



ACADEMIA ENGELBERG

THE 13TH DIALOGUE ON SCIENCE AT ENGELBERG AS FROM 15TH TO 17TH OCTOBER 2014, THEME: FOOD SECURITY

**WORKSHOP SUMMARY BY THE KENYAN TEAM OF DANIEL OWINO WAMUNGA & JARED
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INTRODUCTION

The workshop presentations were made after the Young Scientists' presentations where Kenya's food security status elicited some interests from the participants who were invited to join the deliberations. The workshop conveners, Daniel and Jared both representing the Government of Kenya and the civil society, respectively, took the participants through the summary of the expected outcome noting that the case study was based on an actual project in its formative stages in Siaya County in Kenya. The proposed project is part of how intensification farming can enhance food security by ensuring both the availability and affordability of the food commodity but also ensuring provision of nutritious foods to the population. Tembea Youth Center for Sustainable Development, being the Organization at the heart of the project, was seeking practical ways of how to map out the key stakeholders along the poultry value chain and finding possible ways of cooperation with the County Government of Siaya hence the necessitation of the two scenarios as discussed below.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In most rural homes in Kenya, the women are the ones who are relegated to the actual farming work in food production. This is because their men (husbands) either work in formal employment in urban centers or if the woman is above 60 years of age, in most cases the man could have died earlier, hence the women could be widowed. Most families in the rural villages are composed of between three to five children who the mother is compelled to fend for through hard work on the farms either as source of casual labor or as the primary drivers of production.

The young men and women in rural Kenya are likely to be in the urban centers looking for formal employment or getting involved in the informal sector but most certainly out of the villages hence the reason why agricultural production seems to be left to the elderly women in the villages.

For the youth to be involved in agriculture, innovation, business worth and the youth's mobility should be brought into context and due attention paid to them. There is need to direct these energies to enhance poultry production in Siaya County thereby contributing to the iron and protein needs of the women in the rural areas. Presently most women in the rural areas suffer from iron deficiency anemia coming from the lack of the heme iron that the proposed poultry venture will seek to meet among the families in Siaya County through the joint collaboration between Tembea Youth Center for Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries in Kenya.



The urban woman in Kenya is increasingly becoming busier. This is because as a nation, Kenya strongly supports the affirmative action as entrenched in the constitution that makes women entitled to at least a third of both elective and appointment posts both in public and private entities. The urban women are therefore emerging as academicians with the desire and potential to rise within the echelons of social life in the academic frontiers. This makes them prone to sedentary lifestyles as opposed to their rural counterparts, thus predisposing them to risk factors for both obesity and overweight as captured in the presentations earlier.

The proposed poultry investment in Siaya County is therefore a major project aimed at eliciting the youth to actively engage in agriculture through an apprenticeship approach known as business incubation model. The Government of Kenya should be seen as a key partner together with Tembea Youth Center for Sustainable Development to realize the above aspirations.

Scenario 1

The participants were to imagine that they are a potential investor in the local poultry sector in Kenya and they would like to invest in partnership with Tembea Youth Center for Sustainable Development. They were to do stakeholders analysis and indicate the various stakeholders within the food systems framework. They were to suggest the sustainable approaches that can be used to scale up local poultry production. Finally the participants discussed and explored robust ways that Kenya's rural poor can adapt to develop/strengthen a resilient value chain of cereal-poultry-fish.

Scenario 2

The second group of participants had to envision a scenario in which they had just been employed by the Government of Kenya within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries in Siaya County. They had to propose measures they would undertake to ensure that the youth in the County actively gets involved in local poultry production. What intervention measures should the Ministry of Agriculture; Livestock & Fisheries in Siaya County undertake to ensure realization of the cottage industry for value addition ventures in the poultry sector? Finally they had to explore ways through which the Government can ensure and support rural agricultural market systems.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORKSHOP

Tembea Youth Center for Sustainable Development, a local organization in Siaya, to carry out stakeholder's analysis in terms of power versus interest in the proposed intensification farming venture that encompasses poultry, fish and crop farming. The poultry farming was to complement both the nutritional needs of the malnourished ones in Siaya County while at the same time providing manure for the farms and food for the fish in the ponds. Tembea Youth Center already has put in place the necessary physical infrastructure and therefore was keen to bring on board the views of the potential investor to make the project viable and sustainable in the long run. Some of the stakeholders as noted by one of the groups are as listed below:



- The local chief (representing the Administration)
- Microfinance institutions for financing the trained groups
- Officials of the Tembea Youth Center
- Farmers who would be expected to act like incubators of the project to ensure that many people buy into the poultry business. Their work would be to be like breeders once trained and supported by seed capital from the microfinance agencies.
- The villagers themselves
- Traders in the local poultry business
- Manufacturers of chicken feeds and chicken products
- The County Government of Siaya (the Department of Agriculture; Livestock & Fisheries)
- Markets
- Transport companies
- Communication companies that link up the farmers to the markets

The group went ahead and came up with a number of possible ways forward to ensure the viability of the venture as follows:

- Empowerment of the villagers with entrepreneurship skills. This would ensure continuity, hence sustainability, in the long run.
- Creation of new local jobs to the villagers especially for the youth once the proposed venture takes off.
- Education of the villagers on free range management of the poultry to maximize on limited space and improve production. This will ensure efficient collection and eventually sale of eggs.
- The water from the fish ponds to be channelled to the vegetable farms to provide the essential micronutrients to the plants.
- There is need to do fencing of the fish ponds to enhance protection of fish and easy ways of monitoring the production levels.
- Providing communication means to the farmers' e.g. through mobile phones or just linking them through group mails to improve efficiency in managing market information.

The role of the Government in the value chain

1. Assure farmers of markets for their produce. This the Government can do by being the market itself or linking the farmers in Siaya to ready markets.
2. Diversify the feeding houses for chickens through innovative extension staffs in the Ministry of Agriculture; Livestock & Fisheries.
3. Provision of incentives for training and the entrepreneurs.
4. Expand and optimize the poultry value chains.
5. Invest in and develop infrastructure (roads, cooling plants, local market sheds).
6. Regulate policies on food safety.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Agriculture Sector Development Support Program(ASDSP) Siaya County to bring on board Tembea Youth Center for Sustainable Development as a major stakeholder in the poultry value chain for fruitful engagement in the uptake of poultry farming among smallholder farmers in Siaya.
2. The County Government of Siaya to consider increasing budgetary allocation for training of farmers as a major input towards poultry and fish farming.