EFFECTIVENESS OF FARMER FIELD SCHOOLS IN ENHANCING ADOPTION OF AGROFORESTRY TECHNOLOGIES BY SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN GATUNDU, KIAMBU COUNTY.

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ABSTRACT

The farmer field schools (FFS) extension approach has proved effective in dissemination of agricultural technologies and has lately been used in agroforestry technologies. However there is little evidence to show their effectiveness on adoption of agroforestry technologies which are knowledge intensive. This study will examine the effectiveness of the FFS extension approach in enhancing adoption of selected agroforestry technologies by smallholder farmers in Gatundu sub-county. More specifically, the study will assess the farmers' levels of knowledge and skills on the technologies, compare the levels of adoption of the agroforestry technologies by the farmers and the motivation for the farmers to join and participate in the FFS trainings. The study will employ both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Primary data will be collected through household survey 300 farmers sampled from smallholder farmers in the study area. Additional data will also be collected through interviews with key informants and personal observation. A T- test will be used to analyze data for objectives one and two while data for objective three will be analyzed by multiple regression analysis. The results will be discussed relative to transformative learning and adoption and diffusion theories.