

Research Article

## Influence of Asset Creation on Agricultural Development in Kakamega County

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**Received:** Jul 10, 2020

**Accepted:** Jul 21, 2020

**Published:** Jul 28, 2020

**Abstract:** Women in rural areas play a significant role in agricultural development than women in urban areas as they are critical contributors in the entire food chain. Even though women are substantial denominators in the agricultural development, fewer efforts have been done to ensure that women have equal access to productive resources and opportunities as men. This study endeavoured to establish the influence of asset creation on agricultural development in Kakamega County. The justification of this study was begged on the premise that there were limited studies locally to add to literature on women empowerment and agricultural development in Kenya. The study was guided by the cultural modernity, Sen's and Nussbaum Capabilities Theory, and the Feminist Theory. Descriptive survey research design was used in the study. The target population of was selected from households in the selected sub counties in the county where most of the respondents were women. A suitable sample of respondents was selected from the population for data collection. Primary Data was collected using the questionnaires while the secondary was collected from the literature review sources. Quantitative data gathered from closed ended questions was post-coded, entered and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 22.0); tabulated and presented using descriptive statistics. To integrate qualitative data gathered from open ended questions, tallying of similar responses of each item was done. The findings showed that asset creation in agriculture by women can significantly impact on the level of agricultural development in Kakamega County. The study concludes that women are not fully empowered in the County to be able to Create Assets. The study recommends that there is need for policies that empower women in asset creation; they can be empowered through skills development by availing more trainings opportunities to women; women should actively be involved in deciding on relevant agricultural projects within households and a paradigm shift within the entire community that recognize that women are equally better as men in decision making when provided with full knowledge.

**Keywords:** Asset creation, agricultural development.

### 1.0 Introduction

Women constitute almost half of the labour force in agricultural development. According to the earlier on statistics, women contribute sixty to eighty percent of the agricultural labour across the world (Ahmed *et al.*, 2015). Women in rural areas play a significant role in agricultural development than women in urban areas as they are critical contributors in the entire food system starting from the selection of the seeds, planting, fertilizing, drying of farm products, storing and feeding the entire family from the product harvested (Mamah, 2015). Even though women are substantial denominators in the agricultural development, fewer efforts have been done to ensure that women have equal access to productive resources and opportunities as men. Women input in suitable crop selection, innovation means, adoption and decent management practices are very low.

The agricultural sector is not performing well because half of its farmers, who are women do not have equal access to opportunities and resources they need to be more productive as their men counterparts (Quisumbing, Sraboni, Malapit & Ahmed, 2014).

According to Holden, Deininger, & Ghebru (2011), land registration processes ignore women's rights creating the existing inequalities. Poor rural women the Global south do not have the same level of ownership rights as their men counterparts and yet this ownership rights are believed increasing the women's household decision making which in turn increases household efficiency in agricultural productivity as well as individual equity (World Development, 2020). Women in Kenya are undermined and never put on the scopes of agricultural development (FAO, 2011). For instance, he mentioned most of the communities deny women the right to inherit the land. It is believed that only men are supposed to own land in society (Murunga, 2017). This denies women to have their lands to practice agricultural, they have to source money in their own pockets so that they can own land (Omweri, 2015). Women are also denied access to possessions, they are denied the securities to take agricultural development loans and they are not given equal opportunity to get agricultural extensions services. This has led to most of the women lagging behind in terms of agricultural developments (Deere, Alvaro & Twyman, 2013).

In Kakamega County, women still are disregarded and have been unproductively allowed to take part in agricultural development projects (Murunga, 2017). According to (USAID, 2018) the old-styled beliefs of the characters of girl child and women at large, have restricted women to influence Kakamega's agricultural development schemes (Doss, Meinz-Dick & Bomuhangi, 2014), women do not have rights to land or ownership of productive resources, meaning notwithstanding the datum that women are very active in carrying out small scale farming so that they can provide food to their families. Those living in rural areas spend long hours practicing peasant farming thus denying them a chance to be included in the agricultural development settings that are carried out both at the county and the national levels (Mbogori, 2014). In developing countries girls drop out of school to take on large burden of household work due to the gendered discriminatory practices and expectations (EOCD, 2015).

### **The Human Development Perspective Theory**

This theory looks on matters regarding cultural practices and women empowerment in development. The theory gives rise to a worldwide view on the self-expression values which make emphasize the choice of human and self-independence. These includes the choices and self-independence of women (Alvarez *et al.*, 2013). This proposition develops a mass expectation that is targeted at making elite responsiveness in bringing about gender equality and self-independence; these will lead to inclusiveness of women in development and specifically in agricultural development regardless of the cultural beliefs that lead to imbalance in productive resource allocation, (Arthur, 2014). The theory at its core says that the development of the human perspective links social modernization to the cultural values through changes in existential constraints (Jones & Bramm, 2019), thus for development to be realized in human life people should look at the contemporary life, pick the cultural values that will bring development, this has to bring moderation in itself by advocating for development as a goal to achieve, with both genders combined. The proposition pinpoints changes in modern societies particularly that are conducive to the empowerment of women and therefore the theory establishes a link between the cultural modernity and the public that have a greater value between equality and genders. The theory says that cultural modernity has a positive consequence for women because it enlightens the society on the need to leave

the outdated cultures that do not allow women to inherit lands and not to engage in agricultural activities (ARC, 2017). Women should be allowed to be elected to the government so that they can be able to partake in the decision-making process of various agricultural development projects. The theory suits my research as it has that call for society to be modern and stop those discriminative behaviour that leave out women when it comes to development by denying women chance and productive resources.

### **Asset creation and agricultural development**

When it comes to matters of agricultural development projects, women are more available than men with their involvement having a positive influence on the community (International Projects Management Body, 2013). In Sub-Saharan Africa it has been calculated that agricultural productivity could increase by 20% if women's access to productive resources were equal to men (FAO, 2015). Women give both labour and financial support but at times they are taken advantage of and they are used to provide cheap labour. For instance, in India most of the people working in the commercial farms are women (AsDB, 2017). These women are paid poorly however, their efforts are greatly seen by making the industries to make more profits. Philippines' capital enjoys a majority of women cheap labour in agriculture of up to \$180 per month due to the availability of numerous women who are ready to steer the development agenda forward (Wema, 2015).

According to the UN (2017) report, it was concluded that whenever women participate in agricultural development projects there is a very high possibility that the projects will turn up to be successful due to the effort women have. In Tanzania, among 189 respondents out of 181 in her study agreed that women were exploited by giving out cheap labour in agricultural development projects.

In Kakamega County, women are underprivileged in numerous ways. For instance, women do not have access to proper education, political posts, women lack the required knowledge on ICT and also women are not given the chance to own properties such as land (Arthur, 2014). Due to lack of the right to inherit the land, most women cannot practice farming practices of their own choices and they are forced to work as small-scale farmers in their husband's farms (UNDP, 2015).

### **Methodology**

This study used a descriptive survey research design. The design was appropriate for the study since it enabled the study obtain data that was concerned with the prevailing situation and other facts that could help the study draw their conclusions reliably (Zinkmund, 2010). The design too helped the study to make both arithmetical and evocative statistics that was used in gaging the connection among the variables to be studied thus producing arithmetical data (Morgan, 2013).

In this study the target population was 173,563 women based on the number of households in the county (KNBS, 2019). A sample of 399 respondents was determined by the Yamane formula then equitably and fairly shared among households in each respective sub county. Primary Data was collected using the questionnaires while the secondary was collected from the literature review sources. The questionnaires were self-administered by the researcher and her assistants upon getting university authority to collect data. After being granted permission by the authorities of various institutions, questionnaires were personally administered by the researcher and the assistants after arrangements with area sub chiefs. Quantitative data gathered from closed ended questions was post-coded, entered and analyzed using the

Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 22.0); tabulated and presented using descriptive statistics. To integrate qualitative data gathered from open ended questions, tallying of similar responses of each item was done. Results of data gathered from closed ended and open items was presented in frequency tables, percentages, means, tabulations and graphs and explanation of the findings made based on themes.

## Findings

### Asset Creation and agricultural development

The current study sought to describe the influence of Asset Creation by women on agricultural development in Kakamega County. So, it was necessary to evaluate the general level of Asset Creation by women in the county. However, delve further into the analysis, a few clarifications need to be made at this point.

**Table 1. Asset Creation by Women and agricultural development**

Code	Item	Mean	Std. Deviation
ASC1	Wealth and asset creation influence women empowerment in county agricultural development	2.75	.848
ASC2	Women who are empowered have the ability to raise and mobilize resources for agricultural development	2.87	.907
ASC3	The rights of selling land lies equally in the hands of both partners in the household	2.71	.894
ASC4	Women are able to use the land without objection from their husbands	3.07	.913
ASC5	Women own livestock just like men	3.01	.950
ASC6	Wealth and asset creation influence women empowerment in county agricultural development	3.02	.950

From the results Table 1, it was observed that the mean of wealth and asset creation influence women empowerment in county agricultural development is 2.75 (SD= .848). The results implied that wealth and Asset Creation by women was moderate in the county. This observation was also observed on women who are empowered have the ability to raise and mobilize resources for agricultural development with a mean of 2.87 (SD= .907). It was also noted that the rights of women in selling land was very low with a mean of 2.71 (STD=.894). Equally, it was observed that Women's ability to use the land without objection from their husbands average minimal at a mean of 3.07 (SD =.913). Women own livestock just like men and Wealth and asset creation influence women empowerment in county agricultural development was average with a means of 3.01, (SD=.950) and 3.02 SD=.950) respectively. This finding was imperative therefore that women have an average empowerment in terms of asset creation in Kakamega County.

## Regression Analysis

### The relation between Asset Creation and Development of Agriculture

The relation between Asset Creation and Development of Agriculture in Kakamega County was investigated using a simple regression model. The purpose was to establish the significance of the simple relation between asset creation and agricultural development by assessing the significance of the regression coefficient. The regression results are shown in table 2. From the results the regression standardized regression coefficient estimates of asset creation ( $\beta=.393$ ,  $p<.001$ ). The t-value is 7.218\*\* meaning that the regression coefficient is significant at 0.01.

The F ratio is 52.100 with 1 numerator degrees of freedom (df) and 285 denominator df meaning that the simple model connecting Asset Creation by women is a significant model. Based on this simple regression results, it was inferred that, Asset Creation efforts by women in Kakamega County has a significant influence in agricultural development. Thus, the finding supports the research hypothesis that Asset Creation has positive significant effect on agricultural development in Kakamega County. Thus,  $H_{01}$  is rejected in the simple regression model.

**Table 2. Simple Regression Results of Asset Creation on Agricultural Development**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.608	.171		9.408	.000
	Asset Creation	.411	.057	.393	7.218	.000
R=.393, R <sup>2</sup> =.155, adjusted R <sup>2</sup> =.152, F(1,285)= 52.100**, p=.000, ** significant at the 0.01						

### Conclusions

Asset Creation in agriculture by women can significantly impact on the level of agricultural development in Kakamega County; however, it is not adequately emphasized. This can be achieved if women have more rights to sell or buy agricultural resources and own and control productive resources like livestock.

### Recommendations

There is need for genuine desire from the stakeholders in community in general to realize the importance of considering women as true agents of development. There is need for policies that empower women in asset creation. These policies should address aim to foster rights of women to sell or buy agricultural resources and own and control productive resources.

**Conflicts of interest:** There is no conflict of interest of any kind.

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**Citation:** Libinah Mureve Sewambani and Joyce Amuhaya. 2020. Influence of Asset Creation on Agricultural Development in Kakamega County. International Journal of Recent Innovations in Academic Research, 4(7): 60-65.

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