifested variably through lack of or inadequate basic requirements such as food, health, shelter and illiteracy among others.

Agriculture

Refers to the production of food and goods through farming and forestry, it encompasses a wide variety of specialties. Cultivation of crops on arable land and the pastoral herding of livestock on rangeland remain as the foundation of agriculture. In the past century a distinction has been made between sustainable agriculture and intensive farming

In conclusion, the above chapter has given an elaborate exposition to the problems under investigation. Most importantly, the study objectives and questions, rationale, definition of terms, scope and limitation of the study have all been outlined and explained.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Poverty rose in Kenya during the 1990s. Three national surveys conducted in the 1990's provide valuable information about welfare levels, poverty and other household and individual characteristics. Several poverty profiles have been constructed spanning 1991/92, 1994 and 1997. The surveys are, however out of date and not fully comparable. Nevertheless, it is estimated that the proportion of the population living in poverty has risen from about 48.8 percent in 1990 to 55.4 percent in 2001 Kenya Bureau of statistics (2005). The proportion is estimated to have risen to more than 56 percent in 2003. Poverty increased sharply during the early 1990s, declined during the mid-1990s, and rose steadily since 1997. Thus, an additional 2.7 million people were living below the poverty line in 2001 than were in 1997. According to Kiros, (1995) more than half of Kenyas 31.3 million People are poor, while 7.5 million of those poor live in absolute poverty. Rural areas and rural people suffer marginalization, they have little or no opportunities to contribute toward policies that affect them.

Food Security has been a widespread phenomena in most of the developing countries, it is defined as "a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" (World bank, 2004 pg 4). The major concerns for food security include food availability, food accessibility, hunger, chronic food insecurity, transitory food insecurity, malnutrition, vulnerability, and under-nourishment. Hunger, often used interchangeably with food insecurity, is defined as "uneasy or painful sensation caused by lack of food" and when it persists , it can lead to malnutrition (World bank, 2004 pg 5). Unfortunately, according to FAO (2005) hunger is often all but ignored in discussions of MDG1, just as it has, for far too long, been all but invisible on the development agenda

2.2 Kenyan economy

Food security is one of the most challenging issues in sub-Saharan Africa which has continued to generate debate. Literature abounds showing that Africa is the only region in the world where per capita food production has declined during the last two decades. Food self-sufficiency ratios dropped from 98 per cent in the 1960s to about 86 per cent by the mid-1980s, implying that, on average, each African had 12 per cent less home grown food in the 1980s than 20 years earlier (Kates *et al.*, 1993).

Kenya's economy is diverse, with both agricultural and industrial potential. However, the economy has not performed well over the last decade, and evidence indicates that poverty and inequality have worsened. Therefore, it is imperative that Kenya's government must foster stronger growth and a process of income generation that benefits the broader population. Kenya has grown at an average rate of about 3 percent per year since reforms started in earnest during the early 1990s. This apparent continuity hides the volatility of growth over this period, as well as its shifting structure. For instance, agricultural growth was initially slow during the mid-1990s but rose rapidly to almost 5 percent before declining again after 2000 (Odhiambo, 2003).

However, the current strategy is drawing to a close and has not yet established rapid economic growth. This again raises questions about potential sources of growth and appropriate allocations of public investments. It appears that agriculture might play a more important role in the country's future strategy. The government has recently adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) promulgated under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This program sets a continent-wide agricultural growth target of 6 percent. To achieve this growth, Kenya's government has signed the Maputo Declaration, which calls on African governments to increase the share of agricultural spending to 10 percent of their total budgets (Diao *et al* 2006).

The Economic Recovery Strategy (ERS) outlines Kenya's current development objectives, which include restoring economic growth, generating employment, and reducing poverty (GK 2000). The strategy indicates the expected contributions of each sector and the policies required to realize growth. As such, while the economy is projected to grow at around 6.0 percent per year during the recovery period, household consumption expenditure is expected to grow more slowly at 4.7 percent.

Since this was still substantially higher than both population growth and the country's past performance, it is expected that the level of poverty would have declined by at least five percent by 2007. Agriculture was expected to grow at 3 percent per year under the policies and investments outlined in the ERS. For crop agriculture, these included expanding extension services, improving rural roads, irrigation, and strengthening farmer organizations (Kimalu et al, 2002)

2.3 Rural Poverty in Kenya

According to Khan (2000), almost 63 percent of world poverty is found in rural areas. Todaro and Smith (2003) find that about two-thirds of the extremely poor are either small farmers or low-paid farm workers living on subsistence agriculture. Some of the them engage in non-farm activities such as petty services or self-employment. Owing to an urban bias in government expenditures, living conditions in terms of access to education, health care, safe water and sanitation faced by the rural poor are much worse than those faced by the urban poor. The social dimensions of poverty are manifested variably through lack of or inadequate basic requirements such as food, health, shelter and illiteracy among others. The social and economic consequences of poverty permeate the whole spectra of society. For example structural causes of poverty in Kenya include poor market conditions and access resulting from liberalization of the economy, which was implemented without proper consultations with farmers, small-scale traders and other grassroots groups (Kariuki, 2008)

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The main goal of development is to eliminate poverty and reduce social imbalances. Economic growth that is sustainable combined with appropriate social policies are key factors in the fight against poverty. However, economic growth on its own does not guarantee success in eradicating poverty. Other salient dimensions of poverty like quality of life and participation in decision making need to be put into consideration (G8 Okinawa Summit: 2000). In the G8 Okinawa summit of July 2000, global leaders agreed on international goals aimed at reducing poverty by 2015. These included reducing by half the proportion of people in extreme poverty.

2.4 Agriculture sector in Kenyan economy

Agriculture is the largest sector in the Kenyan economy, generating a quarter of gross domestic product (GDP) and two-fifths of export earnings (Kiringai, Thurlow, and Wanjala 2006). Unlike many other African countries, agricultural production in Kenya is relatively diverse, with export crops and higher value horticultural crops being as important as cereals and root and oil crops. Exports include both traditional crops such as tea and coffee, as well as non-traditional crops such as cut flowers. By contrast, food crop production is dominated by maize and half of the country's rice and wheat is imported. Agriculture and food processing are especially important activities for the rural economy, generating two-thirds of rural GDP. Given that 85 percent of the population lives in rural areas, this implies that agriculture is the primary source of income for a majority of households.

Furthermore, while crop incomes are less important for urban households unlike rural households, the livestock sector comprises a tenth of the informal economy, which in turn provides employment for poorer urban workers. Despite Kenya's diversity, the agricultural sector has experienced mediocre growth over the last two decades, thus mirroring the weak overall performance of the economy. Agricultural production grew at 1 percent annually during the 1990s, driven by marginal improvements in crop yields or productivity (FAO 2006).

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However, this growth was well below the population growth rate of 2.5 percent. Although agricultural growth has doubled since 2000, this more recent period has been characterized by rapid area expansion and stagnant yields. There is also variation in the performance of individual sectors. Given Kenya's growing population and land constraints, the key challenge for accelerating agricultural growth is overcoming the long-standing and widespread deterioration of farm productivity.

A number of studies have examined the determinants of agricultural productivity in Kenya and its contribution to hunger acceleration. Falling yields during the early 1990s are attributed to the poor sequencing of market reforms and subsequent declines in the use of fertilizer and hybrid seeds (Karanja, Jayne, and Strasberg 1999; Odhiambo, Nyangito, and Nzuma 2004). Recent evidence suggests that fertilizer use is rising rapidly, although this is concentrated in favored agroecological regions (Ariga, Jayne, and Nyoro 2006). Furthermore, increased population pressure in these favorable regions has caused migration to less-favored lands where existing technologies are often inappropriate (Nyoro and Jayne 1999). Funding for agricultural research is insufficient for the development of more appropriate seed varieties (Odhiambo, Nyangito, and Nzuma 2004). Accordingly, increased spending on research and the provision of extension services is identified as a binding constraint to agricultural growth (Nyangito 1999). However, farmers' knowledge of improved inputs is already widespread, suggesting that market development may be as important as extension (Nyoro, Wanzala, and Awour 2001). This is because higher input prices and lower output prices reduce the incentive for small-scale farmers to purchase fertilizer and hybrid seeds (Owuor 1999).

2.5 Sources of poverty -reducing growth

In their discussion paper on rural investments to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Kenya, Thurlow *et al* (2007) concludes that Kenya must focus its development strategy on accelerating economic growth, because under its current growth path there will be little change in poverty over the coming decade. However, under its current structure of growth, Kenya's economy would have to grow by more than 10 percent per year over the

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coming decade if it is to meet the MDG-1 of halving poverty by 2015. They also noted that Kenya must search for alternative sources of *poverty-reducing* growth. They strongly noted that agricultural growth must play a more central role in Kenya's development strategy. Without agricultural growth, it is unlikely that significant declines in poverty can be achieved, at least in the foreseeable future. The need for broad-based growth also applies to subsectors within agriculture, each of which will have to contribute to growth for Kenya's development strategy to be successful. Despite differences across agricultural sectors, agriculture generally generates growth that is more beneficial to a majority of Kenyans. This is especially true for poorer households in less-favored regions.

2.6 Interventions bridging poverty and hunger gaps in Kenya

Regionally, there are pockets of very high poverty that exceed the national average, calling for deliberate intervention. This notwithstanding, the Government of Kenya in collaboration with other main Stakeholders have over the years engaged approaches aimed at reducing poverty and hunger among the rural population. Kenya government has shown revamped efforts on economy aimed at reducing poverty and hunger. In 2008 the government launched an economic blue print under the name *vision 2030*. It aims at transforming Kenya into newly industrializing middle income country providing high quality life to all its citizens by the year 2030. According to vision 2030, it was developed through all inclusive and participatory stakeholder consultative process, involving Kenyans from all parts of the country. The vision outlines the government's commitment in raising income in agriculture, livestock and even fisheries.

2.6.1 Decentralization through constituency development funds as a poverty reduction strategy

Decentralization as a means for fostering development has been a focus of intense academic, policy and even popular debate in Africa in general and Kenya in particular. The primary argument for decentralization is that it enhances the process and speed of development through the provision of social and economic services. Although this

meaning of development has been found to be weak because it creates a government-dependent society, development must therefore mean enhancing the capacity of the society to cope with challenges and meet its needs.

It is important to remember that for decades, Kenya's development and decision-making process was the exclusive prerogative of central government. A 'top-down' approach was used to design policies, programs and projects. As a result, communities played no role in making decisions that affected important aspects of the political, socio-economic and ecological systems that sustained them. Disinterest in project activity on the part of communities was widespread and the failure rate of such development projects was high (Ravallion, 2003).

More recently, all the diverse opinions on the Constitution of Kenya review process have put together around the need for a constitutionally sanctioned structure of decentralization with divergence appearing only in regard to the precise model that should be adopted. Subsequently, the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was established in 2003 through the CDF Act, (The Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 107 Act No. 11 of 9th January 2004), owing to the shortcomings of the highly centralised system that indeed left some regions of the country lagging behind in their development quest (Government of Kenya 2004). The fund aims to control imbalances in regional development brought about by partisan politics. It targets all constituency-level development projects, particularly those aiming to combat poverty at the grassroots. The fund comprises an annual budgetary allocation equivalent to 2.5% of the government's ordinary revenue. This approach by the government is one among many approaches adopted in poverty reduction. However, it is general in its approach and lack clear target for development, (Khan, 2001).

Recent study by Kariuki (2008) on decentralization of funds in fighting poverty in Kenya focused on constituency development funds' intervention in promoting development in rural areas. He focused on development initiated by the CDF in poverty reduction in Kenya. Although this identified remarkable benefits in poverty reduction contributed by

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CDF funded projects, the study never identified any agricultural development project initiated through this poverty reduction approach by the government.

Nyariki and Wiggins (2000) study on "Household food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa: lessons from Kenya in Kibwezi division of Makueni district" demonstrated how various characteristics of households influence their food security status across seasons, years and locations. Between 1995 and 2000, prices of food in rural areas increased two-fold (200 per cent) while those of basic non-food items increased threefold. However, since most farmers in the semi-arid areas are faced with food shortfalls, they have to purchase food to make good the deficit between production and their food requirements. This plunged them deeper into poverty and hunger. They further concluded that this requires generation of income from non-food crops or from outside their farms. Since prices have increased, to ensure an improvement in their food security status, incomes must increase at a faster rate to increase effective demand. This has not been the case, as can be inferred from the deteriorating poverty situation in Kibwezi between the two periods in question. They also noted that the technical support, prices of inputs, including fertilizers and improved seed, have increased while producer prices have worsened the productivity. In addition, due to liberalization of grain imports, cheap grain has been finding its way into the country, pushing these prices further down. It is likely then that the observed deterioration in grain production and worsening food poverty have been triggered, among other possible causes, by the inability of farmers to net out profits from their produce. Final conclusion was that programs geared towards subsidizing and empowerment of the farmers was necessary in boosting productivity thereby mitigating against hunger among farmers in the region.

In their studies on *How are we doing on poverty and hunger reduction? A new measure of country performance,* Ugo G. and Webb P (2008) concluded that poverty and hunger are related but distinct problems. Even the indicators usually employed for measuring hunger – such as undernourishment and underweight –reflect related but different dimensions of human deprivation. They further observed that majority of developing

countries made some progress towards MDG1; however, too many countries are still falling behind, most of which are in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, a stark contrast between and within regions also emerges, such as between East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, and within Latin America and the CIS cluster. Some of the poorest developing countries performed quite well, while other better-off developing countries are struggling or stagnant in achieving the MDG1, including some high-economic growth countries. Only a limited number of countries made equitable progress on all five dimensions, and much more attention will be needed to the distributional character of poverty and hunger, if this aspect of MDG1 is not to drag back progress on the other four dimensions. They finally concluded that more research may be needed to provide further insights on context-specific lessons and driving factors underscoring countries actual successes and failures.

2.6.2 Recent commitments to end hunger

Although global program to end hunger can be traced back to FAO's Freedom from Hunger Campaign in 1960, the problem is still on the agenda. In recent years it has received increasing attention (UNCED, 1992) and the World Food Summit (WFS, 1996) adopted the Rome Declaration of. World Food Security which aimed at halving the number of hungry people in 2015, through ensuring an enabling environment, eradicating poverty and inequality, pursuing participatory and sustainable food policies, ensuring that agricultural and trade policies are conducive to fostering food security, and preventing and preparing for disasters. This goal was reiterated at the UN Millennium Summit (2000) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, 2002), along with other related goals including reducing by half the number of people living below $1 per day, and the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water. In 2002, at the WFS (2002 pg 10), the Governments reaffirmed the "right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food" but emphasized that food security is the responsibility of national governments and society.

The annual rate of reduction needs to increase from 6-8 to 22 million per year to reach the WSSD goal. This implies reducing the hungry by 2,500 humans per hour. Given that

this is a soft law target of the international community it might be useful to understand how some of the related governance systems have worked and whether they are able to, or might exacerbate the hunger problem.

2.7 Njaa Marufuku Kenya approach

Njaa Marufuku Kenya program is a government initiative developed for implementing and fulfilling MDG-1 whose target is to half the number of poor and hungry people in Kenya by the year 2015. Unlike other poverty and hunger alleviation initiative, the goal of the program is to contribute to reduction of poverty, hunger and food insecurity among poor communities in Kenya. It targets the extremely poor and vulnerable community members, empowers them through capacity building and provision of sustainable resource support to enable them participate fully in economic activities (GOK: 2007). It supports Community-Driven development initiative that increase productivity, enhance the generation of rural incomes, address health and nutritional improvement and restore and conserve natural resources base. It is one of its kind of government initiatives as it not only reduces poverty through increased diversity in agricultural production but also addresses health and nutritional improvement of the beneficiaries.

The purpose of the grant by NMK is to provide funds to build individual skills and social capital of community groups as well as to upscale innovative food security initiatives. It is envisaged that the funds will facilitate the development of revolving capital that can benefit not only the group members but also the entire community in general. Most of the poor communities are entrapped in a poverty cycle; no amount of training, awareness and outreach efforts will help them until they are given some initial capital to empower them and help break the poverty cycle an objective shared by NMK. However, to be assisted meaningfully, the poor need to be in groups who are able to articulate their needs and common interest activities/projects. In addition, they require continuous learning and adoption of new technologies.

Items to be financed are dependent upon the activities proposed to reduce poverty and hunger. This include: Farm inputs; seeds, fertilizers, feeds, and vaccines; Livestock breeding materials; goats, heifers, poultry, and fingerlings; Minor equipment/supplies; treadle pumps, drip irrigation, post harvest structures, seine nets, processing equipment, and hives; Teaching equipment; training materials, and stationery; Training and technical assistance; facilitators' costs (fuel and subsistence allowances) to enable visits by technical resource persons. NMK provides grants of up to Ksh 120,000 for crop based projects or/and up to Ksh 150,000 for livestock and fisheries based projects (or any other enterprise requiring structural inputs). Of the amount given, Kshs. 40,000 is for group's capacity building.

NMK has supported the public Agriculture Sector Ministries to work with 34 private sector organizations since the program inception in 2005. These include fifteen CBOs, nine Faith-Based Organizations, seven NGOs, two Cooperative societies and one research institute (Government of Kenya, 2005). To sustain the Public Private Partnerships (PPP), the government has invested Kshs 44,977,805 to finance joint activities, auditing, monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder feedback meetings and seed capital for the poor beneficiaries to up-scale innovative projects and create a revolving fund for sustainability. The supported projects include small-scale irrigation, production of high value and drought tolerant crops, animal production, agricultural produce value addition and marketing, water harvesting and environmental conservation, bee keeping, and HIV/AIDs management. These have benefited an estimated 18,000 households (about 144,000 people) directly with a further 400,800 people as indirect beneficiaries. Seventy four percent of the direct beneficiaries have started various group/individual based projects and are able to contribute regularly for their revolving fund to enhance sustainability (FAO, 2006).

2.7.1 Challenges of Njaa Marufuku Kenya approach in ending poverty and hunger

NMK executes its work strategies in partnership with other relevant stakeholders. Often, many partnerships fail as they are plagued with high degrees of instability arising from lack of coherent strategies and further, synergy is affected because the good intentions and rationale behind the alliances are not congruent with the strategic direction of either partner. These challenges include:

a) Unemployment:

High unemployment, especially among the youthful population, has put pressure on various sectors of the economy. This situation is aggravated by an education system that does not effectively produce skills that respond to the demands of the labour market. Rural to urban migration has also significantly contributed to unemployment in urban areas. Women form the most disadvantaged group among the unemployed.

b) HIV and AIDS Pandemics:

The high rate of HIV/AIDS has impacted negatively on agricultural production since the majority of infected persons constitute the most productive segment of the population.

c) Unfavorable Land Tenure Systems:

Lack of security of land tenure has often resulted in low utilization of agricultural land. In particular, the processes of implementation of land adjudication, the settlement of land disputes, and repossessing of irregularly acquired land are slow.

d) Poor Rural Infrastructure:

Poor rural roads and communication networks have often led to high transport costs for agricultural products to markets as well as farm inputs. In addition, electricity is either lacking or too expensive leading to reduced investments in other related services.

e) Weak Coordination of Major Stakeholders:

An integrated development strategy for the agricultural sector through harmonized programs in infrastructure, water, lands and settlement, and electricity is currently lacking. The result has been ineffectiveness in the realization of the growth targets set for the sector.

f) Unfavorable Weather Conditions:

Most crop and livestock farming in Kenya is rain-fed, and therefore prone to weather fluctuations. Droughts and floods have increased significantly in recent years. This is aggravated by widespread land degradation.

g) Low and Declining Land Productivity:

The rising population densities and the subsequent subdivision of land (into uneconomical units) and continuous cultivation have led to rapid depletion of soil nutrients, declining yields and environmental degradation.

h) High Cost of Farm Inputs:

The cost of key inputs such as certified seeds and fertilizers is high and beyond the reach of many small scale farmers. This, coupled with high levels of poverty, has led to low productivity and food insecurity in many households.

i) Poor Disaster Preparedness:

Inadequate capacity for pest and diseases control, surveillance and response constrains trade in livestock and livestock products thus hindering access to lucrative international markets. This situation threatens food security in the country especially in ASALs where Pastoralist communities depend on livestock for their livelihood and sustenance.

Modern Technology:

The use of modern science and technology in production is still very limited. This has been aggravated by lack of affordable credit, inadequate research extension-farmer

linkages and demand-driven research. Low research priority and reduced budgetary allocations has equally contributed to the current situation.

Maathai quoted in Michaelson (1994) observes that when we talk about the position of women in Africa and see how miserable it is we need to realize that the miserable women are married to miserable men. They are oppressed together and it is only a small group of elite middle-class Africans who can say they have made it. Therefore, the need to improve the economic and political spheres so that all people can move forward.

Conflicts have also contributed greatly to poverty. For example in Kenya, the December 2007 general elections culminated into ethnic rifts and conflict between January and February 2008. This has contributed to increase in food insecurity and by extension to a slowed economic development in the country. Malnutrition and poverty are on the increase. Up to 70% of the Kenyan –population suffer Malnutrition, and hence hunger. (Okong'o: The standard: October 7, 2008 Financial journal: p 1and 5) The phenomena of malnutrition, is prevalent in the case of Kenya in slums and peri-urban settlements as well as amongst the poor in the rural areas. In some of these areas, malnutrition is openly observable which, is more often than not a manifestation of poverty.

2.8 Theoretical framework

A theory is a set of interrelated constructions, or variables, definition and proposition that present a systematic view of a phenomenon by specifying relations among variables. The main purpose is that of explaining and predicting the phenomena (Kerlinger, 1964). Thus a theory establishes a cause and effect relationship between variables with the aim of exploring and predicting phenomena, and may indicate missing ideas, and links to the kind of data required. This research will therefore be pegged on two theories, namely, rational choice theory and modernization theory.

2.8.1 Rational Choice theory

Rational Choice Theory is an approach used by social scientists to understand human behavior. The approach has long been the dominant paradigm in economics, but in recent decades it has become more widely used in other disciplines such as Sociology, Political Science, and Anthropology. This spread of the rational choice approach beyond conventional economic issues is discussed by Becker (1976), Swedberg (1990)

Rational choice theory in sociology was pioneered by George Homans (1961), who set out a basic framework of exchange theory, which he grounded in assumptions drawn from behaviourist psychology. It is founded on recognition of the fact that people act rationally, of course, it has been recognized by many sociologists, but they have seen rational actions alongside other forms of action, seeing human action as involving both rational and non-rational elements. Such views of action recognize traditional or habitual action, emotional or effectual action, and various forms of value-oriented action alongside the purely rational types of action. What distinguishes rational choice theory from other forms of theory is that it denies the existence of any kinds of action other than the purely rational and calculative. All social action, it is argued, can be seen as rationally motivated, as instrumental action, however much it may appear to be irrational or non-rational. Rational choice theorists have become increasingly mathematical in orientation, converging more closely with trends in micro-economics. This trend towards formal, mathematical models of rational action was apparent in such diverse areas as theories of voting and coalition formation in political science (Downs 1957; Buchanan and Tullock 1962; Riker 1962) and explanations of ethnic minority relations (Hechter 1987) and, in a less rigorously mathematical form, social mobility and class reproduction (Goldthorpe 1996).

Rationality and Social Exchange

Basic to all forms of rational choice theory is the assumption that complex social phenomena can be explained in terms of the elementary individual actions of which they are composed. This stand point is called methodological individualism. Elster, 1989

states that the elementary unit of social life is the individual human action. To explain social institutions and social change is to show how they arise as the result of the action and interaction of individuals. In rational choice theories, individuals are seen as motivated by the wants or goals that express their 'preferences'. They act within specific, given constraints and on the basis of the information that they have about the conditions under which they are acting. At its simplest, the relationship between preferences and constraints can be seen in the purely *technical* terms of the relationship of a means to an end. As it is not possible for individuals to achieve all of the various things that they want, they must also make choices in relation to both their goals and the means for attaining these goals. Rational choice theories hold that individuals must anticipate the outcomes of alternative courses of action and calculate that which will be best for them (Coleman 1973).

The idea of 'rational action' has generally been taken to imply a conscious social actor engaging in deliberate calculative strategies. Homans (1961), argued that human behaviour, like all animal behavior, is not free but determined. It is shaped by the rewards and punishments that are encountered. People do those things that lead to rewards and they avoid whatever they are punished for. In social interaction, individuals are involved in mutual reinforcement. Each participant's behaviour rewards or punishes the other, and their joint behaviour develops through this 'exchange' of rewarding and punishing behaviours. While any behaviour can, in principle, reinforce the behaviour of another, Homans held that *approval* is the most fundamental human goal. Approval is a 'generalised reinforcer' that can reinforce a wide variety of specialized activities. Because of its generalised character, Homans saw approval as directly parallel to money. Both money and approval are general means of exchange in social interaction, one in economic exchange and the other in social exchange. The profit that a person gains in interaction is measured by the rewards received minus the costs incurred. Homans argued that 'no exchange continues unless both parties are making a profit' (Homans 1961). What this means is that unless each participant finds it profitable, the interaction will not continue. The person who experiences a 'loss' finds the interaction more costly than rewarding and

so will have an incentive to withdraw. A sustained social relationship, therefore, rests upon a balance of mutual profitability.

2.8.2 Social Interaction as Social Exchange

Rational choice theorists also recognise that the *threat* of punishment or the *promise* of a reward may motivate people just as much as the punishment or reward itself. The threat of punishment, for example, may call forth appropriate behaviour from those who wish to avoid the punishment. This assumption allowed Homans to recognise the motivating role of threats and inducements in the conditioning of human behaviour.

Exchange relations are also power relations, as the resources that people bring to their social relations are rarely equal. The outcome of any particular exchange, therefore, will depend upon the relative power of the participants. This bargaining power varies with the dependence of each participant on the exchange relationship, and this dependence varies, in turn, on the extent to which there are alternatives available to them (Emerson 1962; Heath 1976). If people are able to obtain a particular goal only through one specific social relationship, then they are highly dependent on that relationship and so will have little power to influence the 'price' that they have to pay. This reflects the fact that a monopoly supplier is able to use its market power to command a high price from its customers. Social exchange systems, like economic markets, range from this monopoly situation through various forms of oligqpoly and imperfect competition, to be fully competitive. In recent work, Emerson's colleagues have analysed the generation of power in extensive networks of exchange relationships (Cook 1983).

2.8.3 Modernization Theory

According to Bradshaw and Wallace (1996), Modernization theory is a theory of change. Some scholars claim that societies evolve by creating and using, modern forms of information and technology. Technological advances and innovation are crucial for economic and social development. Societies that undertake such advances become wealthier and more developed, whereas societies that fail to advance technologically will stagnate and possibly not survive (Bradshaw and Wallace: 1996). Modernization theory not only stresses the process of change, but also the response to that change. It also looks

at internal dynamics referring to social and cultural structure and the adaptation of new technologies.

Modernization theory is about poverty and economic, social, and political development in the countries of the third world. The modernization theorists think of the third world societies as largely traditional; stagnant and unchanging. Its values are spiritual values, not values of individual self betterment. Its rhythms of life are circular, not linear and progressive; one always returns to the same place (Bradshaw and Wallace: 1996). From an economic point of view, it is a poor subsistence life, a life that has no hope of accumulation, income, or wealth. No sense of progress inherent in it.

The modernization theorists argue that the poverty and backwardness of the third world is the failure of those societies to kindle sparks of creativity, the third world neglected to transform itself. The modern world is what economists sometimes call rational. The modern world is based on research and development and on the goal of efficiency. It is driven by the search for profit and wealth, as people take risks to do things in a new and better ways in the hope of improving their lot. The modern world is committed to growth and improvement (Bradshaw and Wallace, 1996).

Economic development of an underdeveloped people by themselves is not compatible with the maintenance of their traditional customs. A break with the latter is a pre-requisite to economic progress. What is needed is a revolution in the totality of social, cultural and religious institutions and habits, and thus in their psychological attitude, their philosophy and their way of life. What is therefore required amounts in reality to social disorganization. Unhappiness and discontentment in the sense of wanting more than is obtainable at any moment is to be generated. The suffering and dislocation that may be caused in the process may be objectionable, but it appears to be the price that has to be paid for economic development. As societies modernize, modernization theory points out that they leave behind their historical agrarian lifestyles in favor of modern industrial or technological lifestyles, losing the ability to feed themselves directly, and leaving themselves at risk in the case of economic downturns. At the same time, modernization

theory looks at the positive benefits of nations modernizing. New technologies often bring with them advancements in medical care, food production, education, and disaster protection. While modern communications can lead to a homogeneous culture, it can also help spread social ideals of greater liberty and freedom. Societies that modernize tend to move towards more free and open systems of government, greater equality between genders, religions, and races, and more invested populaces.

In their becoming modern article, Inkeles and Smith in Seligson and smith (1993) argue that modern attitudes produce modern behaviors that are essential to development. "Underdevelopment is a state of mind". According to Inkeles and smith, attitudes are "the essence of national development itself." The modern man is an informed participant citizen; he has marked sense of personal efficacy; how to conduct his personal affairs; and he is ready for new experiences and ideas; he is relatively open-minded and cognitively flexible (Seligson & Smith, 1993).

Njaa Marufuku Kenya program is well crafted embracing the modern approaches of agrarian technology among the society geared to emanticipating the population from vicious cycle of poverty. Modernization theory asserts that the poverty and backwardness of the third world is the failure of those societies to kindle sparks of creativity as third world neglected to transform itself. NMK approach to fighting poverty and reducing hunger is based on the fundamentals of creative utilization of traditional resources within community empowering them with technology and capacity needed boosting productivity whilst commercializing on it .

2.9 Conceptual Model

A concept is defined by Nachmias and Nachmias (1996) as an abstraction, a symbol, a representation of an object or one of its properties, or of a behavioral phenomenon.

The conceptual model is an illustration of Key variables and their interconnection. A model therefore is an abstraction from reality that orders and simplifies our view of reality by representing its essential characteristics.

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Figure 1.1 : Conceptual Model Diagram.
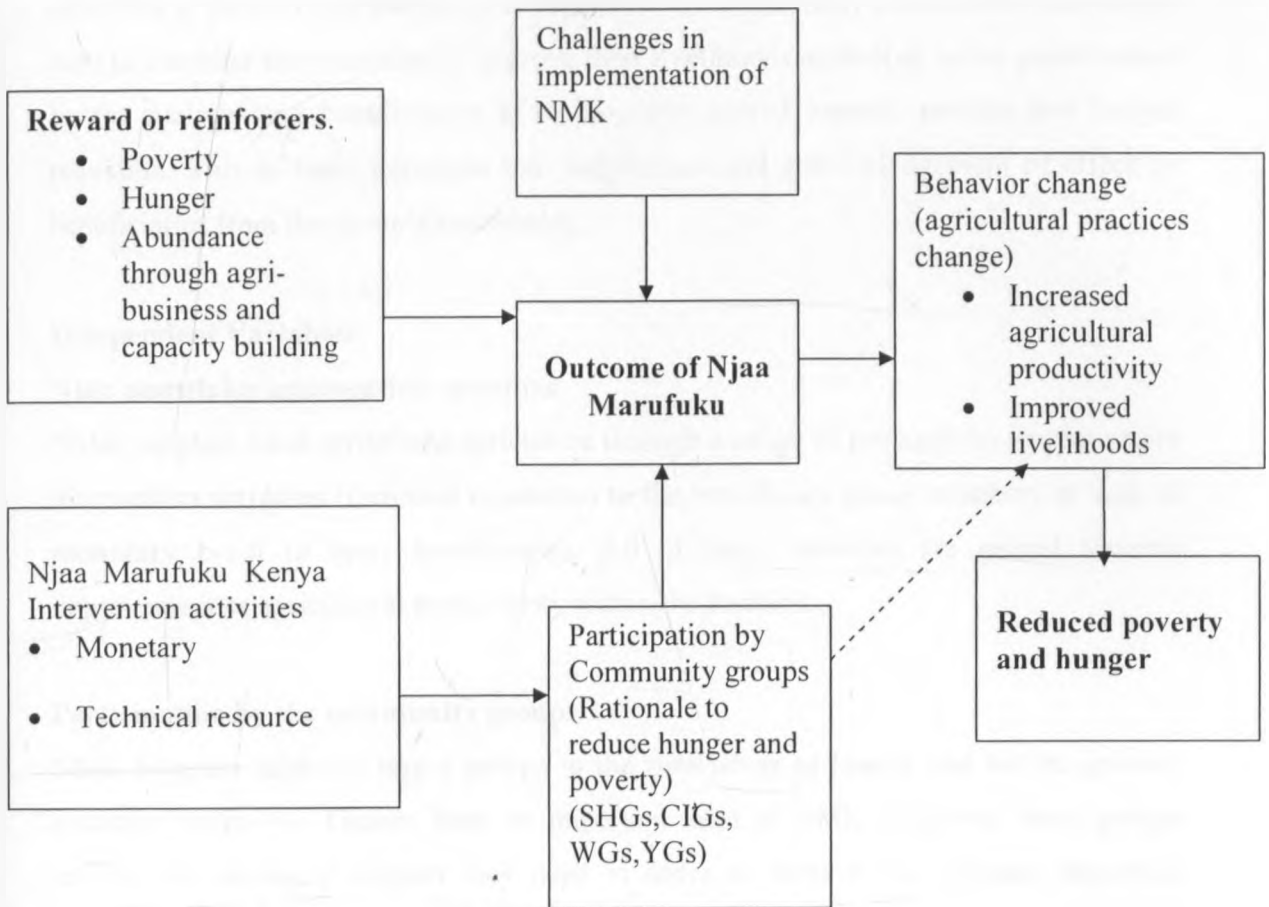
Source: (Researcher/author: 2009)

2.11 Operationalization of Variables

A variable is a measurable characteristic that assumes different values among the subjects. It is therefore a logical way of expressing a particular attribute in a subject (Mugenda and Mugenda: 2003). A variable is a discrete phenomena that can be measured in two or more categories. The independent variable is the variable predicted to, while the dependent variable is predicted from. The independent variable for this particular study are, program intervention activities, participation by the community benefitting groups, program implementation, program outcomes and program rewards and reinforces.

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The **dependent variable** in this study is improved livelihoods through (behavior change) reduction in poverty and hunger. It is dependent on availability, accessibility, and know-how to combine the resources to improve their livelihoods as well as active participation by the participating beneficiaries in to programs geared towards poverty and hunger reduction. This in turns translates into Satisfaction and acknowledgement of effect by beneficiaries from the group's households.

Independent Variables

Njaa marufuku intervention activities

NMK program have revitalized agriculture through a range of productivity improvement intervention activities (technical resources) to the beneficiary group members as well as **monetary** boost to these beneficiaries. All of these activities are geared towards improvement of agricultural productivity within the location.

Participation by the community groups.

NMK program initiative target groups in the rural areas as launch pad for the poverty reduction initiatives. Groups form an important facet of NMK programs, these groups receive the necessary support they need in order to achieve the program objective. Groups participation and characteristics have direct effect on the overall project income in several ways;

- Group overall participation
- Group members socio economic characteristics
- Organization structure of the group

Challenges of NMK Program implementation

Implementation is a very important part of program cycle, however it is usually marred by numerous challenges that project manager must tackle adequately in order to achieve target out put. These challenges may include:

- Cooperation by Self help groups.
- Monetary disbursement delay
- Climatic challenges

- Projects identification and approvals
- Participation by beneficiaries

NMK program out comes

Program out comes may be;

- Successful establishment of anti poverty agricultural projects
- Link of beneficiaries to potential agricultural trade for produce
- Training of beneficiaries on the best agricultural practices
- Overall increase in agricultural productivity output

Rewards and reinforcement

These comprises of motivational factors compelling the beneficiary join into poverty and hunger reduction program. They comprise of;

- Poverty levels
- Need to increase productivity/ fear for hunger
- Abundance through agri-business and capacity building

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

According to Cooper and Schindler (2003), a research design is a frame or blueprint for conducting the research project work. It details the procedures necessary for obtaining the information needed to structure or solve the research problem. A good research design ensure that the research work is conducted effectively and efficiently.

3.2 Research Site

Murang'a north district former Murang'a district covers an area of 930 sq.km, of this 593 sq.km is agricultural land. The population is estimated at 350,000 persons and 84,900 households, with an average family size of 4 persons. The average farm holding per family stands at 0.7 ha. The district has 4 administrative divisions (Kahuro,Kangema,Mathioya and Kiharu) and 18 locations. Kiharu division was part of the study research site. It consists of four locations namely; Gaturi,Mbiri,Kimathi and Gikindu

According to the Farm Management Handbook of the Ministry of Agriculture vol.11 the district has 9 major agro-ecological zones; UHO (forest reserve), UH1 (sheep, dairy zone), LH1 (tea-dairy zone), UM1 (coffee-tea zone), UM2 (Main coffee zone), UM3 (marginal coffee zone), UM4 (sunflower-maize zone), LM3 (cotton zone) and LM4 (marginal cotton zone). UHO is the wettest while LM4 is the driest. Most of the divisions in the district are under LH1, UM1, UM2 and UM3 Jaetzold et.al (2007). However, Kiharu division lies in the agro-ecological zones UM3,UM4,LM3 and LM4 which are less productive zones. Gikindu location in Kiharu division ranks the poorest of all locations within the division (www.cbs,go.ke). It lies in zones UM4, LM3 and LM4, hence the need to assess the impact of NMK program in poverty and hunger reduction within the location. NMK program was officially rolled into all districts across Kenya at the same time in year 2005 and it is justifiable to carry out a research assessing its impact

into poverty reduction. Gikindu was the first location to receive NMK funds in the division.

3.3 Sampling

Researchers usually cannot make direct observations of every individual in the population they are studying. Instead, data is collected from a subset of individuals (a sample) and use those observations to make inferences about the entire population Kalton (1983). Sudman, (1976) affirms that the type of correspondence between the sample and the larger population is most important when a researcher wants to know what proportion of the population has a certain characteristic like a particular opinion or a demographic feature. Studies that try to describe success of programs like NMK in participating farmers within a population required a well representative sample in order to make a sound conclusion

3.3.1 Target Population

A population is defined as the total collection of elements about which we wish to make some inferences. According to Cooper and Schindler (2003), a population element is the subject such as a person, an organization, customers, or the amount of quantitative data on which the measurement is being taken. For the current research work population consisted of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary of NMK farmers groups registered with Ministry of Agriculture. The target sample population was a total of 120 farmers from both beneficiary (with over 3 years in NMK programs) and non beneficiary groups with more than three years of registration on fifty fifty basis. Three years in the program was assumed significant enough to realize tangible benefits from the program.

3.3.2 Sampling Frame

The process of constructing or designing a sample is called sampling, which begins by defining the sampling frame. Sampling frame is a complete or partial listing of items comprising the population. Sampling frame provides a list of elements from which the sample is actually drawn. For the present research study, sampling frame came from the

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groups of farmers both benefiting and non-benefiting from NMK program. Therefore, the sampling frame used as a checklist for drawing samples of elements (farmers groups) for sampling purposes. According to schedule of registered community based organization with Ministry of Agriculture there are 15 farmers groups participating in NMK programs and 21 non benefiting groups. The total population of farmer's membership of beneficiary groups is 396 and 674 for non-benefiting groups. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Gikindu has a total of 36 farmers groups /organizations with a total membership of 1070 as presented in table 3.1 and 3.2.

Table 3.1 Farmers groups participating in Njaa Marufuku program in Gikindu location

	Name	Membership
1	Gitungano Dairy Goats	22
2	Uigwithania	24
3	Riandira Hort.SHG	31
4	Gikindu Quality Mango	31
5	Karii dairy goats	17
6	Kibuta self help-poultry	20
7	Mirira Hort group	24
8	Iribi women SHG	51
9	Matimu self help group(Horticulture)	20
10	Gikuu self help-Horticulture	35
11	Gitumbi Mumbu self help(Horticulture)	23
12	Githuri Karemaini Men Self Help(Dairy Goat)	21
13	Mirira Horticultural_ group	24
14	Kiambiriria dairy goat group	25
15	Nyakihai women group	28
	Total	**396**

Source; Ministry of Agriculture 2008

Table 3.2 Non beneficiary of NMK funds farmers group.

Name	Membership
Kamuiru women group	40
Gikuu women group	38
Kamungano dairy goat	15
Muthigiriri	24
Karii widows	40
Kabirwa widows	39
Kamuthoni women group	35
Gakunja women group	56
Wendani self help group	24
Kamami self help group	21
Magaka self help group	38
Micodev	15
Mioro women group	21
Kiangatia women group	52
Mwitumberia women group	25
Kiamuri self help group	30
Kiambicho women group	50
Wandaka women group	40
Gikuu Small scale	15
Warumagi Self help group	36
Arahuka self help group	20
Total	**674**

Source: Ministry of agriculture 2008

3.3.3 Sampling Technique / design

Sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individual selected represents the large group from which they are selected (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Both probability and non- probability sampling techniques will be used in this study. Probability and non-probability are two types of sampling design. Probability sampling occurs when the population has equal chance of being selected. This includes simple random, stratified random sampling and cluster sampling. When the likelihood of the population selection is not actually known; it is non-probability. It includes quota, purposive and convenience sampling methods (Williams, Tutty and Grinnell, 1995). The current research project work used a non- probability sampling design that is arbitrary and subjective because each element (groups of farmers) has a non- zero chance of being included in the research work. Purposive sampling (judgemental) targeting beneficiary groups with more than 3 years in NMK program and

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active non-beneficiary group with more than 3 years of registration was used in selection of participating farmers groups while random sampling was used in sampling the participating farmers within a group. Gender parity was not observed in this study as distribution of men to women is not equal within groups and benefits accrued are shared within the members households.

3.3.4 Sample Size

Sample size is a given quota of particular types of people to interview and the quota is organized so that final sample should be representative of population (Robson, 2002). The study sample size was 12 farmers groups each from both beneficiary (6) and non-beneficiary (6) of NMK programs and ten farmers were randomly selected from each group. This comprised of a sample size of 120 farmers' respondents used represented 11% of the total participating farmer's population of interest. The selection of the sample size depends on various factors. It should bear some proportional relationship to the size of the population from which it is drawn or can be the population as a whole. The researcher then settled on a sample size of 120 because it was less costly, convenient and tight project time lines. Four key informants were included in the study in order to come up with highly conclusive decision on success of NMK program in reducing poverty and hunger within the study area.

Table 3.3 Sampled participating farmer groups

	Name	Number of members	Sample size
1	Riandira Hort.SHG	31	10
2	Gikindu Quality Mango	31	10
3	Mirira Horticulture group	24	10
4	Iribi women SHG-Mushroom production	51	10
5	Gikuu self help-Horticulture	35	10
6	Kabuta self help-poultry	26	10
	Total		60

Table 3.4 Sampled non beneficiary farmers groups

	Name	Number of members	Sample size
1	Gikuu women group	38	10
2	Muthigiriri	24	10
3	Kamuthoni women group	35	10
4	Wendani self help group	24	10
5	Kiamuri self help group	30	10
6	Warumagi Self help group	36	10
	Total		60

3.4 Data Collection

Data is a piece of information that helps to analyze and appraise the given problem in a research study. It could be either a primary data, which is collected individually or a secondary data that is obtained from an already existing source (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003) The data to be used for this research work was primary data collected by the researcher from randomly selected target sample population, structured questionnaires consisting of both open and closed questions was principal instruments in collecting primary data. In addition, key informants interview schedules were also be administered.

3.5 Data Analysis

The data analysis approaches was both quantitative and qualitative using descriptive statistics. The data was then analyzed with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Baker (1985) notes that descriptive statistics, which is a simple statistical method, aids in description but not to support or falsify a relationship between variables. Data will then be interpreted using descriptive statistics. Frequencies and Percentages were also used to facilitate easy understanding. Quantitative data was then presented using tables, pie charts, and graphs. Sociological analysis and content analysis of Key informant's interviews were also used for qualitative data obtained from in depth interviews.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 DATA PRESENTATION

4.1 Introductions

The main purpose of this study was to assess the success of in reducing poverty and hunger among households in Kenya's rural areas in Kiharu division, Gikindu location. The sample of the study included 120 households equally selected from both beneficiary and non beneficiary from farmers groups with over 3 years of registration. Retrieved data was checked for errors, edited, coded, entered and analyzed using SPSS. The findings of this study are presented using proportion mean scores and frequency distributions. Information is further presented in form of pie charts, bar graphs and tables. The over all response rate was 97 % however, response rate per question varied from one question to another, the following subsections in this chapter present the findings of the study.

4.2 Socio-Demographic Information of the Respondents

This section of study formed the first part of the questionnaire. Socio-demographic information of the respondents gives insightful background information that would help interpret the findings on their views about NMK in the right context.

4.2.1 Distribution of respondents' Gender

Gender is an important factor in development issues. The proportion of participation of gender representation has been an issue of concern to sociologists as well as economic stakeholders.

Table 4.1: Percent distribution of respondents by Gender

Respondents Gender	Distribution			
	Beneficiaries		Non beneficiaries	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Male	28	48	11	19
Female	30	52	47	81
Total	58	100	58	100

Study results showed that females were dominant majority for both beneficiary (52%) and non beneficiary (81%) of NMK program. It can be concluded that females engaged more in poverty reduction than male, in this context.

4.2.2 Age Distribution
Respondents were asked to note their age brackets accordingly. Results were as presented in table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Percent distribution of respondents by Age

Respondents Age	Distribution			
	Beneficiaries		Non beneficiaries	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Below 25 years	3	5	-	-
26-35 years	11	19	14	24
36-45 years	17	29	13	22
Above 45 years	27	47	31	54
Total	58	100	58	100

Majority of respondents in the study were below age 45 years 53% for beneficiaries and 46% for non-beneficiaries. The age of beneficiaries is instrumental in utilization of NMK funds since they are still more energetic and active. However, there were no respondents below 25 years among non-beneficiaries and minority of 5% among beneficiaries.

4.2.3 Marital Status

Majority of the respondents interviewed were married, 79% for beneficiaries and 81% for non-beneficiaries. On the other hand a high percentage of widows (19%) was reported in non beneficiaries than in beneficiaries (10%).

4.2.4 Level of Education
Education is a vital tool for development. The level of education of respondents in the study was investigated under this section. Results are as seen in table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Level of education of respondents both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Level of education	Distribution			
	Beneficiaries		Non beneficiaries	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Never been to school	2	3	-	-
Primary	18	31	37	64
Secondary	35	60	21	36
University	3	5	-	-
Total	58	100	58	100

Study findings indicated that more than half of the respondents under study had attained primary level of education. Notably majority (60%) of beneficiaries respondents had achieved secondary education as compared to 36% of non-beneficiaries.

4.2.5 Respondents Monthly income

This section of the study sought to establish the level of income of the study respondents. To achieve this respondent were asked to approximate their monthly income and indicate accordingly within the income bracket provided. Results are presented in table 4.4.

Table 4.4 Distribution of respondents Monthly Income

Monthly income	Distribution			
	Beneficiaries		Non-beneficiaries	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
Below 5,000	19	33	44	76
6,000-10,000	24	41	7	12
11000-15 000	7	12	5	9
16,000-20,000	-	-	-	-
Over 20,000	8	14	2	3
Total	58	100	58	100

Results revealed that although income was stratified across all respondents in the study, majority (76%) of respondents under non beneficiaries' category had a monthly income of below 5,000 Kenya shillings as opposed to 33% of beneficiaries of NMK. It can be interpreted that NMK program activities promoted increase in household income. As observed in the study very few beneficiaries had monthly income of below 5000

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shillings. As indicated in the results, majority of beneficiaries had an average monthly income of between shillings 6000-10000. In support of this observation, key informants reported that NMK program had attracted more people into productive farming and that income (benefits) had improved as a result.

4.2.6 Period of farming in years

Table 4.5: Farming period of Respondents in years

Period of farming in years	Distribution			
	Beneficiaries		Non beneficiaries	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
1-5 years	11	19	-	-
6-10 years	6	10	6	10
Over 10 years	41	71	52	90
Total	**58**	**100**	**58**	**100**

The study reported that majority of respondents interviewed across categories had farming experience of over 10 years, beneficiaries (71%) and 90% of non beneficiaries. However a proportion of 19% of beneficiary respondents had experience of between 1 and 5 years. Although majority had over 10 years in farming, NMK program had attracted more households into farming since a good number of beneficiaries had farming period of less than 10 years as compared to non beneficiaries.

4.3 Knowledge and utilization of NMK program

4.3.1 Medium of awareness of NMK funds

There are many medium of generating awareness in a social set up. The awareness on NMK program by beneficiaries was sought by the researcher. Respondents were asked to state the medium through which they got to know about NMK program. Figure 4.1 presents the findings.

Figure 4.1: Medium of knowledge on NMK awareness
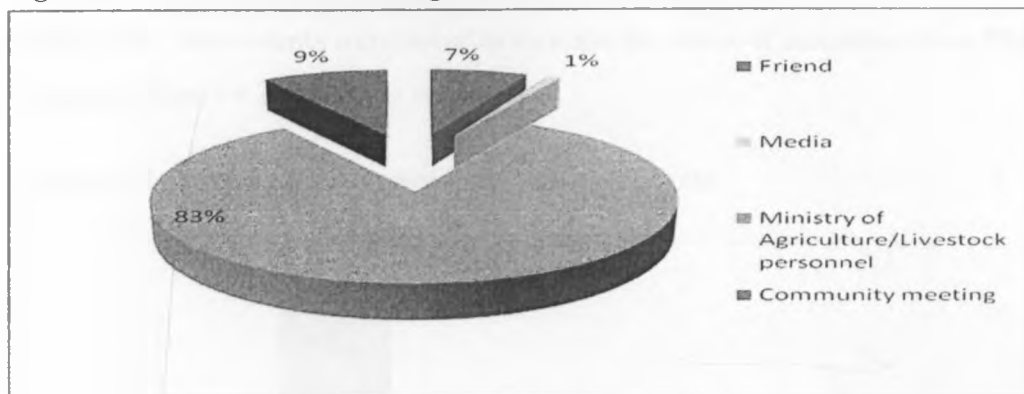
Majority of 83% of the respondents confirmed that they got to know about NMK programs through the Ministry of agriculture and Livestock. A minority of 9%, 7% and 1% confirmed that they got the awareness from community meetings, friend and media respectively.

4.3.1.1 Non beneficiary source of fund

This section of the study aimed at establishing whether there was any form of assistance available to the non beneficiaries of NMK program. Respondents were asked whether they had received any funds. Table 4.6 presents the results.

Table 4.6 Existence of any form of assistance for non NMK beneficiaries

Existence of funding for Non beneficiaries groups	Distribution of non beneficiaries response	
	N	Percentage
Yes	8	14
No	50	86
Total	**58**	**100**

Results indicated that only a minority of 5 percent of the non beneficiaries of NMK had received cash from other organizations. Respondents further named sources of this cash; CDF and GTZ and KENFAP were the identified sources of finance.

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4.3.2 Forms of assistance from NMK programs

Beneficiary respondents were asked to mention the forms of assistance from NMK program. Figure 4.2 shows the results.

Figure 4.2: Forms of assistance from NMK program
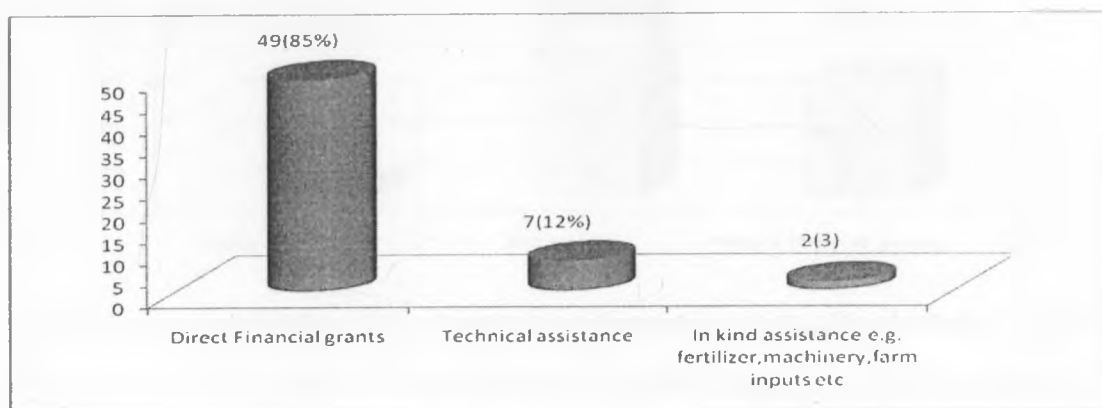
Direct financial grants were the most reported form of NMK program assistance as reported by beneficiary, minority of respondents reported technical assistance, in kind assistance on small scale. However NMK non beneficiaries acknowledged cash and in kind donation, notably none of the 8 respondents acknowledged receiving any technical assistance as reported by NMK beneficiaries.

4.3.3 Utilization of NMK funds by beneficiaries

Resource utilization is a crucial step in poverty reduction as this is the stage in which beneficiaries use the grants advanced to them under NMK program. Respondents were asked to indicate the number of years they have been using NMK funds as well as activities they have engaged in utilization of the grant. Results are as presented in figure 4.3.

Figure 4.3: Period of NMK funds utilization.
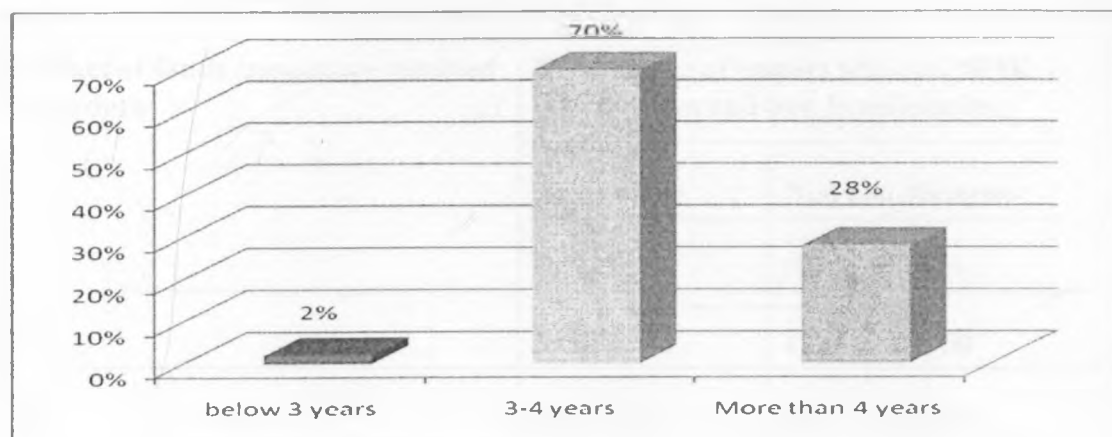
Study observed that 98% of the beneficiary respondents had utilized NMK funds for a period of over three years. Respondents were further asked to identify activities they utilized funds on. Majority of respondents reported that they used funds to; buy dairy goats both for individuals and members, buying farm inputs (fertilizers, chemicals), revolving funds, training, establishing nurseries and buying poultry among other activities.

4.3.4 Non beneficiaries' source of funds for poverty and hunger reduction

This section of the study sought to establish existence of funding to non beneficiaries of NMK program. Results established that only 10 percent of non- beneficiaries reported to utilize funds from other sources of funding apart from the NMK. These sources included agricultural finance corporation, GTZ and KENFAP. These respondents utilized the funds in agricultural activities as a way of reducing poverty.

4.4 Effect of NMK cash grant in poverty and hunger reduction among the

households.

4.4.1 Impact of NMK funds in poverty and hunger reduction

This section of study aimed at assessing whether utilized funds had made impact on poverty and hunger reduction among respondents. Results are as presented in table 4.7.

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Table 4.7: Comparison of impact of grants to both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries

Impact of funds /assistance received by groups	Distribution of impact between NMK beneficiaries and non beneficiaries			
	Beneficiary		Non beneficiaries	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	53	91	4	50
No	5	9	4	50
Total	58	100	8	100

Majority of NMK beneficiaries (91%) acknowledged that NMK funds have had positive effect in reduction of poverty and hunger among the households. Only a small proportion of 9 % of respondents acknowledged no effect. Non- beneficiaries were divided on 50-50 basis whether the cash had made an impact or not. This shows that non-beneficiaries could not clearly identify whether there was impact or not as a result of utilization of the funds in group's activities as opposed to NMK who clearly acknowledged the impact realized as a result of NMK program funds. Although respondents had almost equal level of formal education (primary and secondary), technical assistance offered by NMK enhanced beneficiaries utilization of skills, funds and education as opposed to non-beneficiaries. The respondents were further asked to indicate the extent of this effect in reduction of poverty and hunger.

Table 4.8: Comparison of NMK beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries on whether poverty and hunger have reduced and extent of reduction

Extent of poverty and hunger reduction	Type of Respondents and Distribution			
	Beneficiaries		Non beneficiaries	
	N	%	N	%
High extent	35	60		
Moderate extent	18	31	3	38
Low extent	5	9	5	62
Total	58	100	8	100

Findings showed that NMK cash impacted positively on reduction of poverty and hunger to a high and moderate extent as reported by more than 50% of the beneficiaries' respondents. On the other hand, non beneficiaries acknowledged that the financial assistance received had positively impacted on poverty and hunger reduction to a low extent. It can be concluded that NMK program rated highly on positively impacting on poverty and hunger reduction among the receiving groups. Key informants also observed that NMK beneficiaries livelihoods were better as compared to non-beneficiaries, they further hailed NMK grants for aiding beneficiaries in initiating projects and imparting skills that would have been otherwise hard to realize.

4.4.2 Extent of Contribution of NMK to poverty and hunger reduction among households

NMK grant initiative as an anti-poverty strategy depends heavily on reducing poverty through the promotion of economic growth through improvement of livelihoods of the recipient. Respondents were asked to indicate the extent of contribution of NMK to poverty and hunger reduction, results are presented in the table 4.9.

Table 4.9: Percent Distribution of Respondents according to Contribution of NMK program to poverty and hunger reduction

NMK activities contributing to poverty and hunger reduction among the beneficiaries	Extent of poverty reduction by NMK program					
	Large Extent	Moderate Extent	Low Extent	Not at all	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	N
Through monetary assistance	30	47	13	10	100	53
Agricultural technical assistance e.g. trainings	83	-	17		100	53
Through market linkages for agricultural produce	17	25	19	40	100	53
Subsidizing of Farm input	13	21	9	57	100	53

As results show, NMK program contributed in poverty reduction in many activities. More than 50% of the respondents indicated that the program contributed in monetary assistance to a moderate extent. Eighty three percent of respondents acknowledged that

the program contributed in agricultural technical assistance e.g. training. However the program to a lower extent (19%) and not at all (40%) contributed to market linkage for agricultural products whereas 57% indicate NMK program contributed not at all to subsiding farm input. it can further be concluded from the results that NMK program very much contributed to monetary assistance and technical assistant in fight against poverty and hunger among beneficiaries as also confirmed by the key informants, money received was put into good use by beneficiaries by investing into already identified viable agricultural project for greater returns without much influence from stakeholders as observed by key informants .

4.4.3 Existence of other sources of finances to beneficiaries

Beneficiary respondents were asked of existence of other sources of financial assistance besides NMK programs. Results presented in the table 4.10 showed that 17% of the respondents reported existence of other sources of financial assistance apart from NMK programs. However they noted that NMK program formed the largest percentage of financial contribution/assistance in comparison to the others. They attributed these sources to moderately reducing poverty and hunger. In comparison therefore it was observed that other stakeholder's input was not significant enough to compromise the impact of the NMK program in this study.

Table 4.10: Distribution of other stakeholders in fighting poverty and hunger

reduction

Other stakeholders apart from NMK in poverty and hunger reduction	Distribution	
	N	Percent
None	48	83
DGAK	5	9
GTZ	3	5
Min of Environment KENFAP	2	3
Total	**58**	**100**

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4.5 Involvement in decision making process in poverty and hunger reduction.

Decision-making makes it possible to adopt the best course of action in carrying out a given task, when there are different ways of performing a task. Choosing the best methods of decision-making ensures optimum use of the available resources, enables finding a solution to any problem and provides the best course of action in each given situation. This yields satisfaction in beneficiaries and motivates them to put in their best efforts and this result in higher output. The researcher aimed at establishing the level of involvement of NMK beneficiaries in poverty reduction and hunger initiated programs. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they were involved in decision making and if so at what level they were involved. Results showed that majority (83%) acknowledged involvement in decision making process of NMK programs. Respondents further indicated level of involvement in some decision items as shown in table 4.11.

Table 4.11: Distribution of NMK beneficiary respondents according to extent of Decision making by type of decision made.

Types of decision made	Extent of decision making				
	Large Extent	Moderate Extent	Low Extent	Total	
	%	%	%	%	N
Capacity building	29	51	20	100	51
Sustainable resource support	52	38	10	100	51
Agricultural development initiatives	27	73	-	100	51
Health and nutritional improvement agenda	33	59	8	100	51
Conservation of natural resource	31	55	14	100	51

Findings showed that most of respondents were involved in decision making process in a number of activities, with majority, 52% of the respondents reporting to be involved in sustainable resource support. Also, more than 50% of beneficiaries were involved to a moderate extent in conservation of natural resources while 33% were to a large extent involved in health and nutritional improvement agenda and 28% in conservation of natural resource decision making processes. On the other hand 20% of the respondents

reported to be involved in capacity building decision to a low extent. Although there are shortcomings in NMK program decision making process involvement by stakeholders, the success of this program can be partly attributed to involvement of beneficiaries in decision making process, as confirmed by key informants who indicated that farmers were further involved in deciding and selecting viable projects as well as identifying training needs.

4.6 Perceived food security in individual households.

This section of study aimed at assessing the opinion of beneficiaries and non beneficiaries of NMK programs on individual household food security needs. Results were as presented in table 4.12.

Table 4.12: Percent Distribution of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries according to degree of felt individual household food security by type of food security or insecurity.

Food security description	Description of food security of individual households											
	Beneficiaries						Non- beneficiaries					
	Critically serious	Very serious	Serious	Less serious	Total		Critically serious	Very serious	Serious	Less serious	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	N	%	%	%	%	%	N
Food availability and food access	-	7	21	72	100	58	52	35	13	-	100	58
Chronic food insecurity	-	4	45	51	100	53	31	60	9	-	100	58
Transitory food insecurity	4	23	32	41	100	53	35	55	10	-	100	58
Malnutrition & under-nourishment	-	23	36	41	100	53	50	34	12	4	100	58
Vulnerability	-	19	30	51	100	53	31	69		-	100	58

Comparative results between beneficiaries and non beneficiaries on household food security showed that non beneficiaries felt more unsecure on their household food security as observed in non beneficiaries results were very much skewed towards either critically or more serious as compared to beneficiaries of NMK program as shown by results presented in table 4.12. This shows that NMK program has to some extent achieved in promoting food security among the participating households. The benefits are as a result of NMK programs which have promoted increased agricultural production through cash grant and trainings as opposed to non beneficiaries of the program.

4.7 Proficiency needed to enable produce effectively

Researcher sought the opinion of both beneficiary and non beneficiary respondents on areas in need of more proficiency in order to maximize on productivity. Results are as shown in the table 4.13.

Table 4.13: Percent distribution of beneficiaries and non- beneficiaries according to felt need for proficiency

Need proficiency areas	Degree of felt need for proficiency											
	Beneficiaries						Non- beneficiaries					
	Slightly important	Important	Very important	Critically important	Total		Slightly important	Important	Very important	Critically important	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	N	%	%	%	%	%	N
Individual skills	-	-	33	67	100	58	-	3	33	64	100	58
Social capital of community groups as well as to upscale	-	-	50	50	100	58	-	4	43	53	100	58
Innovative food security initiatives	-	-	29	71	100	58	-	7	48	45	100	56
Revolving capital	-	-	33	67	100	58	-	-	39	61	100	54
Training, awareness	-	-	24	76	100	58	-	-	16	84	100	58

According to results comparison of beneficiaries and non- beneficiaries showed that although respondents reported similar areas of proficiency some differences were identified in both groups. On critically important scale a majority of both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries 67% and 64% respectively indicated individual skills as critically important, 71% of the beneficiaries reported innovative food security initiatives as critically important as opposed to 43 % of non- beneficiaries. Also observed was 53 % of non beneficiaries reported social capital of community groups as critically important as opposed to 50% of the beneficiaries. Moreover, 84% of non-beneficiary respondents reported training, awareness and out reach efforts as opposed to 76% the beneficiary respondents. As observed in need for areas of proficiency NMK program had comparatively reduced needs on critical scale as opposed to non beneficiaries. As noted beneficiaries appreciated the need for innovative food security initiatives this can be attributed to openness of mind as they interact with projects. Technical assistance offered by NMK program reduced the demand for training awareness and out reach effort above critical level among beneficiaries.

4.8 Challenges in implementing activities of NMK program.

Respondents were asked whether there existed challenges in implementing activities of NMK program within the area. Results are as presented in the figure 4.4 below.

Figure 4.4: Existence of challenges in implementation of NMK activities .
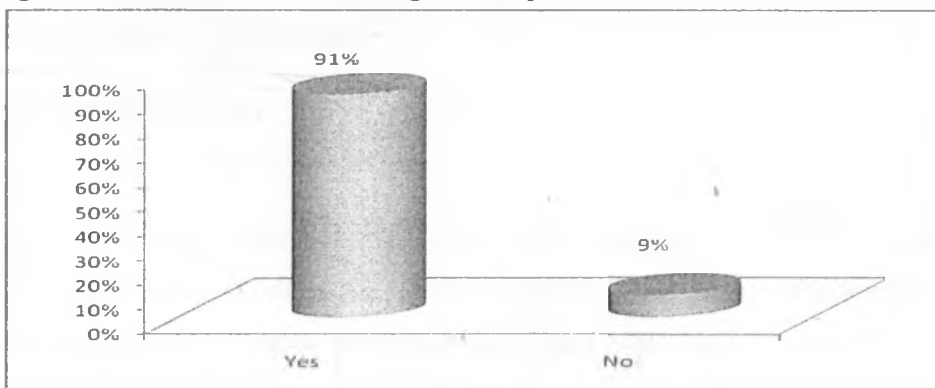
Majority 91% of the respondents revealed that there existed numerous challenges in implementation of NMK program activities. Respondents were then presented with challenges and were asked to indicate the extent to which each affected activities of NMK programs. Results were as shown in the table 4.14.

Table 4.14: Percent distribution of challenges and extent of impact on implementation of activities of NMK program

Challenges in implementing NMK activities	Extent of impact on NMK.				
	High extent	Modera te	Low Extent	Total	
	%	%	%	%	N
Education	80	9	11	100	44
HIV and AIDS Pandemics	48	25	27	100	44
Unfavorable Land Tenure System	55	45	-	100	44
Poor Rural Infrastructure	35	21	44	100	48
Weak Co-ordination of Major Stakeholders	28	60	12	100	40
Unfavorable weather Condition	85	15	-	100	46
Low and Declining Land Productivity	70	30	-	100	46
High cost of farm Inputs	100	-	-	100	53
Poor Disaster Preparedness	57	20	23	100	44
Modern Technology	76	24	-	100	46

Study outcome indicated that there are numerous challenges that affected the implementation activities of NMK program. The major challenges hindering the implementation activities to a high extent were high cost of inputs (100%) unfavourable weather condititons (85%), education and modern technology 80%, modern technology 76% . On the other hand,weak cordination of major stakeholders affected the program at

moderate extent (60%) and unfavourable land tenure impacted the program at high extent 55%. Key informants further observed that misappropriation of funds by groups ,incompetent leaderships within the groups as addatonal challenges to the NMK programs .However the informats noted that most of these challenges were not NMK specific but more of group specific challenges.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a summary of the study findings. It also presents the recommendations, conclusion and areas for further research. The data was analyzed by use of SPSS package to produce the descriptive statistics. Frequency tables and charts were used to describe the data and draw conclusions on the findings. This study was guided by the following specific objectives;

1) To identify NMK benefiting households in reduction of poverty and hunger in Gikindu location.
2) To examine ways in which beneficiaries utilize NMK funds to reduce poverty and hunger.
3) To establish the extent of beneficiaries involvement in decision making on activities of reducing poverty and hunger.
4) To establish the impact of NMK cash grant on poverty and hunger reduction among the beneficiaries.
5) To examine challenges facing implementation of activities of NMK in reducing poverty and hunger.

5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The research findings are as presented in chapter four and the following summaries are made in light of the objectives of the study. The following are major key findings of the study.

The Study observed that 98 percent of the beneficiaries the among the respondents had utilized NMK funds for over three years period. Respondents outlined various activities in utilization of these funds they included; buying of dairy goats both for individuals and

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members, buying farm inputs (fertilizers, chemicals), revolving funds, trainings, establishing nurseries and buying poultry among other activities.

Findings show that most of the respondents were involved in decision making process in a number of activities, majority of 52% of the respondents reported to be involved in sustainable resource support, more than 50% of beneficiaries were involved to a moderate extent in conservation of natural resources while 33% were to a large extent involved in health and nutritional improvement agenda and conservation of natural resource decision making processes respectively. On the other hand 20% of the respondents reported to be involved in capacity building decision making on a low extent. However, most of the key informants noted that participating beneficiaries were not adequately involved in decision making process as most of the stakeholders patronage and unilaterally made decision.

Majority of NMK beneficiaries (91%) acknowledged that NMK cash grant had positive effect in reduction of poverty and hunger among the households. Only a small proportion of 9 % of respondents acknowledged no effect. Non beneficiaries were divided on 50-50 basis whether the cash had made an impact or not. This shows that non beneficiaries could not clearly identify whether there was impact or not as a result of utilization of the funds in groups activities as opposed to NMK who clearly acknowledged the impact realized as a contribution of NMK program funds. Further analysis established that majority of respondents, 50% estimated reduction to a scale of either high or moderate extent. Comparison of livelihood of benefiting and non benefiting households showed that NMK program beneficiaries were better of since they had projects that generate income for their households.

Study outcome indicated that there are numerous challenges that affected the implementation activities of NMK program. The major challenges hindering the implementation activitiess to a high extent were high cost of inputs (100%) unfavourable weather condititons (85%), education and modern technology 80%, modern technology 76%. On the other hand,weak cordination of major stakeholders affected the program at

55

moderate extent (60%) and unfavourable land tenure impacted the program at high extent 55%. Key informants further helped identify more challenges that include; misappropriation of grants funds by individual groups, incompetent group leadership, ineffective coordination of stakeholder's activities, education level of the beneficiaries and delay in disbursement of cash to approved groups projects.

5.2 CONCLUSION

From the findings of this study several conclusions can be drawn. These conclusions are;

Resource identification and utilization form the foundation of would be successful program. The utilization of these resources must directly affect the immediate needs in poverty and hunger reduction. It can therefore be concluded that respondents in the study utilized NMK cash in activities that directly and positively impacted on poverty and hunger reduction. Activities like buying of dairy goats both for individuals and members; buying farm inputs (fertilizers, chemicals), revolving funds, trainings, establishing tree nurseries and buying poultry among other activities were short term initiatives in reducing poverty and hunger.

It can further be concluded that decision making process of NMK program was not adequately inclusive as observed. Patronage and unilateral decisions were the major shorting coming out of decision making process in NMK programs. However, attempts were observed in place in decision making process as noted by the beneficiary respondents.

NMK program was a timely program in poverty and hunger reduction among Gikindu location beneficiaries. The cash grants advanced to beneficiaries which enabled them to initiate anti-poverty projects was welcome but need to be increased. It is evident from comparative results between beneficiaries and non beneficiaries that beneficiaries projects boosted their income level as opposed to non beneficiaries.

Implementation of NMK programs have not been without challenges. From the study findings it can be concluded that NMK programs was marred by numerous challenges, among them are ; misappropriation of grant funds by individual groups, incompetent group leadership, ineffective coordination of stakeholder's activities, education level of the beneficiaries, delay in disbursement of cash to approved groups projects, unfavourable weather condititons and unfavourable land tenure.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation for improvement can be drawn from the study conclusions;

Poverty was reported to be persistent in the study area, the government should consider extending the olive branch to the rest of the non beneficiaries through screening, supporting of poor farmers groups locked out by stringent NMK program approval procedures in order to ensure that most people are reached out in the program. This will not only expand the coverage but increase the number of people in reducing poverty and hunger.

The stakeholders should ensure decision making is inclusive in order to capture the needs of the beneficiaries for posterity of the program. To enhance this, stakeholders should adopt an open-door approach in decision making process. Research into issues in the program should be embraced in order to beef up on decision making process.

To mitigate misappropriation, diversion and siphoning of NMK program funds the stakeholder should do regular audit on the use of cash. They should further carry out monitoring and evaluation in order to ensure that monies were used for the intended projects.

The government should sponsor frequent leadership conferences, seminars and workshops for leaders in order to fully polish their leadership in project management as well as group management skills.

5.4 RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

This study was on poverty reduction in Kenyan rural areas with special focus on the role of Njaa Marufuku Kenya in Gikindu location of Kiharu division only. A similar study needs to be carried out in other benefiting locations in order to generate adequate information that can be generalized to poverty and hunger reduction in the district.

Further research studies should focus on poverty and hunger reduction with focus to other funded programs within the location.

Since Njaa Marufuku Kenya was a poverty and hunger program rolled out in Kenya a major study should be conducted around the country assessing the challenges and impact toward poverty and hunger reduction.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: Beneficiary Questionnaire

Hello, my name is Margret N. Kamiti. I am a student at the University of Nairobi. Currently, I am carrying out a study on Poverty Reduction in Kenyan Rural Areas: the role of Njaa Marufuku Kenya In Gikindu Location of Kiharu Division Murang'a North District .You have been randomly selected to be one of my respondents. I have a set of questions that I would like you to answer with the aim of coming up with data that will be useful in assessing the role of Njaa marufuku Kenya program as well as contributing to the academic field.

Any information you give will be for academic use and it will be treated with uttermost confidence.

Thanks in advance

Background Information

1. Name of the respondent ....Optional.

2. Please indicate your Gender.

    Male   [ ]   Female   [ ]

3. Specify your age bracket?

    Below 25 years   [ ]   26 – 35 years   [ ]

    36 – 45 years   [ ]   Above 45 years   [ ]

4. Indicate your Marital status

    Single   [ ]   Married   [ ]   Others (Specify).................

5. What is your highest level of education?

    None   [ ]

    Primary education   [ ]   Secondary   [ ]

University   [   ]   others (please specify).........

6. Please tick one of the following statements that describes your monthly income level in Kenya shillings?

Below 5,000	[ ]	6,000 – 10,000	[ ]
11,000 – 15,000	[ ]	16,000 – 20,000	[ ]
Over 20,000	[ ]		

7. How long have you been farming?

Under 1 year	[ ]	1 – 5 years	[ ]
6 – 10 years	[ ]	Over 10 years	[ ]

8. How did you get to know about NMK? Through;

Friend	[ ]	Media	[ ]
Ministry of Agriculture/ Livestock Personnel			[ ]

Community meeting   [   ]

Other   sources   of   information (specify)...

9. What form of assistance do you receive from NMK programs?
Direct Financial grants   [   ]   Technical assistance [   ]   In kind assistance e.g. fertilizers, machinery, farm inputs etc   [   ]   Loans   [   ]
Other   specify
....

10. For how many years have you been utilizing NMK in farming activities?
Never [   ]   Below 3 years   [   ]   3-4 years   [   ]   More than 4 years   [   ]

11. How do you utilize NMK funds to reduce poverty and hunger?

12. Has NMK cash grant made an impact in poverty and hunger reduction in your household?

Yes   [   ]   No   [   ]

13. If Yes, to what extent?

High extent   [   ]   Moderate extent   [   ]   Low extent   [   ]

Other specify ....

14. How has NMK contributed to reducing poverty and hunger in your households? Tick the extent: **Large extent** (1) **Moderate extent** (2) **Low extent** (3) **Not at all** (4)

Through monetary assistance	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
Agricultural technical assistance e.g. trainings	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
Through market linkages for agricultural produce	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
Subsidizing of farm input	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]

15(a) Are there any other stakeholders apart from NMK who have contributed to poverty and hunger reduction in your household?

Yes   [   ]   No   .   [   ]

b) If yes who are these stakeholders, specify

....
....

16.   How have they contributed to reducing poverty and hunger in your households?
Tick the extent. **Large extent** (1) **Moderate extent** (2) **Low extent** (3) **Not at all** (4)

Through monetary assistance	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
Agricultural technical assistance e.g. trainings	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
Through market linkages for agricultural produce	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
Subsidizing of farm input	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]

17. Are you involved in decision making when it comes to poverty and hunger reduction in the community?

Yes   [   ]   No   [   ]

18. If yes, to what extent would you say you decide and participate on the following?

	High extent	moderate extent	low extent
Capacity building	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Sustainable resource support	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Agricultural development initiatives	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Health and nutritional improvement agenda	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Conservation of the natural resource	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

19. Looking at few years back how would you describe food security in your household under the following categories? (1-**Critically serious** , 2- **Very serious** , 3- **More serious** , 4- **Less serious**)

Categories	4	3	2	1
Food availability and food access				
Chronic food insecurity				
Transitory food insecurity				
Malnutrition & Under-nourishment				
Vulnerability				

20. What proficiency is needed in your groups to enable you produce effectively, in order of preference? (1- slightly important, 2- important, 3- very important, 4- Critically important)

Needed proficiency	4	3	2	1
Individual skills				
Social capital of community groups as well as to upscale				
innovative food security initiatives				
Revolving capital				
Training, awareness and outreach efforts				

21. Do you face any challenges when implementing the activities of NMK in reducing poverty and hunger?

Yes   [ ]   No   [ ]

22. If Yes, which challenges, in their order of impact?

	High extent	Moderate extent	Low extent
Education	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
HIV and AIDS Pandemics:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Unfavorable Land Tenure Systems:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Poor Rural Infrastructure:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Weak Coordination of Major Stakeholders:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Unfavorable Weather Conditions:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Low and Declining Land Productivity:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
High Cost of Farm Inputs:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Poor Disaster Preparedness:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Modern Technology:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

APPENDIX II: Non beneficiary Questionnaire

Hello, my name is Margret N. Kamiti. I am a student at the University of Nairobi. Currently, I am carrying out a study on Poverty Reduction in Kenyan Rural Areas: the role of Njaa Marufuku Kenya in Gikindu Location of Kiharu Division, Murang'a North District .You have been randomly selected to be one of my respondents. I have a set of questions that I would like you to answer with the aim of coming up with data that will be useful in assessing the role of Njaa marufuku Kenya program as well as contributing to the academic field.

Any information you give will be for academic use and it will be treated with uttermost confidence.

Thanks in advance

Background information

1. Name of the respondent ....…............Optional.

2. Please indicate your Gender.
   Male   [ ]   Female   [ ]

3. Specify your age bracket?
   Below 25 years   [ ]   26 – 35 years   [ ]
   36 – 45 years   [ ]   Above 45 years   [ ]

4. Indicate your Marital status
   Single   [ ]   Married   [ ]   Others (Specify)................

5. What is your highest level of education?
   None   [ ]
   Primary education   [ ]   Secondary   [ ]
   University   [ ]   others (please specify)..........

6. Please tick one of the following statements that describe your monthly income level in Kenya shillings?

Below 5,000   [ ]   6,000 – 10,000   [ ]

11,000 – 15,000   [ ]   16,000 – 20,000   [ ]

Over 20,000   [ ]

7. How long have you been farming?

Under 1 year [   ]   1 – 5 years   [   ]

6 – 10 years   [   ]   Over 10 years   [   ]

8. Has your group received any funds?   Yes. [ ]   No. [ ]

If yes; Name the source...

9. If yes what is the form of assistance your group received?

Hard cash   [ ]   In kind donations (fertilizers, Machinery, farm input)   [ ]

Technical assistance (training etc)   [ ]

Other specify ....

10. How did you get to know about that source? Through ;

Friend   [ ]   Media   [ ]

Ministry of Agriculture/ Livestock Personnel   [ ]

Community meetings   [ ]

Other sources of information (specify)...

11. For how many years have you been utilizing the funds?

Never [ ]   Below 3 years [ ] . 3-4 years [ ]   More than 4 years [ ]

12. How do you utilize the funds to reduce poverty and hunger?

_____

_____

_____

13. Has the fund made any impact in poverty and hunger reduction in your household?

      Yes   [ ]   No   [ ]

14. If Yes, to what extent?

      High extent   [ ] Moderate extent   [ ]   Low extent   [ ]

15. How has the fund contributed to reducing poverty and hunger in your households?
Tick the extent. **Large extent** (1) **Moderate extent** (2) **Low extent** (3) **Not at all** (4)

Through monetary assistance	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
Agricultural technical assistance e.g. trainings	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
Through market linkages for agricultural produce	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
Subsidizing of farm input	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]

16. Are you involved in decision making when it comes to poverty and hunger reduction in the community?

Yes [ ]   No   [ ]

17. If yes, to what extent would you say you decide and participate in the following?

	High extent	moderate extent	low extent
Capacity building	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Sustainable resource support	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Agricultural development initiatives	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Health and nutritional improvement agendas	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Conservation of the natural resource	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

18. Looking at few years back how would you describe food security in your household under the following categories? (1-**Critically serious , 2- Very serious , 3- More serious , 4- Less serious**)

Categories	4	3	2	1
Food availability and food access				
Chronic food insecurity				
Transitory food insecurity				
Malnutrition & Under-nourishment				
Vulnerability				

19. What proficiency is needed in your groups to enable you produce effectively, in order of preference? (**1- Slightly important, 2- Important, 3- Very important, 4-Critically important)**

Needed proficiency	4	3	2	1
Individual skills				
social capital of community groups as well as to upscale				
innovative food security initiatives				
revolving capital				
training, awareness and outreach efforts				

20. Do you face any challenges when implementing the activities of your group in reducing poverty and hunger?

     Yes   [ ]   No   [ ]

21. If Yes, which challenges, in their order of impact?

	High extent	Moderate extent	Low extent
Education	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
HIV and AIDS Pandemics:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Unfavorable Land Tenure Systems:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Poor Rural Infrastructure:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Weak Coordination of Major Stakeholders:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Unfavorable Weather Conditions:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Low and Declining Land Productivity:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
High Cost of Farm Inputs:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Poor Disaster Preparedness:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Modern Technology:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

APPENDIX III: Interview Schedule for key informants

Hello

I am a student from the University of Nairobi carrying out a research on Poverty Reduction in Kenyan Rural Areas: the role of Njaa Marufuku Kenya In Gikindu Location of Kiharu Division Murang'a North District has been identified as the study site. The key informants will include; the local leaders, women group leaders, and Agriculture/Livestock Ministry Personnel in Gikindu Location, to offer information on the role played by Njaa Marufuku Program among farmers in the district.

The information given will be help in understanding the level of poverty and hunger reduction through Njaa Marufuku program Kenya in this district. May I assure you that the information provided by you will be treated with confidentiality.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Name of the respondent (optional) ....

2. Gender   Male   [ ]   Female   [ ]

3. Job title ....

4. Professional training ....

5. How long have you been in your current position?

POVERTY AND HUNGER REDUCTION

6. How has been poverty and hunger situation in this region for the past 5 years?
....

7. How do you compare the livelihood of people of Gikindu in the last 5years?
....

8. How would you describe support for farmers' groups in this area ?
....
....

9. What is the most common form of assistance to farmers group within the area?
....
....

10. According to you, has the stakeholders funds helped to reduce poverty and hunger in this area? Explain.

....

....

11. How do you compare the beneficiaries and non beneficiaries' farmers groups of NMK program?

....

12. How would you compare on agricultural productivity since the stakeholder started providing assistance in the area?...

....

13 How do farmers use the assistance provided to them by the stakeholder?

....

....

14. Focusing on NMK program how do livelihood of beneficiaries and non beneficiaries compare.

....

....

15. How are farmers in the area involved in decision making on poverty and hunger reducing activities? ....

....

16. What challenges do you think are currently facing implementation of the stakeholders activities with regards to NMK funding program?

....

....