

**GENDER DIVIDE IN IRISH POTATO PRODUCTION AMONG
FARMING HOUSEHOLDS IN UASIN-GISHU COUNTY, KENYA**

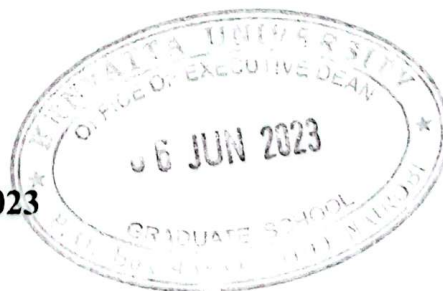
By

BERYL NYATUGA MACHOKA (BSc. Agricultural Economics)

Reg. No: A142/CTY/PT/27730/2018

A Research Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Science (Agricultural Economics) in the School of Agriculture and
Environmental Sciences of Kenyatta University

JUNE 2023



DECLARATION

Declaration by Candidate:

I declare that this is my original work and has not been presented for a degree or award in any other university.

Beryl Nyatuga Machoka

Reg. No.: AI42/CTY/PT/27730/2018

Signature: 

Date: 2/6/2023

Declaration by Supervisors:

We confirm that the work reported in this thesis was carried out by the candidate under our supervision and has been submitted with our approval as university supervisors.

1. Dr. Gabriel Mwenjeri (Ph.D.)

Signature 

Date: 5/6/2023

Department of Agricultural Economics

2. Dr. Bett Eric (Ph.D.)

Signature 

Date: 5/6/2023

Department of Agricultural Economics

ABSTRACT

Women make substantive contributions to the agricultural sector and in supporting food security. Even so, gender inequalities in access and control of productive and financial resources constrain their agricultural productivity, resilience, and sustainability. Despite their leading role in the agricultural sector, women farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa exhibit low agricultural productivity compared to men farmers. However, studies on Irish potato farming have focused on production constraints and interventions leading to the lack of exhaustive evidence on gender-based productivity concerns. Therefore, this study examined the gender-initiated gap in production among Irish potato farming households in Uasin-Gishu County. This study employed simple random sampling and a cross-sectional survey to gather data. A sample of 256 farmers was calculated using Cochran's sampling formula. The sample size of each gender was acquired from the total number of respondents in the random sample and consisted of 189 men farmers and 67 women farmers. Findings from the Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition confirmed a significant gender gap of 11% (6, 50 kg bags/acre) favoring men farmers. The endowment (endowment of production factors) and structural (variations in returns to factors of production) effects explained 33% and 53% of the gender gap, respectively. The OLS regression findings showed that Irish potato production levels of all farmers were mainly affected by gender, access to price and market information, use of fertilizer, education level, size of cultivated land, use of certified seed varieties, and application of climate-smart technologies. Areas in which women farmers were disadvantaged and caused the production gap included the size of cultivated land, education level, application of climate-smart technologies, and fertilizer use. Gender equality in production will lead to a 6% increase in the total output in Uasin-Gishu County. A 9% increase in consumption will also be realized if at least 10% of the output is allocated to household consumption. With the prevailing inequalities, gender-neutral interventions are inadequate, since eliminating gender inequalities demands much more. These findings highlight the need for the Ministry of Agriculture to implement measures to increase women's access to land, financial services, education, and climate-smart technologies to reduce the gender gap.