SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING PERFORMANCE OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES: A CASE OF BOMET CENTRAL SUB-COUNTY IN KENYA

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DECLARATION

This dissertation is a product of my own work and is not as a result of anything done in collaboration. It has not been previously presented to any other institution. I agree that this dissertation may be available for reference and photocopying, at the discretion of the University.

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this dissertation to my cherished family, whose unwavering love, unending support, and never-ending encouragement have been the driving forces driving my pursuit of knowledge. My desire to make a substantial contribution to this academic field has been fueled and maintained by their unending patience and great understanding throughout the numerous late hours and weekend research sessions.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AKIS - Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

CBO - Community Based Organizations

CIDP - County Integrated Development Plan

FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization

KALRO - Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization

M&E - Monitoring and Evaluation

RDT - Resource Dependence Theory

WFP - World Food Programme

ABSTRACT

Agriculture is an important sector in the country's economy, accounting for roughly 23% of GDP and another 27% indirectly through sectoral economic linkages. It is still the main economic pillar that addresses the Vision 2030 agenda. Actors in the value chain of the agricultural sector, who directly contribute to the achievement of the Vision 2030 goals, rely on extension and advisory services provided by the government and the private sector. The performance of community organizations, especially those engaged in activities that improve the lives of households, is a very significant step towards improving social and economic livelihoods. In Bomet District, approximately 36.2% of households are classified as food insecure, indicating a substantial portion of the population does not have access to nutritious and adequate food. This problem goes beyond natural resources and requires the study of other factors such as agricultural extension. The objectives of the study were to determine the effect of member participation, funding and resource access processes on the performance of CBOs providing agricultural extension services. The study used a cross-sectional survey design and both quantitative and qualitative data were collected. The target population was 1,870 members from 25 CBOs. A sample size of 327 respondents was determined using the Taro Yumane formula. Systematic random sampling was used to select the 327 sample size. Key informant interviews were selected using a purposive sampling protocol. Questionnaires were used to collect quantitative data from 327 participants, while interview guides were used to collect qualitative data. The research topic is relevant to SDG No. 2, which is "Zero Hunger.". By studying the socio-economic factors that influence the performance of CBOs in agriculture, the research contributes to addressing the root causes of food insecurity and poverty. The study's multiple linear regression model showed that the three socioeconomic factors of community participation, community funding, and access to resources significantly predicted performance accounting for a substantial 67.1% of the variations observed in CBO performance. To improve the generalization of the findings, future research could examine the influence of socioeconomic factors on the performance of other sectors in different industries or organizational contexts.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of the Chapter

This chapter includes the background of the study which outlays the synopsis of the existing literature from the worldwide perspective, regional perspective and lastly Kenyan perspective. Moreover, it covered the problem statement, and objectives of the study, justification of the study, scope, delimitation, limitations and assumptions.

1.2 Background to the Study

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), community-based organizations (CBOs) are increasingly popular in agricultural services, especially in developing countries (FAO, 2019). Considered effective platforms for disseminating agricultural information, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and developing community-led agricultural projects (FAO, 2019). Asenso (2020) notes that CBOs contribute to agricultural development by disseminating information, mobilizing resources, producing and marketing agricultural goods, and providing education and training to community members.

These responsibilities played a pivotal role in fostering the growth of the agricultural sector. According to Njagi (2016), the utilization of community-based approaches has emerged as an effective means to introduce agricultural extension services at the grassroots level within communities. This approach has showcased significant advantages by empowering communities through capacity building, fostering self-reliance, and ensuring the long-term viability of projects. Additionally, Jeptoo (2018) highlights that these collectives possess the ability to consolidate resources, directing them towards both economic advancements and social development.

The Kenya Agricultural Sector Extension Policy (2022) defines agricultural extension as a set of services and institutions that help agricultural value chain actors acquire information, skills and technologies to improve productivity, food and nutrition security and well-being. Kithaka (2017) also defines agricultural extension as the application of scientific research and knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education. In other words, it is providing "informational inputs" to farmers. The role of extension education is invaluable in teaching farmers how to

improve their productivity. In addition, extended education enables the transfer of research from the laboratory to the field. WFP (2018) recommends that national research and extension systems should be prioritized if food security is to be effectively addressed.

Agricultural extension is a vital service around the world that helps farmers improve their productivity, sustainability and competitiveness. According to Anderson and Feder (2004), it is widely recognized that only a well-functioning extension service can make a significant contribution to improving agricultural growth and the well-being of poor people. However, according to SNV (2017), most of the activities that the CBOs engage in are faced with a myriad of challenges. As a result, their programs are good on paper but often when it comes to implementation, they do not succeed in terms of delivering the intended agricultural services.

According to Anang et al (2020), in most developing countries, problems such as poor program and message design hinder the delivery of extension services. Even where agricultural extension services are available, many smallholder farmers may not use them because they are not tailored to their specific needs. As a result, many smallholder farmers do not bother to seek extension services. Agbarevo (2013) adds that the reluctance of farmers to use technology and extension services is a result of poor methods of extension service delivery, inadequate personnel and lack of logistics and material.

Several researchers have conducted various studies to determine the challenges affecting CBOs in agricultural extension services. Thomas et al. (2018) examined the present state of agricultural extension services in Cambodia. According to the study, Cambodia's agricultural extension system faces several challenges, including insufficient funding, weak institutional capacity, and limited access to information and communication technologies (ICTs). The author emphasizes that insufficient funding from the government and donor agencies limits extension services' ability to reach smallholder farmers, particularly those in remote areas. Furthermore, the study identifies insufficient institutional capacity and inadequate training for extension agents as major barriers to effective extension service delivery. In addition, limited access to ICTs and other modern communication technologies limits extension services' ability to disseminate agricultural information to farmers.

In Africa, Akaninyene, Ukpong and Iniobong, Okon (2020) presented a study on the aspects that influence Community-Based Societies (CBOs) role performance in agricultural development in Nigeria. The authors discovered that access to resources, organizational capacity, leadership effectiveness, and institutional support were the most important factors influencing CBOs' role performance in agricultural development. They also discovered that CBOs' role performance was positively related to their ability to mobilize resources, organizational capacity, and leadership effectiveness.

Odoom et al. (2017) examined the challenges that community-based agricultural addition amenities face in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to the study, community-based agricultural extension faces several challenges, including limited funding, weak institutional capacity, limited access to resources, and low community participation and engagement. The authors emphasizes that insufficient funding from government and donor agencies limits community-based organizations' (CBOs') ability to provide effective extension services. Furthermore, CBOs' lack of institutional capacity and resources limits their ability to effectively disseminate agricultural information and provide technical assistance to farmers.

In Kenya, Njagi (2016) conducted a study to identify factors that influence the performance of community-based organizations (CBOs) in the provision of agricultural extension services in Buuri Sub-County, Meru County, Kenya. According to the study, access to resources, organizational capacity, leadership effectiveness, and institutional support were key factors influencing CBO performance in implementing agricultural extension services. The study also found that the performance of CBOs was positively correlated with their ability to mobilize resources, organizational capacity and leadership effectiveness.

The landscape of extension service delivery in Kenya has undergone a significant transformation. Initially, extension services were exclusively provided by the government, as documented by Davis and Place (2003). Over time, there has been a shift towards the commercialization of agricultural extension services, a transition highlighted by Poulton and Kanyinga (2014). Presently, the Kenyan government is not only engaged in the privatization of extension service provision but is also introducing a pluralistic, demand-driven extension policy. Under this new policy, farmers are expected to actively seek and financially support the services they require, as noted by Ong'ayo, Onyango, and Ochola (2016). The convergence of

commercialization and the demand-driven approach has resulted in a notable rise in the number of participants engaging with extension services, notably including private extension service providers, as observed by Muyanga and Jayne (2006).

Bomet County is blessed with rich fertile soil and high rainfall. Agriculture is one of the key sectors for development in Bomet District as documented in the District Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and employs approximately 80% of the total population. Poverty and food insecurity, on the other hand, are major problems in the country (Koskei, 2020). To support farmers in Bomet District, the government and various organizations have introduced agricultural extension services in the region. For example, the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) has established a station in the county to provide farmers with access to information on best practices, new technologies and market opportunities (Ndirangu et al., 2019). and extension service-led organizations, community-based organizations (CBOs) also play a key role in providing agricultural extension services to farmers in Bomet District. These CBOs work closely with farmers, providing training and information on a range of topics, including soil management, crop selection and pest control (IFPRI, 2019).

Agriculture possesses the potential to mitigate poverty through enhancements in food security, employment generation, and the augmentation of income for the county's residents. This situation underscores the vital importance of deliberate attention towards elevating agricultural extension and education, with a particular spotlight on rural farmers. The Agricultural Policy of 2022 underscores the critical significance of nurturing proficient human resources by establishing benchmarks for agricultural training and skills refinement. Furthermore, it advocates for substantial backing of investments in agricultural education, research, and extension. Within this context, the study endeavors to scrutinize the social and economic determinants influencing the performance of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in the execution of agricultural extension services within Bomet Central Sub-County.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

This study aims to investigate how the economic and social factors influence the performance of CBOs providing agricultural extension services in Bomet Central Sub-County. There have been

several studies conducted on the socio-economic determinants of the performance of community-based organizations (CBOs). Thomas *et al.* (2018) identified insufficient funding, weak institutional capacity, and limited access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) as factors affecting CBO performance in Cambodia. While these factors are crucial, the study overlooked community participation and access to resources as important determinants. Njagi (2016) explored CBO performance in delivering agronomic addition services in Meru County, Kenya. The research emphasized access to resources, organizational capacity, leadership effectiveness, and institutional support as key factors influencing CBO performance. However, social capital and community funding which can significantly impact CBOs, were not adequately considered.

Njeru et al. (2021) examined CBO performance in Kenya and found that access to training and capacity building, along with community participation, were significant determinants. Although these factors were taken into account, access to resources like land and credit services were not fully considered and have a momentous effect on CBO output. Kamau et al. (2019) identified socio-economic aspects for instance gender, age, education level, in addition with access to ICTs as important determinants of CBO performance in Kenya. Nonetheless, the study failed to include governance and the operational framework as key considerations. The need to enhance agricultural extension services in Bomet Central aligns with SDG 2, which targets to finish malnutrition, realize food safety, increase sustenance, and encourage viable agriculture. Many Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) have been established in response to this need, with the goal of improving farming techniques and increasing productivity. It is crucial for these organizations to align themselves with the societal and cost-effective realities so as to efficiently address the challenges faced by agricultural sector.

In Bomet Central Sub-County, the CBOs have been actively involved in implementing extension services to support farmers. However, their performance has fallen short of expectations, as there continues to be a persistent issue of low agricultural output. Poverty and food insecurity, on the other hand, continue to be major issues in the country (Koskei, 2020). According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) Household Budget Survey (HBS) 2016, the poverty headcount ratio (the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line) in

Bomet County was 32.8%. This means that 32.8% of the population of Bomet County was unable to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, clothing, and other essential items.

Therefore, this study aims to investigate how the economic and social contexts have influenced the perormance of these CBOs in executing additional farming services, precisely in Bomet Central Sub-County. By examining the factors that hinder or facilitate the effectiveness of these organizations, valuable insights can be gained to inform approaches for refining agricultural output, decreasing poverty, and enhancing food safety in line with SDG 2.

1.4 Objective of the Study

The main objective of this research was to assess the influence of socio-economic factors on the output of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services case in Bomet central sub-county.

1.4.1 Specific Objectives of the Study

i. To determine the influence of participation of CBO members on performance of agricultural extension services in Bomet Central Sub-County.
ii. To determine the influence of funding on performance of CBOs in Agricultural Extension Services in Bomet Central Sub-County.
iii. To examine the influence of access to resources on the performance of CBOs providing Agricultural Extension Services in Bomet Central Sub-County.

1.5 Research Questions

i. What is the influence of member participation on the performance of CBOs providing Agricultural Extension Services?
ii. What is the influence of funding on the performance of the CBOs providing Agricultural Extension Services?
iii. What is the influence of access to resources on the performance of CBOs providing Agricultural Extension Services?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The research aligns with SDG 2 which aims to end hunger, food safety, improve nutrition, and promote supportable farming. By investigating the factors that affect the effectiveness of CBOs in delivering extension services, this study contributes to the broader agenda of achieving SDG 2 targets.

Furthermore, the study addresses the pressing issues of low agricultural output, poverty, and food insecurity. Despite the establishment of CBOs to enhance farming techniques and productivity, there remains a persistent challenge of low agricultural output. This research sought to identify the underlying socio-economic aspects that contribute to this problem and hinder the performance of CBOs. By doing so, it can give cherished acumens in what way these factors may be alleviated or leveraged to improve agricultural productivity and reduce poverty levels.

1.7 Justification of the Study

The choice of Bomet as the study area is justified due to the active involvement of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in implementing agricultural extension services in the region. Despite their involvement, there is a persistent issue of low agricultural output, which is a critical concern given the high poverty rates in Bomet County, as indicated by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics Household Budget Survey (HBS) 2016, where 32.8% of the population was living below the national poverty line. Therefore, Bomet County serves as an ideal study area to understand the socio-economic factors influencing the performance of CBOs in agricultural extension, as addressing these issues can contribute to increasing agricultural productivity, alleviating poverty, and improving food security, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 2. The choice of CBO members as the study population is justified because they are directly involved in agricultural activities and the implementation of extension services, making them key stakeholders in addressing the challenges faced by these organizations and potentially offering valuable insights for policy and program improvements.

1.9 Limitations and the Delimitation of the Study

1.9.1. Limitations of the Study

One of the expected challenges in this research pertains to the extensive geographic expanse of the sub-county, which encompasses a wide area that the researcher must cover. To counter this

challenge, the researcher trained four research assistants and used them to assist in collecting data. The researcher also used motorbikes to reach some of the areas.

Furthermore, during data collection the respondents might have high expectations. Some respondents might have a notion that they will benefit from the study in one way or another, such as getting donations. The scholar first clarified the motive of the investigation and explained to them openly that there will be neither reward nor direct benefit to the individuals but rather a long-term benefit to the larger community. Also, withholding of information by the rural farmers may arise. The researcher assured confidentiality to the farmers and will also explained openly the benefit of the research to the larger community.

1.9.2. Delimitations of the Study

The research restricted itself to the investigation of social and economic factors influencing the output of CBOs executing farming extension amenities on farming; there are many other factors which influence their performance but the study picked on social and economic factors because of the invaluable role they occupy in the success of the program. At the same time, the research narrows down to Bomet Central Sub-County. This is because the area is predominant for farming and thus there are many organizations established to assist farmers and this offers a case study whose results could be generalized to other places. The study used primary data collected through questionnaires and interviews. The study did not include secondary sources of data such as reports, books and articles.

The study only focused on the influence of socio-economic factors on the performance of CBOs providing agricultural extension services in Bomet Central Sub-County. Other factors such as political and environmental factors were not considered. The study only focused on the performance of CBOs providing agricultural extension services in Bomet Central Sub-County. Other aspects, such as the impact of the services on the recipient, will not be taken into account.

1.10 Assumptions of the Study

i. The study assumed that respondents would provide accurate and truthful information in responses to questionnaires, interviews and focus groups.

ii. The study assumed that the sample size and sampling technique are adequate for the study and the findings can be generalized to the population of CBOs providing agricultural services in Bomet Central Sub-County.

iii. The study assumed that socio-economic factors are independent of each other and their influence on the performance of CBOs providing supplementary agricultural services can be analyzed separately.

1.11 Definition of Terms

Agricultural Extension Services: Agricultural extension services are programs that educate and support farmers, rural communities, and other agricultural stakeholders. The major purpose of these services is to boost farm productivity and profitability while simultaneously promoting environmentally friendly practices.

Community Empowerment: Dynamic process through which communities are enabled to enhance their autonomy and influence over the circumstances of their lives.

Rural Development: According to Olayide et al. (1981), rural development encompasses a deliberate endeavor aimed at facilitating a substantial enhancement in the productivity of rural resources. The primary goal is to augment rural income and generate employment opportunities within rural communities, thereby encouraging the local population to remain in the area. This concept also embodies a comprehensive strategy that harmonizes food production, the establishment of essential physical, social, and institutional structures, all directed towards achieving an enhanced healthcare delivery system, accessible and high-quality education, as well as the advancement and sustainability of agricultural practices.

Sustainable development: Sustainability involves harmonizing human needs with the preservation of the natural environment, ensuring that these requirements are not only met in the present but can also be satisfied indefinitely in the future. This form of development caters to present needs while safeguarding the capacity of forthcoming generations to fulfill their own necessities, as defined by Todaro (2009). In the context of this study, the term "rural farmers" pertains to those individuals engaged in agricultural activities within rural areas, who possess farming land of an acre or smaller in size.

Basic farming activities: in this study it will mean rearing of few cows, planting of maize and beans among during rainy season for subsistence use.

Community: A community is a group of individuals who share common characteristics, interests, or geographic proximity, and who interact with one another to fulfill various social, cultural, and practical needs. Communities can vary in size and scope, ranging from small, tightly-knit neighborhoods to larger groups united by common interests or goals. They often provide social support, a sense of belonging, and shared resources to their members.

Food Insecurity: It is a **c**ondition in which individuals or households lack consistent access to enough nutritious food to lead a healthy and active life. It can manifest in various ways, including limited food availability, inadequate access to food due to financial constraints, or insufficient knowledge about proper nutrition. Food insecurity can have serious health and socioeconomic consequences, including malnutrition, hunger, and increased vulnerability to various diseases.

Poverty: Poverty is a state of economic deprivation or lack of basic necessities required for a decent standard of living, such as food, shelter, clothing, and access to education and healthcare. It often results in reduced quality of life and limited opportunities for individuals and communities to thrive.

1.12 Chapter Summary

The chapter provided an outline of the research scope, objectives, and problem statement. It introduces the context of society-based groups (CBOs) in farming extra services, highlighting their role in disseminating agricultural information, promoting sustainable farming practices, and contributing to agricultural development. The chapter emphasizes the importance of agricultural extension in improving productivity and food security. The evolving landscape of agricultural extension in Kenya, transitioning from government-led to privatized and demand-driven services, is discussed. The chapter further identifies Bomet County as an agricultural region facing challenges of low output, poverty, and food insecurity.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter mainly examined literature linked to Farming extension and education especially in rural farming. It also discussed the theoretical and conceptual frame work.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

According to Kombo (2006), a theoretical framework encompasses a compilation of interconnected concepts rooted in established theories. It constitutes a logical arrangement of statements that are deduced and substantiated through data or evidence. This segment offers a glimpse into specific theories chosen to construct the theoretical framework, essential for evaluating the socio-economic factors influencing community organizations engaged in Agricultural Extension Services within Bomet Central Sub-County. This study will draw upon three distinct theories: institutional theory, social capital theory, and resource dependence theory.

2.2.1 Social Capital Theory

Social capital theory, originally formulated by James Coleman and subsequently refined by Robert Putnam, is fundamental in comprehending the intricate relationship between community participation, opinions, trust, gender equality, and its influence on the performance of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in agricultural extension. This theory underscores the pivotal role of social networks and relationships within a community, asserting that they are critical determinants of the community's ability to collectively pursue common goals (Putnam, 1993). Social capital theory is rooted in the idea that social connections and interactions create a form of capital that can be just as valuable as economic or human capital (Bourdieu, 1986). The two main dimensions of social capital, as initially articulated by Robert D. Putnam (1995), are bonding and bridging social capital. Bonding social capital refers to the strong ties individuals have with their family, close friends, and neighbors. These tight-knit connections provide emotional support, shared values, and a sense of belonging (Putnam, 2000). Bonding social capital can be particularly beneficial during times of crisis or when individuals need immediate assistance.

On the other hand, bridging social capital refers to the weaker ties people have with individuals outside of their close-knit social circles. These connections extend beyond one's immediate social group and provide access to diverse information, resources, and opportunities (Granovetter, 1973). Bridging social capital is essential for individuals and communities to broaden their horizons, engage with diverse perspectives, and access new knowledge. Both bonding and bridging social capital have their unique advantages and can complement each other. While bonding social capital offers a strong support system and a sense of trust, bridging social capital opens doors to new ideas, potential collaborations, and a broader social network (Woolcock, 1998).

A study done in 2023 by Li and Chen emphasizes how important social capital is for economic growth. The study demonstrates how social capital can efficiently lower transaction costs, ease the spread of information, and foster cooperation among many stakeholders, all of which have a positive impact on economic growth (Li & Chen, 2023). This highlights the enduring relevance and adaptability of social capital theory in understanding and addressing contemporary challenges. Community participation, a key concept within social capital theory, denotes the active engagement of community members in both decision-making processes and the execution of programs that impact their daily lives. Putnam (2000) posits that communities characterized by robust social capital exhibit higher levels of civic engagement and active participation. Here, community participation serves as a gauge for measuring social capital within a given community. The underlying premise is that CBOs with heightened levels of community participation are better poised for success. They excel in mobilizing resources and garnering support from the community they serve.

This dynamic extends to community funding, which becomes an indicator of the prevailing social capital within the community. Communities rich in social capital possess an enhanced capacity to pool internal resources, thus strengthening support for various programs and initiatives (Woolcock & Narayan, 2000). Consequently, CBOs proficient at securing community funding position themselves for amplified success by tapping into these abundant resources and community backing. Furthermore, the theory establishes a vital link between community funding and the prevailing social capital within a community. Communities endowed with substantial social capital possess a heightened capacity to pool internal resources, thereby bolstering support

for various programs and initiatives. In practical terms, this translates to CBOs that excel at securing funding from the community, thereby enhancing their prospects for success in their agricultural extension endeavors.

The application of social capital theory elucidates how community participation, as a manifestation of social capital, plays a pivotal role in shaping the performance of CBOs and their ability to achieve their objectives in the context of agricultural extension efforts. Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are pivotal actors in the realm of agricultural extension services, acting as crucial intermediaries between farmers and government agencies. Their significance extends across the globe, whether it be in Europe, Africa, or regions like Bomet County in Kenya. In each context, CBOs fulfill unique roles that contribute to the advancement of agriculture and the welfare of farming communities.

In Europe, CBOs are essential components of the agricultural landscape. The National Farmers' Union (NFU) in the United Kingdom serves as a prime example of how these organizations support farmers. They offer a diverse range of services, from technical advice and lobbying efforts to government representation. Moreover, ARC2020 and Copa-Cogeca play instrumental roles in bringing together stakeholders from various segments of the agricultural sector, with a common goal of enhancing productivity and sustainability. Copa-Cogeca's commitment to promoting just and sustainable EU agricultural policies highlight the collective strength of CBOs in shaping agricultural frameworks on a broader scale. Conversely, in Africa, CBOs have emerged as lifelines in regions where government extension services face limitations. The Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG) illustrates the profound impact of these organizations. PFAG collaborates closely with local farmers to pioneer and implement climate-smart agricultural practices, including drought-tolerant crop varieties and water conservation techniques. This on-the-ground collaboration underscores the pivotal role that CBOs across the African continent play in bridging resource gaps, sparking innovation, and fostering sustainability in agriculture.

In Kenya, CBOs have been recognized as pivotal components of decentralization in farming services. They, along with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and non-profit

agencies, serve as critical private delivery channels for extension services. In Bomet County, societal establishments like CBOs are playing an increasingly vital role in agriculture. Their unique position enables them to reach a substantial number of farmers, providing them with essential information, resources, and market access to uplift their livelihoods. This influence extends to enhancing food security and poverty alleviation within Bomet County. Empirical evidence from studies conducted in Bomet County affirms the tangible impact of CBOs on agricultural extension. A 2018 study by the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) revealed that farmers receiving agricultural extension services from CBOs were more likely to adopt new technologies, experience increased yields, and improve their incomes. This underlines the transformative power CBOs wield in enhancing agricultural productivity and economic well-being.

Numerous studies have underscored the significance of CBOs in Bomet County's agricultural extension. Adhikari and Pandey (2018) elucidated how CBOs facilitate knowledge transfer and resource access for farmers. Mwangi and Kimani (2019) investigated the impact of CBO interventions on agricultural productivity, emphasizing the favorable outcomes achieved. Njeru and Njoroge (2020) explored farmer satisfaction with CBO agricultural extension services, underscoring the importance of aligning services with the specific needs and preferences of farmers. These studies collectively emphasize that CBOs are not mere intermediaries; they are pillars of knowledge dissemination, agricultural advancement, and community satisfaction.

CBOs offer a gamut of services to farmers in Bomet County, and agricultural extension is undoubtedly one of the most critical. These services encompass training on cutting-edge agricultural technologies and practices, guidance on crop and livestock production, and assistance in accessing markets. Beyond these, CBOs also provide access to credit facilities that empower farmers to invest in their agricultural enterprises, offer insurance coverage against crop failure and livestock disease, and facilitate market access for their produce. This comprehensive array of services results in a holistic improvement of agricultural productivity, expanded market opportunities, and the overall well-being of farmers.

Measuring the performance of CBOs in Bomet County involves monitoring several key indicators. These indicators include the number of farmers benefiting from CBO programs, the adoption of innovative agricultural technologies and practices such as agroforestry, crop

diversification, irrigation, and inter-cropping. The metrics also extend to the quantifiable increase in agricultural production and productivity and the subsequent enhancement of farmers' livelihoods. By tracking these vital parameters, stakeholders can gauge the effectiveness of CBOs in achieving their objectives and creating a positive and sustainable impact on the agricultural sector in Bomet County.

Therefore, the role of CBOs in agricultural extension services is multi-faceted and far-reaching. These organizations serve as vital conduits of knowledge, resources, and support for farmers, driving innovation and sustainability in agriculture, while also contributing to broader agricultural policies and frameworks. Their impact is evident not only in European nations and African contexts but also within specific regions like Bomet County in Kenya, where they play a pivotal role in promoting agricultural growth and improving the lives of farming communities. CBOs are indispensable partners in the journey toward a more resilient, productive, and sustainable agricultural sector worldwide.

2.2.2 Resource Dependence Theory

Resource Dependence Theory (RDT) formulated by Pfeffer and Salancik in 1978, focuses on how external resources influence organizational behavior. This theory is grounded in the idea that organizations rely on resources that come from their external environment, which is primarily composed of other organizations. Since these resources translate into power, even organizations with legal autonomy can find themselves intertwined in interdependence (Pfeffer and Salancik, 1978). As organizations, particularly community-based organizations (CBOs), often rely on various external sources for resources, understanding the principles of RDT is crucial. However, as financial landscapes continue to evolve, there's a need to explore alternative theories that account for the changing contours of uncertainty.

At its core, Resource Dependency Theory posits that organizations are dependent on resources that originate externally. These resources encompass various forms, including financial capital, human resources, and physical assets. As organizations operate in an environment populated by other organizations, they often depend on resources controlled by others, leading to a state of resource interdependence (Pfeffer and Salancik, 1978). This interdependence is the crux of the theory, as it underscores how organizations must manage their external relationships effectively to ensure a continuous inflow of essential resources. Community-based organizations (CBOs)

serve as vital actors in various sectors, including agriculture, healthcare, education, and social services. While they may have specific missions, their effectiveness often hinges on securing external resources such as government grants, philanthropic donations, volunteer support, or other forms of assistance (Singh & Tracey, 2022). RDT is highly relevant in the context of CBOs, as they must navigate the complexities of resource dependence to ensure their sustainability and ability to serve their communities effectively.

Resource dependency exposes CBOs to the vagaries of changing circumstances. These include shifts in government funding priorities, economic fluctuations, and variations in volunteer availability (Pfeffer & Salancik, 1978). Given the evolving financial landscapes and the increasing complexity of resource dependencies, CBOs must adopt alternative strategies and innovative approaches to manage their resource relationships effectively. To do so, they must consider the changing nature of resource dependencies and explore new ways to secure the resources they require. In the context of Resource Dependence Theory, the concept of legitimacy plays a pivotal role. Legitimacy refers to the extent to which an organization is socially accepted and recognized by its stakeholders (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983). In the case of CBOs, building and maintaining legitimacy are crucial for enhancing their resource acquisition capabilities. These organizations must cultivate legitimacy within their communities to establish trust and credibility. This can be achieved by developing and nurturing relationships with key stakeholders, including local government officials, business leaders, religious figures, and community members. Through these relationships, CBOs can strengthen their resource dependencies and enhance their access to critical resources.

A study by Oyeyinka and Adeyemo (2019) applied Resource Dependence Theory to examine the dependence of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) executing agricultural services in Nigeria on external funding from donor organizations. The research found that CBOs depended heavily on external funding to support their activities. This dependence had a significant impact on their decision-making processes and autonomy. The study also indicated the importance of CBOs effectively managing their relationships with donors, ensuring that their endeavors aligned with the requisites and preferences of the local community. The Resource Dependence Theory highlights that organizations, including community-based organizations (CBOs), need resources to survive and achieve sustainability (Pfeffer, 2005). In the context of CBOs implementing

agricultural extension services, access to credit and land resources is of utmost importance. These resources enable CBOs to carry out their projects effectively, enhance their performance, and achieve sustainable outcomes.

Furthermore, the availability of funding plays a critical role within the structure of CBOs. RDT helps explain how CBOs heavily rely on external funding to support their activities. This dependence on funding from donors and other external sources impacts their decision-making processes and autonomy. The theory emphasizes the need for CBOs to carefully manage their relationships with funders to ensure that their activities align with the needs and priorities of the local community they serve. The Resource Dependence Theory provides insights into how organizations, including CBOs, are dependent on external resources for their sustainability. For CBOs involved in agricultural extension projects, access to resources such as credit and land, along with the availability of funding, are crucial variables that can significantly affect their performance and overall success. Understanding the dynamics of resource dependence and managing these variables effectively becomes essential for the long-term viability and achievement of desired outcomes by CBOs. This theory therefore helps to explain the independent variables, funding, and access to resources. The case studies presented demonstrate how CBOs, particularly those involved in agricultural extension, navigate the complexities of resource dependence and the implications this has on their decision-making and overall effectiveness.

As contemporary financial landscapes continue to evolve, Resource Dependence Theory remains relevant. However, there is an increasing need to adapt and complement it with alternative theories that account for the shifting contours of uncertainty. The resource landscape is constantly changing, influenced by factors such as economic fluctuations, government policies, and the dynamics of donor organizations. CBOs must be agile and proactive in managing their resource dependencies to thrive in this dynamic environment. Thus, Resource Dependence Theory offers a valuable framework for understanding the complex interplay between organizations and their external resource providers. It has particular relevance in the context of community-based organizations (CBOs) that rely on external resources to carry out their missions, especially in areas like agricultural extension. The theory underscores the importance of managing resource dependencies and building legitimacy within communities. While RDT

provides essential insights, it is also critical to recognize the need for CBOs to adapt to the changing financial landscape and explore alternative theories that can provide a more comprehensive understanding of contemporary challenges and uncertainties. By doing so, CBOs can continue to effectively serve their communities and achieve their long-term goals.

2.3 Empirical Review

2.3.1 Role of CBOs in Agricultural Extension Services

Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are pivotal actors in the realm of agricultural extension services, acting as crucial intermediaries between farmers and government agencies. Their significance extends across the globe, whether it be in Europe, Africa, or regions like Bomet County in Kenya. In each context, CBOs fulfill unique roles that contribute to the advancement of agriculture and the welfare of farming communities.

In Europe, CBOs are essential components of the agricultural landscape. They play a multifaceted role in supporting farmers and shaping agricultural policies. In the United Kingdom, the National Farmers' Union (NFU) serves as a prime example of how these organizations support farmers. They offer a diverse range of services, from technical advice and lobbying efforts to government representation. The NFU is a formidable advocate for British farmers, ensuring that their voices are heard in policy discussions and negotiations. This level of representation is vital for ensuring that the concerns and needs of farmers are addressed in national and international agricultural policies.

Moreover, organizations like ARC2020 and Copa-Cogeca play instrumental roles in bringing together stakeholders from various segments of the agricultural sector. ARC2020, for instance, is focused on enhancing the sustainability and productivity of European agriculture. By uniting various stakeholders, including farmers, policymakers, and environmental organizations, ARC2020 contributes to the development of innovative and sustainable agricultural practices. Similarly, Copa-Cogeca, a federation of agricultural groups in the European Union, plays a significant role in promoting just and sustainable EU agricultural policies. These organizations highlight the collective strength of CBOs in shaping agricultural frameworks on a broader scale.

The impact of CBOs in Europe extends beyond policy advocacy. They also provide valuable technical assistance to farmers. This includes sharing knowledge about best practices, the adoption of modern technologies, and improving overall productivity. By acting as conduits between farmers and government agencies, CBOs help streamline information flow and facilitate the implementation of agricultural innovations.

Conversely, in Africa, CBOs have emerged as lifelines in regions where government extension services face limitations. The Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG) illustrates the profound impact of these organizations. PFAG collaborates closely with local farmers to pioneer and implement climate-smart agricultural practices, including drought-tolerant crop varieties and water conservation techniques. This on-the-ground collaboration underscores the pivotal role that CBOs across the African continent play in bridging resource gaps, sparking innovation, and fostering sustainability in agriculture.

In Kenya, CBOs have been recognized as pivotal components of decentralization in farming services. They, along with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and non-profit agencies, serve as critical private delivery channels for extension services. In Bomet County, societal establishments like CBOs are playing an increasingly vital role in agriculture. Their unique position enables them to reach a substantial number of farmers, providing them with essential information, resources, and market access to uplift their livelihoods. This influence extends to enhancing food security and poverty alleviation within Bomet County.

Empirical evidence from studies conducted in Bomet County affirms the tangible impact of CBOs on agricultural extension. A 2018 study by the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) revealed that farmers receiving agricultural extension services from CBOs were more likely to adopt new technologies, experience increased yields, and improve their incomes. This underlines the transformative power CBOs wield in enhancing agricultural productivity and economic well-being.

Numerous studies have underscored the significance of CBOs in Bomet County's agricultural extension. Adhikari and Pandey (2018) elucidated how CBOs facilitate knowledge transfer and resource access for farmers. Mwangi and Kimani (2019) investigated the impact of CBO interventions on agricultural productivity, emphasizing the favorable outcomes achieved. Njeru

and Njoroge (2020) explored farmer satisfaction with CBO agricultural extension services, underscoring the importance of aligning services with the specific needs and preferences of farmers. These studies collectively emphasize that CBOs are not mere intermediaries; they are pillars of knowledge dissemination, agricultural advancement, and community satisfaction.

CBOs offer a gamut of services to farmers in Bomet County, and agricultural extension is undoubtedly one of the most critical. These services encompass training on cutting-edge agricultural technologies and practices, guidance on crop and livestock production, and assistance in accessing markets. Beyond these, CBOs also provide access to credit facilities that empower farmers to invest in their agricultural enterprises, offer insurance coverage against crop failure and livestock disease, and facilitate market access for their produce. This comprehensive array of services results in a holistic improvement of agricultural productivity, expanded market opportunities, and the overall well-being of farmers.

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Therefore, the role of CBOs in agricultural extension services is multi-faceted and far-reaching. These organizations serve as vital conduits of knowledge, resources, and support for farmers, driving innovation and sustainability in agriculture, while also contributing to broader agricultural policies and frameworks. Their impact is evident not only in European nations and African contexts but also within specific regions like Bomet County in Kenya, where they play a pivotal role in promoting agricultural growth and improving the lives of farming communities. CBOs are indispensable partners in the journey toward a more resilient, productive, and sustainable agricultural sector worldwide.

2.3.2 Community Participation and the Performance of CBOs

Community participation is a cornerstone of success for Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), underpinning a sense of ownership, commitment, and sustainability within these entities. The active engagement of communities in CBO activities and decision-making processes has the potential to significantly amplify their overall performance. This rings particularly true in the context of agricultural extension, where farmer participation proves to be instrumental in garnering community support for development projects.

As Cole (2007) rightly emphasizes, the essence of community participation in agricultural extension is a collaborative process. Farmers take the lead in not only analyzing their agricultural situations but also in planning, implementing, and evaluating development activities. This empowerment of farmers not only fosters a sense of ownership over the initiatives but also ensures that the interventions are intricately tailored to address the specific needs and nuances of the community. It's a grassroots approach that recognizes the community as the foremost expert in its own agricultural affairs.

Betta et al. (2013) underscore the pivotal role of community participation and financing in shaping the performance of CBOs delivering agricultural services. Their study conducted in Kenya provides robust evidence of a profound correlation between community participation, funding, and CBO performance. The findings reveal that CBOs that receive higher levels of funding and actively involve the community consistently exhibit superior performance in comparison to those with lower funding and limited community participation. This empirical revelation underscores the critical synergy between community involvement and financial support, signifying that they are intertwined in fortifying the effectiveness of CBOs.

Ojo et al. (2022) argue that community participation is fundamentally indispensable for CBO success within the context of agricultural extension. They emphasize that higher levels of community involvement are intrinsically linked to a greater likelihood of realizing CBO objectives. However, they candidly acknowledge the challenges that often come with achieving meaningful community participation. Factors such as a lack of trust between the community and the CBO, as well as resource limitations, can present formidable hurdles to effective participation.

Christensen and Phillips (2016) substantiate this view by highlighting the perils of excluding the community from the process. They emphasize that this exclusion is detrimental as it deprives development projects of valuable feedback and insights that can only be garnered from the community. It can also lead to unintended consequences that might hinder the overall success of the initiatives. Their perspective underscores that involving the community is not merely about extracting input but is about fostering a sense of inclusion and significance concerning the project.

Belford and Robertson (2017) concur and assert that community involvement is pivotal for the success of development projects, as it serves as a source of insights into measures that can enhance the efficacy of proposed interventions. Their perspective aligns with a broader consensus that views community participation as a linchpin for project achievement. However, Mvula and Msiska (2015) offer a nuanced perspective, having conducted a study in Malawi. They found that community participation indeed positively influences CBO performance but underscore that the extent of its impact can vary. Factors such as the level of participation and the capacity of CBOs to manage it play a role in determining the ultimate impact of community involvement.

Karanja et al. (2021) conducted research in Kenya, reiterating the premise that community participation positively affects CBO performance in agricultural extension. Their findings indicate that participation within the community is notably influenced by variables like gender equality and participation in decision-making processes. However, they also acknowledge that the impact of community participation is not solely contingent on these factors. The capacity of the CBO and the level of government support also mediate this impact. This nuanced perspective suggests that community participation is integral but is part of a larger constellation of factors that influence its ultimate effect.

Expanding on this perspective, Kipkorir et al. (2020) highlighted that the impact of community participation can be influenced by various variables. These include the level of trust between CBOs and communities, the CBOs' capacity to manage community participation effectively, and the availability of resources. Moreover, it's essential to recognize that community participation can be demanding and challenging to manage, potentially discouraging some CBOs from actively engaging in it. In essence, community participation is an indispensable ingredient in the

recipe for success for CBOs involved in agricultural extension. It empowers communities, ensures that development initiatives are tailored to their specific needs, and enhances project ownership, commitment, and sustainability. Nonetheless, achieving meaningful community participation is not without its challenges, and it is essential to consider factors such as trust, resources, and capacity when assessing the impact of community involvement. By understanding these dynamics and striving for inclusive participation, CBOs can unlock their full potential and drive transformative change in agricultural development.

One of the remarkable aspects of community participation in agricultural extension is its inclusivity. It transcends age, gender, socioeconomic status, and educational background. Every member of the community, from experienced farmers to newcomers, can contribute their unique insights and perspectives. This inclusivity ensures that a diverse range of knowledge and experiences are brought to the table, enriching the decision-making process.

For instance, in regions where agricultural practices are deeply rooted in tradition, community participation can lead to a fruitful exchange of traditional knowledge and modern agricultural techniques. It bridges generational gaps and brings together the wisdom of older generations with the innovative ideas of the youth. Moreover, the inclusivity of community participation can also empower marginalized groups, particularly women. When women are actively involved in CBO activities and decision-making, it not only enhances the success of agricultural projects but also promotes gender equality. Women's participation ensures that their specific needs and challenges are addressed, leading to more equitable and sustainable agricultural development.

Community participation in agricultural extension is not a one-time event but a continuous learning process. It fosters a culture of ongoing dialogue, evaluation, and adaptation. This iterative approach allows CBOs to refine their strategies and interventions over time, making them more responsive to the changing needs of the community and the evolving agricultural landscape. The learning process is not limited to farmers alone. CBOs themselves learn from the community's experiences and feedback. They gain valuable insights into the practical challenges faced by farmers, the effectiveness of their interventions, and the impact on agricultural

outcomes. This knowledge enables CBOs to fine-tune their services, ensuring that they remain relevant and impactful.

Community participation is intricately linked to the concept of sustainable development. The active engagement of the community ensures that agricultural extension services align with the principles of sustainability. Farmers are not just taught to maximize short-term gains; they are guided towards practices that promote long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability. For instance, in regions vulnerable to climate change, community participation can lead to the adoption of climate-resilient farming practices. Farmers, who intimately understand their local climate patterns, can contribute valuable insights into strategies that mitigate climate-related risks. This collaborative approach not only enhances agricultural resilience but also contributes to broader environmental goals.

Furthermore, community participation promotes the sustainable use of natural resources. Farmers who have a stake in their land and environment are more likely to adopt conservation practices, such as soil and water management, which safeguard the long-term fertility and health of their agricultural ecosystems. The impact of community participation often transcends the realm of agriculture. When communities are actively engaged in CBO activities, it creates a ripple effect that extends to other aspects of local development. As CBOs address agricultural challenges, they also become platforms for addressing broader community concerns, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

For instance, CBOs involved in agricultural extension may initiate community health programs, leveraging the trust and relationships they've built with local residents. They can promote nutrition education, hygiene practices, and healthcare access, leading to improved overall well-being in the community. Additionally, the skills and knowledge gained through participation in CBO-led initiatives can empower community members to explore new economic opportunities. Farmers who have learned modern farming techniques can diversify their income sources, engage in small-scale agribusiness, or even participate in local markets, boosting the community's economic resilience.

2.3.3 Funding and the Performance of CBOs

Funding is a lifeline for Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) engaged in agricultural extension services in Kenya. It plays an irreplaceable role in their ability to provide support, education, and resources to local farmers and communities. In the context of Kenya, a country where agriculture is a vital component of the economy, the role of CBOs in disseminating agricultural knowledge and practices is critical. However, for these organizations to effectively fulfill their mission, they require financial resources. The impact of funding on CBOs in the agricultural extension sector is a multifaceted topic, encompassing various dimensions that merit exploration.

In their research, Langat et al. (2013) examined the influence of funding on the performance of CBOs providing agricultural extension services in Kenya. Their findings emphasized that funding is a pivotal determinant of CBO performance. It became apparent that those CBOs with access to more substantial funding were better equipped to deliver superior services to farmers. They not only reached a larger number of farmers but also had a more pronounced impact on agricultural productivity. This evidence underscores the critical role that financial resources play in amplifying the effectiveness and outreach of CBOs.

In parallel, Oduol (2013) conducted research focusing on the impact of funding on the sustainability of CBOs involved in agricultural extension services. The results of this study revealed that funding stands as a key determinant of CBO sustainability. Those organizations with access to more substantial financial resources demonstrated a greater ability to sustain their operations over more extended periods. Moreover, they were more likely to achieve their goals and objectives. Sustainability, in this context, pertains not only to the continuation of CBO activities but also to the actualization of their intended impact.

Mose et al. (2013) corroborated the significance of funding in the performance of CBOs providing agricultural extension services in Kenya. Their research reinforced the notion that financial resources are a determining factor in CBO performance. The study illuminated that CBOs with greater access to funding were capable of delivering higher-quality services to farmers, expanding their outreach to more agricultural stakeholders, and catalyzing a more significant impact on agricultural productivity.

Kirui et al. (2013) paralleled this perspective by examining the influence of funding on the performance of CBOs engaged in agricultural extension services. Their research findings align with the overarching theme - funding is an indispensable determinant of CBO performance. Those CBOs with enhanced access to financial resources were more adept at providing superior services to farmers, extending their outreach, and ultimately having a more substantial influence on agricultural productivity.

These studies form the basis of a solid understanding of the connection between funding and CBO performance and sustainability in the realm of agricultural extension in Kenya. They illustrate the symbiotic relationship between financial resources and the effectiveness of these organizations in delivering support, disseminating knowledge, and driving positive change in the agricultural sector.

Amwata et al. (2017) provide a broader perspective on the importance of financial resources for CBOs. They argue that access to financial resources is not merely advantageous but fundamentally critical. Financial resources enable CBOs to undertake various activities related to agricultural extension services. These activities encompass training, capacity building, knowledge dissemination, and the provision of essential inputs. Without adequate financial resources, CBOs may struggle to provide the necessary tools, equipment, and training to support farmers and other stakeholders. The consequence of such limitations includes reduced adoption of new agricultural practices and technologies, lower agricultural yields, and decreased incomes for farmers. These adverse outcomes underscore the intrinsic link between funding and the tangible impact on the agricultural sector.

However, Nzioka and Obonyo (2019) introduce a counterpoint by shedding light on the challenges faced by CBOs in Kenya, particularly those operating in rural areas. One of the most pressing challenges is the inconsistency and inadequacy of funding sources. The study elucidates that CBOs in Kenya rely on funding from a variety of sources, including international donors, local governments, and individual donations. Unfortunately, these funding streams often prove unreliable, inconsistent, and insufficient. This inconsistency makes it challenging for CBOs to effectively plan and implement their activities. When funding is uncertain, it becomes arduous to

maintain systematic and sustainable programs. Consequently, financial unpredictability hampers the efficiency and adaptability of CBO operations.

Otieno and Odhiambo (2019) contribute a critical perspective to the discussion by highlighting the potential negative consequences associated with funding. While funding unquestionably enhances the capacity of CBOs to deliver agricultural extension services, it can also introduce vulnerabilities. One of the significant pitfalls is the possibility of corruption or mismanagement of funds. The lure of financial resources, when not accompanied by stringent accountability measures, can sometimes lead to financial misappropriation, undermining the trust and credibility of CBOs within their communities. This not only affects the organizations' effectiveness but also erodes the community's trust in their ability to act as reliable intermediaries in agricultural extension services. Consequently, the administration and stewardship of financial resources must align with ethical principles and governance standards.

Wafula and Kimani (2020) provide a holistic perspective on the role of funding in CBO success. They emphasize that while funding is essential, it should not be viewed in isolation as the sole determinant of CBO success in agricultural extension services. Instead, it should be considered a vital component of a broader framework that also encompasses strong leadership and governance. Effective leadership ensures that financial resources, along with other assets, are managed efficiently and transparently to accomplish the organization's objectives. Furthermore, the authors stress the fundamental importance of a steadfast commitment to serving beneficiaries and addressing their unique needs. Financial support, while undoubtedly valuable, must align with a clear and community-centric vision to maximize its positive impact.

In essence, the influence of funding on the performance and sustainability of CBOs in the agricultural extension sector in Kenya is profound and multifaceted. Adequate financial resources are pivotal in enabling these organizations to fulfill their mission effectively. They empower CBOs to provide training, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination, ultimately supporting farmers and local communities. However, the challenges of funding inconsistency and the potential pitfalls of financial resources must also be acknowledged and managed.

The pivotal question is not whether funding is essential, but rather how it is leveraged. It should be coupled with strong leadership, transparent governance, and a steadfast commitment to the

community. Such a comprehensive approach ensures that financial resources are not just an input but a catalyst for the long-term success of CBOs. It establishes a symbiotic relationship where funding fuels the endeavors of CBOs, enabling them to make a lasting difference in the lives of farmers and local communities across Kenya.

Moreover, financial resources are not solely about addressing immediate needs; they are also pivotal for the sustainability of CBO programs over the long term. Sustainable funding guarantees that the benefits of agricultural extension services are realized over an extended period. It is not just about achieving short-term goals but about ensuring that the positive impact is continuous and far-reaching.

In a nutshell, the significance of funding in the context of CBOs providing agricultural extension services in Kenya is undeniable. It affects every facet of their operations, from the quality of services they offer to their reach and influence in the agricultural sector. However, the discussions presented here also underscore the importance of proper financial management, transparency, and ethical stewardship to prevent potential pitfalls associated with funding. Ultimately, it is the strategic integration of funding into a broader vision of community-centric service, good governance, and effective leadership that maximizes the impact of CBO.

2.3.4 Access to Resources and Performance of CBOs

In developing countries, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are indispensable for agricultural extension services. These organizations play a vital role in facilitating collective action among farmers, granting them access to valuable information, resources, and markets. However, the efficacy of CBOs in agricultural extension is often hindered by farmers' limited access to essential resources. Land and credit are two such critical resources, the availability of which can significantly impact the outcomes of agricultural extension programs.

Land is not only a source of income and security for farmers but is also essential for agricultural production. In many developing nations, particularly for women and poor farmers, access to land remains limited. This lack of access poses a significant challenge to the adoption of new agricultural techniques and the increase in agricultural output. Several studies underline the importance of land access for CBOs in promoting agriculture. A study conducted in Kenya by Njagi (2010) found that CBOs providing farmers with access to land had a more pronounced

impact on agricultural productivity. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) further emphasized this in their 2018 study. Their findings indicated that CBOs collaborating with farmers who have access to land are more likely to succeed in enhancing agricultural productivity and income. Land access serves as the foundation for agricultural production, enabling farmers to effectively implement new practices and technologies supported by CBOs.

Furthermore, the World Bank's investigation in 2020 corroborates the positive impact of land access on the quality of agricultural services provided by CBOs. The study highlighted that farmers with access to land are more engaged in CBO extension programs and exhibit a higher propensity to adopt innovative agricultural methods. This close correlation between land access and farmers' eagerness and capability to engage with CBO services underscores the direct influence of land access on agricultural development through these organizations. Credit is another indispensable resource for farmers, as it enables them to obtain essential inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and modern technologies. However, credit access remains limited for farmers in developing nations due to various constraints, including high-interest rates, inadequate collateral, and the scarcity of financial institutions in rural areas. CBOs can play a significant role in mitigating these constraints and improving credit accessibility for farmers.

In 2018, the World Bank conducted a study that highlighted the substantial impact of CBOs in enhancing credit accessibility for farmers in developing countries. The study underscored the capacity of CBOs to provide loans characterized by lower interest rates and more flexible terms than conventional financial entities. By offering these favorable credit conditions, CBOs simplify farmers' access to financial resources, enabling them to invest in their agricultural enterprises. This enhanced financial accessibility empowers farmers to adopt innovative technologies, acquire high-quality inputs, and embrace sustainable farming practices, ultimately leading to increased productivity and improved performance. Diallo et al. (2020) found a direct and positive relationship between credit availability and agricultural production. Their research revealed that farmers with access to credit services achieve significantly higher production levels, with an increase of 37.32%. This highlights how access to finance empowers farmers, enabling them to enhance their agricultural practices and boost productivity. In alignment with these findings, Ali et al. (2014) presented evidence supporting the assertion that agricultural

productivity and loan accessibility are positively correlated. Their research showed that removing credit constraints led to a significant increase in agricultural output, by at least 17%. This underscores the detrimental impact that financial constraints can have on farmers and the substantial improvements that eliminating these barriers can bring to agricultural productivity.

Additionally, Akudugu (2016) delved into the intricate relationship between credit obtained through both formal and informal channels and its effect on agricultural productivity. According to the study, credit availability and agricultural output are significantly and positively correlated. The research also highlighted the interaction between farm size and informal and formal loan sources in influencing output outcomes. This emphasizes the idea that credit resources, regardless of their formal or informal origins, have the potential to substantially boost agricultural productivity. To maximize the impact of credit resources on CBOs in Agricultural Extension Services (AES), it is crucial to tailor credit interventions to the specific needs and conditions of farmers. By offering targeted credit interventions, CBOs can effectively support farmers in overcoming credit constraints, promoting technology adoption, and improving agricultural productivity. Concessional lending through CBOs can help farmers invest in key inputs, expand their operations, and adopt sustainable farming practices.

This, in turn, strengthens the performance of CBOs in AES, enabling them to achieve their goals of enhancing farmers' livelihoods, promoting sustainable agriculture, and contributing to rural development. Customized credit interventions not only address the unique challenges faced by farmers but also empower them to unlock their full agricultural potential, ultimately leading to improved productivity, income, and overall well-being. Thus, the access to land and credit are pivotal resources for farmers in developing countries, and their availability significantly influences the outcomes of agricultural extension programs facilitated by CBOs. Land access provides the foundation for agricultural production, while credit access empowers farmers to invest in essential inputs and adopt innovative technologies. CBOs play a crucial role in improving access to these resources, contributing to enhanced agricultural productivity and the overall well-being of farmers and their communities. Customized credit interventions further optimize the impact of these resources, allowing CBOs to align their efforts with the unique needs of farmers and promote sustainable agricultural development.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

From the conceptual framework, Community participation factors, funding factors, access to resources factors all have an influence on the operational enactment of farming extension activities by CBOs. Community participation factors, including involvement in decision making and involvement of the local community in farming extension activities, are expected to have a positive influence on the performance of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in farming extension, as active community participation often leads to better implementation and outcomes. Funding factors, encompassing the availability and adequacy of financial resources allocated to CBOs for their extension activities, are expected to positively impact CBO performance, as sufficient funding can enhance their capacity and reach. Access to resources factors, such as the availability of essential agricultural resources and infrastructure, are also anticipated to positively affect CBO performance by enabling them to carry out their activities effectively. In essence, it is hypothesized that higher levels of community participation, increased funding, and improved access to resources will collectively contribute to enhanced CBO performance in farming extension activities.

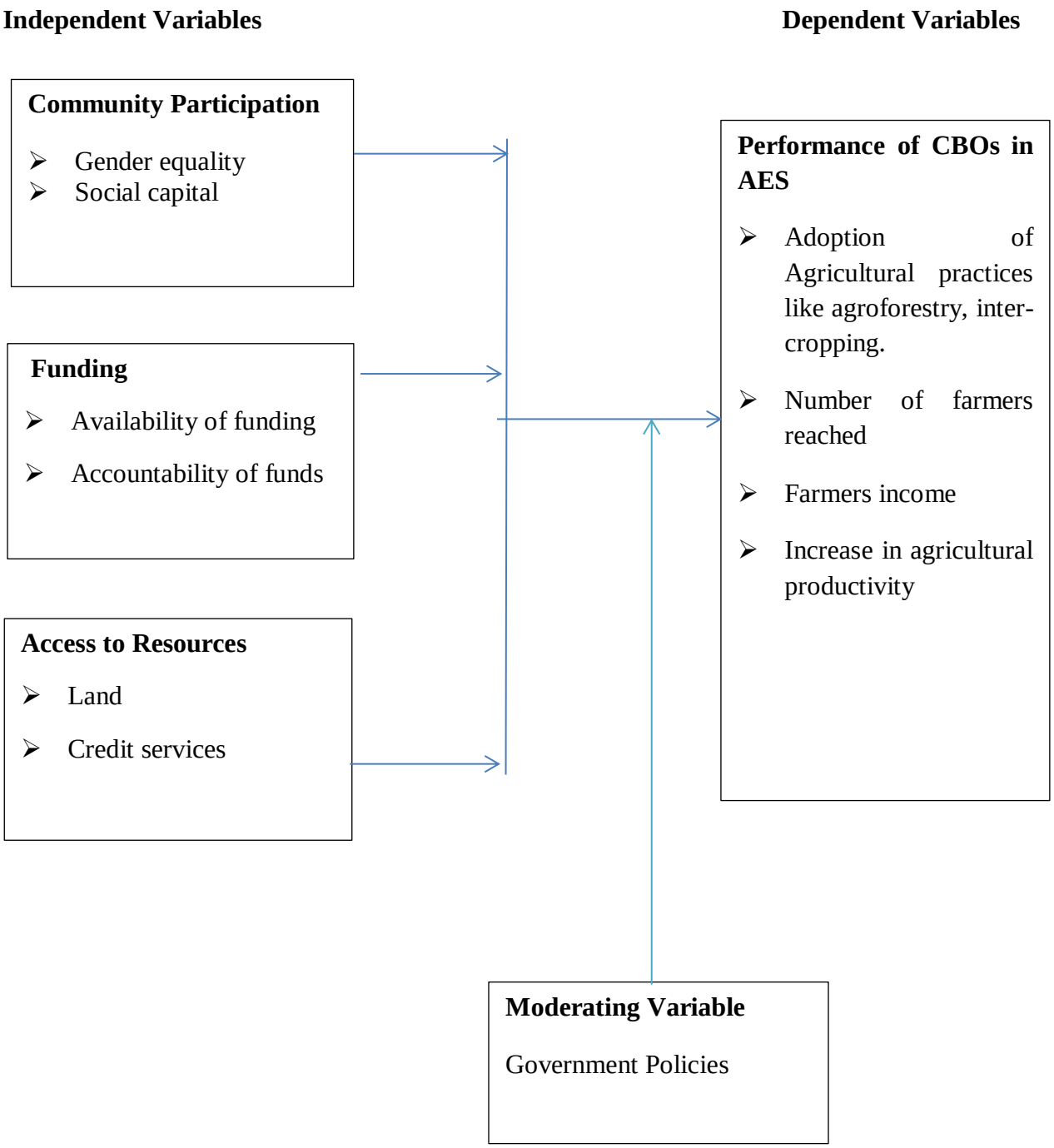


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Author (2023)

2.5 Research Gap and Summary

There is insufficient exploration of socio-Economic factors' impact on Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) performance in agricultural extension services within Bomet Central Sub-County. While existing research may touch upon CBO performance in agriculture within Bomet Central Sub-County, a notable gap exists in terms of a focused investigation into the role played by socio-economic factors in shaping their performance. This void offers a unique opening to delve into the intricate ways in which elements like governance structures, community engagement, operational methodologies, and resource availability contribute to the overall effectiveness of agricultural CBOs.

While there may be some knowledge of the challenges facing CBOs in agriculture, there may be limited understanding of issues specific to agricultural services. This gap presents an opportunity to identify and explore the challenges faced by CBOs in agricultural services in Bomet Central Sub-District and how they can be addressed to enhance their performance. Although there may be some strategies that have been implemented to enhance the performance of CBOs in agriculture, there may be limited knowledge about the most effective strategies for enhancing the performance of CBOs in agricultural extension services. This gap presents an opportunity to explore the most effective strategies that can be used to enhance the performance of CBOs in agriculture. In conclusion, this chapter has delivered an all-encompassing examination of pertinent literature and theories in the realm of agricultural extension and education. It has underscored the pivotal function of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in orchestrating the dissemination of knowledge, enhancing agricultural yields, and addressing the unique requirements of farmers. The theories of social capital and resource dependence provide a conceptual basis for understanding how community participation, funding, and access to resources affect the performance of CBOs in providing effective agricultural extension services.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the methodologies and procedures employed for both data collection and analysis. It delves into various aspects including the research design, study area, population, target population, sample size determination, sampling methodology, techniques of data collection, methods for data analysis, and ethical considerations. Furthermore, this chapter provides a comprehensive explanation of the chosen research design, aligning it with the geographical context and study objectives.

3.2 Research Design

This study used a cross-sectional survey design. This involved collecting data from a sample of CBO officials and farmers through structured questionnaires and key informant interviews to assess their perceptions, attitudes and behaviors related to agricultural extension services and CBO performance. The proposal also enables the collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data. It is also an effective means of collecting data from samples representing large populations.

3.3 Research Area

This study was conducted in Bomet County, one of Kenya's 47 counties, with headquarters in Bomet. Kericho to the North, Nyamira in the West, Narok in the East and South and Nakuru on the North Eastern border. It covers an area of 2037.4 km2 and is located between 0o 29' and 1o 03' south latitude and 35o 05' and 35o 35' east longitude. It is divided into five sub-districts (constituencies) each with five wards: Konoin, Bomet Central, Bomet East, Sotik and Chepalungu (CGoB, 2013). The county (LM) comprises three primary agro-ecological zones: the Lower Highland (LH), Upper Midland (UM), and Lower Midland (LM). Tea, pyrethrum, coffee, maize, Irish potatoes, beans, sorghum, millet, sweet potatoes, native and exotic vegetables are therefore suitable for farming in the county. Dairy farming also contributes significantly to the economy of the region. The average farm size is estimated at 1.5 ha per household, with most of the land occupied by agriculture and livestock production (Cherotich, 2021).

Bomet Central Sub-County was selected because agriculture is the main economic activity primarily for subsistence, with only a few commercial cash crops. The area has good soils suitable for agriculture and has the highest population density according to SLDB 2009. Subsistence crops include maize, beans, sweet potatoes and cabbage, while cash crops include tea, coffee and pyrethrum. Horticulture is also practiced in the region. Tea is grown on large plantations, which historically provided a significant source of employment in the area. The main livestock activity in the region is the production of milk and beef cattle, as well as the production of poultry. As a result, there are 25 CBOS involved in agricultural extension services to increase agricultural production and alleviate hunger and poverty in the region.

3.4 Target Population

In Bomet Central Sub-County, there are a total of 25 community-based organizations (CBOs) actively engaged in agricultural activities, as confirmed by the Social Services Office. The target population for this study encompassed 1,870 individuals. Firstly, it comprised 1,798 individuals who are active members of the 25 CBOs. These individuals are primarily farmers who benefit from the services provided by these CBOs and are directly involved in various agronomic activities. Secondly, the study also includes 72 officials who hold key positions within these CBOs. These officials play pivotal roles in the day-to-day operations and decision-making processes of the CBOs, rendering their perspectives and insights crucial to the study's objectives.

3.5 Sample Size Determination

The sample size arrived at by using the Taro Yumane (1967) formulae for calculating sample size. According to these formulae, for a population of 1798, a sample size is gives below

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N\,(e)^2}$$

Were;

n = Sample size

N= Population size (households)=1798

e = 0.05(Accuracy level) presuming the confidence level is 95% i.e.: ± 5

Sample size based on the equation will be 326.5, rounded up to 327 respondents.

3.6 Sampling Technique

The sample size for this study consisted of 327 respondents, which was determined using the Taro Yumane formula. All names of CBO members were obtained from the Department of Social Services and used for sample size were obtained from a list. A systematic random sampling method was used to select respondents. This technique involves arranging the population in sequential order and then selecting every nth individual from the list to form the sample. Systematic random sampling ensures that each individual in the population has an equal chance of being selected. By systematically selecting participants, it provides a degree of randomness and reduces potential bias in the sample. This method is suitable for studies where the population is relatively large and has a defined list or sampling frame. In this case, the names of all CBO participants were entered into an Excel sheet and every fifth person on the list was selected to participate in the study. This technique helps ensure that the sample accurately reflects the characteristics and demographics of the larger population.

Furthermore, the selection of informants was carried out through purposive sampling. Purposive sampling encompasses the intentional choice of individuals possessing specialized knowledge and expertise directly pertinent to the research subject. Purposive sampling method was employed to select 10 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) . This involved intentionally selecting individuals who possessed specific characteristics or knowledge relevant to the research objectives. To achieve this, the researcher used their roles within CBOs, years of experience, and expertise in agricultural extension services were used to identify and recruit the participants. This selection was made based on their substantial knowledge and extensive experience within the field. This sampling technique allows for the targeted and in-depth collection of information from individuals who are likely to provide valuable insights and expertise to the study.

3.7 Data Collection Tools

The study collected data through a combination of questionnaires and key informant interviews (KIIs). The questionnaires were strategically designed to capture both qualitative and quantitative data, and they were distributed among 327 members of community-based organizations (CBOs). Questionnaires offer a systematic framework for data collection, ensuring uniformity and comparability across the participants. This aspect becomes particularly valuable

when aiming to quantitatively analyze the data, enabling statistical examination and numerical contrasts.

During the questionnaire administration process, the researcher and their team read out the questions to the respondents and meticulously recorded their responses. Each question was meticulously crafted to align with the distinct learning objectives and variables under investigation. Open-ended questions were employed to draw out specific insights from the respondents, while closed-ended questions were utilized to gauge opinions on specific matters.

KII was used with key informants. KIIs are particularly useful for gathering detailed insights and expert opinions from individuals who have specialized knowledge and experience. In this case, branch staff, community mobilizers and finance officers can provide valuable insights into the research topic. The KIIs were conducted using a semi-structured interview guide that allowed for flexible yet focused conversation. Interviews were conducted individually, either in person or via videoconference, depending on logistical considerations. The interviews were recorded with the consent of the participants and detailed notes were taken during the interviews.

3.8 Pilot testing

In this study, a pilot study was conducted in Sotik sub-district, which is a neighboring sub-district and is not part of the actual research population. There were 32 respondents, which is 10% of the total sample size. The purpose of a pilot study was to test research tools, methodologies, and procedures before implementing them on an actual study population. The results of the pilot study contributed to the overall validity and reliability of the research. By conducting a small-scale trial in a neighboring sub-district with similar agricultural activities, the researcher ensured that the main study was well designed and able to provide meaningful insights into the topic.

Although the pilot study population in Sotik sub-county was not directly included in the main study, it served as a valuable testing ground. By selecting participants from an area known for its milk production, maize cultivation, pyrethrum farming, and the growth of vegetables and Irish potatoes, the pilot study provided insights into the suitability and effectiveness of the research tools and methods within a similar context. Additionally, it allowed for adjustments to be made in terms of sample size, data collection logistics, and potential challenges that may arise during the actual research.

3.9 Reliability and Validity of the Research Outcome

3.9.1 Reliability

To assess the instrument's reliability, a pre-test was conducted on a sample of 32 respondents from the Sotik district. These participants shared similar characteristics with the research sample but were not included in the main study. The reliability of a research instrument encompasses two crucial aspects: stability and equivalence, as emphasized by Creswell (2015). When an instrument accurately assesses the intended criteria and yields consistent outcomes across repeated measurements of the same subject, it attains reliability.

In this study, internal consistency reliability was employed, as quantified by Cronbach's alpha. The variables of participation, financing, and access to resources demonstrated Cronbach's values surpassing the accepted threshold of 0.7. This outcome signifies that the research instrument's items exhibited excellent and satisfactory reliability as well as internal consistency.

3.9.2 Validity of Research Instruments

To ensure that the results of this study meet all of the requirements of scientific research, the instruments were presented to two agricultural extension experts from the Bomet County departments of Agriculture who have extensive practical experience in Agriculture. Validity was also be tested by conducting correlation between all the variable items with the totals which gave a p-value (0.001) that was less than the p-value of 0.05. This established that the data from the items in the questionnaire was valid.

3.10 Data Analysis Methods

The study's data analysis encompasses both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The qualitative data collected underwent a systematic process encompassing sorting, editing, coding, and analysis. This method entails organizing and categorizing qualitative data to unveil themes, patterns, and crucial insights. Techniques such as thematic analysis or content analysis are employed to extract meaningful information from the data, focusing on extracting key findings, establishing thematic relationships, and providing a comprehensive depiction of participants' perspectives and experiences.

Conversely, the quantitative data collected were subjected to analysis using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), specifically version 25.0. Descriptive statistics, including

frequencies, percentages, and graphical representations, were utilized to succinctly summarize and present the demographic characteristics of the study participants. These statistics contribute to the concise description and understanding of data, offering insights into variable distributions and patterns.

To ascertain the impact of socioeconomic factors, such as community participation, community funding, and resource accessibility, on CBO performance, the study employed a multiple regression model. This statistical approach is suitable when the dependent variable, in this case, satisfaction with the CBO's agricultural extension service performance, involves more than five gradations. Through multiple regression analysis, the study evaluated the degree to which these socioeconomic factors influence CBO performance, thereby pinpointing significant predictors and their respective contributions.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

The following measures were undertaken by the researcher to ensure that the research meets the ethical considerations. First, approval was sought from St. Paul's University to go to the field. The letter of approval was used to apply for a research permit from NACOSTI (National Council for Science Technology and Innovation). Thereafter, the researcher sought consent from officials of CBOS.

The following information was provided to respondents: why the study is being conducted; the duration of the respondent's participation; a detailed description of the procedure; a statement detailing that the participation is voluntary; information on steps taken to ensure confidentiality, privacy, data protection, and the duration of storage of personal data; details of dealing with the research findings; and a statement offering the respondent the opportunity to withdraw without consequences.

The respondents will be briefed on the nature and significance of the study, as well as the fact that their participation is entirely voluntary. Participants will be free to withdraw from the survey or interviews at any time without any risks or of benefits.

The research will ensure anonymity in all the data collection tools. No identifier information will be collected during the survey. Interviews transcripts and questionnaires will be anonymous. All data collected will be kept confidentially. Only the research will have access to data collected. Published reports will be aggregated and all identifiers will be removed.

3.12 Chapter Summary

The chapter provides a thorough overview of the research methodology employed in the study, covering key elements such as the research design, target population, sampling methods, data collection procedures, and ethical considerations. The research utilized a cross-sectional survey design to examine the perspectives and behaviors of both community-based organization (CBO) officials and farmers regarding agricultural extension services and CBO performance. Data collection was conducted through structured questionnaires and key informant interviews, involving a carefully selected sample of 25 actively engaged agricultural CBOs, comprising 1,798 farmers and 72 officials. The sample size was determined using the Taro Yumane formula, with systematic random sampling techniques employed. Additionally, purposive sampling was used to select key informants, including extension officers, community mobilizers, and financial officers. Ethical principles were diligently adhered to throughout the research, including approvals, informed consent, voluntary participation, anonymity, and confidentiality measures to protect the rights and well-being of all participants.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This study assessed the influence of socio-economic factors on the performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services case of Bomet Central Sub-County. This part includes response rate, pilot test results, demographic analysis and analysis of study variables. The primary data was gathered and analysed in the form of descriptive statistics and inferential statistics using multiple linear regression in determining the influence of socio-economic factors on the performance of community-based organizations.

4.2 Response Rate

Table 4.1: Study Response Rate

Questionnaires distributed	Number of questionnaires completed and returned	Response Rate
327	300	91.74%

Source: Researcher (2023)

From table 4.1, a total of 327 questionnaires were administered at agricultural extension services in Bomet Central Sub-County whereby all the 327 of them completed resulting in 91.4 % response rate. This was deliberated outstanding responses. This was reflected as an acceptable number of responses, rendering to Mugenda and Mugenda (2019), a response rate of at least 70% is excellent.

4.3 Demographic Analysis

4.3.1 Gender of Respondents

The researcher tracked to know the distribution of respondents at Bomet central sub-county in terms of gender. The results are as summarized in the frequency distribution table 4.2 below;

Table4.2: Gender Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Respondents	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Male	155	51.7	51.7
Female	145	48.3	100
Total	**300**	**100**	

Source: Research Data (2023).

Table 4.2 displays that the gender respondents at Bomet Central Sub-County agricultural extension services CBOs was almost equal, but there was slightly higher male than female at 51.7% male and 48.3% female.This indicates that both sexes contributed equally to this study. Conferring to Koch and D'Mello (2019), this gender variance is expected in the general public and it's acceptable.

4.3.2 Level of Education

The research similarly sought to know the respondents' educational level at Bomet central sub-county agricultural extension services CBOs. The attained results are shown in table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Highest Level of Education

Respondent Education Level	Frequency	Percent
Primary	50	16.7
Secondary	100	33.3
Tertiary	150	50
Total	**300**	**100.0**

Source: Research Data (2023).

Rendering to the results in table 4.3, 16.7% of respondents indicated that they had primary education, 33.3% indicated that they had secondary education and the remaining 50% had tertiary education. This suggests that the bulk of respondents at Bomet central sub-county agricultural extension services CBOs that took part in the study had at least a college certificate,

which is deliberated to be more knowledgeable and as a result were skillful of providing steadfast facts that was required in the research objectives.

4.3.3Age of Respondents

The researcher wanted to specify the age bracket of the respondents at Bomet central sub-county agricultural extension services CBOs. The results were summarized in table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Age Group of Respondents

Age bracket	Frequency	Percent
18-30 years	100	33.3
31-45 years	113	37.7
46 and above years	87	29.0
Total	**300**	**100.0**

The descriptive analysis in table 4.4 above shows that 37.7% of the respondents at Bomet central sub-county agricultural extension services CBOs ranged from the age of 31 years to 45 years while 33.3% were of the age between the ages of 18-30 years. In accordance with this, the ages of the respondents were very evenly distributed.

4.3.4 Membership period

Members of CBOs were also asked how long they had been affiliated with their particular CBOs. The findings are in. table 4.5.

Table 4.5: Membership Period

Membership Period	Frequency	Percent
Less than a year	54	18.0
1-3 years	106	35.3
4-6 years	140	46.4
Total	**300**	**100**

Findings in table 4.5 indicate that 18% have been with the organization for less than a year. In contrast, a significant proportion, 46.4%, noted a longer commitment, having been active members for 4- . Another substantial segment, accounting for 35.3% of respondents, indicated a membership period of 1 to 3 years within the community-based organization. These respondents were valuable sources of information for the study. Their extensive involvement lends weight and credibility to the insights they provided.

4.3.5 Frequency of agricultural extension services

The study also aimed to investigate the frequency at which the community in Bomet Central Sub-County receives agricultural extension services through Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).. The obtained results were and presented in table 4.6.

Table 4.6: Frequency of agricultural extension services

Agricultural extension services	Frequency	Percent
Daily	7	2.3
Weekly	22	7.3
Monthly	93	31.0
Quarterly	107	35.7
Yearly	71	23.7
Total	**300**	**100.0**

Findings in table 4.6 indicate that many of respondents at Bomet central sub-county agricultural extension services CBOs at 35.7% said that they receive agricultural extension services quarterly while another significant number (31%) said they receive agricultural extension services monthly. On the other hand, 23.7% said they receive the agricultural extension services yearly while a small number chose weekly and daily agricultural extension services.

4.4 Analysis of Study Variables

The study assessed the influence of socio-economic factors on the performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services case of Bomet central sub-county namely, community participation, community funding and access to resources involving stakeholders in providing agricultural extension services in Bomet County. This section presents the descriptive statistics for the predictor variables.

4.4.1 Influence of Community Participation on Performance of CBOs Providing Agricultural Extension Service

The study assessed the influence of community participation on the performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services case of Bomet Central Sub-County. The results are shown in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Community Participation

Statement	YES	NO
Do you actively participate in the activities organized by the CBO.	223(74.3%)	77(25.7%)
Does the CBO promote gender equality and women's participation in decision-making processes?	195(65%)	105(35%)
Do you feel that your opinions and suggestions are considered and valued by the CBO?	204(68%)	96(32%)
Do you feel a sense of trust and social cohesion among members of the CBO?	206(68.7%)	94(31.3%)

From Table 4.7 above, community participation variable was operationalized into four sub-variables. Descriptive statistical analyses showed that 74.3% of the respondents agreed that they actively participate in the activities organized by the CBO while 65% of the respondents agreed that the CBO promote gender equality and women's participation in decision-making processes. On the other hand, 68% agreed that they feel that their opinions and suggestions are considered and valued by the CBO and similarly 68.7% agreed that they feel a sense of trust and social cohesion among members of the CBO. This implies that community participation through the above for items greatly influence performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services case of Bomet central sub-county.

Notably, Table 4.7 illustrates that most of the members participated in the activities organized by their CBOs. This suggests that their participation was recognized by the management of the CBOs. Participation of community members in organizations that represent their interests in an important approach to decision since members are important stakeholders whoso interests and opinions must be considered during decision making. Furthermore, communication participation improves not only the performance of the CBOs, but also benefits individual members by enabling them improve their farming techniques. In line with this view, a key informant had the following to say.

> *"Yes, I'm an active participant in the CBO's activities. Being part of the agricultural extension services initiatives has allowed me to learn and adopt*

> *modern farming techniques. When we, as community members, actively engage in these activities, it not only benefits our own farms but also strengthens the CBO's performance. Our involvement provides valuable feedback to the organization about what works best in our local context." (*CBO Member 4, 2022).

The above verbatim underscores that the community member acknowledges their active engagement in the agricultural extension services facilitated by the CBO. This participation allows them to acquire knowledge about modern farming techniques, implying a transfer of updated agricultural practices from the CBO to the community members. Adopting these advanced techniques enables community members to improve their farming practices. The verbatim also suggests that the active involvement of community members in the CBO's activities contributes to the enhancement of the CBO's performance. The community member indicates that through their participation, they offer valuable feedback based on their experiences. This feedback loop from the community to the CBO is crucial for refining and customizing the extension services provided. The use of the phrase "what works best in our local context" implies that the CBO is tailoring its offerings to suit the specific needs, challenges, and resources of the community. This finding resonates with the perspective of Bett *et al.* (2013) found that community participation is an important factor that influenced the performance of CBOs. The study revealed that CBOs that had higher levels of community participation performed better than those with lower levels of community participation.

From the findings of the study, it was illustrated that the opinions and suggestions of the members were considered and valued by the CBO. It is the view of this study that this consideration may have created a sense of trust and social cohesion among members of the CBO. Based on the foregoing, this study makes an inference that consideration of others' opinions fosters trust and cohesion among all members by validating their perspectives and demonstrating a commitment to inclusivity. When individuals feel heard and valued, they are more likely to engage actively, contribute meaningfully, and collaborate effectively. As it relates to the participation of members in the agricultural extension services CBOs, it is the view of this study that the act of considering and valuing the opinions of all members cultivates a sense of trust and cohesion within the CBO. In line with this reasoning, a key informant had the following to say:

> *"As a leader of our agricultural extension CBO, we prioritize valuing every member's insight. We actively consider their opinions; we not only foster a sense*

> *of trust and unity but also harness a diverse range of expertise. This cohesive environment propels our CBO's performance in extension services, as the collective wisdom enables us to tailor solutions that address specific agricultural challenges. In embracing each voice, we not only cultivate collaboration but also empower our organization to effectively nurture sustainable farming practices and elevate the agricultural landscape." (*CBO Leader 01, 2022).

The above excerpt underscores that actively acknowledging and incorporating diverse perspectives cultivates trust and unity within the CBO. This strategic emphasis on inclusivity and respect reinforces the organization's commitment to harnessing a wealth of expertise from its members. In doing so, this study argues that the CBO creates an environment conducive to robust participation, collaborative efforts, and collective decision-making. This dynamic contributes to the organization's enhanced performance in the realm of agricultural extension services. The utilization of a varied array of insights positions the CBO to design tailored solutions that effectively address the distinct challenges presented by the local agricultural context. This result resonates with the views of Goedde, Ooko-Ombaka, and Pais (2021) who stated that CBO members and farmers who received agricultural extension services that were designed using a variety of insights showed significant improvements in agricultural productivity. They also reported being more satisfied with the services they received.

In summary, the results in this section reveal that community participation significantly impacts the performance of community-based organizations (CBOs) engaged in agricultural extension services. The data demonstrates that active participation, promotion of gender equality, consideration of members' opinions, and fostering trust and cohesion collectively contribute to the effectiveness of CBOs. This underscores the pivotal role of community engagement in refining extension services to address specific agricultural challenges. The provided testimonies from a community member and a CBO leader further reinforce the notion that involving community perspectives enhances the adoption of modern farming techniques and cultivates a collaborative environment. This synthesis of empirical findings and expert insights establishes a clear link between inclusive community engagement and the improved performance of agricultural extension services.

4.4.2 Influence of CBO Funding on Performance of CBOs Providing Agricultural Extension Services

The study assessed the influence of community funding on the performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services case of Bomet Central Sub-County. The results are shown in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8: CBO Funding

Statement	YES	NO
Do you believe that the current funding for agricultural extension programs is adequate?	123(41%)	177(59%)
In your opinion, would increase funding significantly enhance the CBO's performance in delivering agricultural extension services?	255(85%)	45(15%)
Are there any alternative sources of funding that the CBO has explored to support its agricultural extension activities?	201(67%)	99(33%)
In your opinion, has a lack of funding hindered the performance of the CBO in providing agricultural extension services?	226(75.3%)	84(24.7%)

From Table 4.8 above, community funding variable was operationalized into four sub-variables. Descriptive statistical analyses showed that only 41% of the members agreed that the current funding for agricultural extension programs is adequate despite the fact 85% of the respondents agreed that increase funding significantly enhance the CBO's performance in delivering agricultural extension services. On the other hand, 67% agreed that there are alternative sources of funding that the CBO has explored to support its agricultural extension activities and similarly 75.3% agreed that lack of funding hindered the performance of the CBO in providing agricultural extension services. This suggests that community funding has a great influence performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services case of Bomet central sub-county.

As seen from the quantitative results, it was evident from respondents that CBO funding influences the performance in delivering agricultural extension services, while at the same time, lack of adequate funding had the potential to stall performance. This result is not surprising given

that organizations working in communities need funding for their operations, such as administrative costs. They also require funds for their overhead costs, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy, and more significantly, to conduct training to the members. In line with this view, a participant had the following to say:

> *"CBO funding is paramount as it fuels essential activities, particularly in the realm of agricultural extension services. Adequate funding supports vital components like training programs for farmers, ensuring they're equipped with up-to-date techniques. It also covers operational costs, enabling efficient coordination of workshops, resource distribution, and community engagement. This financial support directly correlates with CBO performance – well-funded activities enhance knowledge dissemination, improve farming practices, and strengthen the organization's overall impact on local agriculture." (*Agricultural Extension Officer 07, 2022).

Based on the above verbatim, this study argues that CBO funding plays a pivotal role in agricultural extension services by facilitating crucial activities such as farmer training and operational expenses. Adequate financial support ensures the provision of updated farming techniques through training programs and covers logistical needs for workshops and resource distribution. This funding directly contributes to CBO performance by enhancing knowledge dissemination and improving farming practices, ultimately bolstering the organization's effectiveness in positively impacting local agriculture. This result agrees with Guirkinger and Bourcher (2008) who underscored that community funding is a vital factor that influenced the performance of CBOs. The study discovered that CBOs that received more funding and had higher levels of community participation and performed better than those with lower levels of funding and community participation.

As seen above on the need for CBO funding, it becomes evident that lack of adequate funding or lack of it at all may have profound effects on the functioning of the CBO. Notably, lack of adequate funding has the potential to reduce services rendered or at worst, eliminate essential services that members receive, thus aggravating the performance of such CBOs. Furthermore, it is the view of this study that reduced or absence of funding may lead to layoffs and freeze any further employment opportunities for the members/locals. This is likely to diminish the morale and motivation of the members or even dissuade would be members from joining. In line with this view, a key informant had the following to say:

> *"The consequences of dwindling CBO funding or its complete cessation are stark and far-reaching. As funds decline, members face limited access to crucial training programs and resources, stalling their capacity to adopt modern agricultural practices. Activities like workshops and community engagement suffer, eroding the CBO's active presence. The plummeting morale among members stifles collaboration and engagement. Eventually, the performance of the CBO offering agricultural extension services takes a severe hit, with waning impact on farming practices and reduced effectiveness in contributing to local agriculture's advancement." (*CBO Finance Officer 09, 2022).

The above quote speaks to the dire implications of reduced or terminated funding for CBOs engaged in delivering agricultural extension services. It underscores how the dwindling financial support adversely affects various facets of the organization. The quote points out that as funds diminish, members face restricted access to critical training initiatives and essential resources, impeding their ability to adopt contemporary farming techniques. Additionally, the decline in funding leads to the deterioration of pivotal activities like workshops and community engagement, causing the CBO's active involvement in the community to wane. Furthermore, the quote highlights that declining morale among members hampers collaborative efforts and active participation. These findings on under-funding or lack of funding are relatable to a study done by Diallo, Drame, and Sonko (2020) which revealed that financial constraints within CBOs lead to significant disruptions in their activities. The study demonstrated that dwindling financial resources limit the CBOs' ability to conduct essential training programs for community members, hindering the dissemination of updated agricultural practices. Equally, Baloch & Thapa (2019) stated the reduced funding negatively impacts the organization's capacity to organize workshops and maintain active engagement within the community. The study also highlighted how such financial challenges contribute to a decline in members' morale, resulting in decreased collaboration and participation.

In summary, the section underscores the significant impact of community funding on the performance of CBOs engaged in agricultural extension services. Notably, current funding for agricultural extension programs is perceived as inadequate by a minority, while a substantial number recognize increased funding as pivotal for enhancing CBO effectiveness in delivering agricultural extension services. Alternative funding sources are acknowledged, yet insufficient funding hinders CBO performance. This interplay emphasizes the essential role of funding in

enabling vital activities like training, resource allocation, and community engagement, amplifying the organization's local agricultural impact. The adverse consequences of dwindling funding are evident in restricted training access, reduced engagement, lower morale, and compromised contributions to local agricultural advancement.

4.4.3 Influence of Access to Resources on Performance of CBOs Providing Agricultural Extension Services

The study assessed the influence of access to resources on the performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services case of Bomet Central Sub-County. The results are shown in Table 4.9

Table 4.9: Access to Resources

Statement	YES	NO
Do you have access to sufficient land for your agricultural activities?	190(63.3%)	110(36.7%)
Have the CBO programs helped you in securing or accessing land for agricultural purposes?	98(32.6%)	202(67.4%)
Have you ever accessed credit services for agricultural activities?	192(64%)	108(36%)
Are you satisfied with your current access to credit services for agricultural purposes?	198(66%)	102(34%)

From Table 4.9 above, access to resources was operationalized into four sub-variables. Descriptive statistical analyses showed that only 32.7% of the respondents agreed that the CBO programs helped them in securing or accessing land for agricultural purposes in spite of the fact 63.3% of the respondents agreed that they have access to sufficient land for their agricultural activities. Alternatively, 64% agreed that they have ever accessed credit services for agricultural activities and likewise 66% agreed that they are satisfied with their current access to credit services for agricultural purposes. This suggests that access to resources has a great influence performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services case of Bomet central sub-county. The findings support earlier studies by Diallo (2020) that that demonstrated the positive relationship between access to credit and agricultural production. Their findings

revealed that farmers who had access to credit achieved a higher level of production compared to their counterparts.

Notably, Table 4.9 illustrates that majority (67.4%) of the members reported that the CBO programmes had neither enabled them to secure nor acquire land for agricultural services. This result is not surprising given that Bomet County and indeed Bomet Central Sub-County suffers from inequitable land distribution, with a small number of people owning a large amount of land, while the majority of the population owns very little or no land (see, Ruto, 2016). Reflecting on the demographic attributes of the respondents, most of them were below 45 years, meaning they may not have access to land. Additionally, due to the patriarchal context of Bomet County, most of the landownership is restricted to male members of the society (see, Caroline, 2017). Importantly, this study makes an argument that lack of access to credit facilities is an antecedent to securing land for agricultural services. This is to say that individuals who do not have land and at the same time living in poverty or poor, may have difficulty accessing credit, which can make it difficult for them to buy land. This information was corroborated with a key informant who had the following to say:

> *"The inability of CBO members to access credit has directly translated into our struggles to secure land for agricultural activities. Without credit, we couldn't afford land, and this restricted our agricultural ventures. This constraint not only hampers our individual agricultural efforts but also limits the reach and efficacy of the CBO's extension services."* (CBO Community Mobilizer 09, 2022).

The above quote highlights the intricate relationship between the inability of CBO members to access credit and their consequent struggles in securing land for agricultural activities. This sentiment is encapsulated in the member's testimony that without access to credit, the financial barrier prevents them from acquiring land, thereby constraining their agricultural pursuits. This barrier extends beyond individual limitations and resonates with the overarching challenges faced by CBO members in achieving meaningful agricultural engagement. Notably, this limitation not only affects individual members' capacity to engage in productive agricultural activities but also reverberates through the entire CBO's mandate. The constraint in securing land directly impedes the CBO's ability to effectively disseminate sustainable farming practices and to drive optimal agricultural outcomes, limiting its overall impact on local agricultural development. These findings are paralleled in a study by Ragasa (2014) who revealed that CBO

members' ability to access credit, land, and other resources significantly influences their active participation in agricultural initiatives. Lack of access, particularly to credit and land, not only limits individual engagement but also constrains the CBO's operational efficacy.

In summary, the outcomes from Table 4.9 reveal the significant influence of resource access on the performance of CBOs engaged in agricultural extension services within Bomet Central Sub-County. While a proportion of respondents indicated that CBO programs facilitated land access for agricultural purposes, a contrasting majority expressed difficulties in securing land. Additionally, access to credit services for agricultural activities played a pivotal role, with respondents reporting both utilization and satisfaction with such services. The challenges faced by CBO members in securing land due to limited access to credit resonate with expert views, highlighting that this constraint not only impedes individual agricultural pursuits, but also hampers the overall impact of the CBO in delivering sustainable farming practices and improving agricultural development in the local community.

4.4.3 Influence of socio-economic factors on the Performance of agricultural extension CBOs

Table 4.10 below shows the cross tabs on the influence of socio-economic factors on the output of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services case of Bomet central sub-county.

Table 4.10: **Influence of socio-economic factors on the Performance of agricultural extension CBOs**

			DV – CBO Performance				
Independent Variable statement		Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	SD
Access to resources	**Yes**	12 (80%)	9(60%)	7 (77%)	18(86%)	155(65%)	1.21
	No	3(20%)	6(40%)	2 (23%)	3 (14%)	85 (35%)	1.14
Participation	**Yes**	12 (80%)	11(73%)	5 (56%)	9 (43%)	167 (70%)	1.05
	No	3(20%)	4(27%)	4(44%)	12 (57%)	73 (30%)	1.16
Funding	**Yes**	14 (93%)	13(87%)	6(67%)	15 (72%)	182(76%)	1.11
	No	1(7%)	2 (13%)	3 (33%)	6 (28%)	58(24%)	1.00

Based on the representation in Table 4.10, community funding had the highest influence on agricultural extension CBOs Performance in Bomet followed by community participation and then access to resources. Therefore funding has a high influence on agricultural extension CBOs performance, followed by participation and access to resources, respectively. This outcome come to an agreement with Guirkinger and Bourcher (2008) who underscored that community funding is a vital factor that influenced the performance of CBOs. The study discovered that CBOs that received more funding and had higher levels of community participation and performed better than those with lower levels of funding and community participation.

4.5 Inferential statistics

This section entailed Pearson Correlation and Multiple Linear Regression analysis. Pearson Correlation was intended to establish the strength and direction of the relationship between predictor variables and response variable (CBO performance). In contrast, Multiple Linear Regression analysis was applied to determine the relative influence of community participation, CBO funding, and access to resources on CBO performance. First, the results of Pearson Correlation are presented.

4.5.1 Correlation Analysis

To examine the nature of the association between independent variables and outcome variable, Pearson Correlation was applied so as to ascertain the direction, strength and the statistical significance of the correlation. Table 4.11 below summarizes the association.

Table 4.11: Pearson Correlation Analysis

		CBO Performance	Community funding	Access to resources	Community participation
CBO Performance	Pearson Correlation	1.00	.881	.798	.789
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.010	.003	.005
	N	300	300	300	300
Community funding	Pearson Correlation	.881	1.00	.0156	.112
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.010	300	.0539	.035
	N	300		300	300
Access to resources	Pearson Correlation	.798	.0156	1.00	.319
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.003	.0539		.071
	N	300	300	300	300
Community participation	Pearson Correlation	.789	.112	.319	1.00
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005	.035	.071	
	N	300	300	300	300

The findings in table 4.11 indicate that all the three study predictor variables of community participation, community funding and access to resources had a positive correlation with performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services. Community funding had the strongest correlation with r=0.881, followed by access to resources with r=0.798 and community participation had a correlation of r=0.789.

4.5.2 Multiple Regression Analysis

Multiple Linear Regression analysis was applied to determine the combined coefficient of correlation (R) and influence (R-Square) of the three predictor variables with CBO performance. In addition, it tested the model goodness of fit to predict the association before establishing the relative influence of the predictor variables on CBO performance. Table 4.12 presents data on the model summary.

Table 4.12: Model Summary

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.819[a]	.671	.639	.655

a. Predictors: (Constant), participation, funding, access to resources

The table above shows that the R square value of 0.671 was obtained signifying that the study input variables, of community participation, community funding and access to resources significantly predict CBOs performance**.** The three input variables accounted for up to 67.1% of the variations in performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services case in Bomet central sub-county. This means that 67.1% of the total variations in agricultural community-based organizations performance of Bomet central sub-county were explained by the socio-economic factors of community participation, community funding and access to resources. The outcomes of multiple linear regression of Socio-economic factors on Agricultural extension CBOs Performance in Bomet are summarized in table 4.13.

Table 4.13: Multiple Linear Regression Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.227	.421		.5392	.013
	Community funding	.520	.242	.371	2.149	.012
	Community Participation	.348	.174	.146	2.00	.017
	Access to resources	.183	.113	.162	1.130	.032

a. Dependent Variable: CBOs performance

From Table 4.13, all the socio-economic factors of community participation, community funding and access to resources were found to have a positive significant influence on CBOs Performance in Bomet central sub-county. This can be seen by their positive beta values. In the same way, all the three input variables were statistically significant in forecasting agricultural

CBOs Performance. Consequently, holding all other socio-economic factors constant, one unit increase in Community funding will cause an increase in agricultural extension CBOs Performance in Bomet by 0.520 units. At the same time, holding all other socio-economic factors constant, one unit increase in Community Participation leads an increase in agricultural extension CBOs Performance in Bomet by 0.348 units, in addition to holding all other socio-economic factors constant, one unit increase in Access to resources leads a surge in agricultural extension CBOs Performance in Bomet by 0.183 units. Finally, the constant also had a p-value of 0.013 which is less than 0.05 with its beta estimate being 0.227 which means that a part from the three socio-economic factors, there are other factors that were not encompassed in this study that may positively increase agricultural extension CBOs by 0.227 units.

Therefore, community funding had the highest influence on agricultural extension CBOs Performance in Bomet by 0.520 units followed by community participation by 0.348 units. Lastly access to resources had a significant positive influence on agricultural extension CBOs Performance in Bomet by 0.183 units. Moreover, the total influence as per the multiple regression owing to the study input variables, community participation, community funding and access to resources was 67.1% in the performance of agricultural extension CBOs Performance in Bomet. This imply that 67.1% of the total variations in agricultural extension CBOs Performance is accounted for by the socio-economic of community participation, community funding and access to resources.

The study's findings thus highlight the significant influence of various socio-economic factors on the performance of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in the context of agricultural extension in Bomet Central Sub-county. These factors encompass community participation, community funding, and access to resources, and they exhibit positive and statistically significant effects on CBO performance, as indicated by their positive beta values.

Community funding emerges as the most influential factor with a positive beta value of 0.520. This means that, while keeping all other socio-economic factors constant, a one-unit increase in community funding leads to a substantial increase in the performance of agricultural extension CBOs in Bomet by 0.520 units. In essence, the financial support from the community plays a critical role in enhancing the effectiveness of these organizations, resulting in better outcomes.

Similarly, community participation is identified as a significant predictor of CBO performance, with a positive beta value of 0.348. Holding other socio-economic factors constant, a one-unit increase in community participation translates to a noteworthy increase of 0.348 units in the performance of agricultural extension CBOs in Bomet. This underscores the importance of active community engagement, involvement, and collaboration in driving CBO success. Access to resources also demonstrates a positive influence on CBO performance, albeit of a slightly lower magnitude. With a positive beta value of 0.183, an increase of one unit in access to resources, while keeping other factors constant, results in a 0.183 unit surge in the performance of agricultural extension CBOs in Bomet. Access to resources, including land, credit, and other essential inputs, enables these organizations to carry out their projects effectively and achieve better outcomes.

The study's constant term, which represents factors not encompassed in the analysis, also bears significance with a p-value of 0.013, indicating its statistical significance. The beta estimate for the constant is 0.227, meaning that apart from the three socio-economic factors considered in the study, there are additional elements that positively influence agricultural extension CBOs in Bomet, contributing an increase of 0.227 units in their performance. This highlights the existence of unmeasured variables and factors that contribute to CBO success and should be explored in future research.

In summary, the influence of the three socio-economic factors on the performance of agricultural extension CBOs in Bomet can be ranked based on their beta values. Community funding exhibits the highest influence, with a beta value of 0.520, signifying its pivotal role in enhancing CBO performance. Following closely is community participation, with a beta value of 0.348, emphasizing the significance of active community engagement and collaboration. Access to resources, with a beta value of 0.183, also plays a positive and valuable role in driving CBO success.

Overall, the three input variables, i.e., community participation, community funding, and access to resources, collectively account for a substantial portion of the variations in the performance of agricultural extension CBOs in Bomet. The multiple regression analysis reveals that these socio-economic factors, in combination, contribute to 67.1% of the total variations in CBO performance. This implies that a significant proportion of the differences in the effectiveness of

these organizations can be attributed to the interplay of community participation, community funding, and access to resources.

4.7 Chapter Summary

This chapter is centered around the analysis, presentation, and discourse of findings derived from the data. The central aim was to evaluate how socio-economic factors impact the operational effectiveness of community-based organizations (CBOs) engaged in agricultural extension services within Bomet Central Sub-County. Within this chapter, essential elements include details about the response rate, outcomes from the pilot test, demographic breakdown, and a comprehensive analysis of the study variables. Employing descriptive statistics and inferential methodologies, notably the multiple linear regression model, the data underwent scrutiny to discern the influence of socio-economic factors on the performance of CBOs.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the main conclusions of this study on socio-economic factors and agricultural extension CBOs performance in Bomet Central Sub-County. It describes how community participation, community funding, and access to resources influence agricultural extension CBOs performance. The chapter association's findings and draws conclusions and makes recommendations for additional research based on the findings.

5.2 Summary

The research project delved into an extensive demographic analysis of respondents within Bomet Central Sub-County, focusing on a range of factors including gender distribution, educational attainment, age categories, positions held within community-based organizations (CBOs), and the frequency of engagement with agricultural extension services. The findings revealed a nearly balanced representation of genders among the respondents, with a slight predominance of males (51.7%) compared to females (48.3%). This distribution is in line with prevailing societal norms and corresponds with previously established research patterns.

The educational profiles of the participants displayed remarkable diversity. Approximately16.7% of respondents indicated that they had primary education, 33.3% indicated that they had secondary education and the remaining 50% had tertiary education. This comprehensive spectrum of educational achievements demonstrates the richness of backgrounds within the respondent group. Notably, the majority of respondents had attained at least a certificate-level education, indicating a well-informed group equipped to contribute invaluable insights that align seamlessly with the research objectives.

Respondents' ages spanned a wide range. Approximately 37.7% were between 31 and 45 years old, 33.3% were aged 18 to 30 and 29% were above 46 years old. This diverse age distribution allowed for a comprehensive representation of perspectives within the study. The study investigated respondents' roles within the CBOs. It revealed that 76% of respondents were members of the CBOs, while 24% held official positions within the organizations. This indicates that the majority of respondents were active members rather than officials. The study explored

how frequently the community received agricultural extension services. Results showed that 35.7% of respondents received services quarterly, 31% received services monthly, 23.7% received services yearly, and a smaller portion received services on a weekly or daily basis.

Subsequently, the study analyzed the influence of socio-economic factors on the performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services within Bomet Central Sub-County. Three key socio-economic factors; community participation, community funding, and access to resources were examined. The study revealed that community participation significantly influenced CBO performance. Respondents expressed active engagement in CBO activities (74.3%), support for gender equality and women's involvement (65%), a sense of valued opinions and suggestions (68%), and trust and social cohesion among CBO members (68.7%). These factors collectively contributed to enhanced CBO performance, aligning with earlier research by Bett et al. (2013).

Community funding also emerged as a crucial factor impacting CBO performance. While only 41% believed current funding was adequate, a significant majority (85%) acknowledged that increased funding substantially improved CBO performance. Respondents also recognized the importance of exploring alternative funding sources (67%) and highlighted the hindrance caused by inadequate funding (75.3%). This underscores the vital role of community funding in CBO effectiveness, consistent with findings by Bett et al. (2013). Access to resources, particularly land and credit services, was another key determinant of CBO performance. While only 32.7% believed CBO programs assisted in land access, 63.3% had access to sufficient land. Moreover, 64% had accessed credit services for agricultural activities, and 66% were satisfied with their current access to credit services. These findings support prior research by Diallo et al. (2020), showcasing the positive relationship between access to credit and agricultural production.

Correlation analysis demonstrated positive relationships between all three predictor variables of community participation, community funding, and access to resources and CBO performance. Community funding exhibited the strongest correlation followed by access to resources and then community participation. The study's multiple linear regression model showed that the three socio-economic factors community participation, community funding, and access to resources significantly predicted CBO performance. These factors collectively accounted for 67.1% of the variations observed in CBO performance in Bomet Central Sub-County.

5.3 Conclusion of the Research Study

In conclusion, this research study aimed to assess the influence of socio-economic factors on the performance of community-based organizations (CBOs) engaged in agricultural extension services within Bomet Central Sub-County. Through a meticulous analysis of demographic characteristics and the examination of key socio-economic variables, this study has provided valuable insights into the dynamics that shape the effectiveness of CBOs in this context. The demographic analysis revealed a diverse and representative sample of respondents. The study captured an equitable distribution of gender, aligning with societal norms, while also highlighting the educational diversity of participants. The varied educational backgrounds, spanning from secondary education to advanced degrees, underscored the informed nature of the respondents and their capacity to substantively contribute to the research objectives. Furthermore, the study explored age groups and titles within CBOs, shedding light on the organizational structure and dynamics.

The investigation into the socio-economic factors revealed crucial findings. Community participation emerged as a driving force behind CBO performance, with active involvement, promotion of gender equality, valued opinions, and social cohesion significantly influencing the organizations' effectiveness. Community funding, while deemed inadequate by some, was recognized as a critical factor in enhancing CBO performance. The study illuminated the importance of exploring alternative funding sources and the challenges posed by insufficient financial support. Access to resources, particularly land and credit services, emerged as a cornerstone of CBO effectiveness, confirming the positive relationship between resource access and agricultural production.

The inferential statistics validated the positive correlations between community participation, community funding, access to resources, and CBO performance. The multiple linear regression model further demonstrated the predictive power of these socio-economic factors, accounting for a substantial 67.1% of the variations observed in CBO performance. This statistical validation reinforced the critical role of these factors in shaping CBO effectiveness.

Therefore, this research study has contributed significantly to the understanding of the intricate interplay between socio-economic factors and the performance of community-based organizations in agricultural extension services. The findings underscore the need for fostering

active community participation, ensuring adequate funding mechanisms, and facilitating access to essential resources. These insights hold the potential to guide targeted interventions and policies aimed at enhancing CBO performance, which, in turn, can catalyze the advancement of agricultural extension services in Bomet Central Sub-County. The study's outcomes resonate beyond the confines of this research, offering a foundation for informed decision-making, resource allocation, and strategic planning within the realm of agricultural extension services. As development efforts continue to prioritize sustainable and impactful community-based initiatives, the outcomes of this study provide a valuable roadmap for promoting the growth and efficacy of CBOs in driving agricultural development and rural empowerment.

5.4 Recommendations of the Research Study

Enhance Community Participation: Recognizing the pivotal role of community participation in CBO performance, stakeholders, including local governments and non-governmental organizations, should design strategies to encourage and facilitate active engagement. Workshops, awareness campaigns, and training sessions can be organized to promote increased involvement of community members in CBO activities.

Diversify Funding Sources: Given the significance of community funding for CBO performance, it is recommended to explore and establish multiple funding sources. Collaborations with governmental bodies, private sector entities, and international development agencies can help diversify funding streams, reducing dependency on a single source and ensuring financial stability.

Strengthen Financial Management: CBOs should prioritize effective financial management practices to optimize the utilization of available funds. Developing transparent and accountable financial systems, along with regular audits, can ensure that funding is allocated judiciously and efficiently.

Expand Access to Resources: Efforts should be directed towards facilitating increased access to resources such as land and credit services for community members involved in agricultural activities. Collaborative initiatives between CBOs, financial institutions, and government agencies can help streamline processes for acquiring land and accessing credit, thereby promoting sustainable agricultural practices

Promote Gender Equality: CBOs should actively work towards ensuring gender equality and women's meaningful participation in decision-making processes. Creating platforms for women's voices to be heard and fostering an inclusive environment will contribute to holistic and equitable agricultural development.

Capacity Building and Training: Recognizing the diverse educational backgrounds of CBO members, targeted capacity building and training programs should be designed to enhance their skills, knowledge, and expertise. These programs can cover areas such as agricultural techniques, leadership skills, financial literacy, and project management. Likewise CBOs should seek opportunities to collaborate and network with other organizations, institutions, and governmental bodies involved in agricultural extension services. This collaboration can lead to knowledge sharing, resource pooling, and the development of comprehensive and impactful interventions.

Advocacy and Policy Engagement: CBOs, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, should engage in advocacy efforts to influence policy decisions that affect agricultural extension services. Advocating for favorable policies, increased funding allocation, and streamlined procedures can create an enabling environment for CBOs to thrive. CBOs should also develop long-term sustainability plans that encompass financial, organizational, and programmatic aspects. This planning should address challenges such as funding fluctuations, leadership transitions, and evolving community needs.

5.5 Areas for Further Studies

While this research study has provided valuable insights into the influence of socio-economic factors on the performance of community-based organizations (CBOs) in agricultural extension services within Bomet Central Sub-County, there remain several areas that warrant further exploration and investigation. These potential areas for future studies could contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics at play and offer avenues for continued improvement and development:

Comparative Analysis: Comparative studies that examine the performance of CBOs across different regions or sub-counties could help identify contextual variations and factors that contribute to differential outcomes. Such analysis could provide insights into the generalizability of findings and the adaptability of interventions.

Institutional Analysis: Investigating the institutional and policy frameworks that support or hinder the performance of CBOs in agricultural extension services could shed light on the broader systemic factors that influence their effectiveness. Such studies could inform advocacy efforts and policy recommendations.

There is also need to compare different industries or organizational contexts: This research study focused on agricultural extension CBOs in the Kenyan context especially Bomet. To enhance the generalizability of the findings, future research could explore the influence of socio-economic factors on other sectors performance in different industries or organizational contexts. Comparing findings across various sectors and cultural settings can provide valuable insights into the universalities and nuances of these relationships.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: QUESTIONNAIRE CONSENT FORM

Mercy Cherono
P. O Box 39-60400,
Bomet.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a student at St Paul's University, Limuru pursuing a Master's degree in Development Studies. As part of my academic requirements, I am conducting a study on the factors influencing the performance of community-based organizations in implementing agricultural extension services in Bomet Central Sub-County, Kenya. Your participation in this study is voluntary, and any information you provide will be confidential. The data collected will only be used for research purposes, and your identity will be protected.

I kindly request you to participate in this study by completing the provided study instruments. The data collected will provide valuable insights into the factors that influence the performance of community-based organizations in implementing agricultural extension services, which will inform policy and practice in the agricultural sector.

Thank you for considering participating in this study.

Sincerely

Mercy.

Appendix II: Questionnaire

SECTION A: GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

(Tick where suitable)

1. Your gender Male ☐ Female ☐
2. Indicate your age group

   18-30 ☐ 31-45 ☐ 46 and above ☐

3. Indicate your highest level of education

   Secondary school ☐ Certificate ☐ Diploma ☐

   Bachelors ☐ Masters ☐ PhD ☐

4. Indicate your title in the CBO

   Tile _____

   Member ☐ CBO Official ☐ Non-member ☐

5. How long have you been a member of the CBO?
6. How frequently does your community-based group offer agricultural extension services to the public?

i. Daily ( )
ii. Weekly ( )
iii. Monthly ( )
iv. Quarterly ( )
v. Yearly ( )

SECTION B

INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF CBOS IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

7. To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (Tick appropriately)

(1= Yes, 2= No,

I. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Statement	**YES**	**No**
Do you actively participate in the activities organized by the CBO?		
Does the CBO promote gender equality and women's participation in decision-making processes?		
Do you feel that your opinions and suggestions are considered and valued by the CBO?		
Do you feel a sense of trust and social cohesion among members of the CBO?		

II. COMMUNITY FUNDING

Statement	**YES**	**No**
Do you believe that the current funding for agricultural extension programs is adequate?		
In your opinion, would increase funding significantly enhance the CBO's performance in delivering agricultural extension services?		
Are there any alternative sources of funding that the CBO has explored to support its agricultural extension activities?		
In your opinion, has a lack of funding hindered the performance of the CBO in providing agricultural extension services?		

III. ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Statement	YES	No
Do you have access to sufficient land for your agricultural activities?		
Have the CBO programs helped you in securing or accessing land for agricultural purposes?		
Have you ever accessed credit services for agricultural activities?		
Are you satisfied with your current access to credit services for agricultural purposes?		

SECTION C: PERFORMANCE

7. How would rate the performance of CBOs on each of the following extension services to farmers?

Agricultural practices	Very poor	poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Soil and water conservation practices					
Soil fertility management practices					
Crop rotation					
Agroforestry practices					
Soil cover					
Crop diversification					

8. During the last 3 years, what extension services have you received from CBOs?
9. How many times have been by extension worker supported by the CBOs?
10. Which of the following extension practices has your household adopted as a result of support from extension services provided by CBOs (Tick all that apply)

(Soil & Water Conservation practices ( )

- Soil fertility management practices ( )
- Crop rotation ( )
- Intercropping ( )
- Agroforestry practices ( )
- Soil Cover ( )
- Crop diversification ( )

11. How would you rate the Performance of CBOs in the provision of the following agricultural farms inputs?

i. Highly significant ( )
ii. Moderately significant ( )
iii. Somewhat significant ( )
iv. Not significant ( )
v. Not sure ( )

12. Have your received any of the following farm inputs from your CBOs during the last 3 years?

13. How has your farm's productivity and income changed since you began working with CBOs?

i. Yes ( )
ii. No ( )

14. Have you been able to diversify your food production and consumption with the support of the CBO?

i. Yes ( )
ii. No ()

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Appendix III: KII CONSENT FORM

Mercy Cherono
Q. O Box 39-60400,
Bomet.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a student at St Paul's University, Limuru pursuing a Master's degree in Development Studies. As part of my academic requirements, I am conducting a study on the factors influencing the performance of community-based organizations in implementing agricultural extension services in Bomet Central Sub-County, Kenya. Your participation in this study is voluntary, and any information you provide will be confidential. The data collected will only be used for research purposes, and your identity will be protected.

I kindly request you to participate in this study by participating in an interview session. The session will be recorded for analysis. The data collected will provide valuable insights into the factors that influence the performance of community-based organizations in implementing agricultural extension services, which will inform policy and practice in the agricultural sector.

Thank you for considering participating in this study.

Sincerely,

Mercy.

Appendix IV: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE

Funding

a) What sources contribute to the funding of your CBO?

b) In what ways does your CBO promote transparency and accountability in managing community funding?

c) Could you discuss the impact of community funding on the effectiveness of agricultural extension services provided by your CBO?

Community Participation

a. How does your CBO incorporate the community in its agricultural extension services?

b. What specific strategies for encouraging community participation and women have been successful?

c. What difficulties has your CBO encountered in involving the community in its work?

d. How has community involvement influenced the efficacy of your CBO's agricultural extension services?

e. How many other farmers do you know who have received assistance from CBOs in the last year?

Access to Resources

a) Can you describe the role of access to land in the performance of your CBO's agricultural extension activities? How does having access to land influence the effectiveness of your programs and initiatives?

b) How does the availability or lack of access to credit impact the overall performance and sustainability of your CBO's agricultural extension efforts? Can you provide specific examples or instances where access to credit has played a significant role?

c) In what ways does access to credit influence the performance of your CBO in delivering agricultural extension services? Are there any notable differences you have observed in the outcomes achieved when credit is readily available versus when it is scarce?

Performance

a. How many farmers has your CBO reached and served in the last year?

b. Have the women who have been served by your CBO been able to access resources such as land, credit, or inputs on an equal basis with men?

c. Have the farmers who have been served by your CBO seen an improvement in their crop yields or livestock production as a result of adopting new practices or technologies?

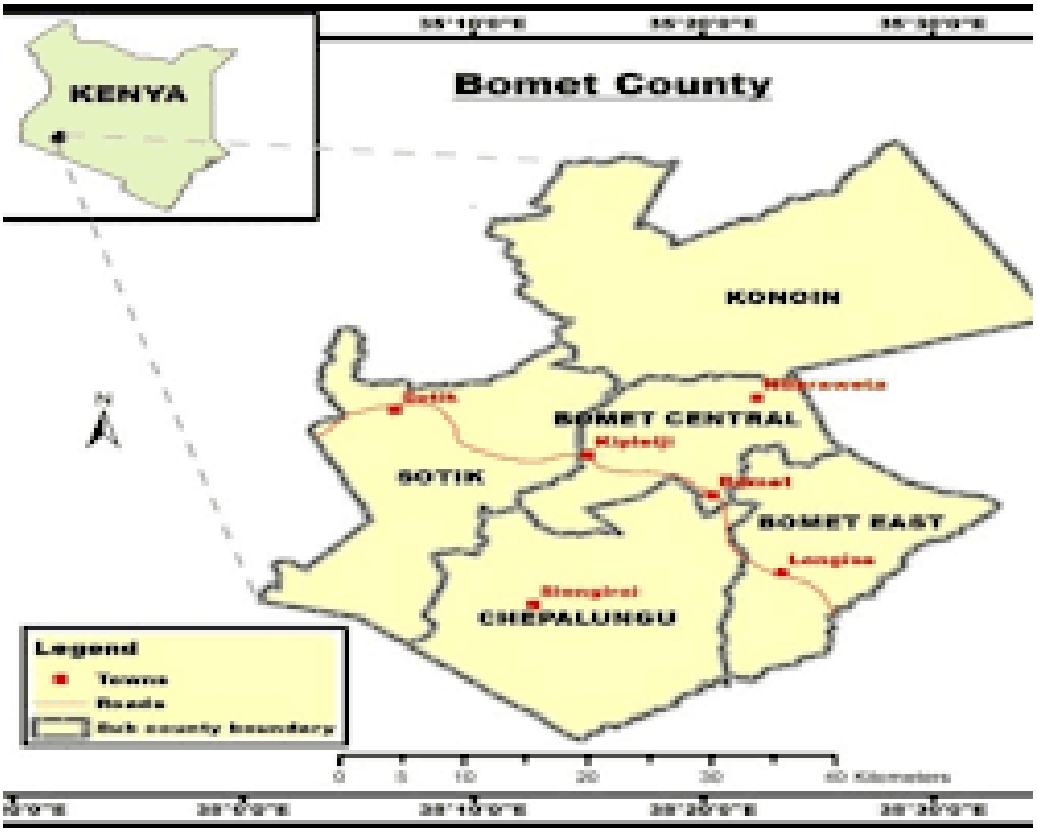
d. About how many farmers have adopted Soil & Water Conservation practices do the CBOs promote as a result of CBOs extension efforts?

e. Has there been an improvement in farmers' livelihoods as a result of CBO programs?

f. Based on your observation, how much improvement have you noticed in the livelihoods of farmers involved in CBO programs?

g. What suggestions or recommendations do you have for improving the performance of CBOs in agricultural extension programs?

Appendix V: MAP OF BOMET COUNTY



Appendix VI: UNIVERSITY ETHICS AND REVIEW COMMITTEE APPROVAL LETTER

ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSITY

Private Bag 00217 Limuru,
Kenya
Email: office@spu.ac.ke
Website: www.spu.ac.ke

Tel Office: +254 (0) 20-2020505/10
Mobile: +254 (0) 728-669000
(0) 736-424440

REF: SPU/60/2023 **Date: 20th July 2023**

TO: Mercy Cherono
St. Paul's University

Dear Mercy,

RE: Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Performance of Community Based Organizations in Agricultural Extension Services Case of Bomet Central Sub County in Kenya

Greetings,

This is to inform you that SPU- Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee has reviewed the above-named research proposal. **Your ERB approval number is 68, for the period between 20th July 2023 – 20th August, 2024.**

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

i. Only approved documents including (informed consents, study instruments) will be used.
ii. All changes including (amendments, deviations, and violations) are submitted for review and approval by SPU- Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee.
iii. Death and life-threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to SPU- Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee within 72 hours of notification
iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affected safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect

the integrity of the research must be reported to *SPU- Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee* within 72 hours

v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions.
vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal.
vii. Submission of an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to SPU- Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee.

Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to obtain a research license from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke and also obtain other clearances needed.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Daniel Nzengya, PhD
Chairperson
SPU- Institutional Scientific & Ethics Review Committee



APPENDIX IX: NACOSTI LICENCE

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE,TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No: **342821**

Date of Issue: **02/August/2023**

RESEARCH LICENSE



This is to Certify that Ms.. Mercy Cherono Rono of St. Paul's University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Bomet on the topic: SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING PERFORMANCE OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES CASE OF BOMET CENTRAL SUB COUNTY IN KENYA. for the period ending : 02/August/2024.

License No: **NACOSTI/P/23/28172**

342821

Applicant Identification Number

Director General
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE,TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Verification QR Code

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See overleaf for conditions