THE ROLE OF WOMEN FARMERS IN ENHANCING HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY IN MPEKETONI DIVISION, LAMU COUNTY, KENYA

KILOVOO TABITHER NTHENYA (B.ED.)
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND EXTENSION
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SEPTEMBER, 2014
DECLARATION

This proposal is my original work and has not been presented for a Degree in any other University.

Signature..................................................  Date..................................................

Kilovoo Tabither Nthenya
H60/CE/22639/2010

This proposal has been submitted with our approval as University Supervisors.

Signature..................................................  Date. 26.9.2014

Dr. Lucy Ngige, (Ph.D)
Department of Community Resource Management and Extension
Kenyatta University

Signature..................................................  Date. 26.9.2014

Dr. Eunice Njogu, (Ph.D)
Department of Foods, Nutrition and Dietetics
Kenyatta University
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# LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASALS</td>
<td>Arid and Semi arid lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMESA</td>
<td>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agricultural Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNP</td>
<td>Gross National Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOK</td>
<td>Government of Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDI</td>
<td>Human Development Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>KARI</td>
<td>Kenya Agricultural Research Institute</td>
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<td>KIHBS</td>
<td>Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDDP</td>
<td>Lamu District Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDSP</td>
<td>Lamu District Strategic Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non Governmental Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSA</td>
<td>Sub Saharan Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPSS</td>
<td>Statistical Package of Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environmental Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>United States Development Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
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OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

Demographic variables: These include characteristics of the respondents such as age, level of education, religious group, tribe, marital status and occupation.

Farm inputs: These include the farm size; fertilizers; seeds and pesticides used by the farming households.

Farming practices: These are the farm management activities such as conservation of soil, crop rotation, mixed farming and terracing.

Household: refers to all persons who occupy a housing unit and share food from the same pot.

Household food security: refers to a situation whereby all members of a household have access to the amount of food their members need all year round. This study will classify household food security into; a) food secure b) food insecure c) vulnerable to food insecurity.

Post harvest technology: Refers to handling of farm produce after harvesting, for example through drying or use of chemicals.

Women farmers: refers to the female member in a household who is involved in food production, cooking and storage.
ABSTRACT

Africa remains largely food insecure despite the fact that the action needed to reverse the situation has been discussed in a number of conferences and publications. Kenya’s current food security situation is an issue of concern. Despite the increasing global efforts to improve food security, the extent of food insecurity in the rural areas of the country is not well documented. Women play a vital role in food production. However, their households are major casualties of food insecurity despite their efforts in food production. The purpose of the study will be to assess the role of women in enhancing household food security in Mpeketoni Division, Lamu County, Kenya. The objectives of the study will be to identify the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of women farmers; to determine the farming inputs and farming practices employed; to establish the post harvest technologies practiced and to determine the status of household food security among farming households in Mpeketoni Division. The study will employ descriptive research design. The target population will be all households practicing farming in Mpeketoni Division and the respondents will be the women farmers. A sample of 376 farming households will be sampled using systematic random sampling from a total of 3,762 farming households. Data will be collected from the women farmers and from agricultural extension officers using interview guides. Focus Group Discussions will be conducted for the farmers’ representatives. Observation check list will be used to record researcher’s observation of key variables of the study. Quantitative data will be analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), while qualitative data will be analyzed using a thematic approach. The data will then be presented using frequencies, percentages, pie charts and tables. Conclusion and recommendations will be drawn from the research findings.