

**FINANCING AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN
NJAA MARUFUKU KENYA PROJECTS IN KISUMU
WEST COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the influence of Community participation on sustainability of Njaa Marufuku Kenya(NMK) funded Food Security Projects in Kisumu West sub county, Kisumu County through financing. The research design used was descriptive research design. The population of the study included all the 215 community members of Kisumu West participating in the various projects under the programme with a sample size of 143 respondents. The study applied probabilistic techniques, and in specific stratified random sampling to obtain the study sample from the study population. The collection instruments that were used were closed ended questionnaires made of Likert scale and open ended questionnaires for the NMK facilitators These were ascertained for face validity by experts in project planning and management from the department of Extra Mural studies, University of Nairobi. The Questionnaires were pilot –tested using a sample of 14 respondents from Kisumu West sub county who were not participating in the study, after which its reliability was determined using Cronbach alpha coefficient, giving a reliability coefficient of 0.87. Raw data was collected from respondents through physical administering of Questionnaires. Quantitative data was analysed and presented using descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages and inferential statistics such as Correlation Coefficient (r). Community Participation in Financing of NMK projects explained influenced the sustainability of NMK food security project to the extent of 10.43%. A correlation coefficient of 0.3229($r^2=0.1043$) implied that as community participation in financing of NMK products increases so does the sustainability of NMK food security projects.

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INTRODUCTION

In Kisumu County, sub counties such as Muhoroni, Nyando, Nyakach, Seme and Kisumu West have food security projects that have already been implemented and are ongoing. The reason for their selection is largely due to their poverty levels as a result of unfavourable climatic conditions. Documented records from Ministry of Agriculture at the County headquarters-Kisumu; indicate that the government through the disbursed a total of about kshs 9,600,000 to support the community food security projects within the above mentioned Districts. The government through the Ministry of Agriculture aims to achieve sustainable food security within the districts which would be subject to proper management and implementation mechanisms of the program by the communities involved. The purpose of this study was to investigate the Influence of Community Participation on Sustainability of NMK Food Security Projects in Kisumu West, Kisumu County, Kenya.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

To establish the level to which Community participation in Financing of NMK projects influences sustainability of NMK food security project in Kisumu West.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To what level does Community participation in Financing of NMK projects influences sustainability of NMK food security project in Kisumu West?

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

There is a significant relationship between Community Participation in Financing of NMK projects and sustainability of NMK food security project in Kisumu West.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Government directly funds developmental projects in various communities. In this case it identifies the need of the local community, initiates and implements the programme without any financial, materials or labour support from the communities. The major problem with such a project is that the people may not even be consulted. They may not even participate in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the success or failure of these projects (Hassan & Oyebamiji, 2012). This approach ends up derailing the psychological and moralistic feelings of the community, hence sustaining and managing the projects becomes a major problem, (Abiona,

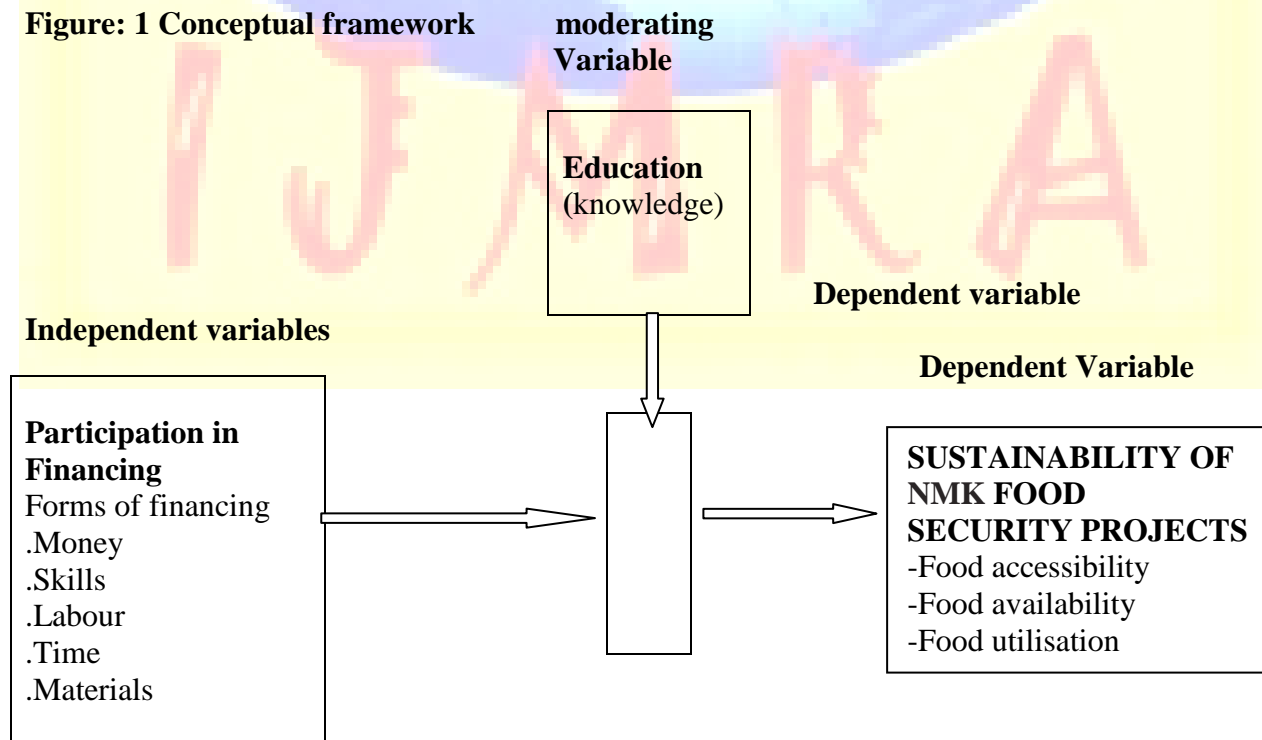
2009). The Integrated approach to community development emphasizes on a joint effort of government, non-governmental organization and the community to implement a project. All resources of the community, whether physical or monetary, are united with those of government or non-governmental organization in this approach. The approach involves coordination of all human and material resources available and the stake of the local people in the project is high (Anyanwu, 1992). The approach also emphasizes on the concept of self-help which is also paramount in sustainable community development because it secures people's interest in the project of development and implementation. Community Members' Levy is also a major source of fund in many communities, the decision for levy or voluntary contribution is often determined after community members have identified their felt-need or a problem which needs immediate solution and attention. Members often donate or decide a levy depending on cost implications of the project. This type of funding assures citizen participation, democratic values and cooperation among the community. It brings about the concept of self-help which is paramount in sustainable community development in that it secures people's interest in project since they have committed their financial resources (Anyanwu, 1992; Abiona, 2009). When a programme is initiated, planned and funded by the people through self-help efforts, the people are more committed to the success and sustainability of the programme. There is a strong link between self-help and sustainability of project. People participate for the sole reason that they have seen success achieved and have become enthusiastic enough to work towards achieving it (Hassan & Oyebamiji, 2012). According to Christine (1998) Community Participation in financing creates an enabling environment for sustainability by allowing users not only to select the level of services for which they are willing to pay, but also to make choices and commit resources in support of choices made by the community. In the past success of Community Participation was measured as amount of labour, upfront contribution by communities during project construction, but currently it means that community are actively involved in project development activities through making appropriate labour, time and financial contribution to both initial and long term operating and management of projects (Kumar, 2002). Community contribution can also be in terms of Monetary investment, material equipment, skills and general participation in project related committees and meeting moral support and rules and regulations that govern and assist in the process of repairing and maintaining social infrastructure. In the pursuit of sustainability, the capacity of local institutions to meet recurrent costs is determinant for their survival (Salles,

2002:17-32). Adequate degree of social cohesion within a community is also considered by many to be a fundamental factor in sustainability; World Bank (2003) illustrates this issue in the context of RWSS projects in Morocco. The collective willingness to maintain the water supply system, is a reflection of social cohesion, and is dependent on the concept of community identity. Cater *et al*, (1999) further argues that apart from social cohesion and the motivation to support a collective asset, another closely related factor is the impact of charismatic individuals. Such people are of course part of the social capital of a community, although village leaders may not necessarily represent the best interests of all households. Nonetheless, it is not uncommon to find neighbouring rural communities with very similar resources, both having gone through identical project processes, which end up with very differing results. In many cases, the apparent success in one village is explained by the presence of a strong and committed individual, who may or may not be a member of the village ruling elite.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework provides a structural description of the relationship between the variables forming the concepts of the study on the sustainability of food security projects. This study was guided by the following conceptual framework.

Figure: 1 Conceptual framework



The independent variables are grouped together on the left side but not in any order of importance. The dependent variable is placed on the right hand connected with an arrow as a sign of direct relationship. The Moderating variable in this study is Education (knowledge) because it has a strong contingent effect on the nature of the relationship between the dependent and the independent variable. It modifies the nature of the relationship positively or negatively, for example if the Community Members have knowledge on marketing strategies then they are likely to know where to sell and at what time and this would contribute to sustainability of the NMK projects.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The fourth objective explored the level to which community participation in financing of NMK project influences the sustainability of food security projects. Perception of the NMK facilitators on community participation in project financing and Opinion of the respondents on community participation in financing of projects were sought. The study also asked the respondents whether when they can't offer an idea, they should offer labour towards project activities.

PERCEPTION OF THE NMK FACILITATORS ON LEVEL OF SUCCESS OF PROJECTS

The study started by exploring the opinion of the NMK facilitators on whether community participation in project financing has contributed to the success of NMK funded project. Table 4.14 shows the results of the findings.

Table 4.14:

Community participation in financing contribution to the success of NMK funded project

Level of Success	Frequency	Percentage
Very successful	1	33.33
Successful	1	33.33
Not very successful	1	33.33
Total	3	100

From table 4.14, one of the NMK project facilitators said that the community participation in financing was very useful to the sustainability of the project; the other facilitator said that it as successful and the last facilitator said that community participation in financing was not very useful to the sustainability of the project. This showed that to a large extent community participation in project financing was useful in sustainability of the project. This can be supported by Quarter (1992) who purports that there is a general assumption that people get involved so that they can commit themselves to others and the community and that social satisfaction is highest where one finds oneself in the position to support others.

The study explored the opinion of the respondents on community participation in financing of the NMK projects. Table 4.15 shows the results of the analysis.

Table 4.15:
Community participation in financing of the NMK project

Statement		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Interpretation
Finances from the Government is adequate	Freq.	61	56	16	7	1.72	Disagree
	%	43.57	40	11.43	5		
I make useful financial contribution to my Project	Freq.	10	12	80	38	3.04	Agree
	%	7.14	8.57	57.14	27.14		
I participate in giving ideas that benefit the project	Freq.	1	6	74	59	3.36	Agree
	%	0.71	4.29	52.86	42.14		
When I can't offer	Freq.	0	6	69	65	3.421	Agree

an idea, I should offer towards project activities	%	0	4.29	49.29	46.43		
Labour provided by members should be free	Freq.	2	6	74	58	3.34	Agree
	%	1.43	4.29	52.86	41.43		

My participation in financing of the project has contributed to its sustainability	Freq.	2	5	72	61	3.37	Agree
	%	1.43	3.57	51.43	43.57		
Lack of commitment is one of the problems I face from community participation	Freq.	0	4	55	81	3.55	Strongly agree
	%	0	2.86	39.29	57.86		

From table 4.15, it emerged that there was inadequate government funding. A total of 61(43.57%) respondents disagreed that the government funding was adequate, 56(40%) respondents disagreed, 16(11.43%) respondents agreed and 7(5%) respondents strongly agreed. The mean response was 1.72, this meant that on average the respondents disagreed that there was adequate government funding.

Community financial contribution to the Project on sustainability

When the respondents were asked if they made useful financial contribution to the Project, A total of 10(7.14%) respondents strongly disagreed, 12(8.57%) respondents disagreed, 80(57.14%) respondents agreed and 38(27.14%) respondents strongly agreed. The mean response was 3.04; this meant that on average the respondents agreed that they made useful financial contribution to the Project. The study asked whether they participate in giving ideas that benefit the project. 1(0.71%) respondent strongly disagreed, 6(4.29%) respondents disagreed, 74(52.86%) respondents agreed and 59(42.14%) respondents strongly agreed. The mean response was 3.36, meaning that on average the respondents agreed that they participate in giving ideas that benefit the project. The study findings are supported by the argument that

People will be willing to sacrifice their resources for a cause that is beneficial to their existence (Dudley, 1993). According to Binder (2008), the financing process which involves raising and maintaining adequate funding for food security projects is of critical importance for their sustainability.

When they can't offer an idea, they should offer labour towards project activities

The study also asked the respondents whether when they can't offer an idea, they should offer labour towards project activities. A total of 6(4.29%) respondents disagreed, 69(49.29%) respondents agreed, 65(46.43%) respondents strongly agreed. The mean response was 3.421, this meant that on average the respondents agreed that when they can't offer an idea, they should offer labour towards project activities. The respondents were asked whether labour provided by members should be free. A total of 2(1.43%) respondents strongly disagreed, 6(4.29%) respondents disagreed, 74(52.86%) respondents agreed and 58(41.43%) respondents strongly agreed. The mean response was found to be 3.34; this showed that on average the respondents agreed that labour provided by members should be free.

The respondents were asked whether participation in financing of the project has contributed to its sustainability. Whether 2(1.43%) respondents strongly disagreed, 5(3.57%) respondents disagreed, 72(51.43%) respondents agreed, 61(43.57%) respondents strongly agreed. The mean response was 3.37, meaning that on average the respondents agreed that participation in financing of the project has contributed to its sustainability. The respondents were asked whether lack of commitment is one of the problems they face from community participation. A total of 4(2.86%) respondents disagreed, 55(39.29%) respondents agreed and 81(57.86%) respondents strongly agreed. The mean response was found to be 3.55; this showed that on average the respondents strongly agreed that lack of commitment is one of the problems they face from community participation.

The study went on to explore the influence of financial support on the sustainability of the project and presented the findings in table 4.16.

Table 4.16:*Community Participation in financing on sustainability of food security*

Extent of Participation	Sustainability rate						Total	
	Average		Good		Very good		Freq.	%
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Very high	5	3.57	14	10.00	35	25.00	54	38.57
High	9	6.43	12	8.57	24	17.14	45	32.14
Average	15	10.71	11	7.86	15	10.71	41	29.29
Total	29	20.70	37	26.43	74	52.85	140	100

From table 4.16, 54(38.57%) respondents rate the financial support their groups had as very high, a total of 45(32.14%) respondents rated the financial support as high and 41(29.29%) rated the financial support as average. Out of the 74 respondents who rated the food accessibility, food availability and utilisation from NMK food security projects as very good, 35(25.00%) respondents rated the financial support they received as very high, 24(17.14%) rated food security as high and 15(10.71%) respondents rated the financial support as average. On the other side out of the 29 respondents who rated their food security as average, 5(3.57%) rated the financial support as very high, 9(6.43%) rated the financial support as high and 15(10.71%) rated the financial support as average. These findings show that increase in financial support was associated with high food accessibility.

Hypothesis

Ho: There is no significant relationship between Community Participation in Financing of NMK projects and sustainability of NMK food security project in Kisumu West.

In testing of the fourth Null hypothesis, the study used correlation analysis at 5% level of significance. Table 4.17 shows the results of the correlation analysis.

Table 4.17:

Correlation analysis between Community Participation in Financing of NMK projects and sustainability of NMK food security project

Correlation coefficient (r)	0.3229
P value	0.0001
Coefficient of determination (r^2)	0.1043

The correlation analysis between community participation in financing of the NMK projects and sustainability of NMK food security project was found to be 0.3229. Considering that this was a positive correlation, it implies that as community participation in financing of NMK projects increases so does the sustainability of NMK food security project. The p value was found to be 0.0001; considering this is a value less than 0.05 we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between Community Participation in Financing of NMK projects and sustainability of NMK food security project in Kisumu West.

The coefficient of determination r^2 was found to be 0.1043; this means that community participation in financing of NMK project explained 10.43% of the variance of sustainability of NMK food security project in Kisumu West. In other words, between Community Participation in Financing of NMK projects influenced the sustainability of NMK food security projects to the extent of 10.43%. These respondents opinion from this study have clearly brought out the fact that Community members are not empty vessels waiting to be filled they want to contribute whatever resources they have to help sustain there projects. According to Van der Waals (2000), social capital and community resources can best define whether the community has the capacity to stand alone in facing poverty. Community Participation in Financing was initially viewed as 'cheap labour' as it implied mobilization of local resources and labour. When communities are able on their own to mobilise their energies and resources to deal with problems, it leads to self-reliance (Mgawanyemba, 2000). Another strategy for building a self-reliant community is the use of local knowledge and skills (Nancy, 2001). Experts in development have boasted of how little projects costed as a result of this contribution. In Malawi, World Bank officials require 25% as community contribution before a project proposal gets their approval (Mazibuko, 2001).

Community participation in financing of NMK projects

The study established that the respondents disagreed that finances from the Government were adequate. The respondents agreed that they make useful financial contribution to their Project, they participate in giving ideas that benefit the project, when they can't offer an idea, they should

offer labour towards project activities, labour provided by members should be free and their participation in financing of the project had contributed to its sustainability. Lastly, the respondents strongly agreed that lack of commitment is one of the problems they face from community participation. The coefficient of determination was found to be 0.1043; this meant that community participation in financing of NMK projects influenced sustainability of NMK food security project to up to 10.43%.

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