

## INFLUENCE OF INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES ON SUSTAINABILITY OF DAIRY GOAT PROJECTS IN THARAKA NITHI COUNTY, KENYA

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### ABSTRACT

Sustainability of projects remains a sole major focus in all development projects globally. Nevertheless, there is evidence that sustainability is hardly achieved. Probably due to insufficient understanding of its predictors and how to integrate them during the project design stage. The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of institutional linkages (markets, animal health, and social institutions) on the sustainability of dairy goat projects. Grounded on Herbert Spencer's Structural-Functional Theory Informed by the pragmatism paradigm, this study adopted a descriptive survey and correlational research designs and using a mixed-mode approach to data collection and analysis. A sample size of 196 respondents was generated using a stratified random sampling technique. To enhance data triangulation, 12 key informants were sampled purposively and interviewed as well as focus group discussion involving 4 groups of 8 participants. Results indicate that  $r= 0.179$  and  $R^2=0.0320$ ,  $t=2.479$  at  $p=0.014<0.05$ , Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, institutions such as health, market, and social are key drivers to dairy goat project sustainability. Project designers therefore must integrate them in the design of such projects and ensure that they are properly placed if sustainability is to be achieved.

**Keywords:** Institutional Linkages, Sustainability, Dairy Goat Projects.