

DOES KENYA'S VISION 2030 CAPTURE THE GENDER DIMENSION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR?

Hutchinson, M.J. and Kabira, W.M.

Africa Women Studies Centre, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197-00100, Nairobi

Corresponding author: m.hutchinson@uonbi.ac.ke

Abstract

The Vision 2030, Kenya's long-term development blueprint, identifies Agriculture as the mainstay of the Kenyan economy, representing 24% of GDP and forming a key sector in the economic pillar. In the Vision, the Government embraces gender mainstreaming for sustainable development. Analysis of the extent Gender concerns are truly taken on board has not been interrogated. The main objective of the study was to conduct a gender audit of the policy and program plan for the agricultural sector of Vision 2030. Desk studies, questionnaires, workshop/seminar presentations and focused group discussions were used to identify gaps and propose improvements in the proposed performance indicators that would capture the gender dimensions. Gender policy analysis tools were developed and shared with women scientists at the University of Nairobi, and reviewed by teams of experts. The tools were tested with women and men farmers from the Mwea Irrigation Scheme, representing a key flagship project in the policy document. The findings of the study indicate that while attempts have been made to mainstream gender, there are several gaps, even in the indicators used to capture performance targets. The study underscores the importance of adequately involving men and women in policies/ programs/ project design, development, implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation in order to come up with strategic interventions in the key sector of agriculture.

Key words: Vision 2030, Gender, Agriculture Sector, Gender Policy Analysis Tools