

INTERFACE OF FINANCING REFORM & PERFORMANCE OF WORLD BANK FINANCED AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IN TRANS- NZOIA COUNTY, KENYA

Makokha Peter Wanyama

Results Measurement Specialist-IFC, World Bank, Nairobi, Kenya
Corresponding Author's Email: pnmakokha@yahoo.com

Dr. Lydia N. Wambugu

Senior Lecturer- School of Open and Distance Learning
The University of Nairobi

&

Prof. Peter Keiyoro

Associate Professor- School of Open and Distance Learning
The University of Nairobi

ABSTRACT

Purpose of the Study: The purpose of this study was to examine the role played by financing reform in the performance of Agricultural projects funded by the World Bank in Trans-Nzoia County, Kenya.

Methodology: This study adopted descriptive survey design focusing on mixed-mode approach. Target population was 800 farmers and 15 project officials. The study sample size was 268 respondents determined using simplified Yamane formula of proportions. Quantitative data was collected using a structured questionnaire with 12 Likert-type questions while qualitative data was collected using key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The study was grounded on pragmatism philosophy; paradigm that complements epistemological, methodological and axiological underpinnings desired in mixed methods research. Primary data was analyzed descriptively using measures of central tendency and inferentially using linear, multiple, stepwise regression and correlation with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), version 20.0.

Findings: Financing reform had statistically significant influence on the performance of agricultural projects to an extent of $r = 0.244$, ($p\text{-value} < 0.01$). The value of R^2 was 0.214 indicating that financing reform explained 21.4% of the variation in the performance of agricultural projects.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy:

This study enriches the theory of project financing, provides documented analysis and answers the questions critical on the credibility and utilization of the theory. In terms of policy, considering that the government of Kenya is working to develop systems and structures to ensure projects are delivered within the confines of time, cost, resources and client satisfaction, this study provides evidence to support policy formulation. The study will contribute immensely to growth of project management as a discipline by providing empirical justification vital in bridging the gap between the desired and actual project results. The study will therefore support policy rethink on the role played by expanded financial services in projects and provides evidence on usefulness of reforming the financial architecture in view of improving project performance.

Keywords: Project Management, Project Financing, Access to Finance, Performance of Agricultural Projects, Credit Digitization.