INFLUENCE OF THE YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND (YEDF) LOANS AND SERVICES ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AGRIBUSINESS IN NAKURU COUNTY, KENYA

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DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATION

Declaration

This thesis is my original work and has not been previously submitted or published for the award of a degree or diploma in this or any other university.

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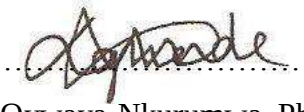
Recommendation

The thesis has been submitted with our approval as the University's Supervisors

Signature  Date: 24/07/2023

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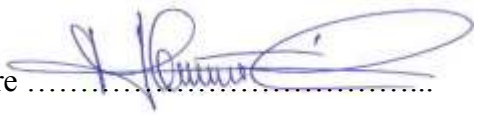
Signature  Date: 24/07/2023

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This study is dedicated to my dear husband George Njoroge and our children Faith, Precious and Trina whose prayers, efforts and support were not in vain.

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the foundation of many global civilizations. It is a crucial sector that fuels the development of nations worldwide, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. 60% of the Kenyan population is comprised of young people, of which 40% are unemployed. Kenyans derive more than 80 percent of their employment and livelihood opportunities from agriculture. The Youth Entrepreneurship Development Fund (YEDF) is one such initiative. Despite the Fund's availability, youth involvement in agribusiness has remained negligible. This study aimed to determine the factors that influence adolescent involvement in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya. The investigation focused on the enterprise categories among YEDF recipients, the loans obtained, training programmes, agricultural extension services available to youth, and YEDF recipient services. The investigation employed a descriptive survey design. The investigation targeted 1,800 adolescents, 48 agricultural extension officers, and YEDF officers. 817 YEDF recipients constituted the study's population, along with six agricultural extension officers and six YEDF officers. Using stratified random sampling, six of the eleven constituencies in Nakuru County were sampled. Two hundred sixty-nine adolescents were selected at random from the six constituencies. From each of the six randomly selected constituencies, two extension employees and YEDF officers were selected as key informants, for a total of 12 respondents. Questionnaires were used to collect information. Cronbach test was used to test the reliability of the research instruments and coefficients that were above 0.70 were used for the study. Prior to data collection, pilot study was conducted to validate the instrument, and it was successful. The data were analyzed using straightforward linear regression. The results indicated that livestock production was the most prevalent enterprise among Nakuru's adolescents. Significant impact of YEDF loans (=-.581, p=.001), training programs (=.898, p=.001), service programs (=-.351, p=.001), and agricultural extension services (=.798, p=.001).The conclusion of the study is that the majority of YEDF beneficiaries in Nakuru County are engaged in livestock production. Youth involvement in agribusiness is significantly and positively influenced by YEDF loans. Training programs for YEDF recipients have a positive effect on adolescent involvement in agribusiness. The influence of agricultural extension services on adolescent participation in agribusiness is positive. Youth participation in agribusiness is significantly impacted by YEDF's services. The study suggests that more information be provided to young people about agribusiness opportunities, YEDF financing, trainings, agricultural extension services, and YEDF services.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AEO	African Economic Outlook
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
ASDS	Agriculture Sector Development Strategy
ATCs	Agricultural Training Centers
AUC	African Union Commission
ADBG	African Development Bank Group
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
ERS	Economic Revitalizing strategy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFS	Farmer Field Schools
FGDS	Focus Group Discussions
GAME	Global Agribusiness Management Enterprise
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GOK	Government of Kenya
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
ILO	International Labour Organization
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KKV	Kazi Kwa Vijana
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KPHC	Kenya Population and Housing Census
MFIs	Micro Finance Institutions
MDGS	Millennium Development Goals
MFIs	Micro Finance Institutions
MoALF	Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries
MOYAS	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NYDP	National Youth Development Policy

NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NYDP	National Youth Development Policy
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACCOS	Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SRA	Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
T&V	Training and Visit
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Education Fund
UN	United Nations
YEAP	Youth Employment Agribusiness Programme
YES	Youth Employment Summit
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund
YESA	Youth Employment Scheme Abroad
YPARD	Young Professionals for Agriculture Research Development

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

Lack of employment opportunities among youth is a global issue affecting many nations. When the majority of young adults who graduated from postsecondary institutions in 2010 enter the workforce, they face a number of obstacles (Buheji, 2019). (Assan and Nalutaaya, 2018) Young unemployment is recognized as a significant issue in Africa, particularly Kenya, and effective solutions are required. Sumberg *et al.* (2020) connect adolescent unemployment to economic issues such as sluggish growth, the financial crisis, and inadequate access to capital and funds. It is widely acknowledged that agriculture is the foundation of many global civilizations. Agriculture is a vital industry that drives economic growth and success in many developing nations around the globe, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, agriculture is among the leading significant industries in many developing nations, employing millions of individuals (AGRA, 2017). The sector employs 25% of the workforce in Brazil, 32% of the workforce in Egypt, 37% of the workforce in Israel, and 70% of the workforce in Nigeria, according to AGRA (2017), also employs 25% of the workforce in each country. It is estimated that 97 percent of global agricultural labor is performed by residents of developing countries (FAO, 2017).

The uncultivated land in Africa is estimated to be large, and is estimated to cover nearly a significant portion of the globe’s land that is suitable for agricultural use is largely unutilized. The arable land, if properly developed can employ a significant percent of its population within its agricultural industries. Recent estimates indicate that the sector employs over 66 million (58 %) of the people in Sub-Saharan region (International Labour Organization (ILO), 2020). This translates to the fact that ten million people can be employed in these agricultural lands by 2023.

Agriculture forms the pillar of the economy in Kenya, contributing directly for 33% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and indirectly for 27% via connections to other economic sectors. In addition, the industry accounting for more than 40% of the country's 55 million total population and more than 70% of the rural population. The sector accounts for approximately 65 percent of Kenya's total exports and more than 18 percent of the country's employment in the formal sector (Government of Kenya (GOK), 2016). The majority of informal employment is concentrated in rural areas, as per the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) (2016). 60% of the nation's 55 million inhabitants are youthful adults, of whom 40% are unemployed. Unemployment among youth is one of Kenya's greatest

economic concerns (Munga and Onsomu, 2016). Consequently, the Kenyan government has made juvenile employment one of its primary objectives for reducing poverty (GOK, 2014).

Due to dropping out of school or failing to enroll in institutions of higher education, nearly one million Kenyan adolescents enter the workforce every year without any skills (KNBS, 2019). After concluding their education at a community college or university, an additional 155,000 individuals join the labor force annually. To satisfy this demand, the Kenyan economy must generate about 1,300,000 new job openings annually (Kaane, 2019). Youth constitute more than sixty percent of the population in Kenya, but they do not view agriculture as a viable employment option (Gichimu and Njeru, 2014). According to the Youth Agripreneurs Forum conducted in Ibadan, Nigeria, young Africans have vast economic prospects in agriculture. The forum has identified opportunities in the agricultural value chain, marketing, and transportation. Moreover, the forum asserts that utilization of contemporary information, communication, and technology (ICTs) has the potential to offer young people employment opportunities as both producers and consumers (African Development Bank Group (ADBG), 2017).

Consequently, this can be achieved with the assistance of Agricultural Extension Services, which play a fundamental part in boosting agricultural output, sustaining livelihoods, enhancing food security, and promoting national economic development (AGRA, 2017). More participation in the agribusiness value chains of Kenya's sub-counties could generate approximately six million jobs (Reese, 2017). In the majority of countries, despite the numerous opportunities in Kenya's agribusiness industry, it has yet to completely capitalize on the youth's potential and remains unattractive to them. Lack of access to land, capital, financing, insurance, the market, information, skills, and extension services are the leading causes of youth under-participation in agribusiness (Bagson and Naamwintone, 2013; Karuga, 2019). Youth are expected to support, regulate, and advocate for agriculture in order to assist nations in achieving global economic growth (Cummins *et al.*, 2015).

In Kenya, a dearth of agricultural capital hinders young people's participation in agribusiness (Karuga, 2019). Through Legal Notice No. 167, Kenya’s government created the juvenile Employment and Development Fund (YEDF) on December 8, 2006, in an effort to combat juvenile unemployment. The fund's objectives include lending credit to youth-run businesses, facilitating the marketing of their products and services on both local and foregn markets, providing development services to their businesses and entrepreneurial training to youth businesses, and facilitating youth employment on the global employment market through the Youth Employment Scheme Abroad (GOK, 2014). Ineffective implementation

procedures and a lack of entrepreneurial skills and social networks among youth have hampered the YEDF's contribution to youth development in the agriculture sector (Sikenyi, 2017).

YEDF focuses on all forms of youth-owned businesses in Kenya, whether they are owned by an individual, a company, a group, a cooperative, or any other legal entity (Gachugia *et al.,* 2014). Key accomplishments of the YEDF include increasing loan disbursements to over one million youth entrepreneurs from an initial Kes 6.5 billion in 2006 to Kes 14 billion in 2021; providing enterprise development services to approximately 190,298 youth through training, marketing support, and connecting youth entrepreneurs with large enterprises; and providing trading space (YEDF, 2021). In Kenya's Nakuru County, loans to adolescents have been dispersed through a variety of channels. Examples include payments made by financial institutions and government agencies. Among the recipients of the payment are agribusiness organizations and enterprises (Mwangi and Shem, 2019).

The Kenyan government has provided youth with numerous opportunities in the agribusiness industry, such as irrigation, agricultural land licensing, and automation. In addition, it suggests adding value to help young people discover employment and investment opportunities (MOALF, 2017). The government mandates that 30% of the public sector's purchases be made from young people, which generates wealth that can be invested in agriculture (AGRA, 2017). (GOK, 2013) The Youth Enterprise Development Fund can promote agribusiness by providing financing to young people to support agribusiness enterprises along the agricultural value chain. The fund can assist children in marketing their agribusiness products and services on domestic and international markets, as well as provide youth businesses with business expansion services and entrepreneurship training, thereby encouraging youth people engagement in agribusiness (GOK, 2014). The conclusions of this study have addressed some of the issues and provided actionable solutions. (Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation, 2020). The young in Nakuru County, Kenya, are not exploiting the numerous opportunities in the agricultural value chains that exists in the area. However, county-level data on adolescent participation in the subsector are still lacking. In addition, the YEDF's contribution to youth participation in the subsector has not been exhaustively analyzed or documented. This is the void that this study sought to address.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) was set up by Kenya’s government to encourage youth empowerment and creation of job opportunities throughout the country. By providing them with loans and other support services, the Fund strives to transform

youngsters from job searchers to job creators. 40 percent of Kenyan youth are still unemployed and unable to meet their basic necessities, even though the YEDF has been in in existence for more than 15 years. The agriculture sector, which is the pillar of economy in Kenya, provides numerous employment opportunities through agribusiness activities along the value chains. Nakuru County is among the most productive regions in Kenya. Despite the establishment of the YEDF, over fifty percent of adolescents in the county are unemployed and unable to meet their daily necessities. The YEDF's contribution to involvement of youth in agriculture in Nakuru County has not been fully investigated or recorded. This is the void this study attempted to address.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to determine the influence of the YEDF loans and services on youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.

1.4 Specific Objectives

The study objectives were to:

i. Document the types of the agribusiness enterprises among the beneficiaries of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Nakuru County, Kenya
ii. Determine the influence of loans obtained from Youth Enterprise Development Fund on the level of youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.
iii. To assess the influence of training programmes for beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund on their participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.
iv. To evaluate the impact of agricultural extension services on youth participation in agribusiness among the beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Nakuru County, Kenya.
v. Determine the influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund services for beneficiaries of the Fund on their participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.

1.5 Research Question and Hypotheses

The following were the research question and hypotheses of the study:

1.5.1 Research Question

What are the agribusiness enterprises do beneficiaries of the YEDF in Nakuru County engage in?

1.5.2 Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses guided the study:

$H0_{1:}$ There is no statistically significant influence of loans obtained from Youth Enterprise Development Fund on the level of youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.

$H0_{2:}$ There is no statistically significant influence of training programmes for beneficiaries of YEDF on the level of their participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.

$H0_{3:}$ There is no statistically significant influence of agricultural extension services on the level of participation in agribusiness among the beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Nakuru County, Kenya.

$H0_{4:}$ There is no statistically significant influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund services for beneficiaries of the fund on the level of their participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The findings of the study will aid YEDF, county, and national government planners in improving youth access to YEDF for agribusiness. The findings would inform agricultural extension service providers about the information needed by youth to take advantage of opportunities like the YEDF. The outcome of this study will increase the level of awareness for the youth, with regards to opportunities that come with access to YEDF. This will enhance their level of participation in agribusiness, which could result in lower youth joblessness and also lower crime and other social challenges faced by young people. The study would be extremely valuable to those who are involve in youth affairs, including the administration, youth development officers, leaders of youth groups, the private sector among other organizations involved in youth empowerment initiatives. The findings of the study are also important for those planning to conduct research in a similar field because they lay the foundation for future research.

1.7 Scope of the Study

The focus of the study is on the YEDF and its influence on youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County. The variables of the study included; types of enterprises in agribusiness among the beneficiaries of the fund, loans obtained from the fund, training, YEDF services and agricultural extension services available for the youth in Nakuru County. The study focused on beneficiaries of the YEDF who have invested in agribusiness.

1.8. Limitation of the Study

The study limitation was the reliance on recall of the respondents who were issued with the questionnaire to give information on YEDF implementation since inception in 2007. This is because the respondents did not keep all the records. This was overcome by counter checking the data provided in various reports and with key informants.

1.9 Assumptions of the Study

Some of the assumptions that were adopted in this study include:

i. That all the youth in Nakuru County were aware of the existence and eligibility criteria to access the YEDF.
ii. That all the youth had equal opportunities to access YEDF.

1.10 Operational Definition of Terms

In this study, several terminologies were used. These included:

Agriculture: the science, art, or practice of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock and in varying degrees the preparation, value addition and marketing of the resulting products (Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, 2010). In this study the same meaning was adopted.

Agribusiness: this includes all the business participating in the production-to-consumption systems of crops and livestock products (GOK, 2012). In this study the same meaning was adopted**.**

Agricultural Extension: this is another name for advisory services. This means that extension officers provide knowledge, skills to the people in the agriculture value chains (Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, 2010). In this study the same meaning was adopted.

Agricultural extension services: these are systems and mechanisms designed to build and strengthen the capacity of farmers and other stakeholders.

Beneficiaries: a person or thing that receives help or an advantage from something (Dictionary. com, 2014). In this study this meant the youth who have benefited from youth enterprise development fund in Nakuru County, Kenya and have used it in agribusiness.

Enterprise: An undertaking or a business concern whether formal or informal engaged in production of goods or provision of services (Webster, 2017). In this study enterprise meant the agribusiness projects undertaken by the receivers of the youth enterprise development fund.

Influence: this is the ability of someone or things to control an individual or have an impact on actions, perspective of others (Dictionary.Com, 2017). In this study influence meant the power that youth enterprise development fund to youth engaged in Agribusiness activities.

Level of youth participation in agribusiness: the position of youth involvement in business that generate major or all of its income from agriculture (GOK, 2017). In this study the same meaning was adopted. The level was determined by combining four different indicators to form an index. The index comprised of four different indicators, which included; capital investment in agribusiness from YEDF, number of casual labourers in YEDF supported business, youths employed in YEDF supported agribusiness and number of years the agribusinesses have been operated, in terms of either new enterprises or expanding the existing agribusiness enterprises.

Loans: this is the money lent by individuals or financial institutions to other individuals or organizations. The beneficiary incurs a debt and is usually liable to pay interest on the principal amount borrowed debt until it is repaid (American Heritage Dictionary, 2016). In this study this meant the money borrowed by youth from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. It was measured by the amount of loans frequency of loans and repayment of the loans.

Market strategy: this is a plan that is well formulated to increase the sale of a product or service (GOK, 2016). In this study it meant the marketing channels used by Youth Enterprise Development Fund to reach the youth.

Type of enterprise: the size of a business or operation based on the number of people employed, services offered and the initial cost of investment (World Bank, 2017). In this study the same meaning was adopted. This will be measured in terms of services offered at a business, number of employees and the investment cost.

Training programmes: this is teaching or developing in oneself or others, any skills and knowledge that relates to specific useful competencies (GOK, 2016). In this study this meant the teaching or developing youth with skills and knowledge that relates to agribusiness by Youth Enterprise Development Fund. This was measured in terms of types of trainings offered, number of training sessions and frequency of training Sessions. In this research youth training was operationalized as an index that combined several pointers related to information provision, these included: formal training related to the management of business conducted by different organization such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Government ministries.

Information gained from other farmers, information gained from visits to other entrepreneurs and shows, information from mass media (TV and Radio), information from internet sources, information from written materials (newspapers, fliers, pamphlets, brochure).

Youth: Are persons between the ages of 18 and 35 (GOK, 2010). In this study youth meant persons between the age of 18 years and 35 years.

Youth Participation in Agribusiness: this refers to the youth involvement in agribusiness along all the value chains (Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, 2010). In this research the same meaning was adopted.

Youth Enterprise Development Fund Services: these are activities that are meant to support a development (Webster, 2017). In this study this meant the activities done to support the effectiveness of YEDF which included; marketing services, provision of contracts (government and county), loan repayment advice, advice on income tax, and management of the enterprises.

CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The current chapter provides a review of pertinent literature related to the study. The chapter consist of the following sections: the role of youth in economic development, the role of agriculture in economic development, the role of agriculture as a business in job creation among Kenya's youth, agricultural extension services and youth in Kenya, YEDF in Kenya, youth participation in agribusiness and emerging opportunities in Kenya, and factors preventing youth participation in agribusiness. The chapter ends with the theoretical and conceptual frameworks.

2.2 The Role of Youth in Economic Development

The concept of youth varies depending on the context, which includes sociocultural, economic, financial, and demographic changes. To achieve statistical homogeneity across regions, the term "youth" refers to those aged 15 to 24, regardless of member state definitions. Persons between the ages of 15 and 35 are considered to be youth. The United Nations (2016) notes that some African countries, however, have developed their own definitions of youth. Youths are defined as 14 to 25 years old in Mauritius and Botswana, 12 to 30 years old in Swaziland and Nigeria, and 12 to 30 years old in South Africa, Tanzania, and Ghana. Differences in how different countries define youth make studying and comparing issues affecting young people in Africa as a whole difficult (Kwabena and Mwangi, 2013). The Kenyan Constitution defines youth as the period between childhood and maturity, occurring between the ages of 18 and 35, and is characterized by sexual maturation as well as increasing social and economic independence from parents and caregivers (KNBS, 2010).

Over 1.8 billion young people, or nearly 30% of the global population, live in developing countries, which account for roughly 89 percent of the global population (United Nations Fund for Population Activities, 2014). Sub-Saharan Africa has approximately 297 million young adults (Devlin, 2013). Africa had a population of 1.05 billion people in 2011, and it is expected to quadruple by 2050. Africa is regarded as the youngest continent because young people account for roughly 70% of the continent's population. Furthermore, more than half of Africa's youth are female, with the large portion of the population living in rural rather than urban areas (Kwabena and Mwangi, 2013).

In Kenya, over 60% of the 45 million people living in the country are young adults, which is a sizeable segment of the population has the potential to make major contributions

to national development and growth of the economy if fully utilized (KNBS, 2014). Due to the significant number of youth population, nations across the globe must involve their youth in decision-making, development, and program execution for rural economic growth and the nation's overall growth. Because of their large number, youth represent a significant development and challenge potential, especially in developing countries (Domale *et al.*, 2013).

Youth could have a significant impact on economic development and peace building in Africa due to their large numbers and alternative innovative ways. They can absorb and adapt new concepts and technologies to the African context more effectively. Furthermore, they are more likely than their elders to question norms, social and political processes that stifle economic progress and development (UNDP, 2023). The dilemma for African politicians is to channel youthful people's desires for change that has the potentials to make positive contribution. Inadequate development and utilization of youth potential may result in significant economic losses, violent conflicts, and political and social instability (Iwasaki, 2016). Furthermore, the potential of youth empowerment includes assisting in the mobilization and utilization of resources in a variety of industries, which increases job opportunities and lowers the unemployment rate (Zhartay *et al.,* 2020). On a national and organizational level, human capital is regarded as a critical component of economic development and sustainability. Youth empowerment is a critical component of national human capital and economic success. Countries fail to realize the available potential for economic progress and social well-being due to a lack of young participation in economic development (Jimoh *et al.,* 2020).

Effective case studies in Africa, particularly in Kenya, demonstrate that providing capital to young people has increased their participation in development. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has released a number of case studies demonstrating how youth funding encourages agricultural participation. The Cambodian Agri-Enterprise Development and Management (AEDM) initiative is a case study in which young people were trained and those who lacked investment funds were given loans. The graduates repaid the $300 loan and training costs within three years of graduation, ensuring the fund's stability. Since its inception in 2011, the project has assisted 300 young people, and the number is constantly growing. Grameen Bank's Youth Entrepreneur Loan Project (YELP), which began in Bangladesh in 2008, is another case study. The project aimed to provide loans to young entrepreneurs in order for them to start profitable businesses. The funding was meant to help young people find work. Healthcare centers, fisheries, agriculture,

and poultry were among the enterprises that were sponsored. As of 2011, the initiative had assisted 1432 young people (FAO, 2014). The initiative's goal was to generate work for young people. Healthcare centers, fisheries, agriculture, and poultry were among the enterprises that were sponsored. As of 2011, 1432 young people had benefited from the initiative (FAO, 2014).

There are a number of documented cases of successful African youth initiatives that have impacted positively on the youth desire to participate in projects related to agriculture. Yami *et al.* (2019) investigated the various rural agribusiness approaches used in Africa involve youth in agricultural activities. The program Empowering Novel Agribusiness-Led Employment for Youth in African Agriculture (ENABLE Youth) has been implemented in several countries in Africa, including Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, and Madagascar. The initiative is supported by the African Development Bank (ADB) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). In a Nigerian case study, the concept of youth involvement was found to be beneficial, with 94.2 percent of questioned teenagers supporting the project and recognizing it as the best method for them (Nyabam *et al.,* 2018). The Ugandan government established the Youth Venture Capital Fund in collaboration with local banks, which invests in projects proposed by young entrepreneurs. The emphasis was on empowering Ugandan teenagers who were eager to be trained and assisted in the proposed effort. As of 2014, 3000 adolescents had benefited from the effort, with a total of USD$3.2 million provided to youth for various projects (FAO, 2014).

There are numerous documented case studies in Kenya relating to agriculture that indicate the youth's capacity for development. For example, three young individuals built the M-farm platform, which connects farmers, buyers, and suppliers across the country. The concept was made possible after the team won a competition and received one million Kenyan shillings as capital. The Safaricom foundation also contributed KES 20 million to the company's web application development (FAO, 2014). All of the stories demonstrate that if juveniles were actively engaged and given the resources, skills, and a positive working environment, they could make a significant contribution in bolstering the economy. Young people, despite their large numbers, have limited access to development initiatives. It will be difficult to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 1, if young general are not actively engaged in development initiatives (United Nations, 2016). The large young population in Africa is both an opportunity and a burden for development. To meet demand, Uganda, for example, needs produce around 600,000 job opportunities every year for the next twelve years. The new opportunities should

be proportional to the size of the formal job sector in 2015. Failure to meet this goal has a direct impact on the SDG visions, as the defined targets, particularly the goal of eradicating poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2), will no longer be possible (United Nations, 2015).

Youth participation in community development projects has several benefits. It can improve intervention sustainability and ownership; avoid and reduce adolescent susceptibility to social, political, and economic volatility; and promote youth capability to meet their subsistence needs. Furthermore, it can ease admission into targeted communities as well as the building of trust and social capital in their countries, with all of the associated benefits (Kwabena and Mwangi, 2013). Policymakers and governments in Africa are today faced with the problem of establishing job opportunities for the continent's 297 million youngsters in order to enhance their living standards, enable their ability to meet their requirements, and encourage their participation in economic development. Without a doubt, the difficulties that African youth face are vast, complex, and critical to the continent's development. The barriers are political involvement, health, and employment. However, it is considered that the issues differ depending on the country, region, health state, ethnicity, education level, and gender (World Bank, 2016).

Global youth unemployment is expected to be 12.6%, with over 73 million youth without employment (ILO, 2013). In the United States, approximately 10 million young people are not able to find full-time employment. As a result, the proportion of American youth out of work is comparable to that of New York City. The United States' high level of joblessness among young people jeopardizes the country's economic and personal development (Katie, 2013). The North African and Middle Eastern region has the highest rate of youth unemployment. One out of every four young people is unemployed, causing social unrest. In Spain and Greece, youth unemployment rates exceed 50%, contributing to societal unrest. Furthermore, around 15% of young people in the United Kingdom are not in training, employment, or education (World Bank, 2014).

Youth unemployment remains a barrier to African prosperity. Young adults account for more than 60% of Africa's unemployed. Southern Africa has high level of joblessness among youth in Africa, with 43% of young males and 51% of young females out of work. As a result, the large proportion of unemployed youth represents unrealized potential, as nations and countries do not benefit from youth output. If given the chance, youth have a lot of potential to contribute to society and the community (African Economic Outlook, 2012). North Africa has a youth unemployment rate of 30%. Several countries, including South Africa, Senegal, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Botswana, have high

unemployment rates (World Bank, 2008). Unemployment disproportionately affects young women, with the greatest impact in Sub-Saharan and North African countries. Young men in Africa have a higher likelihood of securing work than women, even if they have the same academic credentials (ILO, 2013). Nonetheless, if appropriate policies addressing the challenges are implemented, energy, innovation, passion, vigor, and scale can be harnessed for the development of the African continent.

The development potential of Africa's youth is critical. Youth provide a variety of opportunities for growth, including human capital labor sources, which would significantly boost productivity on a continent with low capital formation. Moreover, when teenagers have access to capital and employment, they become stable members of society as well as a consistent source of market for the continent's many services and goods. Besides that, the entrepreneurialism and ingenuity of the youth could generate a new category of entrepreneurs critical to African nations' economies (United Nations, 2016b).

Because of low social mobility, decreased decision-making participation, low levels of education, and increased unemployment, youth are more likely to be dissatisfied. Youths are vulnerable to political vices that can lead to violent and criminal behavior, such as opposing or undermining legitimate governments, contributing to instability, low economic growth, and worsening living conditions in African countries (UNFPA, 2015). Despite increased awareness and knowledge of Africa's youth hurdles, a number of countries in Africa are yet to implement robust strategies to successfully address the challenges and issues currently facing the youth, especially unemployment, neither have they developed monitoring or key performance indicators to evaluate the conditions associated with the challenges (Muiruri, 2013).

Kenyan youth unemployment statistics show that 60% of the population in the country is below 35 years, with youth accounting for 40% of the unemployed (KNBS, 2014). The post-election violence that occurred 2008 indicated the vulnerability nature of most youth due to their inability to secure employment hence they were used to instigate crime and violence. In addition, an examination of Kenya's social environment revealed that youth joblessness, particularly among male youths, is a significant element to disturbance and anxiety, especially in urban areas. Youth unemployment has emerged as a major policy issue in Kenya (World Bank, 2008). Previous research in Kenya has shown that a lack of or inadequate response to youth-related issues can result in significant economic and social development costs for the country (Stanley and Chepkuto, 2014).

Kenya's government has restated its commitment to addressing youth concerns,

especially unemployment, on a more regular basis. The administration launched the "Marshal Plan" to tackle lack of employment for the youth in 2007, emphasizing the significance of a multi-sectoral and coordinated ways of dealing with youth concerns (GOK, 2009). As a way to increase youth employability, the Kenya government initiated the Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV) program, which emphases on enhancing employment openings for young people in urban and rural areas through labor-intensive projects. The National Steering Committee, led by the Prime Minister, directed and supervised the execution of KKV. Labor-intensive subprojects that could be finished rapidly were given priority. Garbage collection, reforestation, water collecting, small-scale sanitation and water distribution, and road maintenance were among the activities. In addition to KKV, the Kenyan government continued to sponsor the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) project, which was formed in 2006 to provide youth with access to financing in order for them to engage in activities leading to self-employment and to develop entrepreneurial skills (GOK, 2010). The government has also established the Kazi Mtaani, which is modeled after the KKV. The program, which is aimed at teenagers aged 18 to 35, is a critical intervention for adolescents affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. So far, the program has been a success, since it has provided employment for 283,00 adolescents. During the outbreak, the project assisted young people (Hinga, 2020). The shortcomings of the kazi mtaani program, like those of KKV, include an inability to create long-term career prospects for youths and to give young people with the essential skills to invest in agribusiness and other fields of business. According to the findings of this study, a rise in the amount of YEDF loans led to an increase in youth involvement in agriculture. Youth unemployment can be minimized if more people have access to funding that enable them to participate in agribusiness, which can employ as many young people as possible. However, not all of these initiatives were successful in producing jobs for children, as young unemployment remains high today (Hinga, 2020; Nyaga, 2020).

There are a variety of reasons why various Kenyan government projects failed. KKV, for example, intended to create jobs with pay based on the national minimum wage. The endeavor was also based on providing young people with manual labor, which did not help to promote the development of skills for the youth in order for them to be stable when the program ended (Zepeda *et al.*, 2013). As a result, youth programs must prioritize youth development and the acquisition of skills that will enable them to live sustainably. Participation in the KKV project was limited because payment was contingent on the amount of work completed. Furthermore, adolescents identified a lack of enthusiasm to participate in

the KKV as a barrier to the program's ability to provide maximum benefits to children (Langat, 2019).

2.3 Role of Agriculture in Economic Development

Agriculture has been a key component of economic prosperity in several countries around the world. Building a strong foundation in agriculture can be a critical step toward economic success. It is especially essential in African countries, where agriculture employs more than 70% of the population. As a result, it is one of the most promising (World Bank, 2015).

The growth of inclusive economies and the establishment of multiple chances for youth in agriculture accounting for 32% of Africa's GDP and nearly 65% of the continent's job potential (World Bank, 2015). Agriculture is a key driver of Kenya's economy growth, contributing 24% directly and 27% indirectly to the GDP of the country. The anticipated direct contribution is Kes 342 billion, with an estimated indirect contribution of Kes 385 billion. Furthermore, agriculture accounts for 18% of official employment, 65% of total exports, and 60% of rural informal employment in Kenya (FAO, 2020). As a result, the agriculture business is regarded as critical in terms of producing job opportunities and boosting Kenyans' living standards. Agribusiness has been classified as a vital sector for achieving the 10% yearly economic growth rate envisioned in Kenya Vision 2030 due to its capacity. Kenyan government, 2009. The agricultural sector is divided into six key subsectors: forestry, fishing, livestock, horticulture, food crops, and industrial crops, all of which rely on production variables such as water and land, as well as farmers' associations and cooperatives.

The development and expansion of Kenya's agricultural industry correlates with the country's economic expansion (AGRA, 2017), and in this time of youth underemployment and high unemployment, the agricultural economy is thought to performance critical part in providing employment and means of livelihood. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (MoALF) designed the Kenya Young Agribusiness Strategy to remove the barriers to young engagement in agribusiness. The policy's principal goal was to provide opportunities for young people throughout the agricultural value addition chain. The success of young people working in agriculture will be proved by a reduction in malnutrition and poverty, as well as an improvement in long-term economic growth (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, 2017). Kenyan Youth Agribusiness Strategy is a separate program from YEDF aimed at empowering Kenyan youth. However, the two initiatives do not complement one another in order to maximize their impact on the level of living of the

youth. To reap the greatest benefits from youth-related programs, government institutions must improve their coordination and integration.

Governments had launched a number of measures aiming at equitable resource distribution and poverty reduction, with some of these strategies focused on the youth population, which accounts for a bigger part of the population and is regarded as the most susceptible group in society. There are five targets in the SDGs that specifically target youth, including providing adequate work opportunities, combating diseases such as HIV/AIDS, enhancing maternal health, ensuring equal educational opportunities, and achieving education for youth (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, 2017). The initiative by government to provide quality health care and education may stimulate economic development and growth. Reducing teenage poverty can be a significant step toward raising the living standards of the entire community. Youths are perceived to have vulnerabilities that render them vulnerable to the effects of poverty. Long-term investments in young people are critical for improving their economic well-being (FAO, 2020). Furthermore, other government policies, such as population reduction and increased young employment, reduce their ability to be involved in illegal activities like civil conflicts and criminal crimes (Mijiyawa, 2017).

Several of the initiatives that have been executed are related to agriculture. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) have been important initiatives on the African continent in the context of achieving the SDGs. The chosen plan is distinct from previous ones in that it emphasizes consultative procedures, participatory frameworks, pro-poor policies, and national ownership. As part of a number of efforts, youth from several African countries have been encouraged to engage in agricultural activities and create farming-related technology. NEPAD, for example, has invested in the establishment of good jobs in Africa's rural areas, which has played a critical role in improving the standards of living and expanding ways to make a living for people, particularly the young generation. The majority of rural opportunities were created through agricultural activity (NEPAD, 2020). Despite being extensively covered in the report, young people's involvement in the campaign's actual implementation is negligible. For example, adolescent participation was included in more than half of the 31 completed PRSPs reviews. Nonetheless, the youth-focused efforts had little effect. It is expected that the newly adopted PRSPs will place a stronger emphasis on youths and have a bigger impact on improving young people's livelihoods. Furthermore, just a minority of African PRSPs were found to have examined youth-related issues (Mijiyawa, 2017).

In 2005, the NEPAD Young Summit was convened to discuss ways to attract more youth participation in NEPAD implementation and monitoring at the country level. Another forum created to foster youth participation in NEPAD implementation is the NEPAD e-Africa Young Programme. This endeavor intends to produce a cadre of young people who will raise awareness of information society issues and serve as active participants in their country's development of an inclusive information society (Evoh, 2007; Ndawonde, 2018). Africa's youth have enormous potential, which may be used to accelerate the continent's economic development. As a result, African countries must focus policy measures and resources on strengthening African youth nations' leadership roles (Kangai and Mburu, 2012). The effectiveness of such efforts is dependent on young people participating in all areas of the public policy process, from policy formation through implementation and evaluation. Youth, in particular, must be included in the current development agenda in terms of poverty reduction strategies, MDG attainment, and NEPAD implementation. Youth must be able to participate in their activities. Furthermore, governments can offer youngsters with technical and financial aid so that they can achieve their potential as change agents (Kimando, 2012).

The government must take practical and attainable steps to realize the SDGs by making the youth clubs to be strong in their functions, enabling the different groups and organizations at the community, county, and national levels, and promoting interaction between economic policymakers, global partners, and youth to learn about their issues and experiences, this can be achieved by: regular conversations with youth organizations to incorporate their input into the development process, as well as supporting youth leadership at the local, national, sub-regional, and global levels through regular interaction with community and national authorities. Because demographics can contribute 15% of GDP, it is expected that if nations around the world engage young in agribusiness activities for economic development, the global poverty rate will fall dramatically, resulting in around 40 million fewer people living in poverty. As a result, Africa will be positioned to become a major player in future global agricultural markets. To achieve this, nations must implement plans to build strong policies and structures that will harness and sustain the potential of engaging young people in agriculture (GOK, 2015; NEPAD, 2020).

The first stage is to construct a support structure for programs that promote human capital accumulation and job development; it appears that productive jobs with huge potential are currently nested within the Government-based economy. Youth face considerable challenges in recognizing their businesses and obtaining clearance from more

traditional sectors, such as agriculture, as legal investments. As a result, the majority of them are classed as informal sector workers, which implies they have minimal or no access to social security, limiting their ability to grow. It indicates that they cannot, for example, advocate for favorable legislation to assist international trade or recruit long-term investors for their businesses. These impediments do little to promote and encourage the type of dynamic entrepreneurship that will increase our competitiveness and local market value (GOK, 2014).

The challenge emphasizes the importance of young empowerment in order for them to influence business environment policies, attract investors for business expansion, and participate more in economic development (Ogamba, 2019). According to a review of the literature, business and agriculture have an important role in economic growth through creating jobs, particularly for youth. The literature has also addressed the barriers that prevent youth economic participation or investment returns. The void in the literature is how challenges to increasing young engagement in economic growth might be addressed. Furthermore, this literature does not address how to create jobs for youth, which is addressed by the study's findings that if youth have more access to loans from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, they will be able to participate more in agribusiness, which has the potential to employ youth and provide for their livelihoods, thereby lowering the rate of joblessness among the youth.

2.4 The Role of Agriculture as a Business in Employment Creation among the Youth in Kenya

Agriculture employs more than 40% of Sub-Saharan Africans and provides a living for more than 70% of the population. Low income and other unfavorable factors have discouraged Africa's growing young population from pursuing agricultural jobs. It provides an excellent opportunity for youth employment and economic growth in Kenya (AGRA, 2017). The international community and the national government have expressed concern about young people's involvement and retention in agricultural industries, while youth perceive agricultural professions to be dull, unrewarding, and time-consuming (GOK, 2017). In Africa, the age of farmers who are active in agriculture sector ranges between 45 and 60 years old; as a result, they are slow to adopt new agricultural methods, which has a negative impact on productivity and the growing population's need (AGRA, 2017).

Digital breakthroughs and the use of cutting-edge technology will improve knowledge and skills, allowing Africa's agriculture to be unlocked and the rural-urban divide to be bridged. It can also provide effective farm logistics by connecting producers and customers

(Njeru, 2019). Kenyans between the ages of 18 and 24 are among the 500,000 people identified by the Credit Reference Bureau as having taken out small loans for gambling and failing to repay them (AGRA, 2017). Because children are viewed as high-risk, FSPs continue to avoid funding them, making it more difficult for children to obtain financing. As a result of this divide between young and FSP, youth are barred from participating in agricultural support programs (Wachilonga, 2018).

Digital technologies and digital financial services have the capabilities to connect agricultural millennials. As a result, long-term market ties between rural youth farmers and urban markets, as well as e-commerce or m-commerce platforms like Agrocenta in Ghana and 2kuze and SokoNect in Kenya, can achieve this. The MasterCard Foundation has proposed 2kuze, a digital platform. The platform's goal is to connect agribusiness actors such as small-scale farmers with buyers who support cashless agriculture transactions (MasterCard, 2017). SokoNet, like 2Kuze, connects farmers and buyers directly, eliminating all middlemen in the supply chain (Quak, 2018). As a result, the two platforms work together to improve farmers' market access, increase the efficiency of the value chain, and optimize farmers' income by eliminating middlemen along the chain.

Technology has the potential to facilitate the integration of various parties and activities across value chains while also providing significant job opportunities for young people. Furthermore, the adoption of digital platforms with integrated social services that can make it up for a lack of financial and non-financial services while also providing social safety net, such as platforms with integrated unemployment insurance or health insurance, would encourage youth participation in agriculture (MasterCard, 2017). Agricultural youth can now specialize in the provision of information, data, and value chain links, thanks to advances in technology. Digital technology has the potential to provide specialized assistance in the development, strengthen skills and abilities, and innovative ideas in agricultural value chains addition, thereby increasing trade margins and returns and increasing youth participation in the sector. Technology, among other things, assists FSPs in developing financial instruments and products that improve young people's access to agricultural financing and place them in risk mitigation strategies among smallholder farmers and agribusinesses along specific agriculture value chains (Ketema *et al.*, 2020; Njeru, 2019).

Given Kenya's high youth unemployment rate, allowing young people to work in agriculture will increase their employment options. Rural and urban adolescents are beginning to embrace agriculture as a source of sustenance, but existing policies, particularly those governing access to financial services, thwart their efforts on occasion. Land, access to

capital, and markets continue to be some of the most pressing production issues affecting youth participation in the sector, while gender remains a source of concern as more young women are unable to compete in the nation's unequal agricultural economy (Noorani, 2015). The Kenyan National Young Policy of 2006 is ambiguous about young agricultural participation, and youth are not involved in program design, planning, or implementation. This necessitates dealing with the anomaly. According to Article 55 of Kenya's 2010 constitution, the nation has repeatedly tried to address these issue alongside other regional and international policy frameworks, for instance, the SDGs, CAADP, and East African Common Market Protocol. Nonetheless, despite these achievements, potential of agriculture sector for young people has not been full exploited, making the sector largely unappealing (GOK, 2017).

Kenya's government is decentralized, and one of its most important decentralized functions is agriculture. In close collaboration with the Council of Governors, the National Government, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (MoALF), developed The Agriculture Sector Coordination Mechanism, which defines strategies for the two levels of government to collaborate in order to transform Kenya's agriculture sector. The primary goal of the coordinating mechanism is to recognize young participation in the sector, particularly in the pursuit of two primary goals: job creation and food security. Youth are represented at the highest level of coordination, the Intergovernmental Forum (IGF), as well as through secondments to the Intergovernmental Secretariat (IG) secretariat and Working Groups. This is done to ensure that the coordinating mechanism addresses all of the issues that children face (Ngore, 2017).

The National Government and the Council of Governors developed the first-ever Youth in Agribusiness Strategy, which feeds into the National Agriculture Strategy, in close collaboration with key partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), SIDA, World Vision Kenya, GIZ, and the Kenya Chapter of Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD Kenya). The Kenya Youths Agribusiness Strategic 2017-2021 was noted by MOALF as a government-implemented strategy plan to enhance young engagement in the agriculture sector at the time. The strategy is tangentially tied to YEDF because young people are taught farm skills and a mindset that they can employ with YEDF funding. Furthermore, the strategy aims to expand youth access to financial services to help them with their agribusiness ventures, including finance from the YEDF and CDF. The plan's goal is to give young people opportunities to profit through many agribusiness undertakings along the various agricultural commodities value chains.

The continuation of this collaborative intervention is expected to result in job creation for the majority of unemployed youth, economic growth, and a reduction in household food insecurity (MOALF, 2017).

The Kenya Youths Agribusiness Strategy mentions eleven strategic themes in order to change the way of thinking and views of the young people adopting agribusiness. This contributes to youth being equipped through the necessary agribusiness skills, knowledge, and information, improving access to inexpensive and youth-appropriate financial services for entrepreneurship, improving access to and sustainable use of land in agribusiness, and engaging young people in research, development, and application of emerging technologies for agriculture. Furthermore, it aids in improving access to factors of production, the use of modern technologies, efficient agricultural practices to promote efficiency, the utilization of agricultural products through value addition, improved access to affordable suitable output markets for the youth, and the implementation, review, and development of policies that foster an enabling environment for youth agri-entrepreneurs (GOK, 2018). Adopting the strategy contributes to the promotion of youth-inclusive climate-smart agricultural technologies and the creation of green jobs for environmental sustainability, as well as to the promotion of an integrated approach to addressing cross-cutting challenges such as gender disparities, cultural barriers, alcohol and substance abuse, HIV & AIDS, and poor governance and values, among others (GOK, 2017). Furthermore, the strategy includes strategic measures aimed at resolving critical challenges in order to increase agricultural visibility among Kenya's youth (Ngore, 2017).

The Kenya Youth Agribusiness Strategy's implementation matrix identified the parties responsible for several strategic challenges. Government departments, corporate sectors, and research organizations were among the participants. Due to the complexity of the implementation process, the huge number of parties involved in the strategy's implementation made tracking the implementation and success of the many concerns outlined in the strategic report challenging. Despite this, a number of youth agricultural initiatives were undertaken to meet this demand, with many failing to provide the desired effects. When developing a youth-based program, it is critical to use an integrated management system to evaluate its effectiveness and guarantee that all projected benefits are realized. Furthermore, the study's findings indicate that if teenagers have greater access to loans from the youth enterprise development fund, they will get more involved in agriculture (Ngore, 2017). YEDF took part in a plan that was primarily considered as part of the youth incentive for gaining access to money for agricultural initiatives.

2.5 Youth Participation in Agribusiness and Emerging Opportunities Globally

Throughout Kenya's agribusiness economy, there are numerous opportunities to generate revenue from agriculturally-related enterprises. Rapid urbanization has increased demand for processed foods, which is one of the options. Up to 30 percent of Kenyans live in cities. Because of the urban population's demand for higher-quality, processed, and packaged food commodities, agriculture offers several business opportunities. This trend can be seen in recent dairy and animal product consumption (GOK, 2017). This demand may result in job opportunities, especially for young people. The rapid increase in food prices has highlighted Kenya's reliance on food imports, with wheat, maize, rice, oranges, and vegetable oils being heavily imported. This trend is expected to continue, justifying increased local output through agricultural sector support (FAO, 2017).

Food security is a fundamental and complex need for all people, particularly children. Global food security initiatives are critical to meeting the requirements of the global's rapidly expanding populace. Benin, Kenya, Ethiopia, the Netherlands, Burundi, Mali, Indonesia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia are among the Agri-ProFocus members committed to meeting this challenge through collaborative efforts, learning from one another, and collectively advocating for paradigm shift. This initiative brings industry, civil society, and research institutions together to work toward food security. All of the members agree that business and development do not have to be mutually exclusive. Agri-ProFocus assists its members in developing new, sustainable business practices and exchanging ideas from a collaborative people/humans, planet, and profit perspective.

It also assists members in locating suitable partners and providing information on specific concerns, difficulties, and opportunities. Furthermore, it provides members with more opportunities to meet, communicate, and partner with other key agrifood industry players (FAO, 2017). It also organizes and facilitates online and offline meeting, working, learning, and influence spaces for its members. The global diversity of the membership provides unique opportunities for cross-border exchange. Members have visibility and access to relevant information through the online portal, which has over 25,000 registered agriculture professionals. It is a network navigator that helps you find the best business partners, relevant information, and create a collaborative culture. The platform benefits agribusiness youth in Kenya and other Agri-ProFocus network member countries.

Moreover, the strategy's numerous activities provide an excellent chance to address young agricultural concerns throughout the member countries. Furthermore, Agri-ProFocus organizes youth in agribusiness events that teach children the skills needed to work in the

agribusiness industry. Agri-ProFocus, for instance, organizes conferences for young people to showcase their agricultural concepts and gain insight from their peers (AGRA, 2017; Osti *et al.,* 2015).

For the years 2018-2022, the global Agri-ProFocus network has identified four major subject areas which focus on circular economy, climate-smart agribusiness, and nutrition-sensitive agribusiness. Before joining the group, members must identify several opportunities, such as youth focused agribusiness, integrating gender persceptive in agribusiness value chains, farm-firm partnerships, and connecting agri-preneurs to formal markets and funding. Because professionalization and scaling up value chains require a new generation and innovative ideas, Agri food boot camp ensures that youth are aware of the opportunities that are available in agribusiness sector that connections and exchange between agri-preneurs and formal markets and finance are enhanced, and that gender parity is promoted (AGRA, 2017).

In the face of globalization, agribusiness is one of the most effective economic development strategies for generating economic growth and maintaining competitiveness (Keat *et al.,* 2011). Because the number and caliber of future entrepreneurs are so important, it is critical to provide training and education to improve the economy and entrepreneurship (Othman and Amiruddin, 2010). In recent years, entrepreneurs have shown a strong interest in capacity building (Galloway and Brown, 2002). The young people are the pillars of a nation's development, and their disciplined, enthusiastic, and competent performance is critical. More than 40% of Malaysians are young adults with the ability to contribute significantly to global food security and development. Prior research has discovered a link between young people's willingness to become entrepreneurs and their attitude, acceptability, and expertise (Samah *et al.,* 2010).

Youth participation in national development is regularly urged around the world. Youth participation in agricultural production has greatly contributed to youth empowerment and agricultural growth in developed countries, for instance, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, the United States, and even Tanzania (FAO, 1999). According to Daudu *et al.* (2009), the Nigerian state administration laments its inability to incorporate young people into agriculture, which has posed substantial barriers to agricultural development and food security. According to Sumberg *et al.* (2012), countries that rely heavily on agriculture must encourage youth to be involved in agriculture. Their participation helps the country's agricultural sustainability and economic progress. Youth, according to Njeru *et al.* (2014), are a vital segment of society and one of a

country's most precious resources. The government should invest in its youth, the nation's most prized resource, for economic development and progress. According to Chikezie *et al.* (2012), any country has the capacity to transform underemployed rural teenagers into successful agriculture entrepreneurs. According to Daudu *et al.* (2009), young people are receptive to new approaches and concepts and thus capable of overcoming significant challenges in agriculture and expanding the sector.

By employing a large number of job seekers and providing meaningful labor in Africa, the agricultural industry can reap both public and private benefits. In order for young people to profit, their requirements must be increased, as well as their land and skill-related limits addressed. Existing financial, land, skills training, and extension initiatives could be customized to address the essential requirements of rural youth (Brooks *et al.*, 2012). To attract young people, agriculture must be able to make profits and attractive. These are the same traits that agriculture requires in order to boost economic development, enhance food security, and safeguard a vulnerable natural environment (Biney, 2013). Youth can contribute to agriculture by producing adequate food to feed the entire world. Young farmers have the potential to eliminate world hunger, reduce malnutrition, and assist the agricultural economy in adapting to climate change. Youth may be retained in the agriculture industry by educating them, giving them a platform at the policy level and in the media, and managing them in innovation. This would allow them to deal with the agriculture sector's difficulties, allowing the industry to reap the rewards it seeks. The youth have the opportunity to help the world find ways to feed nine billion people by 2050, which is the most significant global development (Farm Africa, 2013).

Agriculture determines the rise and fall of the world's disadvantaged subsistence. The primary development problem is to strengthen smallholders' access to the information, networks, and institutions required to promote productivity, food security, and employment. New network information and communication technologies (ICTS) offer transformative prospects for both producers and consumers in formerly isolated rural locations (George *et al.*, 2011). Youth are enthralled by modern ICTs. The internet is evolving into an incredibly prominent channel for receiving information and improving agricultural producer connectivity, even in the poorest parts of the world. In addition, ICTs aid in agricultural innovation. In Rwanda, for example, it has been stated that youth have the potential to be innovators in the development and growth of agricultural solutions powered by ICT. ICTs have also had a meaningful impact on the development and advancement of novel training methods (FAO, 2014). Telecommunications and digital technologies have been identified as

an important platform for attracting adolescents to various profitable agricultural ventures in Kenya. In western Kenya, for example, it is claimed that 90% of youths are interested in using ICTs for agricultural purposes. Furthermore, technologically savvy young people use the platform to offer agricultural consulting services (Irungu *et al.*, 2015).

Young farmers in Ghana use ICTs for extension services, while a free online training program for farmers is available in Brazil. Adolescents have access to these possibilities as both producers and consumers (FAO, 2014). Agricultural research necessitates knowledgeable and skilled youth in order to facilitate the implementation and effect the improvement of agriculture initiatives. Numerous study articles published in East Africa and other countries across the world have shown that research changes agriculture and improves living conditions. Furthermore, climate change and rising demand for nutritious food necessitate new ideas and knowledge to explore ICT in agriculture, promote climate-smart agriculture, and modernize the sector to fuel future growth; however, in order for youth to take advantage of any agribusiness opportunities, they must have access to capital (World Bank, 2016b).

Youth participation in agribusiness has been prioritized in global development priorities due to the realization that that the young people are no longer interested in agriculture. In most developing countries, farming activities is among the main contributor to household livelihoods and a main source of income for 89% of young people. It is therefore, critical that young people get involved in farming (Nadya, 2014). The number of young farmers in rural areas is decreasing, due to the increase in rural-urban migration (Farm Africa, 2013). Sub-Saharan Africa has the world's youngest population, with over 200 million people aged 15 to 24; this figure is expected to triple by 2045 (African Development Bank Group, 2015).

Young African men and women are critical to the expansion of agriculture and food security initiatives. They will be the future farmers, policymakers, leaders, and intellectuals driving Africa's socioeconomic progress (African Economic Outlooks, 2014). As a result, youth are a crucial component of Africa's agriculture, which is widely recognized as a source of growth and a tool for improving food security. Increasing investment and production in agriculture are critical to providing food security for an increasing population, with one in every seven people suffering from malnutrition. Despite the fact that it is the continent's greatest employer of young people, it is not widely regarded as such (World Bank, 2014).

Youth can get involved in agriculture in a number of ways; for instance, the Kibera Community Youth Project (KCYP) in Kenya's largest informal settlement, Kibera, manufactures solar panels in small workshops, supporting their development. With the help of a British volunteer, the adolescents are involved in a variety of initiatives, including all aspects of production, in which solar panels are used by certain farmers to reduce fuel costs while lighting greenhouses and chicken houses. Solar panels' key purposes in society include powering radios, charging mobile phones, and recharging batteries. As a result, these services are critical in areas with intermittent electrical service. The vast majority of KCYP participants have never worked and are hence unemployed. This project provides an opportunity for adolescents to earn a living while also improving people's living situations in the long run (Samah *et al.*, 2010).

Some of the successful tales documented in many regions of the world indicate young people's potential for economic development when they are empowered and given adequate resources. In Kenya, a number of successful examples have been documented. Larry Keya is thirty years old and from Kapseret in Kenya's Uasin Gishu County. Keya was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Agricultural Economics from Moi University. As part of his agribusiness ventures, he began planting tomatoes, peppers, watermelons, and cucumbers in 2010. The vast majority of crops failed miserably. Pests and diseases, which affected agricultural yield every year, were the most significant impediment. The most severe blow came in 2012, when he seized 500 kg of cucumbers from a single greenhouse. When he took his produce to Eldoret, it was rejected because it was of poor quality. He was told that the cucumbers had lost value since they were bent. He was disappointed since no one had told him that deformed fruits have little market value. He misplaced goods valued Kes150,000. The Youth Fund provided this grant. He was never discouraged and saw the encounter as a learning experience. To avoid such costly mistakes in the future, he resolved to perform comprehensive journal and Internet research before starting a new business (Hinga, 2020; Nyanga, 2020).

During this period of reflection and self-discovery, he had a brilliant idea: make and sell watermelon and cucumber juice, as advised by a friend who is an expert in the sector. He sought advice from another ice cream maker who was making a water-based flavor with water, milk, sugar, and food coloring. He was shown how to do it step by step until he mastered it. He did, however, use frozen fruit as the major ingredient. This is how he established the Sweet De Laat Company in Eldoret. To begin the project, he paid Sh300,000 to a Nairobi dealer for a juice-making machine. He began selling the juices to his friends,

family, and neighbors, as advised. Once the drinks were ready for sale, the challenge was to find a steady market. Customers took their time accepting the beverage, so commerce was slow at first. As he went from vendor to vendor in Eldoret, convincing them to sell the dessert, his marketing effort became increasingly aggressive. He discovered that cucumber and watermelon ice creams were more popular than beverages along the way. He resolved to concentrate on ice cream. He turned his focus to value adding as a result of this discovery. He spent Kes120,000 on popsicle (ice cream on a stick) making equipment (Langat, 2019).

The Kenya Bureau of Standards has verified the vanilla and mango flavors he sells widely. Strawberry, cucumber, and blueberry tastes are still undergoing certification testing. The business is gradually increasing, and he now creates 700 ice cream sticks per day and sells at least 500 to merchants for Sh5 per stick. He has a maximum output of 2,000 things. He cannot proceed due to legal restraints until KEBS accepts the brand. With an average daily sale of 900 units, Keya makes Kes 6,300. Now that ice cream is so popular, he has to buy watermelons from farmers in different parts of Uasin Gishu. He buys fruits directly from growers, avoiding middlemen. Before purchasing a product, his laboratory guarantees that it is of excellent quality and safe for human consumption. He has developed publications based on his farming experience for the benefit of Greenhouses and educates young farmers how to start an agribusiness as a way to give back to society.

In addition to entertaining farmers on his farm, he visits farms. He charges between Kes1,500 and Kes 3,000 per session, and based on his business experience, he advises the youth that there are many business opportunities in agribusiness, and that despite challenges such as raising capital, these can be overcome by utilizing opportunities such as the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. In 2016, his company was picked from a pool of 120 applicants aged 18 to 35 from Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya. He represented Kenya at the Rwanda Young Innovators in Agribusiness Innovation and Trade Fair (World Bank, 2016b).

Samuel Wanderi founded Safi Organics Limited, which produces low-cost organic fertilizer from crop waste. Samuel graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness from the University of Nairobi. Samuel noticed that farmers were using expensive fertilizers to boost production, yet the yield was declining. This was intolerable to him, so he sought a resolution. He and a group of people who shared his passion to improve rural life collaborated to create an organic fertilizer that is 20% less expensive than other fertilizers on the market. Farmers who employed organic fertilizer from Safi Organics Ltd reported

that their yields increased by at least 30%. More than 80 acres of farmland, primarily in Mwea but also in other parts of Kenya, have been treated with the material. Some farmers have gone up to 100 kilometers to get the supplies.

So far, he estimates that he has led to a 10% increase in these farmers' revenue. The product has also helped to sequester 90 tons of CO2 equivalent greenhouse gas emissions. He expected to have 5,000 customers by the end of 2016 and 75,000 consumers by the end of 2018. He was managing 225 tons of garbage every year at the time, which would have been burned otherwise. As a result, you can help sequester 125 tons of CO2 equivalent in greenhouse gas emissions every year and reduce other pollutants that contribute to local smog. Furthermore, the technology has assisted farmers in generating an additional $7 million in revenue. He stated that his entrepreneurial experience taught him that failure is unavoidable and has advantages. Only through our failures can we genuinely grow 2017 (Safi Organics).

Mushroom Blue Company was founded in 2012 by Ng'ethe Mbachia and Nyawira Gitaka. The two had recently graduated from the University of Nairobi. In response to the market's demand for edible mushrooms, the company was founded. The company also intended to hire farmers and assist in the recycling of agricultural waste. Although the company's production is based in Limuru, there is a shop in Kikuyu that collects, grades, and brands mushrooms after they are received from farmers. The packaged and labeled mushrooms are then distributed through the company's channels to various target clients such as individuals, households, grocery stores, and restaurants. The corporation is the mushroom supplier along the supply chain. Mushrooms have been grown in Kenya for centuries. According to Ng'ethe Mbachia and Nyawira Gitaka, on the Kenyan market, there are both large- and small-scale mushroom producers who face difficulties in locating suitable markets for their products, as well as fluctuations in production due to weather uncertainty, rendering the supply chain ineffective for customer satisfaction.

To address the issues, the company established a farmer network. Farmers in the network plant a variety of mushrooms and supply the company with their harvest. The network has allowed the corporation to maintain a consistent supply throughout the year, and the network continues to grow through the recommendation of additional mushroom-producing farms and institutions. The mushroom is marketed and distributed by the company all year. The firm has developed delivery requirements for commodities of varying quality and grade. To ensure that this goal is reached, the company conducts on-site assessments in the production sector of farms a few weeks before harvesting. Farmers who

are too far away to visit are asked to provide samples and images of their agricultural system for audits (Farmbiz Africa, n.d.).

Farmers are also required to fill out a form with information such as their bank account information for payment, the quantity of mushrooms they plan to harvest, and the projected harvesting time. The data is critical for the company because it allows it to assess the demand and supply of mushrooms at any given time and make the required modifications to ensure that it can meet its clients' needs without generating shortages or waste. The company does not take part in farmer training. Instead, the company collaborated with a local institution that trains about 200 farmers each month. Single entity training improves record keeping for participants and uses the same curriculum to improve mushroom cultivation. The data is useful to the organization because it facilitates for easy identification of the regions and employees engaged in mushroom production.

The feedback from the farmers has been constructive and encouraging for the company. The company was able to help mushroom producers and encourage farmers who had been discouraged from farming due to market issues to return to production and use the company's marketing channel. Farmers are satisfied because there is a ready market; even new farmers are satisfied. Significantly, the company was able to request that a mushroom-specific university provide farmers with extension services, which will be critical in ensuring a robust mushroom value chain in the future. The company's biggest challenge has been its inability to fully enter the mushroom industry or target a specific niche. As a result, obtaining assistance and guidance in product creation and marketing from foreign business communities could help to resolve this issue. In order to expand the mushroom market, the corporation has shifted its focus to the counties of Kwale, Kilifi, Malindi, and Mombasa. The logistical difficulty was another factor that influenced market penetration (Inclusive Business Network, 2019).

Morris, a farmer from Gilgil in Nakuru County, is the subject of Kenya's second successful case study. Inspiration Farm is the name of his farm. Two acres of land are used for growing beans and Irish potatoes. Flamingos have been observed at Lake Nakuru, which is near to the farm's location. Morris' interest in agriculture stemmed mostly from a desire to address Africa's most important problem, which is a lack of food security. Another main reason for farming is serving as a role model for other young people and encouraging more young farmers to participate in Agribusiness. According to him, the average age of Kenyan farmers is 60 years old. Due to aging, there are fewer young individuals involved in farming activities, and those who are already involved may soon retire. The Gilgil environment is

ideal for growing Irish potatoes and beans, resulting in a bountiful harvest. Morris claims that selling his produce to adjacent urban areas generates a sizable profit. Morris plans to grow into agritourism in order to create more jobs and encourage youth participation in agricultural activities. He imagines a future in which young people visit farms for hands-on learning and inspiration. Morris has also devised commercial production strategies for strawberries, bulb onions, and watermelons (Langat, 2019).

Solomon Githaiga is a musician, a 29-year-old man who founded the Saumu center in Kiawara, Nyeri County, in 2012. Before he began his agribusiness career, he made a living by sharpening knives. Initially, Moses sold garlic by selling it around the neighborhood. This was problematic due to low sales. He was, nevertheless, persistent and never gave up hope. A growing number of clients began to indicate an interest in garlic bulbs for planting. This gave a fresh chance to grow the business by producing sprouting seed garlic for sale to local farmers. Profits increased, which encouraged the young farmer. The export market has become aware of the Saumu center through advertising and marketing. He urges young Kenyans in agriculture to work their way up from the bottom, as he believes it is possible (World Bank, 2016).

The Helitech organization was created on January 15, 2015, by Ngigi Gitau, 31 years old, and James Nganga, 26 years old, both of whom live in Kagaa Location, Kamburu Ward, Lari Sub County in Kiambu County. The two young people registered the group with the Ministry of Gender and Social Security as a Community-based organization. They enlisted the help of five more teenagers (3 males & 2 females). The organization was founded on three pillars: establishing agribusiness opportunities for children and local farmers, providing health solutions through organic food, and environmental preservation. Agriculture, which includes cash crops, horticulture, and dairy farming, is the important significant economic activity in the Kamburu ward. This is the organization's driving force. The residents of the area have a poor academic record, which is linked to high dropout rates caused by the abundance of economic activities. As a result, this neighborhood is dominated by a large number of young people with limited educational opportunities, demonstrating an inability to integrate new ideas and skills into the local economy. Consequently, there is an increase in unemployment among the youth, as well as economic, social, and food security issues (AGRA, 2017).

This was the driving force behind the formation of the Healthy Living Tech-Agri Campaign (Helitech Organization). The group's goal was to address youth unemployment by offering a new perspective on the same economic activity and human resources. As a

result, developing an organic agriculture program that considers the complete value chain. Herbs and spices, fruits and vegetables, and rabbit farming were identified as excellent entrance points for the organization's goals. The seven pioneer members' Kes 200 membership registration fee was used to purchase seedlings and seeds, which were planted in one of the members' quarter-acre farms, which was successfully set up as a demonstration farm. Each member made a monthly donation of Kes 100. The farm was completed in May 2015, and the organisation began teaching interested farmers in herbs and spices for 500 shillings per person.

Because of the regular railway activities, this was a big revenue-generating breakthrough. There were 12 members at the end of 2015, 7 males and 5 women, with a total income of Kes 135,000. Membership and collaboration: The group had formed strong alliances with the Kiambu County Ministry of Agriculture and Utugi TV by the end of 2015. The organization has also joined the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN). In 2019, the group had trained 47 young people in various agricultural sectors, including production, value addition, the use of soil-less medium such as vermiculture, and agricultural marketing methods. The organization has 130 members (75 actives in production, 30 within the value chain and 25 passive). Sixty percent of the 130 members are male, while seventy percent are female. There are 130 members, 65 of whom are youths and 65 of whom are adults (Nyanga, 2020).

The corporation owns and manages eighteen acres of land. This land is split among farmers into eighths, quarters, halves, and acres. The organization has spread to Nyandarua County, Nyeri County, and various Kiambu County Sub-Counties. It has 21 different herbs and spices in it. It employs five full-time workers, has processing equipment, a well-established health shop specializing in organic foods and products, and has received recognition from organizations such as AGRA, FAO, and MOALF. The group earns Kes 2,200,000 per year from sales to fresh product exporters and local dealers. The mission of the company is to connect agricultural businesses with well-established marketing networks. This is made possible by close collaboration along with other media establishments, most particularly the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). A variety of challenges beset the group, including inaccessible terrain, a negative attitude toward farming among the youth, terrible weather conditions, a shortage of water, inadequate skills, and a scarcity of processing equipment (World Bank, 2016).

In collaboration with youth organizations, the Kenyan government should create a program to encourage young people to participate in reforestation, desertification control,

rubbish management, recycling, and other environmental efforts. Participation of youth in such initiatives would provide training, raise awareness, and create income-generating and employment prospects (Samah *et al.*, 2010). Agriculture encourages young people to make a global effect by ensuring adequate food for export and import. Youth who become farmers will be able to help end world hunger and malnutrition while also assisting the agricultural sector in adapting to climate change. Youths should be aware of the myriad difficulties confronting agriculture and how to tackle them. It is possible to overcome the obstacles by educating, having a voice at the policy level, involving the media, and involving them in new inventions. The youth have the opportunity to contribute to global development by feeding nine billion people by 2050 (Farm Africa, 2013).

In that it helps to food and nutritional security, the Kenyan government promotes agribusiness. It supports youth and female participation in irrigation, agricultural land leasing, and automation. It encourages adolescents to seek career and investment possibilities by suggesting value addition (Chege and Wang, 2020). In the Kenya Youth Development Policy of 2019 and the Kenya Youth Agribusiness Strategic plan, the government has outlined the many methods that have been implemented (King, 2020; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, Council of Governors, 2017). The policy's primary goal is to implement measures that empower and harness the potential of the nation's youth in order to facilitate sustainable development. The empowerment of youth extends to their political, social, and economic environments. Youths can participate in a variety of industries, including agriculture, thanks to such initiatives. The government demands 30 percent youth participation in public sector procurement, which creates agricultural investment money (AGRA, 2017). Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) seeks to enhance fair chances for all Kenyans, particularly young. The requirement that women, youths, and persons with disabilities participate in a project at 30% gives youth the opportunity to expand their companies and engage in government commerce. Agribusiness is involved in some of the procurement programs (Migwi, 2018; Njeri and Getuno, 2016). As a result, it offers teenagers with an incentive to participate in agriculture by offering the opportunity to win government contracts at multiple levels.

Agriculture is critical to global and Sub-Saharan African growth. The sector generates 32% of the region's GDP and employs 65% of the continent's workforce. An increase in agricultural production is expected to help Africa's economy grow even more. This industry offers several opportunities for young African leaders who want to be change agents on the continent. Furthermore, young people's innovation, technological ability, and

organizational skills can benefit the sector (World Bank, 2015).).

The young people are looking into existing ideas that can help solve problems in the agriculture industry and increase their earning potential. M-farm, for example, is a Information Technology solution and agribusiness firm that provides Kenyan farmers with a transparent tool. It employs mobile technology to provide farmers with information concerning the retail price of their produce, to purchase farm inputs directly from manufacturers at low costs, and to locate customers for their crop. Jamila Abass, a talented and motivated online and mobile application developer, founded M-farm (World Bank, 2015). Her goal is to provide agricultural information on market prices to individuals, particularly women, so that they can realize their highest level of success and advance the East African information technology sector (ADBG, 2017).

Even though there is continuous growth in the world's population, one of the difficulties confronting the agriculture industry is a drop in young involvement. This is attributed to lack of employment openings in rural areas, as well as the perception that farming is a low-status occupation with limited prospects (FAO, 2010). If African countries were challenged to employ one million teenagers in agriculture on ten million hectares over the next ten years, they would be able to produce 40 million tons of food per year, enough to feed 200 million people and thus solve the continent's food deficit. Youth can shape Africa's future by influencing the agricultural economy (Ngongi, 2012). Agriculture youth policies have not been well implemented, and as a result, the impact is minimal and rarely felt by the youth, who are oblivious of the programs. Instead than allowing adolescents to pursue their own projects, they are forced to participate in specific activities (Omiti, 2012). Young people in wealthy countries have high unemployment rates as a substantial proportion of the population, which has a detrimental influence on the economy. Youth should be involved in agriculture, and programs should educate them on the myriad opportunities available in agribusiness in order to create jobs in the country. The current study fills this gap by detailing the different types of agricultural investments made by teenagers who have access to the Youth Enterprise Development Fund.

The Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries is putting programs in place to encourage young people to invest in agriculture. The projects involve providing market access to youth in agribusiness, as well as access to low-cost and youth-friendly financial services for agri-entrepreneurship, such as seed financing, and the creation of new information and knowledge sharing platforms. During the East African Youth Congress Trust webinar, the government stated that the programs will be addressed through powerful

collaborations and partnerships aimed at assisting the country's youth in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused over 700,000 people to lose their jobs. The ministry and other relevant bodies will collaborate to not only provide a conducive environment for youth to start exploring business opportunities along agricultural value chains, but also to build trusted networks such as the internet to help fill supply gaps, price information, and distributorships, among many other things (GOK, 2020). The implementation of YEDF could be critical to the ministry's ability to achieve its goals, especially in terms of supplying youth with affordable and youth-friendly financial services. The majority of government-implemented initiatives have focused on the significance of YEDF in agricultural policy implementation.

2.6 Factors Hindering Youth Participation in Agribusiness

A number of issues restrict young people's participation in agribusiness in Kenya. The policies that are required to encourage youth entrepreneurship in agriculture are inadequate (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, 2017). Youth empowerment methodologies are complicated by the large number of young people, this phenomenon complicates the design, implementation, tracking, and evaluation of the programmes. A case that has been found to be common with the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. Several roadblocks arise during the implementation of youth empowerment programs, attempting to prevent youth from achieving their full potential. Because of insufficient budgetary allocation, poor methods of selecting and executing projects, insufficient performance measurement of programmes, and people's fears regarding being open and accountable, local community knowledge and involvement have typically been low (Charles *et al.,* 2012).

The lack of provision of sufficient information about empowerment programs to the young people, makes most of those requiring assistance not to participate (Mbithi and Mutuku, 2010). Studies noted in agribusiness literature have highlighted on the extent of youth awareness of existing agricultural assistance programs. Njenga *et al.* (2012), discovered that 56.6% of young people in their respective localities were unaware of any agriculture-related initiatives. According to another poll, 32% of young people agreed that raising awareness is an important technique for increasing their engagement in agricultural activities (Gwary *et al.,* 2011). Young people have been shown to be unaware of the numerous employment opportunities available in agriculture (Kising'u, 2016). Despite efforts to provide structured funding to foster youth engagement and awareness through the Youth Enterprise Development Fund and the Women Enterprise Fund, these programmes have not significantly aided many organizations and individuals, as some people have never heard of

the funds at all (Charles *et al.*, 2012). However, the report does not investigate the methods that could be used to raise awareness of the financing. As a result, it is critical to evaluate the various methods that could be used to raise awareness of the YEDF.

According to the general view, there does not appear to be a coordinated effort to support youth organizations in developing agricultural projects. Youth engagement in agricultural projects has been hampered by lack of access to education, knowledge, and information. It has been demonstrated that education is critical for overcoming barriers to rural development. Aside from education and food security, basic proficiency and literacy skills can improve the lives of farmers in rural areas (Valerie, 2009). The national extension employee-to-farmer ratio is roughly 1:1,500, despite the worldwide norm of 1:400. Furthermore, no youth-specific extension activities are in place. As a result, there was a lack of understanding about the need of improving agricultural processes, which hindered the majority of farmers from keeping up with quickly expanding technological developments (Olubandwa, 2011).

Advancement in Information Communication Technology (ICT) such as use of cell phones and the internet, has created opportunities to improve information access in order to increase agricultural output, foster use of new technologies, and grant access to financial products and services and markets (Kangai and Mburu, 2012). More focus on current ICT-based information methods will enhance distribution of information to rural farmers. It will also improve small-scale farmers' access to markets and agricultural finance, give farmers more bargaining power for good prices, and facilitate the development of their network. Despite development groups' enthusiasm for using ICT tools to disseminate agricultural information to farmers, farmers have little expertise of how to use these technologies for agricultural transactions (Okello *et al.*, 2012). It is also felt that the use of ICT tools is critical for increasing youth knowledge of the YEDF, which has a significant impact on the funds' uptake (Okande, 2015).

According to research, many young people in rural regions are skilled at using new farming technology and are motivated to boost their productivity by utilizing upgraded and sophisticated technologies (Valerie, 2009). The Kenyan government and commercial sector have launched a number of projects that use ICTs to transmit agricultural information to children. M-farm, Mkulima-young, and Farming Kenya are among them. There are countless additional mobile and ICT applications that supply farmers with information and services. Despite the widespread use of mobile technology in rural areas, participation, potential, and impact differ according to the internet's influence. High computer and internet prices, as well

as a lack of electricity, are the biggest barriers to Internet access in wealthy countries (Valerie, 2009). Youths are also seen as appreciating agricultural technology and incorporating it into their farming activities (Umar *et al.,* 2009). Youths also use ICTs to gain knowledge that aids in learning. Smart phone technology, for example, is regarded as a crucial tool for young farmers who use platforms such as YouTube and Twitter (Irungu *et al.*, 2015).

Despite the fact that agriculture industry is global recognized, there are few younger generation who are interested to engage in farming activities. Due to the fact that they are more innovative, youth should be at the forefront of initiatives to reinvigorate agriculture. The youth dividend could be realized if the young's contribution is combined with the necessary skills and resources (Afande *et al.,* 2015). Other research has identified rural-to-urban migration among young people as the key cause of the drop in agricultural engagement (Ahaibwe *et al.,* 2013; Maina and Maina, 2012).

Despite the government's support for agriculture, youths are not participating in agriculture for a variety of reasons. In comparison to white collar employment, the youth perceive agriculture to be labor-intensive, unprofitable, and incapable of supporting their livelihoods (Ruiz Salvago *et al.,* 2019). Migration decisions are influenced by "push" and "pull" forces (Afande *et al.,* 2015). A variety of factors contribute to youth mistrust of agriculture, including the fact that children in rural areas have fewer opportunities to attend school than their counterparts in urban areas. This follows that apart from rural youth having less access to education, the education in rural areas is frequently of lower quality and irrelevant to rural setup. Agriculture is considered as a lower valuable topic in rural areas or as a last resort for underachievers, which has a undesirable bearing on rural adolescent aspirations; meanwhile, agriculture is viewed as a "filthy job" by urban students (Njeru *et al.*, 2015).

The sustainability of youth run businesses is very crucial for economic development. However, many youth face sustainability issues in running their businesses. According to Addis, (2019) and Alene (2020), the two key impediment for sustainability of youth-run business is lack of managerial and leadership skills. Most youth claim that capital constraints being an impediment for the success of their businesses, however, majority have limited management skills which are needed to improve on the performance of the business and sustainable growth (Bruhn *et al.,* 2013). Skills upgrading is linked to increased market orientation, sales and job creation (Gebremariam, 2017)

Youth empowerment and resources in the agribusiness sector will improve their perception of the agriculture industry. This study examines how YEDF might be used to boost youth participation in agribusiness, hence closing the gap. Youth participation in agricultural activities has the potential to mitigate the challenges associated with an aging farm population while also reducing youth unemployment; however, securing young people's interest and participation in agriculture requires a complete change in policy and putting in place strategies that target younger population. Youth are not only society's backbone, but they also have the most original ideas and are the most effective food marketers. They are also thought leaders and policy and action drivers (Akpan, 2010).

Nguyen *et al.* (2019) looked into the factors affecting the entrepreneurial intentions of youth. From their study, it emerged that indeed entrepreneurship promotion is critical in helping the youth to achieve the goal of improving youth-led businesses within the country. Among the key factors that were found to influence the entrepreneurial intentions of youth include attitude towards entrepreneurship, the desire for and intention for change and success, innovativeness and past entrepreneurial experiences. Yousaf *et al.* (2022) found out that educational level of the youth and their attitude towards entrepreneurship positively and significantly contributed to their participation in agribusiness activities.

2.6.1 Social Capital Networks and Participation of Youth in Agricultural Projects

Putman (1993) defined social capital as the "links between persons that constitute social interconnected systems where rules of give and take as well as dependability emerge". Social capital consists of the rules and systems that permit individuals to work together as a group (Mwangi and Ouma, 2012). Networks normally consist of groups of people with direct, frequent, and multifaceted interactions (Mwangi and Ouma, 2012). This network remains an extremely valuable resource, particularly in rural areas. Social capital is the intangible resources that are important in making people's lives better, such as "goodwill, friendship, sympathy, and social interaction among the individuals and families that comprise a social unit. Individual contact with neighbors leads to the buildup of social capital, which can immediately satisfy one's social needs and result in a social potential adequate for the major improvement of living conditions for the entire community" (Mwangi and Ouma, 2012). Social capital helps individuals to work together, hence boosting collective action. The social capital acts on multiple levels, including the micro and macro levels. The decrease of uncertainty and transaction costs at the micro level stimulates economic activity. On the other hand, it gives new analytical tools at the macro level to explain rural development differentials. The extent to which the economic activities of

individuals within a family are similar, social links, integration, and cultural practice can partially explain the level of attachment in rural areas. In rural areas, investing in social capital is one of the most important prerequisites for credit access, whilst at the individual level, microfinance banks will aim to extend their lending by attaching greater value to organized groups. When seeking for funds, rural families may be required to furnish a guarantor due to the knowledge asymmetry between them and the financial service providers.

This demonstrates the significance of social capital in non-urban communities' setup (Mwangi and Ouma, 2012). In instances when youth groups are deemed to have a significant impact on community empowerment, group development may be essential for granting youth access to the YEDF. In addition, social capital is crucial for accessing YEDF and developing firms that can be funded (Sikenyi, 2017). The formation of social networks facilitates the emergence of spontaneous mutual insurance mechanisms. According to Greenberg (1998), communities with a variety of civic organizations and social networks have an advantage in coping with vulnerability and poverty compared to those without the network. In economic institutions, specific land parcels or housing units are can only be purchased by members of a particular community, indicating that social capital is a valuable resource (Greenberg, 1998). According to Mosley *et al.* (1999), the poor in society may possess intensive stock and close-knit social capital they have ability to overcome hurdles and get entry to existing economic and societal facilities.

Tahmasebi and Askaaribezayeh (2021) looked into making financial services available to low income persons and businesses and social capital formations using a social network strategy. The study used data collected from four developmental groups in rural areas and did a comparative study of before the microcredit was introduced in the area and after. Results from the study indicated that more and more people were involved in the social networks particularly after the project implementation took off as opposed to earlier on. Conclusively, it can be noted that social capital networks are important especially in the participation of youth to grasp the opportunities from the youth enterprise development fund. Through such networks, youth can take advantage of each other's expertise to learn and develop business proposals, register groups and act as a collateral for each other during loan application thus boosting their business improvements in the long run.

2.6.2 Factors Hindering Youth Participation in Projects related to Agriculture

Youth involvement in agricultural activities can be slowed by numerous challenges that include access to knowledge, information, education, land, financial services, markets and engagement in policy dialogue (FAO, 2014). Land for use in agricultural development is mainly accessed by the youth through inheritance in developing countries (FAO, 2010). This makes it to be a scarce resource, as the youths have to wait for a long period to inherit the land (Kangai and Mburu, 2012). Many young people in Kenya who cultivate their family's land receive nothing or a negligible return on their labor, causing them to become demoralized (Njeru and Gichumu, 2015).

Young people must have access to land in order to make a livelihood through agriculture. Access to land is essential for commencing farming in rural areas; it also adds to household food security and is a source of income. The opportunity to have land for productive purpose is exceedingly challenging for the youthful generation despite the fact that land is the key asset for starting farming activities (Njenga *et al.,* 2012). In developing nations, the cultural practice in which property is passed down from one generation to the next make it challenging for youthful women generation to inherit and obtain access to land; therefore, reform is necessary. In the majority of countries, such as Kenya, access to land is granted through inheritance, which typically occurs when a person has passed the youthful age, requiring adolescents to wait for a number of years to inherit a portion of their family's land. While awaiting their inheritance, youths enjoy secondary land rights and work for little or no compensation on the family's property. Gender has a substantial effect on land inheritance and access; young women are disproportionately affected because they cannot inherit land directly and must pursue it through a male relative. The current constitution of Kenya provides for equal property and inheritance rights, but parallel customary law systems make implementation of these formal rules exceedingly difficult (IFAD/FAO, 2012). Availability of land for use is difficult for youth, which hinders their participation in agricultural operations. The majority of rural youth are unemployed, have limited savings, and earn modest incomes, making it difficult for them to purchase land (FAO, 2011).

Market access is the capacity for producers to have access to the resources and infrastructure necessary to produce and sell agricultural products (IFAD, 2010). In industrialized countries, markets have the potential to generate income, thereby reducing destitution and hunger. Markets also influence production to meet the quantity and quality of consumer demand (van Schalkwyk *et al.,* 2012). As a way to increase their income and escape destitution, smallholders must have sustainable access to markets. Access to markets

is a crucial aspect of agricultural practices for producers. According to a research undertaken by Onoja *et al.* (2012), farmers living near accessible roads and have more frequent and direct contact with markets are more likely to produce crops for sale, while those with limited market access are more likely to produce crops for their own consumption. That is better market access is essential for increasing farmer earnings (Onoja *et al.,* 2012). Different research carried out have tried to identify the factors that affect how much agricultural firms participate in markets and how often they do so.

A study by Omiti *et al.* (2009), farmers in Kenya, in peri-urban areas sell a larger percentage of their crops compared to farmers in non-urban areas. The study discovered that the distance between the farm and the market was a significant barrier to participation, despite the fact that enhanced production price and prevailing market information were essential motivations for higher sales. To encourage rural farming communities to engage in production of high-value agricultural products, it is imperative that the government of Kenya needs to improve the market access of rural farmers, it is important to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of market information delivery systems, improve rural and peri-urban road infrastructure, promote market integration efforts, and establish more retail outlets with improved market facilities in remote rural villages (Onoja *et al.,* 2012). Infrastructure development in Kenya, including road networks and electrification, has had a significant impact on the participation of individuals in economic development (Boit, 2019).

By ensuring rural youths have access to the market, the agricultural sector may be strengthened, production will increase, incomes will rise, and poverty and hunger will decrease in the future years. When endeavoring to enter the marketplace in industrialized nations, youths face obstacles. Rural farmers often lack the business, management, and entrepreneurship skills necessary to succeed in the market. They also lack access to price information, which makes it difficult for them to make informed decisions about their crops. (FAO, 2012). Non-urban areas have limited access to education and information than urban areas. Ability to use information communication technology is also reduced, particularly among female youth population from disadvantaged backgrounds (Valerie, 2009).

Gender is among the additional determinants. The 2002 Cairo Summit on Youth Employment proposed that nations implement strategies to empower youth in gaining gainful employment. This was to be addressed by ability to get a job, job creation, fairness, entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, and empowerment. This would be a strategy for bolstering the economies of young nations and decreasing youth unemployment among the vast majority of the world's younger population. The summit identified credit

discrimination as one of the gender disparities that limit women's access to resources. Due to prejudice, female entrepreneurs in Pakistan do not have the same opportunities as men (Roomi and Parrott, 2008).

Since they have limited access to financing, training, and agency support, it is difficult for female entrepreneurs to reach their economic potential. Women are not assisted by financial institutions (Bari and Marium, 2000). This restricts their spatial mobility and forces them to deal with a lack of social capital (Roomi, 2011). In Pakistan, women face obstacles as a result of the enduring prejudice against informal sector SME owners held by banks. They are considered risky consumers because they lack the necessary collateral to obtain loans (Afzal, 2006). In countries such as sub-Saharan Africa, female business owners faced more challenging conditions than their male counterparts. Nevertheless, despite modest returns from SMEs, women business owners were able to overcome other obstacles and secure financing for their enterprises (ILO, 2013).

Despite their essential role in the agriculture industry, cultural norms and values restrict women's access to agricultural resources, particularly in Nigeria, where the majority of communities do not permit women to inherit land. According to studies (Ugbajah, 2011), women have greater difficulty gaining access to credit than men. Three out of every five unemployed individuals in Sub-Saharan Africa are young, including two women, and 72 percent of the population lives on less than one dollar per day (UN, 2015). Youth unemployment has impacted the Kenyan government since its independence. Despite the narrowing gender disparity, Kenya has organizations and government structures that focus on youth and women; young women are still less likely to be employed and to have access to resources such as credit than young men. Moreover, job quality tends to be relatively low; approximately 35% of employed young women are domestic laborers and 20% are self-employed. Together, the two groups include over 1,3 million adolescent women (World Bank, 2008).

In addition, adolescent illiteracy hinders their participation in agriculture. Not only is literacy acquired during childhood, but also during elementary education. Literacy is viewed as an expanding set of knowledge, skills, and strategies that individuals acquire throughout their lives, including through interaction with peers and the larger community (Britt and Rouet, 2012). Financial literacy is the capacity to comprehend finances well enough to execute sound decisions about one's how individual persons manage their money (Making Cents International, 2010); therefore, entrepreneurs must study it. The ability to create household budgets, initiate savings programs, and make investment decisions is facilitated

by financial literacy. Unfamiliarity with contemporary agricultural technologies and agribusiness is one of the numerous obstacles rural youth confront. Several nations are instituting educational programmes that expose young people to modern agriculture practices plus techniques and successful new agribusinesses in order to overcome this challenge. YEDF also provides youth with training in entrepreneurship, which plays a crucial role in facilitating the utilization of financial aid.

Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) is a program of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) that intends to change young people's perceptions of agriculture so that they view it as a thrilling and lucrative venture. Through the facilitating Youth Programme, IITA and the African Development Bank are also expanding the concept. This efforts will require 200 participants from thirty African nations to learn about agribusiness, new agricultural skills and technology, climate change, automation, and agricultural value chain approaches. The World Vegetable Center also created the Mali Agribusiness Incubation Hub (MAIH) in Mali, which is a training facility for young people. They are instructed at MAIH in vegetable farming, procedures for composting, nursery management, the application of integrated pest management strategies, and commercial vegetable cultivation.

In Guatemala, Community Learning Centers (CADER) provide youth with training in sustainable farming practices and technical support to increase agricultural production. In India, Techno serve offers a one-month course on agricultural and livestock production in collaboration with the Cargill Agricultural Fellows program. Graduates are given funding to launch an agribusiness after completing their training. Fellowship recipient Maaruthi, a young man from the village of Bhanuvalli, now operates a vermicomposting venture that uses banana leaves and worms to produce inexpensive paddy rice fertilizer.

Effective application of acquired knowledge enables investors to fulfill their financial obligations through prudent resource management in order to realize the greatest return (Mwangi and Kihiu, 2012). Most analyses of young credit limits in the context of development policy assume that entrepreneurs operate their enterprises optimally within these constraints. Seldom do the impoverished who are self-employed have formal business training. Numerous microfinance organizations seek to cultivate the workforce of micro-entrepreneurs as a way of enhancing their clients' standard of living and further their goal of alleviating poverty. Although adolescents have access to funding, their enterprises continue to struggle due to a lack of fundamental financial management (Kimani and Ntoiti, 2015).

Whether or not adolescent participation in agribusiness can meet unmet demands in the agricultural market value chain as a whole is a crucial concern. If resolved, this could

reduce cases of destitution and food insecurity. The report prepared by Osti *et al*. (2015) emphasizes the critical role of promoting youth participation in agricultural production and distribution network to promote food security and minimize joblessness among the youth. Youth are in a position to play big role in all the stages of undertakings such as production, post-harvest processing, distribution, and marketing. If barriers to startup financing are eliminated, youth will be able to innovate and grow existing agribusinesses. This is exemplified by Tanzania's Agri-Hub network, that fosters entrepreneurship by connecting young people to markets, agriculture input dealers, extension agencies, and the media to promote extant and emerging agribusiness opportunities. Agri-Hub also created the Tanzania Youth in Agribusiness Forum, where young people can discuss agribusiness firms and receive technology assistance/training for a variety of projects. The recipient of this training and networking was Anna Malong. She launched a leather processing company and uses Agri-internet Hub's platform for commerce, agribusiness information, and agribusiness linkage.

According to studies on the availability of microfinance credit, a dearth of financial literacy is one of the factors preventing borrowers from obtaining and effectively utilizing credit. Youth lack basic financial literacy and comprehension of business management, which contributes to their reluctance to engage in entrepreneurial endeavors (Kisunza and Theuri, 2014). Boateng's (2012) research on field experiences in rural enterprise growth and development in sub-Saharan Africa demonstrates that financially literate clients make better financial decisions and have a higher overall standard of financial well-being. In addition to low levels of education and entrepreneur skills, basic literacy and financial literacy have a significant impact on youth group-owned enterprises (Makanda, 2013).

Despite the fact that agriculture is the primary source of employment, youths favor non-agricultural employment due to the sector's difficulties. Negative perceptions of agriculture are connected to, among other things, inadequate yields and limited access to markets, insufficient market information, inadequate financing, and an absence of prestige in comparison to white collar occupations (Noorani, 2015). The lack of government action in the agricultural economy is the primary impediment to youthful population involvement in agriculture, which creates a void to make agriculture appealing to young people (FAO, 2016). A study found that young women in India are less likely to marry farmers, which is encouraging young men to abandon farming Ferguson (2011). This could lead to food shortages in the future. In rural areas, the Asian media contribute to the demonization of agriculture. The propagation of a western and urban lifestyle in the media has a significant

impact on the agricultural ambitions of rural youth (Ferguson, 2011). Due in part to its use in schools and the implementation of punishments for disobedient and undisciplined children, agriculture in Uganda is unattractive to young people (Agena, 2011). Inmates have frequently been forced to work on farms, with supervisors severely beating the sluggish and weak in order to match the tempo of the energetic (Brooks et al., 2012). Use of inmates in farms portray agricultural activities as being worthy of punishment, thereby discouraging young people from pursuing careers in agriculture. Thus, opportunities for agriculture-led growth are endangered and left to an elderly rural population (Proctor and Lucchesi, 2012).

According to Harrison and Hart (1992), perception is essential to understanding entrepreneurship. There is a high likelihood that a person will engage in entrepreneurial activity if he or she has a positive view of entrepreneurship (GEM, 2010). Both internal and external factors influence the entrepreneurial behavior of an individual. External factors are those that cannot be controlled by an individual and are associated with the external environment. Among these concerns are inflation, tax rates, and the recession. Each individual's understanding of entrepreneurship will determine how he or she reacts to these forces. Those with a positive attitude toward entrepreneurship are better able to overcome externally imposed obstacles (Moy and Wright, 2003). Personality and behaviors are examples of internal factors that an individual can control (Henderson and Robertson, 1999).

The individual's outlook on the environment and the objectives they set for themselves define their expectations. To be a successful entrepreneur, one must be able to identify opportunities and possess the resources and skills necessary to pursue them. Entrepreneurs are capable of identifying opportunities and returns that others cannot. Additionally, entrepreneurs are capable of having a distinct risk perception. They are more resistant to danger than the average individual. Instead of focusing on dangers and danger, they concentrate on opportunities and expected returns (Bagby and Palich, 1995). Shinnar *et al*. (2010) discovered that the student's involvement in school and social organizations had the greatest influence on the student's perception of agribusinesses as a viable career option. Whether the pupil is in high school or college, this holds true. In their analysis of 59 nations, Kelly *et al.* (2011) discovered that the attitude of an entrepreneur had a significant impact on their success.

Attitude incorporates perception of business opportunities, the individual's underlying fear of failure, perceived self-efficacy to pursue the opportunity, and the desired level of risk. Further, Kelly and colleagues discovered that these attitudes are largely shaped by

societal goals, such as media portrayals of entrepreneurship. Shinnar *et al*. (2010) undertook a research that examined the attitude of non-business students toward entrepreneurship in institutions in North Carolina. The study revealed the crucial role that the parents play in shaping their children's entrepreneurial attitudes. The preponderance of the most influential characteristics were family role models, parental influence, prior work experience, and the students' self-perceptions. All of these studies concluded that the majority of entrepreneurial motivations derived from the family, personal relationships, and role models. When a student's father owns a business, the student is typically given a position of responsibility in the business at an early age, fostering entrepreneurial aspirations.

According to Abdullah *et al.* (2012), despite the fact that farming activities is presented as a viable solution to youth unemployment and the inability to surmount economic obstacles, youth continue to hold negative attitudes toward the industry. Ifenkwe (2012) discovered that young people have little interest in agriculture because they do not perceive it as a desirable career path. Youth participation in agriculture is hindered by capacity constraints, the absence of incentives such as inadequate pay, job instability, fluctuations of weather patterns, and degrading working environments. Such factors contributed substantially to the youth's negative perception of agriculture. In addition, according to Kayombo (2011), the majority of agricultural operations in rural areas are not carried out to generate income, rather, they are primarily for consumption, leaving youthful farm workers unemployed.

Ommani (2011) investigated the socioeconomic factors that influence rural adolescents' attitudes toward agriculture in Iran. The investigation found out that income, access to extension services and education, farming systems, affiliation with organizations, age, and insurance played significant roles in shaping the youth's attitude toward agriculture. This study deviates from the previous one because it was carried out in Iran, which the World Bank categorizes as a high middle-income economy. Kenya is a low-income nation; consequently, the factors influencing the attitudes of youthful Kenyans toward agriculture may differ from those in Iran. Even though there are many similarities between Iran and Kenya, it is necessary to investigate the barriers to young people engaging in agriculture in Kenya with the intention of developing special policies to tackle the problem of low youth participation in agriculture (Kimaro, 2015).

Several factors contribute to adolescents' negative perception of agriculture. Education is one element (Nxumalo and Oladele, 2013). Most rural communities have educational infrastructure that is inferior to that of urban areas. Consequently, young rural population

have limited opportunities to pursue education. The lack of teachers in remote areas deprives children of education, as the majority of educators prefer urban environments, particularly in developing nations. In rural areas of developing nations, the progression rate from primary to secondary school is minimal. Some parents, for instance, would rather have their daughters marry after finishing primary school than invest in their high school level of education (Ogunremi and Faleyimu, 2012).

In a research carried out in Nigeria, Agbonlahor *et al*. (2012) discovered that rural youth are not only disadvantaged by inadequate access to education and a lack of teachers, but also by a quality of education that is hardly germane to their rural environments. Agricultural education has disappeared from schools despite the necessity of incorporating it beginning in elementary school. Furthermore, according to Chinsinga and Chasukwa (2012), agriculture is regarded as a subject of lesser value or as a last resort for underachieving students. This contributes to the negative view of agriculture held by rural adolescents. In contrast, urban adolescents view agriculture as a "dirty job" that they are unwilling to pursue. Given the educational obstacles rural youth face, Njeru *et al.* (2016) advocated for agricultural training and skills-based education in rural areas. According to Njeru *et al.* (2016), the majority of young people work on plantations owned by others, preventing them from acquiring agricultural knowledge and skills. This perpetuates the negative perception and attitude towards farming held by youth. Leavy and Hossain (2014) also discovered that young men and women receive unequal agricultural training. According to the outcomes of a 2013 investigation conducted by Turner et al., the majority of agricultural training programs do not target young women. This is due to obstacles such as early motherhood, limited mobility, and illiteracy faced by young women. Young women have limited access to agricultural training as a result of its cumbersome scheduling when they have demanding domestic responsibilities (Njeru *et al.*, 2016).

According to Mugisha and Nkwasibwe (2014), more than 80 percent of Uganda's population lives in rural areas. Agriculture is the primary economic activity and source of subsistence in this region. Therefore, this environment affords youth the opportunity to pursue agricultural endeavors. Kasolo (2013) reveals, however, that youth involvement in agriculture is hampered by a numeral challenges, such as an inadequate established framework for guiding, organizing, and developing the distinct aspirations, skills, and experiences of rural youth toward agricultural activities. In Uganda, the reliance on primitive agricultural tools such as hand hoes deters young people from pursuing a career in agriculture. Inadequate infrastructure, lack of access to markets, and unfavorable conditions

have also discouraged young Ugandans from engaging in agriculture.

In the presence of opportunities, Brooks *et al*. (2012) assert that adolescents are willing to contribute, resulting in social and economic development. In addition, Suriname (2011) notes that there is still a negative perception of farmers, which contradicts the concept that agriculture is a viable career option for young people. Youth's willingness to adapt new techniques, technologies, and engage in innovation can be utilized to alter agriculture's negative reputation. It is a beneficial practice and habit to view agriculture in a different perspective. Mbeine (2012) suggests that government and agricultural organizations should make agricultural supplies, apparatus, resources, and inputs readily available and affordable to make it appealing to young people to the field.

Africa's rural youth have fewer opportunities to education than their counterparts in urban areas. In addition to the absence of education and infrastructure in rural areas, it is especially difficult to find qualified and motivated teachers in developing countries (UNICEF, 2013). In India, for instance, some parents would rather invest in their daughters' dowries than pay for their secondary education (Geest, 2010). Young people in rural areas have limited opportunities to attend school, but schooling in rural settings is typically of inferior standards and less pertinent to rural life (UNICEF, 2013). Teachers must establish a positive image of agriculture by describing its many facets, its value in daily life, and its employment opportunities to their pupils (Njeru *et al.*, 2015). Consequently, agriculture must be incorporated into the education curriculum beginning in lower level of school, and teachers must establish an optimistic image of agriculture by describing its many facets, its importance in daily life, and its employment opportunities.

Most smallholder farmers in Africa use traditional knowledge of the weather to make decisions about their agricultural practices. This kind of knowledge, however, is not able to cope up with the swift meteorological variations that impact precipitation patterns and temperatures. Farmers, particularly young farmers, dread a reduction in agricultural production leading to increase in hunger in the absence of dependable and readily available weather information. In the majority of the world, farming is regarded as a subject with less importance, an option that is only considered for underachievers, and an unpleasant profession for urban students, which has an undesirable influence on the ambitions of rural children (Brooks *et al.,* 2012). According to vocational training programmes in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, the majority of affluent young men are unable to satisfy the requirements of youthful women population, primarily as a result of limited movement, early parenthood, and low levels of education (UNESCO, 2012).

The establishment of universities that offer a high standard of education devoted to research in agriculture in relation with the rural community are crucial to the development of agriculture. Consequently, the formation of such institutions and the forging of ties with the agricultural community are of the utmost importance (Paisley, 2012). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) established in 2013 that universities must establish ties with agricultural communities as a way to advance knowledge, research, and the capacity to solve local problems. Unfortunately, access to post-secondary agricultural education remains restricted in the majority of developing nations (FAO, 2013; World Bank, 2014).

As shown by Anyidoho *et al.* (2012), youths generally have a negative effect view of agriculture. People engage in it if they are migrants in the city or abroad, if they perform inadequately in school, or as a supplement to other non-agricultural enterprises. According to Ndonye and Were (2014), who also contributed to the conversation, some adolescents do not even contemplate agriculture as a possibility. Due to land shortages and other resource constraints, which act as deterrents, young people face significant barriers to entry into the agricultural industry. In addition, there are additional external deterrents, such as the insecurity surrounding farming, which is primarily the result of unpredictability in meteorological conditions, rising costs, and fluctuating food prices.

According to Kimaro *et al.* (2015), young people's capacity and aptitude to engage in agricultural activities is influenced by factors beyond their control. These factors include unfavourable land tenure systems, inadequate infrastructure, access to capital, marginalization of youth in policy-making processes, among other factors contribute to the youth's lack of agricultural interest.

Umeh and Odom (2011) opined that agriculture is not designed to transmit the standing and lifestyle that young people expect and demand. The youth view it as an unattractive career. Agwu et al. (2012) also note that adolescents do not accept that agriculture can offer the favouring working environment, remuneration, and lifestyles that they expect and desire in the current century. Even in rural areas, people desire the technologically revolutionary lifestyles that are presently exclusive to cities. They believe that agriculture does not offer them with the livelihood they are entitled to. ILO (2012) argues that in order for agriculture to attract young people, it must offer superior living conditions or upward mobility opportunities.

Ifenkwe (2012) suggests that young people have not yet been persuaded that agriculture is the best career option because it can fulfill their desires and needs and provide

upward mobility. Even if they possess the knowledge and education required for success in agriculture, they should remain apathetic and detached. In addition, Ogunremi *et al*. (2012) discovered that a substantial proportion of young people are disinterested in agriculture and do not believe that it can provide them with permanent livelihoods. Agriculture is associated with challenging manual labor, low output relative to inputs, labor, and destitution. The parents of the adolescents' report that they are aware that their children seek employment in towns and cities despite the availability of such opportunities in rural areas. Nxumalo and Oladele (2013) noted that agriculture must become more intelligent, dependable, and productive to transform this mindset. The negative reputation and lack of interest in agriculture may be a result of inadequate career counseling in schools (Kimaro *et al.,* 2015). Agriculture is not adequately promoted as an essential field of study in secondary and post-secondary institutions, resulting in a lack of enthusiasm. According to Haggblade *et al.* (2015), this could be remedied through ensuring that organizations that promote agricultural activities conduct career fairs in both towns, cities and rural areas to encourage students to pursue courses in agriculture. It is also necessary to increase availability to agricultural information in both printed and digital media as a way of creating awareness.

According to Agbonlahor *et al*. (2012), higher education students must be aware of the diminishing employment opportunities in non-agricultural industries. Youth should be assisted in acquiring the skills and knowledge of global and local agricultural systems so that they can contribute to the growth and development of the industry. Similarly, Ifenkwe *et al.* (2015) note that as the education level of the young population rises, they regard agriculture as a less desirable career path for advancement. However, Minde and coworkers note that rising rates of unemployment among the youth demonstrate the insufficiency of modern education and white-collar jobs as significant routes out of poverty for individuals. Afande *et al.* (2015) suggest that in order for sub-Saharan African countries to experience economic growth, initiatives that revolutionize their agricultural segment to increase output and job creation are necessary. Critical stage would be to strengthen the abilities of graduates in agriculture, who lack the required competencies and practical skills for effective agribusiness.

Rural areas in Africa have substantially less social and physical infrastructure than urban areas, according to Tadele and Gella (2012). People, predominantly the youth, migrate to urban areas in search of improved means of subsistence and employment opportunities. The youth are knowledgeable of lifestyles in other regions of their countries and around the globe. As long as metropolitan regions continue to offer greater

opportunities for young people to live their desired lifestyles, a growing number of young people will continue to prefer urban over rural areas. Mugisha and Nkwasibwe (2014) note that the availability of reliable electricity, good roads, recreational facilities, affordable housing, the internet, quality healthcare, and water and sanitation in rural areas will play an important role in retaining youth in rural areas and allowing them to engage in agriculture.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (2014) cited a paucity of data and knowledge upon which to base programs and policies as an additional barrier. There is a lack of research into the reasons why young people do not partake in agriculture. Aspects such as gender, household characteristics, levels of education, and the quality of natural resources, proximity to markets, tenure regimes, land availability, and access to financial facilities are rarely investigated. Similarly, Kising'u (2016) observed that the information infrastructure is inadequate, as numerous young people have difficulty gaining access to agribusiness and agriculture-related data. They are unaware of the many opportunities available in the profession. This causes the majority of individuals to view agriculture solely from a production standpoint. Minde *et al.* (2015) emphasize the significance of investing in technology and other infrastructure in order to make information broadly accessible in public libraries, schools, and the local community. In addition, Kimaro *et al.* (2015) stress the importance of having agricultural literature available in languages and grammatical structures that young people can comprehend and find engaging.

Various barriers to adolescent participation in agriculture can be reduced through the implementation of inclusive, well-conceived, and efficient programs (Kasolo, 2013). Programs that target a specific subset of the adolescent population are probably more efficient and effective. According to research conducted in Tanzania by Madoffe (2013), the dearth of specialized programs is a significant challenge to the implementation of specialized treatments. In a study conducted in Nigeria, Adesope *et al.* (2014) determined that youth in the agriculture industry face a variety of obstacles, some of which are unique to their group or region and others of which are shared by the majority of small-scale producers. Kasolo (2013) identified the obstacles that attract young people to agriculture in Uganda. These obstacles include a lack of agricultural resources such as money, land, and equipment, limited agricultural skills and knowledge, a negative perception of agriculture, a lack of youth organizations and cooperatives, a lack of youth engagement in decision-making, and ineffective leadership and management of agriculture at the local and national levels. Other factors mentioned were the attraction of knowledge to urban employment and lifestyles, inadequate youth engagement policies, inadequate skill, knowledge, and

experience sharing, poor market accessibility, inadequate community and government support, inadequate infrastructure, and supportive community services.

Wong (2009) acknowledged the numerous barriers to adolescent involvement in agriculture. These included uncoordinated farmer clubs, limited access to production resources, poor alignment and inadequate funding for initiatives, negative perceptions, a lack of incentives and institutional support, a lack of political goodwill, inadequate accountability and support mechanisms for youth concerns, and a negative perception of farmers as unskilled, uneducated, manual laborers with low returns. Low returns from agriculture relative to other employment, institutional issues such as a lack of policy in the agriculture sector, the absence of agriculture-related topics in the National Youth policy, and a lack of emphasis on agriculture in the current education system served as additional obstacles. Afande *et al.* (2015) also discovered that there were no mentors in the agricultural sector and that the majority of young school dropouts interested in agriculture faced obstacles in gaining access to and exercising control over the resources necessary to operate a profitable agribusiness.

Agwu *et al.* (2012) found that the tendency of policymakers to generalize the youth demographic is a significant barrier to the formulation and execution of successful youth involvement initiatives in agriculture. According to Abdullah (2012), young people's attitudes toward agriculture vary and are largely influenced by land ownership and geographic location. To encourage children to participate in agriculture, it is necessary to divide them into distinct groups and tailor interventions to each. According to Chidoko and Zhou (2013), programs that increase youth awareness and interest in agriculture can contribute to increased agricultural productivity and job growth. However, each endeavor must be focused with precision, as what appeals to youth in one region may have little or no impact in another. The majority of young people, especially those from rural areas, value the agricultural sector's contribution to food security, but many do not perceive it as a viable career path (Ndonye and Were, 2014). This is primarily because the majority of farmers in the regions where these rural adolescents are raised are subsistence farmers who remain poor for nearly their entire lifetimes. Youth in urban areas may lack exposure to agriculture; therefore, advertisements targeting urban youth must differ from those targeting rural youth.

Youth must be included in agricultural policy dialogues, deliberations, and surveys, according to Butt *et al.* (2011). In addition, the youth should not be viewed as a single homogenous group; rather, the various dynamics, such as age, geography, socioeconomic class, gender, and many others, must be taken into consideration when developing effective

interventions. Abdullah (2012) argues that African nations cannot continue to marginalize youth when formulating and implementing future-oriented policies. They must recognize that young are essential to the present and future of the continent. Therefore, they must be incorporated into every aspect of development, including agriculture. In addition, Ndonye and Were (2014) argue that African governments should cultivate the practice of implementing policies and recommendations. Working papers are necessary due to the fact that many policies require considerable time to develop and are ultimately not implemented. Key to the development of agribusiness is the promotion of rural establishments that facilitate dialogue and interaction among key stakeholders. Youth should be assisted in developing comprehensive agribusiness strategies, commercial loan applications, and business plans. In addition, a system of handholding, mentoring, and linkage support should be established. These activities should be geared towards training and empowering young people to produce crops with a higher value using modern agribusiness and agriculture techniques. Additionally, systems that enhance access to land, a conducive environment, equitable markets, and financial services should be implemented.

In addition, children should be assisted in mitigating risks through risk reduction and insurance. To flourish, developing agribusinesses must also have access to markets and other suppliers of essential inputs. It has been emphasized that it is essential to form partnerships with financial institutions so that they become familiar with and gain confidence in adolescent agribusinesses (Ifenkwe, 2012). Exploring promising innovations, technologies, and ventures for commercialization; establishing agribusiness incubators and developing commercial incubation approaches; Tracking agribusiness startups to evaluate their application of best practices, economic feasibility, and growth; Establishing demonstration farms and experimental agribusinesses as hubs for profitable invention; and Mainstreaming confirmed opportunities in agribusiness. Creating a database of young agribusiness professionals and facilitating their contact with finance and markets; Bringing together and engaging financial institutions, policymakers, and the media to facilitate support for agribusiness growth and young participation; and Adopting modern training and capacity building via seminars, workshops, and the use of electronic as well as print media (Kararach, 2011).

2.6.3 Politicization of Youth Programmes

Young entrepreneur-encouraging programmes are interwoven with political parties. In Kenya, political parties propose employment initiatives as a means of gaining the legitimacy and support of the adolescents. Consequently, young people view the youth enterprise

development fund as a political effort and a stratagem to buy their allegiance to a particular political party or administration (GOK, 2015). The ties between funding for youth development, political parties, and the government diminish the longevity of youth initiatives. The Kenyan government should be able to protect the youth by devising a less politicized policy and the legislative texts that guide the implementation of national youth programs, as well as by ensuring accountability and sustainability. Youths in Kenya have the potential to become successful entrepreneurs, which can be achieved through the use of youth business funds to safeguard their interests and finances. The youth funds should enable them to be self-employed and financially independent through entrepreneurship initiatives that provide unemployed adolescents with the ultimate solution, thereby improving their standard of living (GOK, 2014).

Secondary school graduates in Kenya prefer self-employment to employment (Nikoi *et al.,* 2016). According to Kangai and Mburu (2012), young people who have been trained to be enterprising and to have soft skills are confident and capable of launching a business, thereby enhancing their standard of living. Youth can be bolstered by establishing a legislative framework that not only identifies young entrepreneurs, but also provides the funding and support services essential to their success. The youth enterprise development funds endeavor to prove their effectiveness by combating ineffective implementation, misappropriation of funds, and corruption (GOK, 2015).

In addition, the Kenyan government, private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), stakeholders, academic institutions, and international organizations have worked to assist youth in engaging in agriculture. They perform a crucial part in assuring youth involvement in the field of agriculture by addressing the barriers that prevent youth from participating in agriculture. Numerous stakeholders have representatives who initiate programs that offer a few case studies to assist juveniles in agriculture. They conducted field interviews that include some project-related information but lack the necessary references. According to the Kenya Private Sector Alliance's (KEPSA) status report, the private sector of the economy make significant contribution in the economic and social development of a country by functioning as a driver of investment, wealth creation, growth, and innovation.

It is impossible to ignore the significant role played by private entities in agricultural development, given that their involvement and collaboration with other stakeholders has been shown to arouse competition, enhance markets, increase resource efficiency, and boost profitability. Critically essential is the importance to construct projects that are more resource-efficient in the agriculture sector and end reliance on donor funding (KEPSA,

2018). The collaboration among the World Bank, the government of Kenya, and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance is an example of a three-way, sustainable initiative. KEPSA was established in 2003 as an organization that brings together players in private sector and unites Kenyan businesses under a unified voice in order to engage and influence public policy in favor of a business-friendly environment. The Government of Kenya launched the Kenya Youth Empowerment Project in partnership with this coalition and with World Bank funding. (KEPSA, 2018) The partnership can intervene in the World Bank's financial support for youth in the agriculture industry.

Nongovernmental organizations in Kenya and the majority of sub-Saharan African nations are promoting adolescent employment aggressively, with an emphasis on the agricultural sector. The majority of local, regional, national, and international NGO programs emphasize capacity building through training (including soft and technical skills), educating adolescents on new agricultural technologies and market values, and facilitating youth access to markets and financing. Despite the fact that NGO programs increase adolescent participation in agriculture, the effect is short-lived due to obstacles such as insufficient resources and the difficulty of addressing the entire production-to-market value chain (Kimando, 2012). By cultivating relationships with other organizations and business sectors, the NGO can strengthen its programs because it will have greater financial, interpersonal, and informational resources. There are a variety of strategies employed by non-governmental organizations in Kenya to promote creation of jobs opportunities for youth in agriculture, but it is difficult to ascertain their impact on the nation (GOK, 2015).

The CAP Youth Empowerment Institute (YEI) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to developing the competencies of young people through training. CAP YEI uses the Basic Employability Skill Training (BEST) methodology that integrates extensive training in current and relevant skills with direct access to employment opportunities. The CAP YEI is supported by the MasterCard Foundation, which, owing to the program's success, launched a second phase in July 2016. The MasterCard Foundation primarily attributes the significant impact of the BEST strategy to the YEI's collaboration with both the corporate and public sectors. The public-private partnership began with the inception of the programs and has continued through curriculum development, vocational and financial skills training, mentorships, employment placements, monitoring, and post-training follow-up (Bohn and Namara, 2017).

This relationship ensures that the skills acquired by CAP-YEI apprentices are marketable and that the trainees are able to apply their newly acquired skills in the real world

through internships. As of July 4, 2016, the CAP-YEI reported that 8,911 youth had enrolled in the program, 8,663 had completed training, 1,068 are in internships, 582 of them had started their own businesses, and 5,748 or 76% of those who had completed training were employed and earning a living." In its second phase, the MasterCard Foundation will provide an additional $10.5 million to reach an additional 68,000 Kenyan youth. CAP-YEI focuses primarily on youth engagement and organic farming, animal husbandry, and horticulture in agricultural industries. It ensures that children receive training, financial literacy, business planning, and sales skills in order to become more effective entrepreneurs (Bohn and Namara, 2017). In addition, they ensure that successful youth entrepreneurs serve as mentors and impart their agricultural expertise and knowledge to other youth.

2.6.4 International Organizations

The international community continues to play a vital role in sustaining the agricultural sector in Kenya. Multinational organizations such as the World Agro Forestry Research Centre (ICRAF), the United Nations, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the African Development Bank (AFDB), and USAID are significant funding streams for large-scale programs and initiatives. Several of these large-scale donors either engage with local implementing NGOs through sub-granting or have their own initiatives that they manage themselves. Nonetheless, the majority of local partners serve as actual project implementers. Several intriguing examples are highlighted in this section. Young Professionals for Agriculture Research Development (YPARD) is a global movement that provides a platform for young professionals to reach their full potential and contribute proactively to innovative agricultural development. In Kenya, a 12-month pilot mentoring program was initiated in 2015 to encourage a new generation that contributes pro-actively to innovative and sustainable agricultural growth. The programme successfully paired 15 YPARD members from Kenya, including farmers, students, entrepreneurs, young scientists, and extension workers, who mentor others based on their sectors and skillsets; the young agriculturalists who are mentors in the programme hope to realize their full potential in this field (Bohn and Namara, 2017).

Through the training and knowledge provided by their mentors, the program assists children in obtaining employment and participating actively in the agricultural industry. Africa's United States International University the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded USIU's Africa Global Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship (GAME) Center a grant in 2011 to support the development and delivery of training leading to a Certificate Programme in Management and Innovation for Agribusiness Entrepreneurs

(CMIAE). The goal of the center is to enhance the management and leadership skills of agribusiness entrepreneurs and the heads of producer organizations, such as farmer and farmer association organizations. The program's curriculum consists of a module with fourteen training resources, eight core modules, and six agribusiness concentration modules. Over 200 East African agriculture entrepreneurs have successfully completed the training to date. The GAME centers' principal agriculture project is the Living Lab, which focuses on sustaining biodiversity (Ngongi, 2012). The programs encourage Kenyan adolescents to actively participate in lucrative agribusinesses. The initiative identifies and tests creative business models for scaling innovations and employs a variety of methods to attract teenagers to enter the agricultural sector. The emphasis is on connecting farmers to customer desires and market requirements, resulting in value addition. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is providing funding for the undertaking (Ngongi, 2012).

2.7 Agricultural Extension Services and Youth in Kenya

Agricultural extension services is "the entire set of organizations that facilitate and support people engaged in agricultural activities to solve problems and to obtain information, skills, and technologies to improve their livelihoods and well-being" (Davis et al., 2020). Widely recognized is the significance of agricultural extension in rural development and developed nations (AGRA, 2017). In the late 1900s, agricultural extension in Kenya gained prominence after the effective diffusion of high-yielding maize technology. In 1982, when training and visiting were first implemented, the extension system had numerous flaws. It consisted of a variety of project components and lacked a unified national approach (Agriculture for Impact, 2018). Rural-agricultural development in Kenya combines and strategizes poverty alleviation and broad-based growth. In the Strategy to Revitalize Agriculture, agricultural extension's role in the efforts to reduce poverty was emphasized (SRA). In the Kenya Vision 2030, which is the successor to the economic revitalization strategy, there is anticipation that the pace of economic growth will be sustained (ERS). Professionals coordinate a broader range of communication and learning activities from a number of disciplines, including agriculture, health, and business studies, in the subject of rural extension (GOK, 2010).

Agricultural extension services role is to assist farmers in enhancing their skills through the dissemination of information on new technologies for agricultural systems, to evaluate and interpret pertinent information from various sources pertaining to agriculture, and to learn from the various experiences they have encountered while farming. Agricultural extension has a pivotal role in expanding agricultural productivity by increasing food

security, enhancing rural livelihoods, and promoting agriculture for economic development (AGRA, 2017). Changes in the global food and agricultural system necessitate that agricultural extension in rural regions provide the necessary assistance for farmers to address any agricultural issues they may face. The challenges include the rise of supermarkets and the increasing significance of standards and labels; the expansion of non-farm rural employment and agribusiness; HIV/AIDS and other health challenges that impact rural livelihoods; and the deterioration of the natural resource base and climate change (IFAD, 2017). Extension is also essential when doing research and implementing the results to the field, since it ensures the conversion of new knowledge into innovative practices. Extension being a crucial issue in agricultural sectors, rapid action is required as it is one of the six SRA priority actions (Agriculture for Impact, 2018).

Agricultural dissemination methods and approaches that have been used to provide agricultural information from research institutions to farmers include events such as field days, information desks, farmer field schools, training and visit, demonstration, common interest groups, agricultural shows and exhibitions. However, success is limited in terms of the number of farmers reached and who successfully adopted technology (IFAD, 2017). Farms' restricted access to technology has been linked to a lack of extension officers, growth in the number of farmers, and poor infrastructure assistance. In the majority of developing nations, including Kenya, the extension system is hampered by diminishing human and other supported resources (FAO, 2016). Small farmers in Kenya have typically benefited from crop-focused extension programs.

The government of Kenya has implemented extension strategies, that include the progressive or farmer model approach, the integrated agricultural rural development approach, farm management, training and visit, attachment of officers to organizations, farming systems approaches, and farmer field schools (GOK, 2010). The second type of extension system consists of commodity-based systems administered by government parastatals, out-grower firms, and cooperatives. The commodity-based extension primarily focuses on commercial crops like coffee, tea, pyrethrum, and sisal. These extension services are effective when both the company and the farmers reap demonstrable benefits from extension expenditures, thereby assuring the intended profits (Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services, 2018). The government of Kenya has guaranteed that agricultural training is available in several institutions through various routes, including Agricultural Training Colleges (ATCs), farmers' workshops, and agricultural exhibitions at the county and national levels.

Other factors that have contributed to the decreased effectiveness of extension services in Kenya include ineffective delivery of extension services, unreliable data and information management, which can be remedied by implementing platforms that allow extension officers to reach out to farmers more effectively (FAO, 2016). In developing nations, agriculture consulting services have been provided through radio and television programs, either in recorded form or via live, interactive broadcasts. Recently, technologies such as the internet and mobile phones have been essential in the provision of extension services, and there are numerous venues available, including discussion blogs, social media pages, downloadable mobile applications, and text messages (AGRA, 2017).

The government of Kenya has guaranteed that agricultural officials have access to a variety of internet platforms, including mobile and online platforms, for agriculture extension. The police were provided with mini-laptops and internet connections, and they were instructed on how to retrieve content from various platforms and distribute it to farmers. In Kenya, extension personnel working for the national and county governments have utilized four primary platforms, notably I-Kilimo National Farmers Information Service (NAFIS), the Info-net Bio-vision platform, and the Plant wise platforms. On the other hand, commercial companies have also developed programs that attempt to provide farmers with advice services for a price. Such a platform is the I Cow system in Kenya, which is owned by Green Dreams Ltd. (Gichamba *et al.,* 2017).

The agriculture sectors in developing nations have a significant opportunity to create pathways for youngsters to enter agricultural firms and boost their production. Ministry of agriculture and non-governmental organizations continue to struggle with empowering young through extension services, making it difficult for youth to manage their enterprise. These obstacles can be overcome by linking youngsters to agricultural information and new technology, enhancing their skills, providing the necessary land, and giving them with financial resources (Bohn and Namara, 2017). In 2014, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation presented the results of a global survey of youth indicating that lack of education, inadequate knowledge and information about agriculture, limited access to land, markets, inadequate access to financial services, and difficulty in obtaining credit are the greatest obstacles to engaging youths in agriculture. Extension services play a crucial role in resolving these difficulties through the development of extension and consulting services that are most effective at linking youngsters to agriculture-related opportunities.

In the mid-1990s, and particularly from 1997 to 1999, the CLPP initiators utilize their leadership position and authority to enlist farmers in agricultural extension activities. On weekdays, they hold a series of agricultural education meetings at churches, church grounds, or on farmers' farms, to which the general public is invited regardless of religious affiliation. The early meetings drew an average of 40 farmers of both sexes and educated them on a variety of agricultural and nutrition lessons that they needed to implement in their farms.

The church leaders collaborate with the staffs of Egerton University and the local extension providers, allowing them to persuade the farmers and empower them regarding a good extension delivery system, as well as exploit its positive collective action benefits by negotiating for lower input costs and higher farm-gate prices. They also inform the community that a community-based extension delivery system must be locally supported and engage the majority of stakeholders in order to be sustainable. The majority of stakeholders in Bahati case are researchers, trainers, extension specialists, and agricultural teachers from the nearby schools. The farmers should not have waited for the government and the leaders to fully participate in their development since they can lag behind; therefore, they should risk their future livelihoods and living standards; this would garner support from public and private development organizations (Oglalubi and Wokocha, 2015).

CLPP educational meetings are primarily concerned with the production and marketing of cereals, horticultural, and livestock products, family nutrition, livestock feeding, pest and disease control, soil and water conservation, youth attitudes toward farming, farmer-to-farmer extension, and the role of the community in the delivery of sustainable extension services. For example, top-dressing and stalk borer control were inadequately implemented. Farmers should be well-informed about fertilizer use, optimum timing, and recommended pesticides for cereals. The majority of farmers who attended CLPP meetings were familiar with at least one recommended maize variety (H614) but lacked appropriate knowledge of the benefits and drawbacks of several corn types.

Infrequent availability of tractor plows and harvesters, which slowed down agricultural operations, and a negative attitude among adolescents toward agriculture were also identified as challenges regularly encountered by farmers. The reasons that the youths gave for losing interest in farming include: 1) farming is for people with low social status because it is a dirty job; 2) low returns on investment; 3) inadequate land; and 4) lack of income because the income they earn from different sources is taken by their parents; 5) some youth believe they are too educated to engage in farming; 6) lack of adequate skills to succeed in farming; and 7) peer pressure. The community had decided to assist the youth in

order for them to engage in agriculture, and they had the following suggestions: educate the youth on the significance of agriculture in society and provide training to improve their skills; serve as their mentors; teach them how to access farm inputs; and instruct them on how to spend their income on maintaining their family farm (Anor, 2012).

Ninety percent of the youths attending the CLPP meetings prefer farming, and the proportion is increasing due to the scarcity of non-farm jobs, the higher income from farming, and the youths' ability to make a large income at once depending on the crop they plant during a particular season. In addition, the youths' parents encourage them to try agriculture a means of earning a living to enhance their standard of living. Youths who have access to land are able to engage in farming because they can derive their income from the land rather than being employed. This is because they have observed that farming is more lucrative than employment; consequently, they are able to improve their skills and engage in farming more. Some of the youngsters who do not engage in farming do so for a variety of reasons, including low socioeconomic level, a view of farming as a dirty occupation, and a lack of the knowledge and skills required for effective farming (Boateng, 2012).

Community agriculture is enhanced by community agricultural information (CAI) officers who ensure the efficient operation of sessions, which typically occur twice per week in a given farming community. This training has resulted in a vast improvement over the previously inconsistent services, when extension visits had to be made in person. When there is a problem or a new development has happened, the trained officers typically convene an emergency meeting and inform the farmers so that they can come up with potential remedies or improve their abilities through the new development. The CAI representatives utilize the ACE technique as a key component to examine and document through films the farmer's feedback on the issues they experience in farming and the potential solutions they have devised. The recorded information has been posted to YouTube, and in areas where internet access is limited, it has been recorded on CD-ROMs. The content includes vital topics such as types of weeds, pests, and diseases impacting crops and animals; farming methods; and post-harvest handling. The documentaries have aided the project personnel in overcoming obstacles to increased productivity with precise extension guidance. According to Moses Nganwani Tia, the executive director of SYFN, there is a direct correlation between the new extension advice service and the amount of young people engaging in farming and launching their own rural companies (IFAD, 2017).

ACE not only provides scientific information on crop cultivation and animal husbandry, but also meets the high demand for expert advice on marketing, credit, and

enhanced inputs and mechanization. Guests from both the private and public sectors are welcome to provide comments on how to increase youngsters' access to the services necessary for their success in agribusiness management. By the end of the 2012 agricultural season, more than 880 farmers from 36 farmer groups in Ghana's three northern regions had participated in the audioconferencing sessions. A number of other value chain actors, such as buyers, aggregators, and financial institution representatives, as well as farm machinery suppliers, had also been approached (Gitau, 2011). The MKulima Young online platform in Kenya is another example of how ICTs (and tools such as YouTube) are used for extension services. This platform was designed to encourage youth participation in the agricultural sector by connecting them in a virtual space with young farmers and other youth aspiring to become farmers. The majority of the platform's members are under 32 years old and are farmers and traders of agricultural goods. Members can post questions about farming and receive rapid responses from other members; they can also purchase or sell agricultural products or inputs online; and the platform can be utilized to acquire knowledge from experts or individuals with experience producing specific crops or livestock (Gitau, 2011). Youth are lured to farming by digital platforms and social media such platforms as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, which allow them acquire additional skills and boost their revenue.

During the farmers' conference in Mkulima, for instance, young farmers recounted their experience with how they obtain information on these platforms; anytime they have a question or want to sell their produce, they post the information and consumers call them, making it easy for them to sell. In Rwanda, there is a high-tech lab that assists young people in developing ICT-based agricultural solutions and commercializing them. In June 2012, kLab was established in Kigali in order to bring together tenants (the name given to young people with business ideas) and mentors (guest specialists committed to assisting the young innovators in bringing their visions to life) (FAO, 2013).

The connection gives young entrepreneurs support throughout the entire process by giving them with Internet access and training to enhance their ICT skills. In addition, provide guidance on how to sell their ideas and access to venture financing. The mentors should be able to organize workshops, camps, and competitions to teach the kids how to create business ideas, network, and promote their products to their target market. The majority of youngsters who attend Klab meetings are school or university dropouts; some are unemployed but have inadequate farming skills and, as a result, lack the ability to market their products. Applicants to kLab are vetted online, and those with the most innovative concepts are provided with considerable support and mentoring. The lab has thus far accepted approximately seventy

members and has advised them on how to implement their ideas and transform them into profitable businesses. 16 percent of KLab's tenants are female; therefore, its initiatives are designed to encourage young women to join the tech business community, including the girls in ICT forum. The forum is led by thirteen women who are all kLab tenants. Other young women are mentored by those with expertise and knowledge in the tech business through public open talk events and university debates (FAO, 2013).

Youths and mentors at kLab had devised a business plan that encompasses a variety of industries, incorporating the use of ICT in agriculture. A new and recurring feature on Klab encourages farmers and the leaders of farmer cooperatives to discuss the difficulties encountered in farming. The youngsters and their mentors place greater emphasis on the issues highlighted by the new features and on providing the necessary ICT responses. kLab mentors are now assisting the development of four high-tech agriculture applications. OSCA Connect is a group of young entrepreneurs who are developing a mobile software solution named Sarura that allows farmers to input the sort of crop they intend to sow. The mobile software solution then compares climatic data to evaluate whether crop is acceptable for a certain area and time. Trials demonstrate that Sarura boosts farmers' crop production and saves them resources such as time and money (IFAD, 2017).

Farm in Bytes (FIBA) is another agricultural mobile and Web application that connects farmers to various stakeholders in the agricultural sector such as agronomists, businesspeople among others. It also assists farmers in their routine activities, allowing them to keep their farming records and profiles up-to-date so that specialists can offer more specific guidance and targeted information. Another initiative is the construction of a website to give East African farmers with information about agricultural cultivation, animal resources, attracting and advertising from the commercial sector and government agencies involved in agriculture. Web application is also being developed to facilitate communication between farmers' cooperatives and college students. The plan is for students to attach themselves to cooperatives as volunteers or interns, providing farmers with much-needed technology skills and offering young people the chance to obtain job experience. (IFAD, 2017) This study provides information on the agricultural extension services utilized by youth in Nakuru County, Kenya, and how these services address the obstacles adolescents encounter when participating in agribusiness (Omiti, 2012).

According to the literature, there are numerous factors that support the adoption and utilization of the various YEDF services and resources that are available. According to IFAD, the use of funds and resources to support youth agricultural activities has been

highlighted. There is also mention of applications and websites that directly and indirectly assist agribusiness and can be utilized by kids interested in participating. Consequently, the current platforms can be utilized for the implementation of successful YEDF-related tactics. In spite of this, it is obvious that a research gap exists between the current infrastructure and innovation regarding the effective use of YEDF in agribusiness. Therefore, additional research is required to examine YEDF in accordance with existing literature on supportive factors.

2.8 Global Youth Enterprise Development Funds

Youth have remained at the center of several global debates (Balcha, 2017). The high youth unemployment rate in several countries (Dadzie *et al.,* 2020; Ngugi, 2020; Yami *et al.,* 2019) has pushed the majority of these countries to brainstorm and develop enterprise funds that can benefit youth. Because of limited access to capital from both financial and microfinance institutions, governments have been forced to consider a variety of approaches strengthen youth access to financial services and credit facilities. Several stakeholders have praised the agenda as one of the most important factors in preparing youth for employment opportunities after they complete their education (Yami *et al.,* 2020). Most of the young people are often encouraged to consider it once they complete tertiary education level while waiting to join the job market (Ngugi, 2020).

Besides, the financial interventions by the governments across Africa (Balcha, 2017; *Dadzie et al.,* 2020; Diraditsile, 2021; Kadzamira and Kazembe, 2015) have been able to produce fruits which is seen through increased levels of youth engagement in agribusiness activities. These interventions include among other factors to financial support to youth-led start-ups, provision of mentorship programs and provision of credit services to youth (Yami *et al.,* 2020). In Bostwana, the youth development fund was designed as a revolving fund where young people were expected to repay back after a given time period (Nthomang and Diraditsile, 2017). However, with several hurdles facing its management which makes its implementation to still lag behinds. This calls for efficient monitoring and evaluation of the youth development funds across Africa to make sure that they succeed in their goals.

Prasenjit (2017), investigated the lines of credit taken out by members of the youth-led and youth-owned Indian self-help groups to establish a connection between generating income and reducing poverty. Their research looked into the types of loans made available by financial institutions and discovered that the amount of funds made available to program participants was insufficient to support them get out of economic hardship. The credits were

mostly used for consumption, accompanied by spending on current constructive things. As a result, only a few equity investments have been made. These capital investments were insufficient to supply the participants with full-time employment as well as enough income to get them out of poverty. It has been observed that members go to either money lenders or banks for larger loans.

Rapando *et al.* (2021), investigated the role of Youth Bunge Savings and credit cooperative societies in the economic empowerment of Kenyan youth. Youth unemployment is on the rise in Kenya, posing challenges that affect both the youth and the country as a whole (Ngugi, 2017). This resulted in youth empowerment in developmental initiatives, for instance, the Youth Bunge and Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV) with county government support. The study established significant growth and contributions to youth empowerment through youth-led and managed groups and savings cooperatives using a descriptive research design and a sample of 229 youth. Youth in Kenya have been able to organize themselves into groups with the support and advice of county governments and end up receiving mentorship training in addition to financial support from the government and donor agencies.

With youth being quick to learn and adaptable, the Kenyan government has been proactive in providing financial services and tools to the youth. Among these instruments are the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Global Youth Climate Action Fund (GYCAF), which is available to the country's youth-led enterprises (Ndirangu *et al.,* 2022). These funds also target youth for capacity building, technological and innovativeness training, and preparing them for the job market. Some of the current available funds targeting youth-led enterprises include Uwezo Fund, the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) and the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF). Creation of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund by Government of Kenya has garnered a lot of attention recently, owing to its primary focus on youth-led businesses, groups, and enterprises (GOK, 2013).

2.9 Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Kenya

The Government of Kenya established the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) in 2006 as part of the country's key measures to address youth unemployment. The fund was formally setup on February 1, 2007. Former President Mwai Kibaki created the scheme to demonstrate the government's commitment to addressing the issue of youth unemployment. The launch marked the beginning of the process of disbursing funding to youth businesses via Financial institutions and the Constituency Youth Enterprise Scheme. The fund is administered by electoral district offices (GOK, 2011). The Youth Development

Fund became a state business on 11 May 2007 and a Vision 2030 flagship programs under the social pillar. Vision 2030 addresses approximately forty percent of unemployed youth and how they might be engaged in the youth development fund. The Vision is aimed for young people who are between the ages of 18 and 35. By way of a revolving lending arrangement, the fund provides financial capital to firms and enterprises controlled by young people (GOK, 2013). YEDF offers youngsters with access to loans that can be invested in the agricultural industry. The money could also facilitate young access to the market for products and services that facilitate business growth.

YEDF aims to give loans to those operating as microfinance institutions (MFIs), register non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in microfinancing, and savings and credit co-operative organizations (SACCOs) for the purpose of lending to businesses run by youth. The purpose of the youth enterprise development fund is to encourage and facilitate youth investment in micro, small, and medium-sized businesses. The YEDF facilitates the marketing of products and services to youth enterprises on both local and worldwide markets, including employment of youth on the global job market, for youth who are focused into micro, small, and medium-sized firms (GOK, 2013).

For the young to receive the national monies, they must meet certain minimal requirements. One must also be between 18 and 35 years old, a Kenyan citizen, and intend to invest the funds in a business endeavor. The loan is intended for all sorts of youth-owned firms, including individual, corporate, group, and cooperative businesses, as well as any youth who operates a business within a specified constituency. The loan is administered by financial intermediaries who charge an annual interest rate of 8%; the amount borrowed depends on the type of the intended business and the terms of lending for the financial intermediary (Luvavo, 2013).

The application for a loan must meet the set criteria. These include: the applicant must be a Kenyan youth between the ages of 18 and 35, the loan must be for the purpose of starting or expanding a business, and identification documents such as business registration certificates or personal identification documents such as national identity cards or passports are required. Additionally, they must maintain a bank account with the preferred financial intermediaries. The applicant must obtain a loan application form from a preferred financial intermediary, then submit the form or a self-prepared business proposal to the financial intermediary. The financial intermediary evaluates the proposed firm to determine its financial viability and other pertinent technical matters; the youth enterprise development fund officer at the constituency level conducts verification. The payback schedule and

amount are negotiated between the Financial Intermediary and the applicant (GOK, 2014).

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund is crucial because it creates jobs for young people and offers financing to those who have opted to become entrepreneurs. Through YEDF and strategic collaborations, the goal of the youth development funds is to increase the economic opportunities for Kenyan youth. The funds' objective is to create a sustainable, expanding fund that empowers Kenyan youth economically. Integrity, accountability, creativity and innovation, equity and fairness, professionalism, collaboration, and patriotism are the fund's key values (GOK, 2013). YEDF has established ten regional offices around the nation and appointed two constituency officers in each constituency to aid youth at the local level (GOK, 2014). 5.9 billion Kenyan shillings have been invested by the YEDF in over 157,000 youth companies. The fund has been distributed to more than tens of thousands of young people, who have been aided in establishing their businesses through market support and entrepreneurship training.

The funds have also been used to train over two hundred thousand young entrepreneurs, creating employment prospects for almost three hundred thousand young people during the past five years (2007-2012). Through the Youth Employment Scheme Abroad (YESA) scheme, it has also assisted tens of thousands of youths in obtaining employment abroad (GOK, 2014). The Fund has introduced more products portfolio through emphasizing measures that are applicable to the necessities of young people and targeted toward tackling particular issues faced by young entrepreneurs. Subsequently, the government has distributed KES 15,437,065 to 322 youth groups, KES 475,000 to individual members, and KES 120,046,484 to 9,524 youngsters in Nakuru County via financial intermediaries (GOK, 2015). The report provides information on the contribution of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund to youth engagement in agribusiness. There are potential to expand enterprises, participate in agribusiness, and provide employment prospects for adolescents in many regions of the country. Even Nevertheless, the impact of YEDF has not been properly evaluated in various regions of Kenya in order to comprehend the variance in benefits and obstacles.

2.9.1 Challenges Facing the Implementation of Youth Development Fund

The YEDF loan's sole responsibility is to provide loans to youth-led and youth-owned businesses. All youth sole proprietorships, companies, cooperatives, and groups operating in the country are included. The Divisional Youth Enterprise Development Fund Committees (YEDFC) were set up to determine and endorse sustainable youth-run business ventures for loans in order to aid in the effective disbursement of youth development funds. The fund

primarily targets youth groups between the ages of 18 and 35, with 70% of the group being between the ages of 18 and 35 and 100% being youth leaders within the same age bracket (Oduol *et.al.,* 2013).

Inability of the youth initiatives to succeed is a drawback that Kenya has faced in the past and will encounter in the years to come if management hurdles are not resolved According to studies, the rate of failure of youth projects in Kenya is more than 50% in the first three years. However, while the YEDF has been at the forefront of promoting and supporting youth-led enterprise in the country, youth enterprise programmes encounter a range of management hurdles that hinder youth in accessing more rewarding and productive work. The YEDF's organization is one of the most critical challenges it faces. Ideally, there is a strong inclination to approach nearly all youth as a uniform group that isolates other groups. Furthermore, the majority of the youth believe that they are not being heard by management, and this mistreatment prevents them from taking advantage of these opportunities. With so many requirements surrounding the application for the youth enterprise fund, the majority of youth do not meet such thresholds, thus being excluded during selection. Some of these prerequisites include being a registered youth group for at least three months (Mburu and Makori, 2015; Okoth *et al.,* 2013), developing a business plan and proposal, and having an existing bank account.

Other obstacles to effective implementation include a lack of adequate loan repayment structures. Furthermore, the absence of effective loan repayment strategies impedes its successful operation. This results in a shortfall in the management of the youth enterprise fund, such as failing to engage the youth in entrepreneurship before disbursing loans. With no proper government regulatory framework in place, it becomes hard for the government of Kenya to effectively implement the YEDF (Oyango *et al.,* 2017; Wohoro, 2016). According to Kanyari and Namusonge (2013), a lack of access to information also contributes significantly to the failure of the supply side of funds, as the majority of the youth are quick to obtain cash but do not use it to develop their businesses, thus failing to repay on time. According to Kioko (2022), government involvement in the managerial, planning, and regulatory frameworks had a substantial influence on the implementation of YEDF undertakings. This included drafting favorable financial loaning terms legislation for YEDF and implementing it through a regulatory regime.

According to Liubkina *et al.* (2019), the majority of youth-led enterprise development funds are facing multiple challenges in their implementation. Among these challenges are regulatory framework barriers, both demand and supply-side challenges, no structured

priorities during the development as well as lack of information access especially by the youth targeted by the funds. According to Mathew and Olatunji (2016), the majority of the programme implementers in Nigeria have failed to fully comprehend the importance of programme M&E and, thus, not integrated it into their programmes, thereby leading to failure to realize implementation objectives. They recommend a holistic application of M&E rather than the conventional routine type of supervisory M&E based on top-down administration.

2.10 Services of Youth Enterprise Development Fund

İn agricultural sector there are small enterprises comprising the following; self-employed artisans, microenterprises, cottage industries, and small enterprises in the formal business sector. The small enterprises might be engaged a number of activities such as trade, commerce, distribution, transport, construction, agribusiness, waste management, manufacturing, maintenance and repair, among others. The creation of small enterprises has resulted in the increase of growth of informal sector by approximately 60 percent of labour force (Sagwe *et al.,* 2011).

2.10.1 Provision of loans

Limited credit availability for youth and youth-led enterprises and businesses was singled out as a significant hurdle to youth accessing and benefiting from various opportunities. Notably, the majority of finance and microfinance institutions were hesitant to give loan to youth assets to act as security, resulting in them being classified as high risk credit and high risk borrowers, with low capitalization, vulnerability to market volatility and increased mortality, a lack of appropriate monetary and accounting records, and inadequate financial services statements or business models (Idoko, 2014). Following this, the government initiated the YEDF to help in provision of loans to the youth to help n managing their enterprises. This was considered an innovative yet promising move by the government to help in the sustainability of youth businesses thereby increasing their incomes, generating the country's revenue and improving on the livelihoods of the youth.

The YEDF was designed to fit the description of a microfinance institution because its primary goal was to provide financing and credit to youth and youth groups. This meant that both employed and unemployed youth would seize the opportunity and expand their businesses. Wario (2010) states that the YEDF's goals were to provide loans to youth-led business enterprises, provide enterprise expansion services to youth startups, strengthen youth-oriented MSEs and connect youth entrepreneurial ventures with large enterprises. Annually, the Government of Kenya and other donor partners assign funds for youth and youth-led projects with the goal of converting a large number of unproductive youths into job

creators (Otiende *et al.*, 2020).

2.10.2 Entrepreneurial training

Entrepreneurship training, according to Bruton *et al.* (2006), refers to programs that promote entrepreneurship awareness for professional reasons and provide skills and training for business establishment and growth. Entrepreneurship education is also important in changing young people's attitudes toward farming and equipping them with the skills needed to launch and operate businesses on small scale in future. According to a report prepared by the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labor Organization, the main focus is on pushing Kenya to establish entrepreneurship training capacity, which might result to the establishment of an "enterprise culture" (Amenya *et al.*, 2010).

According to Omolo (2010)'s research, youth joblessness is a well-established challenge in Kenya, and entrepreneurship and an entrepreneurial mindset are essential for youth employment. Entrepreneurship is important in a country because it promotes economic growth, competitiveness, and innovation. Youth employment should ensure that adequate resources and advanced technologies are available to foster their entrepreneurial potential and the development of an entrepreneurial culture. As a result, the agricultural sector will improve because the majority of young people will work in agriculture, bolstering the commercial infrastructure.

Awogbenle (2010) explain that entrepreneurial training is an critical component of economic initiatives which create job opportunities. New entrepreneurs receive entrepreneurial education and training to improve their abilities and self-efficacy throughout the agriculture sector. There seem to be numerous barriers to the development and achievement of small businesses in Kenya. These issues include insufficient business development skills, limited access to credit, and a lack of expertise due to unemployment. Because of these challenges, failure rate for small businesses is high in the first year of operation with approximately 80% of them failing. The small business enterprise can be improved by ensuring that the entrepreneurship curriculum is taught from an early age at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. This will improve the youth's attitude with the goal of promoting entrepreneurship and enterprise development (Gudda, 2009).

2.10.3 Market linkage

According to the Youth Enterprise Development Fund Booklet (2009), business growth must be combined with connection to the markets to make sure that youth-led businesses have full market backing based on their products and services, while also working to improve the skills of young entrepreneurs in recognizing and targeting self-

sustaining worldwide market opportunities and continuing to pursue them in a competitive manner. It highlights that youth enterprise development programs should have networks to market opportunities because many products are manufactured outside of the producing country in an increasingly globalized world. Programs can help youthful entrepreneurs to understand potential markets and connect them to production networks.

According to the Youth Entrepreneurship Report (2013), one of the main issues confronting youth-led businesses is the lack of opportunities for value chain addition possibly since business run by young people in developing countries are centered in local markets with limited potential, making the youth have no access to market information regarding product and input services. As such, promoting the viability of youth-led businesses will necessitate facilitating youth access to information on product and input markets, as well as connecting them to international value chains, which will necessitate youth to exploring existing global initiatives aimed at promoting trade between developed and developing countries. One of the most important issues confronting youth enterprises is access to the market since the youth have little or no sophistication and network necessary to penetrate the market. It is for this justification that the fund helps organize trade shows in order to give young entrepreneurs a competitive position in the marketplace. Youth exhibitors with exceptional businesses are then sponsored to attend national and international trade shows which allow them to connect with the export market (YEDF, 2011).

Youth Enterprise Development Fund status report (2010) explains that a component of the mandate of the fund is to enhance promotion of youth businesses' products. The government also commit to sourcing at least 30% of its procurement needs from businesses operated by youth through AGPO. Ultimately, the booklet mentions that the fund is creating a Youth Enterprise Directory that will be dispersed to all county and national government entities. The fund is also looking into partnering with various private sectors to help young entrepreneurs with subcontracting, outsourcing, and franchising. This makes it critical to assess the impact of the fund on youth-led businesses in order to figure out how much progress has been made and what more needs to be done to support youth-led businesses through market access.

2.10.4 Monitoring and evaluation of Youth funded Projects

Monitoring is viewed as an on-going process of gathering information on the nature and level of performance of ongoing projects or programs at regular intervals (Nyonje, 2012). The aspect of monitoring helps keep track of a project's progress in comparison to the predetermined plan to make certain that the project is progressing well. Assessment and

evaluation should be done on a regular basis to ensure that an organization's objectives and goals are met. This can be performed four times a year, biannual, or annual basis. Mulwa (2008) defines monitoring as a process of collecting and managing project information that provides feedback on project progress. Mulwa added that the process involves measuring, assessing, recording and analyzing the project information on a continuous basis and communicating the same to those concerned.

In order to achieve sustainability, M&E must be integrated into public institutional projects on a multifaceted basis. M&E is currently being adopted by the majority of the countries to measure state managed projects and programs, which ideally represents its growing importance in response to the need for both impact measurement and accountability. According to Otundo (2019), results-based management is a strategy in which all stakeholders, whether directly or indirectly, guarantee that their mechanisms, products, and services contribute to the attainment of desired results, outputs, outcome measures, and goals. However, as much as it is gaining global concern, it is faced with several challenges following its implementation in using it as a mechanism for measuring performance and accountability improvement within institutions and projects. According to Wekesa and Pedo (2021), in order for M&E to develop efficient and effective project sustainability linkages, the concept of sustainability should then be established from the initiation of the project. M&E purpose is to aid in evaluation by providing pertinent information on the project's inputs, outputs, overall effects, and how the project creates impact.

Mburu (2008), found that the MOYAS's systematic assessment and evaluation of business ventures of young people was inadequate not thorough enough and needs to be enhanced. This emphasizes the significance of monitoring and evaluating the programmes for empowering young generation. The technique of evaluating a project entails the methodical collection, analysis, and analysis of project-related data that can be employed to fully comprehend how the project is progressing in relation towards its objectives (Nyonje, 2012). Projects undertaken by youth needs evaluation in order to ensure that they stay on track. Monitoring and evaluation must be developed as an interconnected collaborative activities involving all its interested parties. This is accomplished by mentoring programs. The mentor, ideally individuals from different business environment who can use their experience, knowledge, and in-depth understanding, or merely avail themselves and have time with an entrepreneur and highly experienced business creditor at key business or personal inflection points, is frequently overlooked (Naqvi, 2011).

Regardless of how effective the project is; it is vital to carry out a programme evaluation to ascertain if it met its goals. This helps in enhancing the understanding of the project deliverables and reporting the projects requirements. A thorough project review is expected to be done at the end of each operation in order to verify its impact. Ordinarily, key performance indicators (KPIs) are often selected to measure the impact of a project and provide insights to what capacities need to be done for effective policy interventions for the stated project (Abdi, 2019). In recent years, programme assessment has received an increasing recognition as a critical venture that should dictate the next course of action. The main purpose of program evaluation is to effectively validate the necessity to measure the effectiveness of various policies or programs; examine their strong and weak points; determine the most efficient techniques within the programs/projects; and enhance their design, implementation, and impact

Project monitoring and evaluation is crucial to various individuals for a number of varied reasons according to Nyonje *et al.* (2012). Among the justifications given for the necessity for monitoring and evaluation are: M&E is critical to project management teams and key partners, such as donors and government since they require to know how well their projects are achieving their set purposes and achieving the desired results. For youth projects, it is essential to determine whether or not they are creating jobs and empowering the youth. M&E encourages accountability to a great extent and transparency on how the project resources are used, which would be especially important for funders or sponsors. Access to information and gathered via the monitoring and evaluation procedure is critical for improving the process of making choices in the project planning process. In conclusion, M&E can also aid in strengthening project design, improve the quality of project interventions and enhance collaborative youth learning.

It is worth noting that while most program evaluators respond to evaluation questions using research/scientific methods, evaluation differs from research in that it primarily focuses on assessing the impact and effectiveness of an existing or new program within an organization (Santo *et al.*, 2021). Furthermore, program evaluation focuses on determining the effects of specific processes in comparison to what is happening in the real world. According to Persaud (2019), program evaluation is viewed as playing an important part in public sector transparency and has the potential to be a powerful strategic tool. Following the various projects that are coming up and need to be evaluated, program evaluation is gaining traction in the public sector.

2.10.5 Role of Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Youth Empowerment

Youth empowerment is creation of opportunities which young people get the awareness and abilities needed to envisage and participate in social change. Empowered youth get inclined to act and use their abilities to improve current socio-economic situations. In youth empowerment, youthful population are given important and critical skills so that they are able to scan for opportunities and engage themselves in such opportunities available within their community. In this endeavor, empowerment is tuned on imparting specific skills to the youth. The specific set of skills benefit the youth by helping them in acquiring better awareness of environment they live and they furthermore give young people with the capability to creative thinking and solve problems and hence evade some of the potential dangers connected with growing up (Wagaman, 2011).

Young people have chance to benefit from group membership in terms of role identification. Group experiences provide powerful effects by increasing ability to accept oneself, be more confident, and understand better social and economic environment and the ability to effectively use resources available in the environment they live in. The advancement of mentioned positive attributes is critical for young people, and group involvement can foster this type of involvement and personal development. The older generation can offer assistance and encourage desired behaviour to help youth groups improve their overall sense of value and belief in one's ability as they struggle to find their position in society (Lindsey, 2013).

The government should encourage business without interfering. Rather than direct help, a well-functioning market economy is the greatest approach to stimulate entrepreneurship. The government should establish an enabling climate that reduce or eliminate barriers to engage in a given business opportunities available. The ability to come up with new ideas and solutions by those who impart knowledge and skills among other players are critical for establishing jobs and improving income among young people. State governments should establish minor financial pools to encourage creative ideas. The funds to be provided by government could be controlled by a body formed by state, or by the state education unit. Small seed grants would be provided by the fund to assist the creation of innovative models with entrepreneurship education that would help progress the profession. The fund can function as either as a grant provided or yearly competition (Adegun, 2013).

Kamau (2013), investigated the impact of project type on empowering young people. The respondents were asked to specify the kind of project they worked on, if it helped improved their livelihood or produced jobs, and, if so, how many people the project(s)

employed. 63.6 percent said they were working on agricultural initiatives like rabbit keeping, banana farming, and aquaculture, with the remaining 36.4 percent working on manufacturing, recycling, or social projects. It was also discovered that 69 percent of the projects employed fewer than five individuals, while 11.9 percent employed between 5 and ten people, tying with those that employed between 11 and sixteen persons. 2.4 percent of respondents said their initiatives employed between 17 and 20 workers. The Kits Fund, which is supposed to create work for youth without jobs, appears to be unrealistic.

In a study conducted in Kiambu, Ndirangu (2014), sought to analyze the impact of the Young Enterprise Development Fund on youth empowerment through four variables: loan disbursement, capacity building, timeliness of payment, and project identification. According to the findings, 97 percent of respondents said they got training before starting their new enterprises. The findings are consistent with the three major informants' statements that they usually teach a new group six times before giving them funding to start their enterprises. This signifies that some skills are taught during the program. Kamau (2013) investigated the impact of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) on the creation of MSEs in the Kiharu constituency of Murang'a County. The study comprised four independent variables: loans, links with large firms, product and service marketing, and business development services. When asked if the youth enterprise development fund had assisted young entrepreneurs in marketing their products and services, 70% of respondents said no. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that the bulk of the businesses have gotten no training in promoting their products and services. This was indicated by 60% of those polled. In addition, 60% of respondents claimed that they had not attended any market fairs held by the young entrepreneur development fund. Those who were able to show their products and services at such market fairs, on the other hand, saw an increase in the profitability of their businesses. This was indicated by 81% of those polled. This confirmed the conclusion that exposing businesses to potential clients is critical not just for success, but also for expansion. This could also have influenced the attitude of 96 percent of respondents, who believed that the youth enterprise development fund should do more to market the products and services of young entrepreneurs.

2.11 Theoretical Framework

Everest Rogers' 1962 Theory Diffusion of Innovation Theory directed the research. The Theory directed agricultural extension activities after WWII until the 1970s (Beever, 2018). The idea was founded on a communication analysis of how a product gains popularity and spreads over time within a social system or society. It has been discovered that

innovation dissemination makes significant contribution in boosting the adoption of a novel concept, product, or behavior among a certain audience. People's ability to understand the benefit of an innovation determines its adoption before it is implemented. According to diffusion theory, the adoption and use of a new product or service do not occur instantaneously throughout a social system. As a result, some people may be more open to adopting innovation than others. Early adopters of innovation are seen to be distinct from those who accept innovations later. From a theoretical standpoint, understanding the characteristics of the target audience or users of the invention that can influence acceptance or non-adoption is critical (Rogers, 2003).

Based on the Diffusion of Innovation Theory, five categories of innovation adopters have been identified. The first category, Innovators, includes people who want to be among the first to try out an invention. Innovators are adventurous, risk-takers, and keenly interested in new ideas. The innovators provide new ideas or improve on an existing inventive concept. The second type of user is early adopters, who are thought leaders in the development and execution of new ideas. Early adopters realize and acknowledge the need for change, and they make significant contribution in encouraging others to incorporate and utilize new ideas. Early adopters do not need further information to be persuaded by the change or innovations because they are already aware of the shift. The early majority is the third cohort of adopters. The early majority adopts innovation or change ahead of the average individual, yet they are not recognized as leaders. However, before implementing a proposed innovation, early adopters must be convinced that it is effective. The late majority is the fourth type of innovation adaptors. The late majorities are distinguished by their resistance to change and their unwillingness to accept innovation that has not been tried and reviewed by the majority.

The late majority must be exposed to signs of widespread acceptance before they may use the invention. The laggards are the fifth type of innovation user. They are regarded as conservative and influenced by tradition in their decision-making. This group is thought to be the most difficult to persuade regarding the acceptance and use of technological advancement due to their skepticism. To persuade the laggards, a wealth of information and statistics about the use of the innovation must be provided, and other adopters must place pressure on them to do so (Hawkins and Vanden, 1998).

Adopting the concept required that extension service providers create separate ways or messaging for each type of adopter. In this case, extension agents must have a youth package, which would be an ideal opportunity to teach them about various agricultural opportunities, such as the YEDF. This theory has been applied in sociological studies with

limited focus in the context of agricultural sector. Moreover, it has frequently been used by researchers, evaluators, and extension program planners to obtain a knowledge of the factors that influence the acceptance and use or rejecting of a specific innovation or practice. The theory also give a comprehension of the effect of extension programmes on innovation acceptance. A number of countries from the developing world have utilized the Diffusion of Innovations theory to build the conceptual framework and execution design of international rural development projects (Beever, 2018). The theory's flaw is that it is best suited for assessing behavior adoption rather than behavior prevention. Furthermore, it is thought that the theory does not take into account social support or individuals in the adoption of emerging innovative technology or practice (Hawkins and Vanden, 1998).

YEDF is a Kenyan project that promotes the sustainable development of youth. In order to attain the desired outcome, a vital pillar is the incorporation of technological innovation, which includes telecommunications and information technology-based platforms for communication, access to facts and information, and improved monetary recording and use. As a result, the diffusion theory allows us to understand the many types of youths who embrace innovations, informing the development of effective methods to ensure the successful adoption of the innovation and contributing to the attainment of YEDF's long-term goals (Achieng and Gladys, 2018). The Diffusion of Innovation Theory provides an understanding of why the program was successful and why it was not in other circumstances, as well as the most appropriate strategy to ensure its acceptance and exploitation in agriculture.

2.12 Conceptual Framework

The research looked at the impact of YEDF on the youth involvement in agriculture in Nakuru County, Kenya. The independent variables in the study included the type of agribusiness firms among the fund's recipients, loans obtained from the fund, training and services provided by the fund, and agricultural extension services available to youth in Nakuru County, Kenya. Production done, types of services given, investment capital from YEDF, and number of personnel employed or hired in the enterprises and organization of the enterprise were among the indications of enterprise types (Individually or group). The indicators on the loans obtained from the fund were the amount borrowed and the frequency with which the loan was obtained. The KPIs for the YEDF training programs were the types of trainings offered, the quantity of trainings received, and the frequency of trainings delivered to youth fund beneficiaries. On agricultural extension services for youth. Extension services were operationalized as an index for this study, which combined four indicators: the

availability of extension services to youth, the frequency of visits by extension officers, the provision of information by extension personnel, and the skills offered by extension officers to the young. Marketing services, contract provision (government and county), loan repayment advice, income tax advice, and enterprise management were the metrics for Youth Enterprise Development Fund services.

The level of Youth participation in agribusiness was the dependent variable. Income generated after using a Youth Enterprise Development Fund loan, capital investment in agribusiness from YEDF, number of hired labor in YEDF supported business, number of youths employed in YEDF supported agribusiness, and duration the agribusiness has been in existence and operation are all indicators. The level was calculated by aggregating five different indicators into an index. The index included five different indicators: income generated after using a YEDF loan, capital investment in agribusiness from YEDF, number of hired laborers in YEDF supported business, number of youths employed in YEDF supported agribusiness, and the number of years the agribusinesses have been operational, in terms of either new enterprises or expanding existing agribusiness enterprises. The interaction of the factors was modified further by the intervening variables of age, education level, and land ownership.

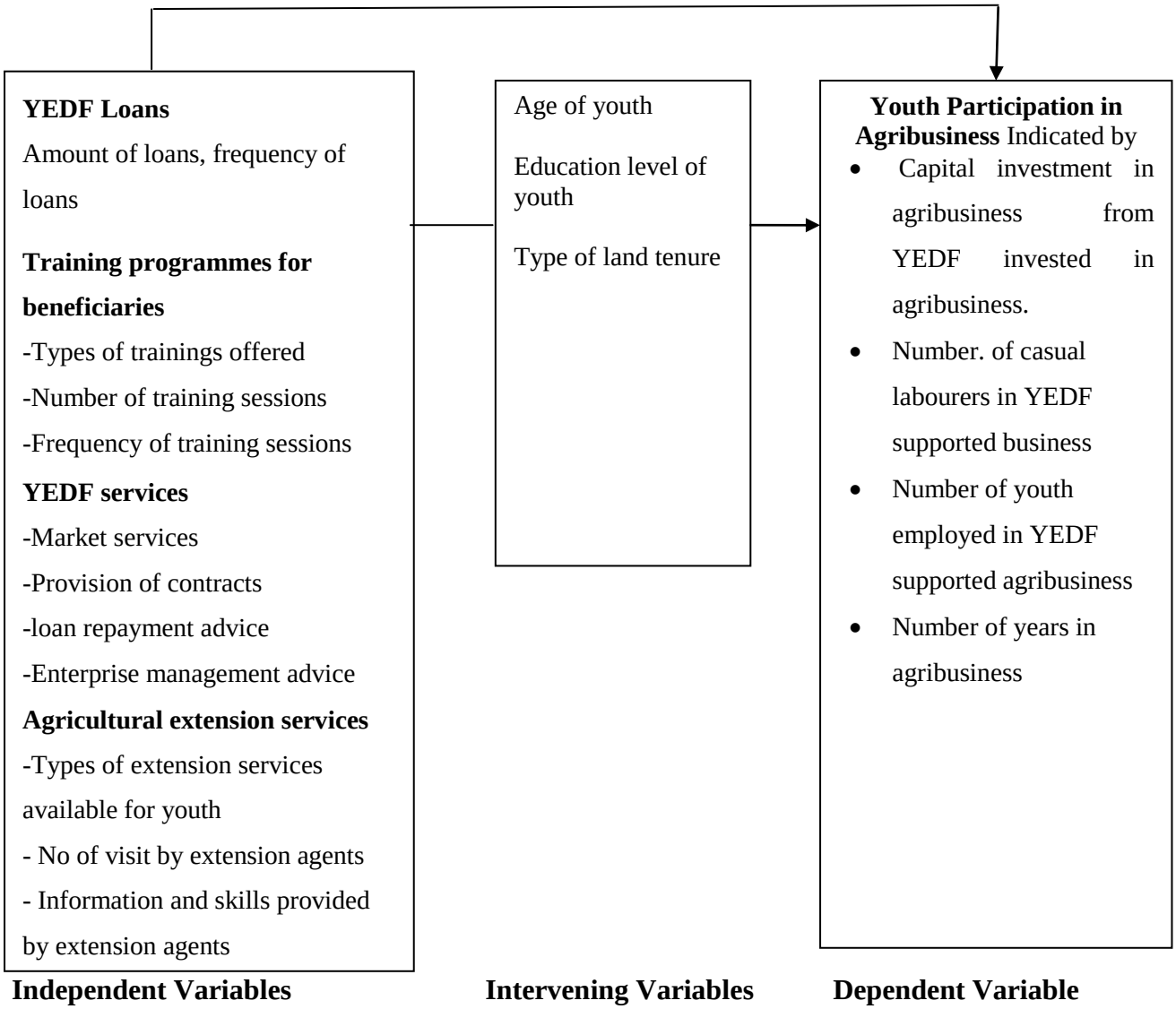

Figure 2.1: Conceptual framework indicating interaction between variables

CHAPTER THREE
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the research methodology that was utilized in study. The chapter include research design, study location, target population, sampling procedure and sample size, instrumentation, data collection, data analysis and summary of the statistical procedures that were used in data analysis.

3.2 Research Design

The study used descriptive survey design. Simuforosa (2015) describe a descriptive survey design one that is utilized to help provide answer to the questions of who, what, when, where, and how associated with a particular research phenomenon. According to Best and Khan (1993) this design seeks to tell what exists or what is about a certain phenomenon without any form of manipulation. The descriptive survey design was deemed suitable for this study due to the fact that it allowed the researcher to determine the influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund to youth engagement in agribusiness ventures in Nakuru County, Kenya.

3.3 Location of the Study

The research was undertaken out in Nakuru County, Kenya. The county was purposefully selected because it has a large youth population and many agribusiness opportunities in production, processing, marketing, value addition and transportation of crops and livestock products and others which are not exploited by the youth. Nakuru County covers an expansive area of 7,495.1 Km² and lies within the Great Rift Valley surrounded by eight other counties. The county headquarter is Nakuru City, the newest county in Kenya. The county has a robust ecological system that the residents depend on for agriculture, tourism, energy and many other benefits (GOK, 2015). It has eleven constituencies namely: Nakuru Town East, Nakuru Town West, Bahati, Rongai, Subukia, Kuresoi North, Kuresoi South, Gilgil, Naivasha, Njoro and Molo (Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, 2013). Agriculture contributes 48 percent of income; rural self-employment contributes 8 percent, wage employment 19 percent, urban, self-employment 23 percent and other sectors 2 percent.

3.4 Target Population

The study's target population was the beneficiaries of the YEDF, the agriculture extension officers and the YEDF officers in Nakuru County. The beneficiaries of YEDF in the County are about 18,000 (YEDF, 2017). The accessible population for the study was the beneficiaries of the youth fund who participate in agribusiness, who are about 817 (YEDF, 2018). The study also targeted key informants who consisted of forty-two agricultural extension officers and thirty-eight Youth Enterprise Development Fund officers in Nakuru County, Kenya. The target population was calculated per constituency and is shown in Table 3.1 below:

Table 3.1: Distribution of the Target Population across Nakuru County. N =18,000

Constituency	Frequency	%
Gilgil	1080	6
Bahati	1260	7
Rongai	1360	8
Naivasha	8000	44
Subukia	900	5
Molo	900	5
Nakuru East	720	4
Nakuru West	900	5
Kuresoi South	900	5
Kuresoi North	900	5
Njoro	1080	6
Totals	**18000**	**100**

3.5 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

Simple random sampling method was utilized to sample six out of the eleven constituencies of Nakuru County. Simple random sampling is crucial in minimizing the effect of extraneous variables in a study (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). The involved visiting the constituency Youth Enterprise Development Fund offices and developing the sampling frame of all the beneficiaries of YEDF. A sample of between 15 and 50 youths was randomly selected from each of the six-constituency based on the number of group membership and the individual youths. This was because some constituencies had more youths who had benefited from the fund and used it in agribusiness compared to others.

Table 3.2: Distribution of Accessible Population across in Selected Sub Counties in Nakuru County Kenya (n = 817)

Constituency	%	Frequency
Gilgil	19	155
Bahati	17	138
Rongai	19	155
Naivasha	21	173
Subukia	9	74
Molo	15	122
Totals	**100**	**817**

Beneficiaries of the YEDF could invest either in agricultural or non-agricultural activities. A sampling frame was developed for each constituency for the youths who used the fund in agribusiness. The unit of sampling was individuals because even where the youth accessed the fund as a group they shared the money to individuals or as a group. Random sampling was utilized to get a total sample of youth numbering 269 based on the following formula.

Where: -

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

n= the sample size

N = the total population i.e., 817

e=is the precision or sample error i.e., 0.05 (Nasiuma, 2000).

Therefore, the sample size was arrived at as shown in the calculation below:

n=817/1+817(0.05)2 n=817/1+817(0.0025) n=817/1+2.0425 n=817/3.0425 n=268.52

n= 269

A sample of two key informants comprising of one agricultural extension officer and one Youth Enterprise Development Fund officer was obtained from each of the six constituencies selected at random to give a total sample of 12 respondents (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3: Sample Size by Category of Respondents (n=269)

Category of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Youths	269
Total	**269**

3.6 Data Instrumentation

Questionnaires comprising of three sets were used for data collection. The first questionnaire was for the youth and it consisted of three sections. The first section, A, was used to sought data on youth's demographic characteristics. Section B sought data on access to Youth Enterprise Development Fund for agribusiness while section C was gathering data on influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund to youth participation in agribusiness. The questionnaire for the Youth Enterprise Development Fund officers had two sections. Section A on the personal particulars of the officers while Section B on the information on youth access to Youth Enterprise Development Fund. The questionnaire for the extension officers was comprised of two sections. Section A, on the personal particulars of the officers and Section B, on the information on the extension services available for youth in Nakuru County, Kenya.

3.6.1 Validity of the Research Instrument

Validity is accuracy or reliability of an instrument in measuring what it is supposed to measure (Kothari, 2008). Validation of research instruments is enhanced based on the knowledge and experience of experts (Borg & Gall, 2007). To ensure that the instruments were able to produce consistent and reliable results when measuring the variables of interest in the study, their face value and content validity were ascertained by the research supervisors and lecturers in agricultural extension and research methodology. Face validity can be defined as the appeal and appearance of the instrument also includes the extent to which an instrument covers the concepts it is supposed to measure (Del, 2015). The research supervisors were key in guiding on the areas to the study that were covered on the objectives of the study. Any modifications suggested were made accordingly. Comments and suggestions from faculty defense were included into the instrument before it was used for data collection.

3.6.2 Reliability of the Research Instrument

Reliability is the degree to which a particular measuring procedure gives similar

results over a number of repeated trials. Consistent results is achieved through a reliable measuring instrument (Kothari, 2008). In order to be ascertain that the questionnaires were reliable, they were pilot-tested in Ol Kalou constituency in Nyandarua County, Kenya, which has similar characteristics with the constituencies in Nakuru County. The pilot study involved thirty youths in the constituency. According to Kathuri and Pals (1993) a lowest sample of 30 can be used to ensure effective statistical analysis. The area was selected because it has a lot of agricultural activities going on and high youth population. Reliability of the instruments was estimated using Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Coefficient. The questionnaire for the youth had a reliability coefficient of 0.791 α, which was above the 0.70 α minimum acceptable for educational research at significance level of 0.05 α set a priori (Barry *et al.*, 2014; Kothari, 2008).

3.7 Data Collection Procedure

Through the Board of Post-graduate studies Egerton University, the researcher applied and obtained a mandatory research permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) before data collection commenced. Official authorization to access the youths was obtained from the Nakuru County Youth Enterprise Development Office and also from the County Director of Agriculture in the county. The researcher visited the constituency Youth Enterprise Development Fund offices where the researcher got the list of the youths who have accessed the Youth Enterprise Development Fund through the help of Youth Enterprise Development Officers. The researcher contacted them through the youth enterprise development officer and gathered them at the Youth Enterprise Development Fund constituency offices where the purpose of the study was explained before administering the questionnaire. Respondents' confidentiality was adhered to by ensuring that the information given by the respondents is not shared to others but only used for research purposes. Collection of data was spread within a period of one month. The questionnaires for both the Youth Enterprise Development Fund and Agricultural extension officers were administered by the researcher at their place of work. The researcher was present throughout to clarify any issues that may arise.

3.8 Ethical Issues

Prior to conducting the researcher, the researcher obtained ethical clearance approval from Egerton University research ethic committee. Since the youth, agricultural extension officers and Youth Enterprise Development Fund officers were part of the respondents in the study, authorization was sought from the Nakuru County Youth Enterprise Development Office and the County Director of Agriculture in the county, before interviewing them which

also facilitated informed consent of the respondents. The respondents were made to understand the process in which they were engaged, emphasizing the importance of their participation and the data collected will be used. The participants were also informed of voluntary consent and therefore they understood and agree to their participation without any coercion, prior to conducting the research. The respondents' entitlement to privacy and their rights to confidentiality and anonymity was assured by the researcher. If any personal identifiable information was to be disclosed for any reason, then the consent of the respondent was to be sought.

3.9 Data Analysis

Both qualitative and quantitative data was collected and analyzed using qualitative and quantitative methods. The data was checked for accuracy of the responses. This involved verifying that the responses were complete and consistent, and that there were no errors. The data was coded, entered into the computer and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics was used to present the results analyzed from the qualitative data. The descriptive statistics included; frequencies, means, standard deviations and percentages. These were used to describe the characteristics of the respondents. The inferential statistics of simple linear regression was used to test the hypotheses which included to measure the level of significance for the variables. The hypotheses were tested at a level of α=0.05. Table 3.4 gives a summary of how the hypotheses were tested.

The qualitative data collected was also analyzed using thematic analysis. As a result, data gathered through open-ended questions that could not fit to quantitative analysis were categorized in appropriate themes, and discussions took place within those themes and sub-themes. The ordinary least squares (OLS) regression model was utilized to test the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable. The nature and strength of the relationship between each independent variable and the dependent variable were investigated using regression (Saunders *et al.,* 2011). A multiple OLS regression will be performed because the level of youth engagement in agricultural ventures is the dependent variable that is affected by more than one independent variable. It is more responsive to ceteris paribus analysis, according to Wooldridge (2004), because it allows one to control for multiple independent variables that affect the dependent variable at the same time. This means that, while other forces remain constant, it is easier to predict how a specific independent variable affects level of youth engagement in agribusiness activities. According to Wooldridge (2004), the model, which is a type of straight line relationship, is given

as follows:

$$Y = \beta_{\emptyset} + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots (1)$$

Where;

Y is the level of youth participation in agribusiness, X_1 is loans obtained from YEDF, X_2 is YEDF training programmes, X_3 is Agricultural extension Service, X_4 is YEDF services , $\beta_{\emptyset}$ is the population intercept and ε is the error term.

β_1, β_2, β_3 and β_4 represent a unit change in the dependent variable as a result of a unit change in the respective independent variables.

Table 3.4: Summary of Data Analysis

	Independent Variable	**Dependent Variable**	**Statistical Tests**
$H0_1$: There is no statistically significant influence of loans obtained from Youth Enterprise Development Fund on the level of youth engagement agricultural enterprise in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya	Loans obtained from YEDF	Level of youth participation in agribusiness	Simple Linear Regression
$H0_2$: There is no statistically significant influence of training programmes for beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund on the level of their participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya	YEDF training programmes	Level of youth participation in Agribusiness	Simple linear Regression

$H0_3$: There is no statistically significant influence of agricultural extension services on the level of participation in agribusiness among the beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Nakuru County, Kenya	Agricultural extension Service	Level of youth participation in Agribusiness	Simple Linear Regression
$H0_4$: There is no statistically significant influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund services for beneficiaries of the fund on the level of their participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.	YEDF services	Level of youth participation in Agribusiness	Simple Linear Regression $Y = a + bX$

CHAPTER FOUR
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the findings and interpretations of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) on youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya. The following sections comprise the chapter: characteristics of the respondents, types of agribusiness enterprises among Youth Enterprise Development Fund beneficiaries in Nakuru County, youth engagement in agribusiness in Nakuru County, influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans on youth participation in agribusiness, influence of training programs on youth participation in agribusiness, influence of agricultural extension services on young people engagement in agribusiness in the county, and inflection points. The results are presented as percentage scores and frequency distribution tables. They were used to describe the respondents' characteristics. The hypotheses will be tested to determine the level of significance for the variables, simple linear regression was used in inferential statistics. At a significance level of =0.05, hypotheses were tested.

4.2 Characteristics of the Respondents

The attributes of the respondents were examined to ensure that the sample group has representation of all the participants which ensured that the findings and conclusions are more accurate. The findings on the attributes of the youth who responded and who were the study's main unit of analysis, are organized into five categories: respondent location, respondent gender, respondent formal education level, size of land, and respondent age. The key informants, who were agricultural extension and Youth Enterprise Development Fund officers in Nakuru County, Kenya, provided information to triangulate what the youth respondents indicated.

4.2.1 Distribution of the Youth Respondents in the Study Area

The participants were asked to indicate their location, and the data collected was summarized in Table 4.1, which showed that 21 percent of the respondents were from Naivasha, 19 percent from Rongai, 19 percent from Gilgil, 17 percent from Bahati, 15 percent from Molo, and 9 percent from Subukia. This was because some constituencies had more youths who had benefited from the YEDF and used it in agribusiness compared to others. Beneficiaries of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund Could invest either in agricultural or non-agricultural activities.

Table 4.1: Distribution of the Youth Respondents in the Study Area n= 269

Locality	Frequency	%
Gilgil	51	19
Bahati	46	17
Rongai	51	19
Naivasha	56	21
Subukia	24	9
Molo	41	15

4.2.2 Gender of the Respondents

Results in Table 4.2 shows the gender distribution of the youth respondents. According to Table 4.2, the majority of respondents (56.9 percent) were male, while 43.1 percent were female.

Table 4.2: Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	%
Male	153	57
Female	116	43

The research findings implied that more men were involved in agribusinesses. The reason could be because there are involved in income-generating activities and they have advantage over their female counterparts, who could be engaged in other activities such taking care of children, household chores, preparing meals, washing clothes and lack time to participate in agribusiness activities. This information was also acknowledged by key informants, who stated that male youth apply for the YEDF more than female youth. Females outnumber males in the agribusiness industry. This could be because women have challenges accessing loan facility, because of lack of security and also since they are in the early stage of their marriage, they are engaged in household chores and taking care of children. This may lead to lack of opportunity to access credit such as the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (World Economic Forum, 2019).

It can also be inferred that male youth are willing to take risks, as evidenced by their application for credit facility from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. This could be due to their daily activities, which tend to be more income-generating, whereas women focus on domestic work. These findings are in agreement with a study on the Youth Enterprise

Development Fund conducted in Kilifi County, Kenya, which documented the lessons learned from the fund in Kilifi County. The findings revealed that the majority of participants were male youth, implying that more males were involved in entrepreneurial ventures than their female counterparts (Kalama, 2008).

4.2.3 Highest Formal Education Level Attained by the Respondents

The youth respondents were asked to state their highest level of formal education attained. Table 4.3 shows the frequency distribution of the respondents' highest formal education level.

Table 4.3: Level of education of youth respondents

Highest Level of Education Attained	Frequency	%
University	27	10
College	58	21.6
Secondary	131	48.7
Primary	49	18.2
No formal Education	4	1.4

The majority of participants (80.3%) had received formal education at the secondary school level or higher, while 18.2 percent had only completed primary school and 1.4 percent had received no formal education. According to the findings, the majority of the study respondents had completed secondary school or higher. The knowledge gained may enable youth to gain skills to aid them in developing business proposals and apply for the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, as well as entrepreneur skills to participate in agribusiness. This is consistent with the findings of the Kenya Youth Survey, which discovered that 80.32 percent of youth have completed secondary school (Awiti and Bruce, 2016). This is consistent with the Nakuru County Development Plan (NCDP) (2018-2022), which indicates that 80.3 percent of the county's youth have completed secondary school.

4.2.4 Size of Land Owned by the Youth Respondents

The participants were required to specify the size of the land on which they operated their businesses. Table 4.4 summarizes the information.

Table 4.4: Size of Land Owned by the Youth Respondents

Land Size in ha	Frequency	Percent
No land	74	27.5
0.1-0.5	100	37.2
0.6-1.0	61	22.6
Above 1	34	12.7
Total	**269**	**100.0**

Mean .495±.034, median .404, mode 0, std. dev .565, minimum 0, maximum 4.05

According to the findings, 27.5 percent of respondents had no land, 37.2 percent owned land between 0.1-0.5 hectares, 22.6 percent had 0.6-1.0 hectares, and 12.7 had land larger than one hectare. From the study's findings, a large proportion of the youth did not own land; this could be explained by the fact that some enterprises in the agricultural value chains do not require land, such as marketing and processing, which can be achieved in hired facilities. The results may also be explained in terms of the youth not having land because it is too expensive to purchase and the enterprises they run do not generate enough money to buy or lease land. This limits the youth participation in agribusiness if their interest is enterprises that may require land. The study's findings support the information that the challenge of youth having land available to them remains a challenge to youth participation in agricultural activities. Though some youths have the option of purchasing land, this may not be realistically attainable due to low savings by the youth, high levels of non-availability of job opportunities for the youth, low or poor wages for majority rural youth, and high cost of land (FAO, 2011a).

4.2.5 Age of the Youth Respondents

The participants were asked to indicate the year they were born according as per their national identity card, and the personal data was divided into three age groups. Table 4.5 shows the age categories, descriptive statistics, and frequency distribution of the groups. The vast majority 9.5 percent of respondents indicated that their age was between the 24 and 29 years' age bracket, 4.8 percent noted that their ages ranged between 18 and 23 years, and 25.7 percent indicated that their age brackets ranged between 30-35 years.

Table 4.5: Age categories of the Youth Respondents

Age of Youth Respondents	Frequency	%
18-23	13	4.8
24-29	187	69.5
30-35	69	25.7

Given the fact that all survey respondents were over the age of 18, this suggests that they were mature enough to give a reliable statement concerning the youth enterprise development fund as well as their participation in agribusiness. According to the findings, the majority of the participants were between the ages of 24 and 29. This implies that these are the youths who have dropped out of school and are pursuing agribusiness ventures as a source of income and self-employment to support their families. The youngest age group of youth respondents ranged from 18 to 23 years old, implying that they are in school and the majority of them are involved in education, thus the low percentage (4.8).

4.3 Types of Agribusinesses Funded by the Youth Enterprise Development Fund

The first objective of this research was to document the types of agribusiness enterprises among Nakuru County Youth Enterprise Development Fund beneficiaries. The agribusiness enterprises were discussed using the following criteria: types of businesses, number of services provided/ offered, types of products produced and sold, YEDF investment cost, and number of employees employed or hired in the businesses.

4.3.1 Organization of Agribusiness Enterprises Undertaken by the Youth in Nakuru County, Kenya

The findings from the youth respondents, 30 percent of the enterprises are in groups, while 70 percent are individually as indicated in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6: Categories of Youth Respondents Agribusiness Enterprises

Categories of Youth Respondents	Frequency	%
Individually	188	70
Group	81	30

The study findings showed that 70 percent of the youth participants specified that agribusinesses done in groups are difficult to operate due to a lack of commitment by the members, a lengthy decision-making process by the group, and group conflicts, which may be ascribed to the majority of the young people running the enterprises individually. The youth indicated that it is easier to acquire the Youth Enterprise Development Fund as a group. The youths joined groups to access the fund but they prefer once they get the money to run their own business so that they can make decisions on the enterprises of their choice.

According to key informants from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, the minimum requirements for accessing the fund are that one be between the ages of 18 and 35, be a Kenyan, and intend to invest the funds in a business venture. The loan is intended for all types of youth-owned businesses, including individuals, companies, groups, cooperatives,

and others. The loan is available to any youth-owned enterprise operating within a specific constituency, either individually or collectively.

4.3.2 Types of Agribusiness Enterprises Undertaken by the Youth Respondents

The types of agribusiness ventures pursued by the youth participants were documented. Crop production, livestock keeping, agricultural produce processing, machinery hire services, agricultural produce transport, agricultural produce marketing, agricultural and veterinary drugs (agrovets) were among them. As shown in Table 4.7, it also includes the sale of agricultural equipment and tools.

Table 4.7: Types of Agribusiness Enterprises Undertaken by the Youth Respondents

Agribusiness Enterprise	Frequency	Percent
Livestock production	160	59.4
Marketing of agricultural produce	24	8.9
Crop production	33	12.3
Processing of agricultural produce	27	10.1
Machinery hire services	7	2.6
Transport of agricultural produce	6	2.2
Agriculture and veterinary drugs	8	2.9
Agricultural tools and equipment	4	1.5

The enterprise that was most practiced by the youth in Nakuru was livestock production (59.4 %). This involved activities such as keeping of dairy animals, poultry, pigs, and sheep and goats and selling them to generate income. In marketing of agricultural products (8.9 %), the youth in this sector were involved in buying or selling of agricultural products such as vegetables such as spinach, cabbages other crops like beans, maize. Livestock products such as fresh milk, pork, yoghurt etc. Crop production enterprises was taken up by (12.3 %) of the respondents. This involved horticultural crops under irrigation in Bahati and under rain fed production in Molo. Other crops grown included maize, Irish potatoes, peas, beans and sweet potatoes. Processing of agricultural products (10.1 %), the youth in this sector were involved either in milling of grains, drying of produce, shelling of maize, and storage.

For machinery hire services (2.6%), this involved hiring of ploughs and harrows, hay making equipment, machinery for chemical application, seed planting and fertilizer application. Transport services (2.2%), this service involves provision of transport to market for all agricultural produce, the youth own vehicles which they use for this purpose. Selling

of agricultural and veterinary drugs (2.9%), this service involves the sale of all kinds of chemicals for crop and animal treatment in an agrovets shop. Normally the agrovets have artificial insemination (AI) services. For agricultural tools and equipment businesses (1.5 %), the youths owned shops or sold their wares in open markets during the market day in a locality.

4.3.3 Capital investment in agribusiness from YEDF

The respondents were asked how much money they had received from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund and invested in agriculture. The data was analyzed and categorized into six investment levels, as shown below: below 100,000 (33.4%), 100001-200,000 (33.1%), 200,001-300,000 (13.4%), 300,001- 400,000 (3.7%), 400,001-500,000 (7.1%) and above 700,001 (9.3%). The frequency distribution of the categories is given in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8: Capital investment in agribusiness from YEDF

Category	Frequency	Percent
Below 100,000	90	33.4
100,001-200,000	89	33.1
200,001-300,000	36	13.4
300,001-400,000	10	3.7
400,001-500,000	19	7.1
Above 500,001	25	9.3
Total	**269**	**100.0**

From the findings we can conclude that majority of the youth were given below 100,000/=. Because of the amounts disbursed this may result in low returns and in some cases reluctance by the youths to apply for the funds as they feel it may not be sufficient to support and help grow their businesses.

4.4 Youth Participation in Agribusiness in Nakuru County

The dependent variable in this study was youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County. The variable was defined as youth participation in agribusiness across all value chains. The level of participation was calculated by combining four different indicators into an index, which included the number of employees the youth had in their business, the number of casual laborers, the number of years in agribusiness, and YEDF capital investment in agribusiness. The ventures were undertaken as either new ventures or expansions of existing agribusiness ventures. The four indicators were added together to generate an index

showing youth participation in agribusiness.

4.4.1 Income from Investing Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Agribusiness

The amount of capital received from the investment the Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans in agribusiness by the youth was taken as an indicator of the extent of youth involvement in commercial farming in Nakuru County. The participants were asked to state the amount of money they received as capital from their agribusiness enterprises after investing the youth fund loans. The information was analyzed and categorized into five levels of returns to investment, as follows: below 50,000 (very low level of income), 50,001-100,000 (low level of income), 100,001-150,000 (moderate level of income), 150,001-200,000 (high level of income), 200,001-250,000 (Very high level of income) and above 300,001 (Extremely high level of income). The frequency distribution of the categories is given in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9: Level of Income after Investing Youth Enterprise Development Loan into the Agribusiness

Category	Level of Income	Frequency	Percent
Below 50,000	Very low	100	32.7
50,001-150,000	Low	79	29.4
150,001-200,000	Moderate	36	13.4
200,001-250,000	High	11	4.1
250,001-300,000	Very High	16	5.9
Above 300,000	Extremely High	27	10.0
Total		**269**	**100.0**

Mean 205,110, median 150,000, mode 100,000, standard deviation 70,565, minimum 15,000 maximum 3,000,000.

The findings indicated that 32.7 percent of the agribusiness enterprises had income below Kes 50,000 after investing Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans (29.4%) percent realized an income of between Kes 50000- Kes 150000 (13.4%) percent had an income of between Kes 150,000- Kes 200,000, 4.1 percent had income of between 200,001-250,000 (5.9%) had income of between Kes 250,001- Kess300, 000 while (10%) of the businesses has income of above Kes 300,000. This indicates that, despite the fact that the majority of the businesses (57%) have been operating for between one to three years, the level of income after investing the Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans remains very low. The explanation behind this could be that the youths are still learning about the businesses as they

run them, as well as the risks associated with agricultural-based businesses. According to the study's findings, the minimum capital realized from agribusiness enterprises was Kes 15,000 and the maximum capital realized was Kes 3,000,000.

Monitoring and evaluating financial organizations frequently improves the implementation of projects funded. Absence of monitoring and evaluation of YEDF-funded efforts frequently which result in a change in use to other initiatives other than the ones loan were advanced for, or project is unsuccessful. The young people might not utilize the funds as intended due to insufficient monitoring and evaluation of the funded initiatives. The achievement of projects' goals and programmes necessitates regular monitoring and evaluation activities, but YEDF officials were lax in monitoring groups in Nakuru resulting to failure to visit a large number of youth groups. Hence monitoring was lacking. The officials did not require the groups to submit any reports, which resulted in fewer monitoring activities.

Sammy and Wanyoike (2019) found out that small number of Nakuru youth projects give credence the services of external M&E experts. A bigger portion of commercial farming projects in Nakuru are being hampered by political influence in assessing their operations. The reason for this attributed to the fact Youth Fund influenced by political considerations.

4.4.2 Number of Workers Employed by the Agribusinesses Run by the Youth

Number of employees who in some enterprises included the youth themselves employed by the agribusiness was one of the indicators that formed the index of youth participation in agribusiness. The respondents were asked how many employees their company employed. This information was subsequently summarized and the frequency distribution is presented in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10: Number of Employees in Agribusiness

Number of Employees	Frequency	Percent of Agribusinesses
0 (No employees)	175	65
1 -3	51	19
4-6	27	10
Above 6	16	6
Total	**269**	**100.0**

Mean 1.6±.20, median 0. Mode 0, standard deviation 3.42, minimum 0, maximum 15

The majority (65%) of the agribusinesses did not employ any employees. This is because the youth were able to gain meaningful employment in their own enterprises. 19

percent of the businesses employed one to three permanent employees; 10 percent of the businesses had four to six employees while six percent had above six employees. The findings indicated that 35 percent of the agribusiness enterprises were able to engage employees thus creating jobs which are one of the objectives of the YEDF. The results also showed that the larger proportion of the young people running agribusinesses focused on self-employment rather than hiring employees. The lack of permanent employees in business could led to majority of businesses getting low amounts of income hence the need to cut costs by youth employing themselves. This impacted the businesses performance and good returns in terms of income.

4.4.3 Number of Casual Labourers

The participants were asked to state the number of workers they hired for their business, the number was recorded and the information analyzed. The frequency distribution of the number of hired laborer's is given in Table 4.11.

Table 4.11: Number of Hired labourers in Agribusiness Enterprises

Number of Hired labourers	Frequency	Percent of Agribusinesses
0	199	74
1-3	24	9
4-6	27	10
Above 6	19	7
Total	**269**	**100.0**

Mean 2.2±.39, median 0, mode 0, standard deviation 6.4, minimum 0, and maximum 70

Nine percent of the agribusiness enterprises funded by YEDF had hired one to three workers; 10 percent of the businesses hired four to six workers while seven percent of the agribusinesses had above six workers. The majority (74%) of the agribusiness did not hire any workers; the respondents indicated they work on the enterprises themselves without sourcing for labour. This was because majority of the youth were able to gain employment in their enterprises therefore, the employees could not afford to engage any employees.

4.4.4 Number of Years the businesses had Existed

The duration, in terms of years, the agribusiness had been in operation was used to indicate a higher level of agribusiness participation. The participants were asked to state how long they had been in business. The data was analyzed and is indicated in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12: Frequency Distribution of the Number of Years the Agribusiness Existed

Number of Years	Frequency	Percent of Agribusinesses
Below 1 year	5	2.0
1-3	153	57
4-6	51	19
7-9	46	17
Above 10	13	5.0
Total	**269**	**100.0**

Mean 2.8±.12, median 2, mode 2, standard deviation 2, minimum 1, maximum 10

Two percent of the agribusinesses had been in operation for less than a year, 19 percent had been running for a period of between four and six years, and 17 percent had been in operation for between seven and nine years. The majority (57 percent of the agribusinesses) had been in running for one to three years. Only 5 percent of the agribusiness had been running for ten years.

4.4.5 Index of Youth Participation in Agribusiness in Nakuru County

The index of young people participation in commercial farming in Nakuru County was then developed by summing up the four indicators capital investment in agribusiness from YEDF, number of casual labourers in YEDF supported business, number of youths employed in YEDF supported agribusiness and number of years the agribusinesses have been operated, in terms of either new enterprises or expanding the existing agribusiness enterprises Each of the four indicators was awarded scores of one to three, the lowest score is one while two was the medium and the highest score was three. The maximum score each response on participation could score was twelve; the medium score was eight while the lowest score was four. After summing up the scores, a continuum of minimum score of four and a maximum of twelve and a moderate score of eight was arrived at. Based on these the indicators of participation in agribusinesses were rated in to three levels namely high, moderate and low. Scores of eight to twelve were rated as high, four to eight as moderate and four and below as low participation. The findings was summarized in Table 4.13.

Table 4.13: Index of the Level of Youth Participation in Agribusiness

Categories	Description	Frequency	Percent
0-5	Low	146	64.3
6-10	Moderate	66	24.5
11-15	High	57	11.2
Total		269	100.0

Mean 2.33±.133, median 1.4, mode 1, standard deviation 2.19, minimum .3, maximum 15

The average scale was then divided into three (3) groups, as follows: A Chi-square test was used to establish the different categories of the youth level of participation (low, moderate, and high) of the groups (below 4 as very low categories, 4-8 as moderate category, and 8-12 as high category, explaining the levels of youth involvement in commercial farming in Nakuru County. The scores for the index of the level of youth participation in agribusiness were distributed based on this categorization, as provided in Table 4.14.

Table 4.14: Chi-square Test for the Categories of Level of Youth Participation in Agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya

Category	Description	Observed N	Expected N	Residual	Statistics
0-5	Low	66	66	21.2	χ^2= 152.85
6-10	Moderate	146	146	101.2	*df*= 5
11-15	High	57	57	-7.8	*p*= .001

The mean score of extent of youth engagement in commercial farming in Nakuru County was 2.33, which was rated as low. The chi-square test results show that the bigger portion of the youth had a low level of participation in agribusiness. These findings were statistically significant (2 152.85, df 5, p.001). The study findings indicate that 64.3 percent of the respondents were in the low category of participation in agribusiness which is the highest percentage, 24.5 percent of the respondents had moderate level of participation in agribusiness while 11.2 percent had high level of participation in agribusiness. According to the key informants, financial factors such as insufficient credit facilities, low profit margins realized from agribusiness enterprises, and a lack of agricultural insurance in case of unfavorable weather, initial capital, and production inputs can all contribute to low youth participation in agribusiness. Social factors include a negative perception of farming and parental pressure to leave agriculture. The findings of the study are similar with those of a Nigerian study on youth involvement in agribusiness, which found that economic, social, and environmental factors are limiting youth in rural areas in engagement in agricultural activities in Nigeria (Adekunle *et al.,* 2009).

4.5 Influence of loans obtained from Youth Enterprise Development Fund on the Level of Youth Participation in Agribusiness

The second objective of the study was to: determine the influence of credit facilities obtained from Youth Enterprise Development Fund on the extent of youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County.

4.5.1 Investment of Youth Enterprise Development Fund Loan in Agribusiness

The independent variable Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans in Nakuru County has been defined as the amount of money that is received as loan from Youth Enterprise Development Fund and invested in agribusiness. For this study the participants were asked to indicate the amount of money that was loaned to them from Youth Enterprise Development Fund and invested in agribusiness. The information was analyzed and categorized into six levels of investments as follows: below 100,000, 100001- 200,000, 200,001-300,000, 300,001- 400,000, 400,001-500,000 and above 700,001. The frequency distribution of the categories is shown in Table 4.15.

Table 4.15: Level of Youth Enterprise Development Fund Investment in Agribusiness

Category	Frequency	Percent
Below 100,000	90	33.4
100,000-200,000	89	33.1
200,001-300,000	36	13.4
300,001-400,000	10	3.7
400,001-500,000	19	7.1
Above 500,001	25	9.3
Total	**269**	**100.0**

The percentage of the respondents who had invested below KESs 100,000 of the YEDF loan was (33.4%) (33.1) invested between KESs100, 001-200,000 (3.7%) invested Kess300, 001-400,000 (7.1) percent had invested KESs400, 001-500,000 while (9.3%) of the respondents had invested above KES 500,000 of Youth Enterprise Development Fund loan in agribusiness. The majority (62.8 %) of the youth respondents had invested into agribusiness of more than 100,000 KES. This situation was enabled by the provision of loans by the Youth Enterprise Development Fund to youths in Nakuru County.

4.5.2 Influence of loans obtained from Youth Enterprise Development on the Level of Youth Participation in Agribusiness

The first hypothesis of this study, which tested loans obtained from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, found that they had a significant impact on the level of youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County.

The null hypothesis was stated as follows: *There is no statistically significant influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund loans on the level of youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya*.

To test the hypothesis, simple linear regression was used. The loans obtained from the Nakuru County Youth Enterprise Development Fund were the independent variable for the study while the extent of youth engagement in agribusiness was the dependent variable. Table 4.16 shows the results of the regression analysis.

Table 4.16: Simple Linear Regression Summary of the amount of loans obtained from Youth Enterprise Development Fund and Youth Participation in Agribusiness

	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
.581[a]	.338	.336	1.78755

a. Predictors: (Constant), Level of investment Dependent: Youth participation in agribusiness

The analysis specifies an adjusted R^2 value of 0.336; this possibly means that the independent variable loans obtained give an estimate of 34 percent of the variation in dependent variable youth participation in agribusiness. The *F* test for the regression model is shown in Table 4.17.

Table 4.17: *F* Test for the Regression Testing

Model	Sum of Squares	*df*	Mean Square	*F*	*P*
Regression	433.790	1	434.790	136.384	.001[b]
Residual	853.151	267	3.195		
Total	**1288.941**	**268**			

a. Dependent Variable: index of youth participation in agribusiness

b. Predictors: (Constant), level of YEDF loan invested in Agribusiness

The overall regression equation was found to be significant (F (1, 267) = 136.38, p=.001). The regression coefficients of the model showing the *beta*, *t* statistics and the tolerance levels (*VIF*) is shown in Table 4.18.

Table 4.18: Regression Coefficients for YEDF Loans and Youth Participation in Agribusiness

Unstandardized Coefficients			Standardized Coefficients			Collinearity Statistics
	B	Std. Error	*Beta*	*T*	*p.*	VIF
(Constant)	1.655	.124		13.389	.001	
YEDF loans	2.235E-6	.000	.581	11.678	.001	1.000

According to the regression analysis, loans advanced by the Youth Enterprise Development Fund had a significant positive influence (=-.581, p=.001) on youth agricultural engagement. The level of young people engaged in agriculture increased as the number of loans secured from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund increased. The increased number of loans obtained from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund increased youth participation in farming activities. As a result, the null hypothesis was rejected, and the alternate hypothesis, stating that loans from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund had a significant influence on the degree of youth participation in agriculture in Nakuru County, was accepted. This is consistent with the findings of Leavy and Hossain (2014), who discovered that having ability to get financial products such as savings and loans is critical when initiating any agribusiness venture.

The findings corroborate Atkinson and Messy's (2012) observation that children need money to cover production costs as well as investments in agribusiness operations. Furthermore, the agricultural industry is frequently subject to severe natural disasters that reduce output; thus, young farmers' access to insurance schemes is critical in developing better agricultural risk management techniques (Dalla, 2012). According to the study's new findings, the Youth Enterprise Development Fund has a major positive influence on youth participation in agribusiness, stakeholders should focus more on raising awareness among youth to increase the number of those taking out loans, as well as increasing loans to youth who are already taking out loans to encourage them to participate more in agribusiness to improve their living standards.

Agriculture contributes significantly to Kenya's GDP. This contribution could be led by young people. However, limited access to capital reduces their output and growth (Odoemenem and Obinne, 2017). Farming receives little attention because the traditional banking system regards it as extremely risky. Young people, according to financial firms, are a riskier client group than those who are advanced in age. Ability to obtain finance and land are both critical; for example, in some areas, youth are able to get land but lack the financial resources to invest in it (Mcnulty & Natarajan, 2018).

In Kenya, the majority of children cultivate family land, which is primarily farming to meet basic needs, so the income from this activity is minimal (Cotula, 2017). Young people on the other hand, have seized opportunities that encourage their involvement in the agricultural industry. Because of rising food demand and business opportunities, youth have an opportunity to produce food supply that match with population growth rate. Agriculture benefits greatly from the enthusiasm, open-mindedness, and risk-taking abilities of youth.

Such characteristics are required for agricultural business success. The youth are given the chance to meet agricultural and commercial demands by using advanced methods and technology that are lacking in population groups. Kenya's Youth Agribusiness Strategy (2017-2021).

Most youth prefer to integrate ICT in agricultures, which has massive potential for boosting production, facilitating agricultural development, and gaining access to financial services and economies. Some examples of youth based platform include: Mkulima Young, which is a platform that provides marketing, extension, and information services. There is also M-Farm, which disseminates market information related to prices of goods (Agriculture Status Report, 2019). Some young people are also involved in social media platfroms such as WhatsApp and Facebook groups where they talk about how to plant and cultivate crops, raise animals, and market their produce.

4.6 Influence of Training Programmes on Youth Participation in Agribusiness

The third objective of the study was to; assess influence of training programmes for beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund on the level of their participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.

4.6.1 Training programmes for Beneficiaries of YEDF in Nakuru County, Kenya

The independent variable training programmes for beneficiaries of the YEDF used in this study has been defined as this teaching or developing in oneself or others, any skills and knowledge that relates to specific useful competencies (GOK, 2016). In this study this meant the teaching or developing youth with skills and knowledge that relates to agribusiness by Youth Enterprise Development Fund. This was measured in terms of types of trainings offered, number of training sessions and frequency of training sessions. The participants were asked to specify the source of information on their agribusinesses management and the findings are in Table 4.19.

Table 4.19: Sources of Training about Agri Businesses of the Youth Respondents

Source of Training	Frequency	Percent
Financial Institutions Agricultural	40	14.8
Extension Agents	12	4.5
Internet	120	44.6
Television	20	7.4
YEDF officers	15	5.6
Radio	32	19.3
Pamphlets	10	3.7
Friends	20	7.4
Total	**269**	**100.0**

The study findings indicate that the highest percentage of the respondents (44.6%) got information on their businesses from the internet while the lowest percentage of the respondents (3.7%) got information from pamphlets. Only (4.5%) of the respondents obtained information from Agricultural extension agents. (5.6%) of the respondents obtained information from the YEDF officers while (7.4%) of the respondents got information from their friends. Information from the key informants also indicated that trainings are also conducted by other stakeholders who include financial institutions, public agencies and NGOs. This information has a lot of implication to the YEDF in that for the young people to be able to get information about the YEDF the people managing the fund need to put updated information online for the youth to access. The results also imply that only (7.4%) of the youth access information on business management from YEDF officers therefore the officers require to employ more strategies to ensure that the youth access their trainings.

The internet was the highest source of information as compared to the rest. This indicates the youth prefer to get their information form digital sources which is faster and more accessible as compared to traditional methods. The participants were asked to indicate the trainings they had received on business management. The frequency distribution of the number of trainings attended is given in Table 4.20.

Table 4.20: Distribution of Number of Trainings attended by the Youth Respondents on Business Management

Number of trainings	Frequency	Percent
1	57	21.2
2	111	41.3
3	7	2.6
4	33	12.3
5	4	1.5
6	28	10.4
7	1	0.4
8	13	4.8
9	6	2.2
10	7	2.6
11	2	0.7
Total	**269**	**100.0**

Mean 3.2, median 2, mode 2, standard deviation 2.48, minimum 1, maximum 11

The findings of the study shows that 21.2 percent of those who responded had received only one training, 41.3 percent had received two trainings, 2.6 percent had received three trainings, 12.3 percent had received four trainings, 1.5 percent had received five trainings, 10.4 percent had received six trainings 0.4 percent had received seven trainings, 4.8 percent had received eight trainings, 2.2 had received nine trainings, 2.6 percent received ten trainings, 0.7 percent received eleven trainings. From the study findings, majority of those who responded (41.3%) had received two trainings while only 0.7 percent had received highest number of trainings which were eleven. On the basis of the findings, the training extent of the youth on business management can be categorized in three levels, highly trained which included more than 10 trainings, moderately trained which includes five to eight trainings and less trained which includes between one to four trainings indicated in Table 4.21.

Table 4.21: Training Levels of the Respondents

Level of Training	**%**
Highly Trained	6
Moderately Trained	17
Least Trained	77

The findings on the training levels indicate that 77 percent fall in the category of least trained respondents; 17 percent are moderately trained while six percent are highly trained. This implies that more training needs to be conducted to impart the required skills to the youth necessary to run successfully and sustainable agribusiness enterprises. From the findings of the study it can be deduced that all the youth respondents have received at least one training on management of business. The findings of the study concur with Semboja (2007) who observed that East African national governments, public agencies, universities and the private sector have to take the initiative of training leaders and members on self-employment development so as to enable the youth to acquire skills to run their businesses.

4.6.2 Influence of Training Programmes on Youth Participation in Agribusiness

The third objective of the study was to assess the influence of training programmes for beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund on their participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.

The null hypothesis was stated as: *There is no statistically significant influence of training programmes for beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund on the level of their participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.*

The hypothesis was tested using simple linear regression to determine existing significant contribution existed between training and youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County. The dependent variable was the index of youth participation in agribusiness, while training programmes for beneficiaries of YEDF was the independent variable. The results showing the proportion of the variance explained by the independent variable using R and adjusted R square for the analysis is shown in Table 4.22.

Table 4.22: Proportion of the Variance Explained Using R-square for the Analysis

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
.898[a]	.806	.805	.968

a. Predictors: (Constant), training 0,1

The analysis shows an adjusted R^2 value of 0.805; this means that the independent variable training explained approximately 80.5 percent of the variation in dependent variable youth participation in agribusiness. The R^2 value of 80.5 percent is considered by Cohen (1988) to be of a higher influence. The statistical importance for the whole regression analysis was arrived at using the *F* test and the results are presented in Table 4.23.

Table 4.23: Statistical Significance of the Regression Analysis using the F Test

	Sum of Squares	*df*	Mean Square	*F*	*P*
Regression	1036.565	1	1037.565	1107.524	.001[b]
Residual	250.375	267	.938		
Total	**1286.941**	**268**			

a. Dependent Variable: index of youth participation in agribusiness

b. Predictors: (Constant), level of training

The results of the *F* test for the whole regression analysis is statistically significant, $F(1, 267) = 1107.52$, $p = .001$ indicating that there is a statistically significant influence. Training statistically significantly predicts the youth involvement in agribusiness. This implies that for youth to successfully be involved in agribusiness they require the skills and knowledge to run the business. The coefficients for the regression model are given in Table 4.24.

Table 4.24: Regression for the Analysis between Training and Youth Participation in Agribusiness

Unstandardized Coefficients			**Standardized Coefficients**			**Collinearity Statistics**
	B	Std. Error	*Beta*	*T*	*p.*	*VIF*
(Constant)	-.245	.097		-2.511	.013	
Level of training	.792	.024	.898	33.279	.001	1.000

The variance inflation factor was used to quantify the severity of multicollinearity in the variables included in the regression Analysis (VIF). The VIF was 1.0, indicating that there was no multicollinearity. Youth engagement in agriculture was found to be positively influenced by training (=.898, p=.001). According to the findings, there are insufficient trainings on business management for the youth respondents, which is required for the operation of finances and the establishment or expansion of existing Agri-businesses. When youth were trained, there was a higher degree of youth participation in agribusiness activities. This is consistent with a study that found that building universities with academic excellence focused on research in agriculture and forging connections with the farming community is critical (Paisley, 2012). According to the United Nations Development Programme (2013), colleges must collaborate with communities that practice farming to extend knowledge, expand research, and improve ability to provide solutions that solve local challenges. Unfortunately, such systems are rarely implemented in most poor countries, and access to university agricultural education is limited (FAO, 2013; World Bank, 2014).

Strengthening the skills, abilities and knowledge is not an independent practice mediation, but a carefully designed exercise scheme aimed at increasing the awareness, capability, and capacity for stronger execution and development of individuals, gatherings, and organizations. Kes 500 million has been set aside nationally for capacity building in the 2019/2020 fiscal year. Youth capacity building is divided into four categories: information in general on the Youth Fund, business development services and mentoring, table banking, and access to government procurement opportunities (AGPO) for children, women, and people with disabilities (UFOB, 2019). In 2019, the (GoK) sought Youth Fund trainers who would be able to adapt training programs into local languages in the locations where they planned to work, as well as meet the reporting, monitoring, and evaluation requirements.

Knowledge is a key to success, and this recognizes the need of training for all Youth Fund beneficiaries. According to Ashiku (2018), training improves effective fund usage and should be prioritized before funding groups. A Training Needs Assessment (TNA) conducted

in February 2019 by a team of advisors in a selected county in Kenya discovered that persons with disabilities, females, and youth do not lack the abilities and competencies required to ensure the identity, growth, development, and sustainability of their enterprise. The recommendations provide skills and experience to develop an entrepreneurial and investment culture among specific organizations for economic empowerment.

Groups successfully screened by Constituency before receiving funds, youth fund committees from around the world go through a skills and capacity enhancement program. Inadequate extension services and farmer support have slowed agriculture's development into a thriving and economically competitive sector. Capacity building and assistance for expansion services, on the other hand, were discovered to enhance output by 30%. The Anglican Development Services has funded efforts to improve young farmers' abilities to produce sustainable agricultural goods (Nebe and Mang'eni, 2019).

According to Agena (2018), youth should be given training on ability to manage financial resources for membership-based organizations effectively and efficiently in order to support the formation of efficient and sustainable young farmers' groups. According to a World Bank (2009) and FAO (2018) assessment, the government must assist in the development of farmers' associations for the youth capable of channeling and ensuring appropriate access to financial and mechanical assistance from governments, the private sector and other stakeholders.

As a result, the youth fund capacity building program raises awareness among young people. The utilization of technology platform for communication has resulted in significant improvement on awareness on the Youth Fund among the youths who have high computer proficiency level. The third president of the Republic of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki, in 2012 directed that 10% of all government contracts be granted to youths. Also in 2019, the fourth President, Uhuru Kenyatta, pledged to give women, youth, and disabled people 30% of all government contracts (AGPO, 2019). Obtaining Government Procurement Opportunities for young people. As a result, youth capacity building is assisting in the implementation of these presidential directives. As a result, youth involved in agricultural sector can be certain of getting ready markets for their products.

Notwithstanding its usefulness and efficiency of information and communication technology in raising awareness, scammers have exploited and duped unwary members of the public. Tendering systems in government is prone to corruption which has made it difficult for young people to secure tenders in government. Furthermore, numerous youth groups are unable to meet the needed stringent standards and tendering requirements.

4.7 Influence of Agricultural Extension Services on Youth Participation in Agribusiness

The fourth objective of the study was to examine the effect of agricultural extension services on the level of involvement in agribusiness from the recipients of Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Nakuru County.

4.7.1 Agricultural Extension Services in Nakuru County, Kenya

The youth respondents were asked to provide information on the independent variable indicators which includes availability of extension services to youth, number of visits by extension agents, provision of information by extension agents and skills provided by extension agents to the youth. The data was then analyzed and the results are given in Table 4.25.

Table 4.25: Index of Agricultural Extension Services in Nakuru County

Extension Services	Frequency	Percent
Ease of Availability of extension services to youth	188	70
Regular visits by extension agents.	66	25
Provision of vital information by extension agents	188	70
Helpful Skills are provided by extension agents to the youth.	194	72

Mean 3.85±.169, median 1, mode 0, standard deviation 1.77, minimum 0, maximum 12

Seventy percent of those polled said they had no trouble obtaining extension services; twenty-five percent of those polled said extension officers paid them regular visits; seventy percent of those polled said they had received vital information from extension agents; however, only seventy-two percent said they had received helpful skills from extension agents. In Nakuru County, the index for extension services ranged from a mean of 3.85 all the way up to a maximum of 12. 7.6 percent of the local young population had never taken advantage of the extension services that were available to them. This is evidence that the extension services provided by the responders may be relied upon. According to the information provided by the key informant, the many training programs that are accessible include the utilization of demonstrations, field days, farm visits, and agricultural exhibits. Since the model of extension that is used is demand driven, the young people who are in need of extension services are required to look for agricultural extension agents.

They indicated that there are specific programs that target the youth that would prepare the youth to take advantage pertaining to Youth Enterprise Development Fund. Since the model of extension that is used is demand driven, they indicated that there are specific programs that target the youth. This is in line with the findings of a research that was carried out in 2014 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, The International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation. That study stated the findings of a global research of youth, which showed that the most significant barrier to involving youth in agriculture is a lack of access to education, information, and knowledge. This finding is consistent with the findings of that study. Other difficulties, such as limited access to land and markets, were noted as well. This is consistent with the findings of a study that was conducted in Kajiado on the factors that influence youth participation in agriculture. The findings of the study was that because young people lack information, they are unable to access facilities offered by financial institutions, which acts as a barrier to their participation in agriculture (Njeru and Gichimu, 2014).

Extension services activities should be able to track, within their monitoring and evaluation frameworks, how many young people are serviced, as well as report on the quality of those services, in order to target young people. There are a few essential components that must be present in order to assist extension services in engaging children. To begin, extension services and programs need to recognize young people as potential customers and, as a result, make them part of the group for focused programming. Second, those who provide extension service and deal with young people should illustrate to them how pursuing agriculture as a commercial activity may lead to respectable employment, greater independence, and an enhanced social standing. Third, collaborations between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and public extension agencies can harness the staff and programming resources to provide agricultural education to youth groups in a manner that is both cost-effective and long-term. In conclusion, extension organizations have the ability to directly create chances for young people through the provision of internships, fellowships, and entry-level possibilities that are connected to training and capacity development. Given the significant role that extension plays in attracting young people to the agricultural sector, development actors would be well served by forming partnerships with extension providers to deliver programs that assist rural youth in establishing jobs and responsibilities in the agribusiness sector (AGRA, 2017).

4.7.2 Influence of Agricultural Extension on Youth Participation in Agribusiness

There is statistically significant influence of agricultural extension services on youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.

The study hypothesis was tested using simple linear regression. The dependent variable was the youth engagement in agriculture as a business venture in Nakuru County and the independent variable was the agricultural extension services. The results of the regression analysis are shown in Table 4.26.

Table 4.26: Regression Analysis Summary for agricultural Extension and Youth Participation in Agribusiness

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
.808[a]	.826	.802	.948

a. Predictors: (Constant), agricultural extension Dependent: youth participation in agribusiness

The analysis indicates an adjusted R^2 value of 0.802; this means that the independent variable agricultural extension services explained approximately eighty percent of the variation in dependent variable youth participation in agribusiness. The *F* test for the regression analysis is shown in Table 4.27.

Table 4.27: F Test for the Regression Testing the Fit of the Analysis

Model	Sum of Squares	*Df*	Mean Square	*F*	*P*
Regression	1036.565	1	1027.565	1007.524	.001[b]
Residual	250.375	267	.938		
Total	1286.941	268			

a. Dependent Variable: index of youth participation in agribusiness

b. Predictors: (Constant), agricultural extension

The overall regression equation was found to be significant (F (1007.524) = .268, p=.001). The regression coefficients of the analysis showing the *beta*, *t* statistics and the tolerance levels (*VIF*) are shown in Table 4.28.

Table 4.28: Regression Coefficients for Agricultural Extension and Youth Participation in Agribusiness

Unstandardized Coefficients			**Standardized Coefficients**			**Collinearity Statistics**
	B	**Std. Error**	***Beta***	***T***	***P***	***VIF***
(Constant)	-.245	.097		-2.511	.013	
Agricultural Extension	.792	.024	.898	33.279	.001	1.000

According to the findings of the regression analysis, agricultural extension services have a substantial influence (=.792, p=.001) on the level of involvement of young people in agricultural businesses in Nakuru County. It was determined that the agricultural extension services provided had a large influence on the amount of time that young people spend working in the agricultural sector. Because of this, the null hypothesis was refuted, and it was determined that agricultural extension services do, in fact, have a major impact on the number of young people working in the agricultural industry.

When asked how many of them had used extension services, the young people who participated in the research answered in Table 4.28 that 7.6 percent of them had not had any experience with extension in their lives. Extension plays a very significant part in ensuring that its customers have access to new ideas and developments that will help them enhance their standard of living. In the context of this study, extension education would train young people on how to gain access to the Young Entrepreneur Development Fund (YEDF) and how to invest that fund in agriculture due to the numerous opportunities that can be found in that sector. The findings of this study have supplied the information that the many stakeholders that provide extension services can use to be certain that youthful population are in a position to benefit from YEDF to enhance their level of living. This is in line with information that indicates that despite low job opportunities for young people, ministries charged with agriculture and non-governmental organizations continue to have challenges in delivering relevant extension services that enable youth to manage agricultural enterprises. This is supported by the fact that this is the case.

The study found out are consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals, which position agriculture at the forefront of providing solutions to rural poverty, hunger, and livelihoods. However, critical to these efforts lies the important role of agricultural extension

to influence these investments into results that are felt, and the findings of the study support this role (AGRA, 2017). Extension is the means by which technologies and practices are disseminated to farmers and end-users extensive scale in order to have a bearing on development. This can only happen when the technologies and practices in question are communicated to them. However, extension is either a weak link in agricultural development initiatives or a missing element of such efforts. Extension systems frequently have inadequate funding, coordination, and guidance, and either the services themselves lack the necessary quality of messaging or farmers struggle to access them at all. Additionally, extension systems frequently have inadequate funding. The potential gains in agricultural growth are diminished as a result of these inadequacies (Moore, 2017).

A good extension program should be able to identify areas of the problems faced by its clients that need to be prioritized in the research landscape. Participatory extension also helps organize and communicate client requests, creating a feedback mechanism that enables researchers to develop technologies that meet client needs and fit their circumstances, simultaneously increasing the likelihood of adoption and continued use of these technologies (AGRA, 2017). When compared to the costs of other types of agricultural investments, the returns on money put into agricultural extension are frequently among the highest possible. The Savelugu-Nanton Extension Delivery Improvement Project in northern Ghana, which significantly increased the agribusiness capacity of 1,000 farmers at a cost of $80,000 and leveraged public-private partnerships in funding, was able to do so because it took advantage of public-private partnerships in funding. This enabled the project to spawn several new agribusiness enterprises (AGRA, 2017).

The most important limitations of public agricultural extension in general have been the following: a lack of responsiveness to the difference in the needs of farmers; failure to own by those meant to beneficiaries; an inability to reach poor farmers and farmers who are women; shortcomings in the quality of field and technical staff; and high public costs that are unsustainable. Modifying the T&V system, for instance, working with groups rather than individual farmers, or increasing reliance on radio and other forms of mass media are examples of solutions that have helped alleviate some of these issues (FAO, 2014). There is a growing consensus that, in order for extension to cater to the various requirements of contemporary farming, fundamental shift in approach is required. This shift should focus on providing educational programmes and empowering farmers so that they can define and solve their own problems, as well as on allowing farmers to determine and assume some level of responsibility for the extension services they need (IFAD, 2017). Reorienting

agricultural extension to provide services that are more need-based and long lasting is now taking place in a number of different nations. This process takes into account the diversity of users' attitudes, as well as their knowledge and resources. Full commercialization, devolving control to local government units, cost sharing between extensionists and farmers, contracting service delivery to private firms, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and/or technicians from cooperatives and farmers' organizations, and providing support to farmers' self-help groups are some of the options that governments are looking into (World Bank, 2017).

4.8 Influence of YEDF Services on the Level of Youth Participation in Agribusiness

The fifth objective of the study was to determine the influence of YEDF services for beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund on their involvement in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya. The null hypothesis was stated as

There is no statistically significant influence of YEDF services for beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund on the level of their participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.

4.8.1 Youth Enterprise Development Fund Services Offered to Agribusinesses in Nakuru County, Kenya

The independent variable provision of Youth Enterprise Development Fund services to agribusiness in this study has been defined as all the services provided by the Youth Enterprise Development Fund to agribusiness. These services include: marketing services, provision of contracts (government and County), loan repayment advice, advice on income tax, and management of the enterprises. The variable was therefore operationalized as an index that combined the responses to these questions: provision of marketing strategies, provision of contracts, financial management, and entrepreneur skills, the youth were asked state the answers to these indicators and the information was changed into a 0,1 or dummy variables that were added together to form an index of Youth Enterprise Development Fund services provided in Nakuru county. The data was then analysed and the results are indicated in Table 4.29.

Table 4.29: Frequency Distribution of the Index of Youth Enterprise Development Fund Services in Nakuru County Kenya

YEDF Services	Frequency	Percent
0	116	43.1
1	28	10.4
2	44	16.4
3	21	7.8
4	17	6.3
5	2	.7
6	10	3.7
7	2	.7
8	3	1.1
9	3	1.1
10	8	3.0
<10	4	5.6
Total	**269**	**100.0**

Mean 2.72±.277, median 1, mode 0, standard deviation 4.54, minimum 0, and maximum 21

The results shows that 43.1 percent of the participants had not obtained services from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. These services include marketing services, provision of contracts (government and county), loan repayment advice, advice on income tax, and management of the enterprises. This a large extent influence the level of youth engagement in agriculture activities for commercial purpose.

4.8.2 Influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund Services on Youth Participation in Agribusiness

The fourth hypothesis of this study, tested whether the provision of Youth Enterprise Development Fund services had a significant influence on the youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County. The null hypothesis was stated as:

There is no statistically significant influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund services on the youth engagement in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.

The study hypothesis was tested using simple linear regression analysis. The dependent variable was the youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County and the independent variable was the Youth Enterprise Development Fund services. Thefindings of the regression analysis are presented in Table 4.30.

Table 4.30: Regression Analysis Summary for Youth Enterprise Development Fund Services and Their Participation in Agribusiness

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
.551[a]	.523	.420	2.05775

a. Predictors: (Constant), YEDF services provided

The analysis shows an adjusted R^2 value of 0.420; this means that the independent variable Youth Enterprise Development Fund services explained approximately 42 percent of the variation in dependent variable youth participation in agribusiness. The *F* test for the regression analysis is shown in Table 4.31.

Table 4.31: *F* Test for the Regression Testing

	Sum of Squares	*Df*	Mean Square	*F*	*P*
Regression	158.379	1	158.379	37.404	.001[b]
Residual	1130.562	267	4.234		
Total	1288.941	268			

a. Dependent Variable: index of youth participation in agribusiness means

b. Predictors: (Constant), YEDF services provided

The overall regression analysis was found to be significant (*F* (1, 267) = 37.404, *p*=.001). The regression coefficients of the analysis showing the *beta*, *t* statistics and the tolerance levels (*VIF*) are shown in Table 4.32.

Table 4.32: Regression Coefficients for Youth Enterprise Development Fund Services and Their Participation in Agribusiness

Unstandardized Coefficients			Standardized Coefficients			Collinearity Statistics
	B	Std. Error	*Beta*	*T*	*p.*	*VIF*
(Constant)	1.875	.146		12.820	.001	
YEDF services	.169	.028	.351	6.116	.001	1.000

a. Dependent Variable: index of youth participation in agribusiness

The results of the regression show that the services provided by the Youth Enterprise Development Fund have a positive and substantial affect (=-.351, p=.001) on the number of young people in Nakuru County who are involved in the agricultural industry. It was determined that the expansion of services provided by the Youth Enterprise Development Fund has a net positive impact on the number of young people participating in agricultural

enterprises. This can be explained by the fact that the youth's participation in agribusiness will increase if they are given information on marketing services, advice on loan repayment, advice on income tax, and advice on management of the enterprises. This is because the youth will have been trained on how to manage the agribusiness enterprises in the most effective way possible. The alternative hypothesis, which asserts that the services provided by the Youth Enterprise Development Fund considerably contribute to the participation of youth in agriculture, was consequently accepted, and the null hypothesis was therefore rejected.

These study findings are in agreement with those of research that was conducted on the sustainability of YEDF as an instrument of empowerment for young businesspeople operating in the informal sector in the Ruiru division of the Thika district. According to the findings of the survey, eighty-one percent of the respondents possessed some fundamental training in operating the firm, but they required additional training in managing businesses. Findings of the study show that the performance of businesses had also increased as a result of receiving loans from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. According to the findings of the study, for the Youth Enterprise Development Fund to be more effective in encouraging young people to start their own businesses, the fund should place a greater emphasis on providing more services, such as training in entrepreneurship skills, which includes marketing advice, repayment information, and general business management strategies, to youth both before and after they access loans (Mburu, 2017).

The findings of a study entitled "Effect of Youth Enterprise Development Fund Empowerment of Youth in Bondo District in Kenya," which investigated the influence of business engagements, marketing support, linkages, and access to loans as services provided by Youth Enterprise Development Fund, revealed that the study came to the conclusion that YEDF services significantly empowered the youth economically (Ochola, 2011).

4.9 Challenges Faced by Youth Respondents in Accessing the YEDF and Investing it in Agribusiness

Youth respondents in this study were asked to state the challenges of accessing and investing Youth Enterprise Development fund in Agribusiness. The information was summarized in Table 4.33.

Table 4.33: Challenges Faced by Youth Respondents in Accessing the YEDF and Investing it in Agribusiness

Challenges	Frequency	Percent
Limited Entrepreneur skills	40	14.8
Loan Repayment Problems	12	4.5
Lack of information on market Prices	120	44.6
Poor infrastructure	20	7.4
Limited information on value addition	15	5.6
Prices fluctuations	32	19.3
Required collateral	10	3.7
Long lending procedures	20	7.4
Total	**269**	**100.0**

The findings indicated that the highest percent (44.6%) of the respondent's main challenge was lack of information on market prices, fluctuations of prices was indicated by (19.3%) of the respondents while the least challenge indicated by the respondents was loan repayment problems (4.5%). The same was also confirmed by the key informants who indicated that the main challenges faced by the youth in getting YEDF loan and investing in the in agribusiness are long lending procedures, lack of information on market prices as well as limited information on value addition. On effects of YEDF on youth businesses in Kenya, which indicated that youth require a lot of information on the market prices which should be provided by YEDF officers as well as agricultural extension officers and other stakeholders to be successful in the agribusinesses. The study also concluded that to advance on the sustainability of the youth business undertakings, the government and other stakeholders should have strategy to market the youth produces, involve the youth entrepreneurship trainings prior to been advance loan. The youth should also be given necessary information concerning markets so as to make them have competitive advantage in their business. .

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary, conclusions and recommendations drawn from the study. It gives the summary the key findings on the hypothesis followed by the conclusions from each of the research questions. Thereafter, recommendations drawn from the study are also discussed. Finally, the proposed areas for further research are also detailed.

5.2 Summary of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate the impact of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund on youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya. The study variables included the following: types of agribusiness enterprises among Youth Enterprise Development Fund beneficiaries, loan obtained from Youth Enterprise Development Fund, training programs for Youth Enterprise Development Fund, agricultural extension services, and Youth Enterprise Development Fund services. The level of youth participation in agribusiness was measured in terms of the number of employees in their business, the number of hired laborers, the number of years in agribusiness, the business category based on the income generated after Youth Enterprise Development Fund, and capital investment from Youth Enterprise Development Fund. The descriptive survey research design was utilized in the study.

In Nakuru County, Kenya, the study's target population included 18,000 youths, 64 agricultural extension officers, and YEDF personnel. The study had an accessible population of 817 youth who had gotten the YEDF and employed it in agricultural sector. The researcher gave three questionnaires, that is, for youth, extension officers and youth officers, to obtain the necessary information on the influence of the Young Enterprise Development Fund on youth participation in agribusiness. A team of specialists from Egerton University's Department of Agricultural Education and Extension reviewed the appropriateness and clarity of the questionnaire's face and content validity. The surveys were pilot tested in Nyandarua County's Ol Kalou constituency to verify their reliability, and the results were used to refine the questionnaires.

The study included 269 young people, six agriculture officials, and six Youth Enterprise Development Fund personnel. The youth were drawn from six of Nakuru County's eleven seats. According to data sources from the 269 kids surveyed, 80.3 percent had acquired formal education from secondary to higher levels, showing that young people in the study area had a decent schooling. Livestock production (59.4%) was the most

popular sort of enterprise among Nakuru's young. This included activities such as rearing dairy animals, poultry, pigs, sheep and goats. According to the regression analysis, loans collected from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund had a substantial positive influence (=-.581, p=.001) on youth engagement in agriculture.

The bulk of respondents (78.8%) had more than two (2) levels of training, whereas 21.2 percent had only one degree of training. Youth engagement in agriculture was found to be positively influenced by business management training (=.898, p=.001). According to the regression study, agricultural extension has no significant effect on youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County (=-.031, p=.616).

On Youth Enterprise Development Fund services, these include marketing services, contract provision (government and county), loan repayment advice, income tax advice, and enterprise management. As a result, the variable was operationalized as an index that incorporated replies to the following questions: provision of marketing strategies, provision of contracts, financial management, and entrepreneur abilities. The youth were asked to state their responses to these indicators, and the data was converted into a 0,1 or dummy variable, which was then combined together to generate an index of Youth Enterprise Development Fund services provided in Nakuru County. According to the regression study, Youth Enterprise Development Fund services had a substantial beneficial affect (=-.351, p=.001) on youth engagement in agribusiness in Nakuru County.

5.3 Conclusions

On the basis of the findings, the study concludes that:

i. The beneficiaries of the YEDF in Nakuru County are engaged in a variety of agribusiness enterprises which include: livestock production, crop production, marketing of agricultural produce, processing of agricultural produce, machinery hire services, transportation of agricultural produce, selling of agricultural and veterinary drugs and agricultural tools and equipment.
ii. Loans obtained from Youth Enterprise Development Fund have a substantial positive effect on extent of youth engagement in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.
iii. Training programmes for beneficiaries of YEDF have a positive influence on youth engagement in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.
iv. Agricultural extension services have a positive influence on youth participation in agricultural activities for commercial purpose in Nakuru County, Kenya.
v. YEDF services have marked positive effect on the youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya.

5.4 Recommendations

In light of the study's findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are made::

i. Extension agents, YEDF officers and other stakeholders in both national and county government of Nakuru County should provide more information to youth on opportunities existing in agribusiness.

ii. YEDF officers, policy makers together with other key stakeholders in the national government and county government of Nakuru County, should come up with strategies for increasing youth access to YEDF.

iii. YEDF and Agricultural extension officers together with other stakeholders should increase the number and frequency of trainings for the beneficiaries of the fund in Nakuru County, Kenya.

iv. The Ministry of Agriculture, livestock and fisheries at the county government level and other key stakeholders in Nakuru County come up with strategie on how to improve access to and delivery of agricultural extension services to the youth.

v. YEDF officers together with the development partners and other stakeholders should increase access and service delivery for YEDF services among the beneficiaries of the fund.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Research

From this study, the researcher suggested the following areas for further research:

i. A study should be done to compare the agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises among the beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund. This will help to clarify on the performance of both sectors which will in turn indicate the gap that needs to be addressed to improve and better the programme.

ii. A study should be done to determine the strategies to improve agricultural extension services to youth. This will facilitate and create a baseline for utilization of YEDF in agriculture.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Youth's Questionnaire on Youth Enterprise Development Fund for Agribusiness

Introduction

I am Ms. Martha Wangari Kariuki a student at Egerton University doing PhD in Agricultural Extension. As part my of studies I am undertaking research on to gather on the contribution of Youth Enterprise Development Fund to youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya. The information you give will be kept confidential and only used for the study purposes.

Guidelines

1. Please complete all the sections.
2. Tick or circle your answer from the alternatives given.

SECTION A: Personal Particulars Information about the Youths (Tick One)

1. Gender: Male [ ] Female [ ]

2 If Female in question 1 above what do you think could be the challenges of females participating in agribusiness (Tick al that Apply)

A lot of house hold chores [ ]
Lack of information on agribusiness [ ]
Taking care of children [ ]
Lack of access to YEDF [ ]
Agribusiness Involves Manual work [ ]

3. Age in years or year born; _____

4. Highest level of formal education.

a) No formal Education [ ]
b) Primary [ ]
c) Secondary [ ]
d) College [ ]
e) University [ ]

5. Do you own land Yes [ ] No [ ]

6. Size of land owned _____ in Acres

7. Type of land ownership (Tick all that apply)

Own with title deed [ ]

Own without a title [ ]

Group ownership [ ]

Leasing [ ]

SECTION B: Information Youth Enterprise Development Fund Loans (Tick appropriately)

8. How many times have you applied for the Youth Enterprise Development Fund?

_____

9. How many times have you received the Youth Enterprise Development Fund?

_____

10. How much loan money have you received from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund?

_____

11. Did you apply as a group or individually?

a. Group [ ]

b. Individual [ ]

Others

(Specify)……

12. In your opinion when is it easier to get Youth Enterprise Development Fund loan when you apply?

a. As a group [ ]

b. As an Individual [ ]

13. How have you used the money obtained from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund?

……

……

……

……

……

14. In your opinion what are the challenges of investing Youth Enterprise Development fund for agricultural business.

a. Agriculture is not profitable [ ]

b. No role models in agriculture [ ]

c. Lack of access to good markets for agricultural produce [ ]

a. Lack of enough land……[ ]

Others (Specify)……

……

……

……

SECTION C: Information on Agribusiness Enterprise (Tick appropriately)

15. Please indicate the type of agricultural enterprise you engage in (Tick all that apply)

a. Production of agricultural produce [ ]

b. Processing of agricultural produce [ ]

c. Transportation of agricultural produce [ ]

d. Marketing of agricultural produce [ ]

Others (Specify)……

16. Do you engage in the agricultural enterprise as a group or individual

Group [ ]

Individually [ ]

17. How long have you operated the business?

_____ (STATE EXACT FIGURE)

18. In which category does your business belong in terms of capital invested?

a. Below 50,000

b. 50,001-150,000

c. 150,001-200,000

d. 200,001-250,000

e. 250,001-300,000

f. Above 300,000

19. Which is the source of labour for your enterprise?

Self [ ]

Hired Labour [ ]

20. Do you have employees in your enterprise?

[ ] Yes [ ] No

21. If yes in question 18 above please indicate how many employees you have

_____

Information on of services programmes (Marketing strategies) for beneficiaries of Youth Enterprise Development Fund (Tick appropriately).

22 Where do you get information on the market prices? (Tick all that apply)

a. From agricultural extension staff [ ]
b. From YEDF officers [ ]
c. From the Internet [ ]
d. Radio [ ]
e. Agricultural shows [ ]
f. Other farmers [ ]
g. From Middlemen [ ]

Others (Specify) ……..
……

23. Which channels do you use to advertise your agricultural goods and services? (Tick all that Apply)

a. Internet [ ]
b. Friends [ ]
c. YEDF officers [ ]
d. Middlemen [ ]

Others (Specify) ……..

24. What are the main challenges faced while accessing markets for agricultural commodities (Tick all that apply)

Poor infrastructures [ ]
Limited of knowledge on market prices [ ]
Price fluctuation [ ]
Limited Entrepreneurial skills [ ]
Limited of skills on value addition [ ]
Limited ICT knowledge [ ]
Gender issues [ ]
Other (specify)……

Information on Youth Enterprise Development Fund Training Programmes

25. Number of trainings received from youth fund officials?

……

26. State the areas that you have been trained by the Youth Enterprise Fund Officials? (Tick all that apply)

a. Agribusiness [ ]
b. Marketing strategies [ ]
c. Entrepreneurship skills [ ]
d. Financial management

Others (Specify)……

SECTION D: Information on Agricultural extension services available for youth in Nakuru County (Tick Appropriately).

27 Are there agricultural extension officers in your area [ ] Yes [ ] No

28 Do they visit your enterprise [ ] Yes [ ] No

29. Number of times they visited you in the last 3 months _____

30. What agricultural information did the extension service provide?

Information	Yes/No	Number of times
Crop animal production		
Loan acquisition		
Marketing of produce		
Collective groups		
Use of chemicals		
To develop Business plans		

Others (Specify)……

31. Have you been formally trained on the opportunities that exist in agribusiness? (Tick one)

[ ] Yes [ ] No

32. If yes in 29 above who did the training? (Tick all that apply)

[ ] Agricultural extension officers
[ ] YEDF officers
[ ] Credit officers from the bank

Others (Specify)……

33. Please indicate the number of times you have been trained by extension agents on agribusiness (state number) _____

34. Please select your source (s) of information on access to credit. (Tick all that apply).

[ ] Newspapers/magazines/rabbit production manuals

[ ] TV/Radio

[ ] Agricultural Research Institutes

[ ] Agricultural Extension agents

[ ] Internet

Others

(specify.....

Collective action

35. Member of group [ ] Yes [ ] No

36. Number of groups you are a member to _____

37. Activities done in group

Activities	Yes/No	Number of people in a group
Marketing		
Input acquisition		
Providing security to the enterprise		
Land preparation		
Water sourcing		
Roads maintenance		
Transport of produce to market		
Value addition		

Others

(Specify).....

SECTION E: Information on Youth Level of Participation in Agribusiness (Tick Appropriately).

38. Has your enterprise improved from the use of the loans [ ] Yes [ ] No

39. Estimate the increase in your income from the use of the loan _____

40. Has your agricultural output increased from the use of the loan [ ] Yes [ ] No

41. State the amount of increase _____

Agricultural activities	Output (increase\decrease)	Amount of increase
crop		
Milk		
Animal numbers		
Vegetables		
Fruits		

Others (Specify)……

Scale of enterprise

Variables	
Number of employees	
Types of Production	
Types of services provided	
Investment amount from YEDF	
Number of hired labour in a month	
Organization of the enterprise (individual or group)	

42. How are the loans obtained from Youth Enterprise Development Fund assisted you in Agribusiness?

a. To start up agribusiness enterprise [ ]
b. To expand business [ ]
c. To increase the business income [ ]
d. To increase business output [ ]

43. What are the main **Four** factors that lead to lack of youth participation in agriculture……
……

44. In your own opinion, what can Youth Enterprise Development Fund officers do to encourage many youth to participate in agribusiness?

_____

THANK YOU

Appendix B: Agricultural Extension Officers' Questionnaire

Introduction

I am Ms. Martha Wangari Kariuki a student at Egerton University doing PhD in Agricultural Extension. As part my of studies I am undertaking a research on to gather on the contribution of Youth Enterprise Development Fund to youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya. The information you give will be kept confidential and only used for the study purposes.

Instructions

Indicate the answers directly on the space provided by putting a tick (√) on the most appropriate answer and also writing down information where applicable.

1. What are the major agricultural activities that youth undertake in the Sub-County?.....
   .....
   .....
2. Who are your main clients in extension? (Tick all that apply)
   a) Large scale farmers ( )
   b) Small scale farmers ( )
   c) Youths ( )
   Others
   (Specify)……
3. Do you offer any extension services that target the youth?
   ……
   ……

6. What do you think are the challenges that youth face in accessing extension services in your Nakuru County?
7. How often do you train youth on opportunities in Agribusiness?
   a. Once ( )
   b. Twice ( )
   c. Thrice ( )
   d. More than thrice ( )
   Others (Specify)……

8. Suggest reasons that hinder youth from participating in agribusiness (Tick all that apply)

Inadequate of money to buy land ( )

Land sub-division into very small portions ( )

A lot of time taken before inheriting land ( )

Female youth do not inherit any land ( )

Any other specify

.....

.....

9. Indicate your suggestions on what can be done to encourage more youths to engage in agribusiness through extension services deployed in Nakuru County?

.....

.....

Thanks for your co-operation

Appendix C: Youth Enterprise Development Fund Officers Questionnaire

Introduction

I am Ms. Martha Wangari Kariuki a student at Egerton University doing PhD in Agricultural Extension. As part of my studies, I am undertaking a research to gather information on contribution of Youth Enterprise Development Fund to youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya. The information you give will be kept confidential and only used for the study purposes.

Instructions

Indicate the answers directly on the space provided by putting a tick (√) on the most appropriate answer and also writing down information where applicable.

1. Do the youth in the Constituency have access to the youth fund? (Tick one)
   Yes ( ) No ( )
2. If yes in question 1 which Gender mostly accesses the fund?
   ( ) Male ( ) Female
3. If the answer to question 1 is yes suggest ways in which they use the funds (Tick all that apply)
   Growing of horticultural crops ( ) Keeping layers ( ) Keeping rabbits ( )
   Starting a boda-boda business ( ) starting a small micro-enterprise kiosk ( )
   Any other specify ……
   ……
   ……
4. Do you offer any training to beneficiaries of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund?
   Yes ( ) No ( )

5. If yes in question 4 above please indicate the type of trainings offered to beneficiaries of YEDF and the number of days it takes to train.

Type of training	Number of days

6. Apart from training which other services do you offer to the beneficiaries of the youth fund.

……

7. Do you collaborate with Agricultural extension officers when conducting trainings to youths?

Yes ( ) No ( )

8. In your opinion what challenges do youth face when applying loan for agribusiness.

……

9 .In your opinion what should be done to improve the process involved in access of YEDF in Nakuru County?

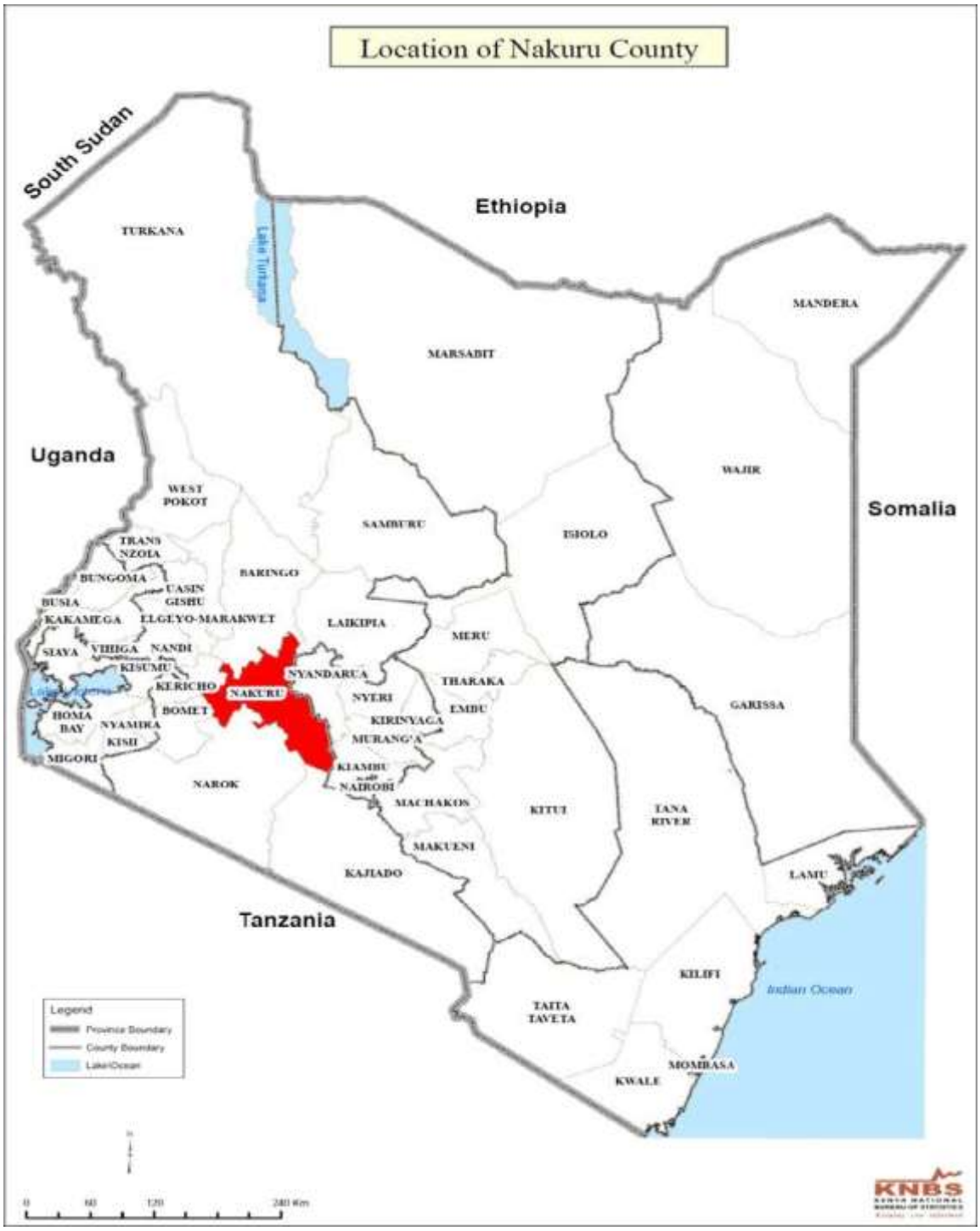
……

10. Do you face any challenges in the management and allocation of youth enterprise development fund? Please rate these challenges in the scale of 1-5 whereas 5=Highest 4=High 3= medium 2= low 1=lowest

Challenge	Rating of the challenge				
	5	4	3	2	1
Lack of funds from government and other stakeholders					
Political interference with fund allocation					
Lack of entrepreneur skills by the youth					
Internal conflicts within management					
Gender disparity in the side of youth groups					
Lack of repayment by youth group					
Lack of staff for communication and timely disbursement of funds					
Uneven distribution of beneficiaries across the constituency					
Getting economically viable business projects					
A lot of bureaucracy which prolongs the process					

Thanks for your co-operation

Appendix D: Map of Nakuru County



Appendix E: Research Permit

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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE,TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No: **353007**

Date of Issue: **02/March /2020**

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This is to Certify that Ms.. Martha Wangari Kariuki of Egerton University, has been licensed to conduct research in Nakuru on the topic: INFLUENCE OF YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AGRIBUSINESS IN NAKURU COUTY ,KENYA for the period ending : 02/March/2021.

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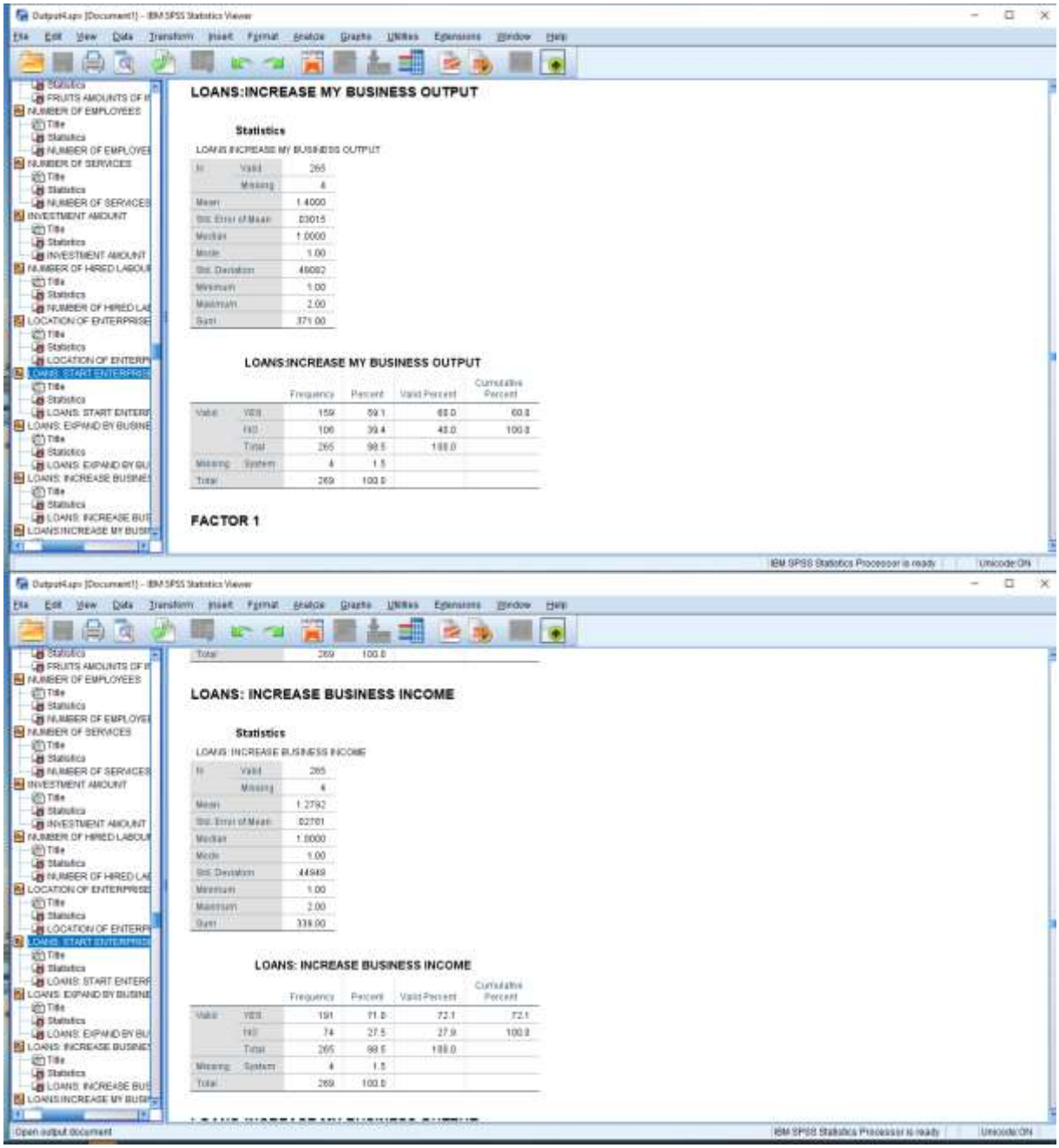
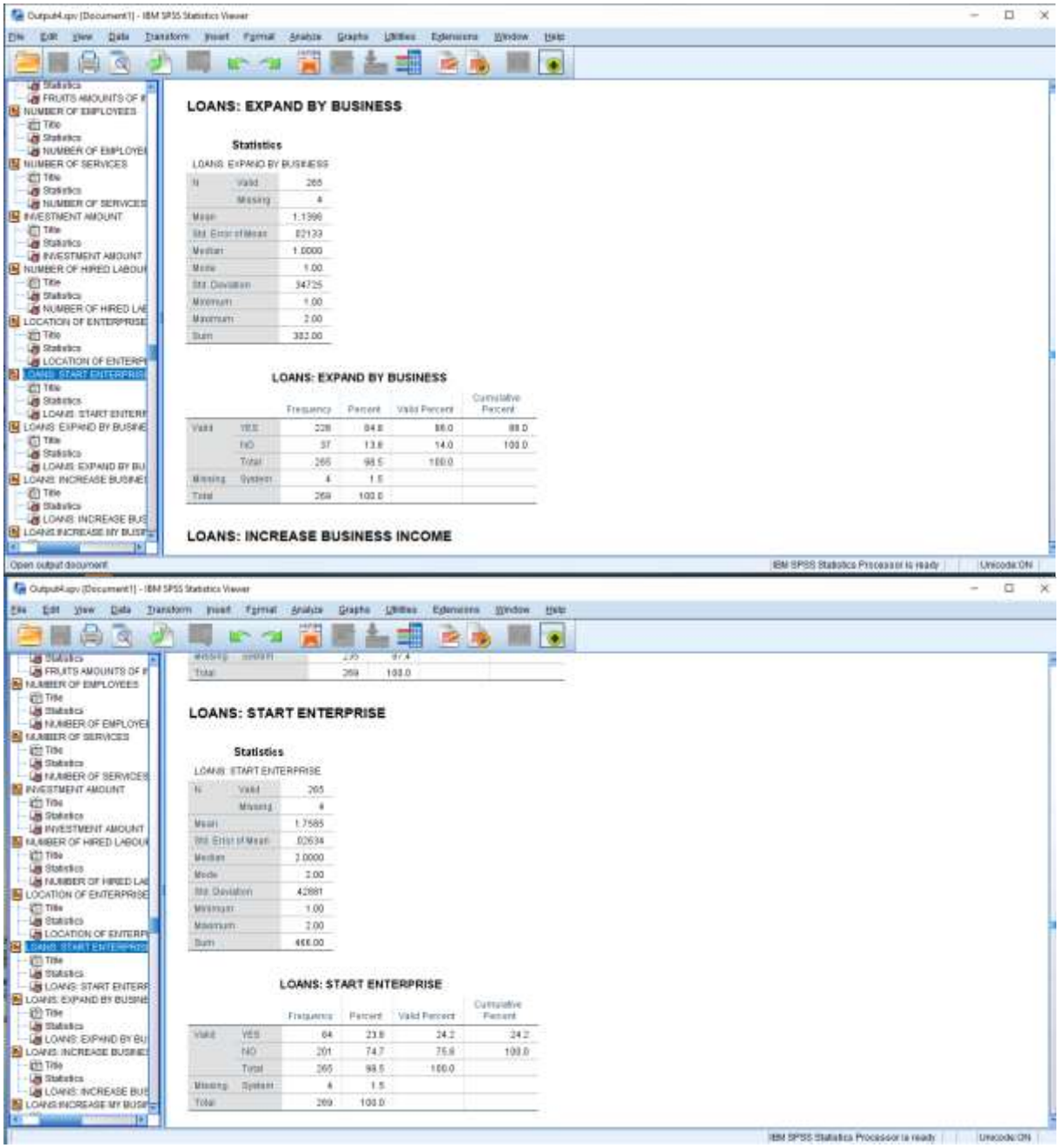
Appendix F: Data Collection Pictures

Photo Taken by Researcher during Pilot Study In Ol-Kalou In Bahati Constituency

Photo Taken By researcher

Appendix G : Data Analysis Outputs




LOANS: EXPAND BY BUSINESS
Statistics
LOANS: EXPAND BY BUSINESS
N Valid 265
Missing 4
Mean 1.1396
Std. Error of Mean .02133
Median 1.0000
Mode 1.00
Std. Deviation .34725
Minimum 1.00
Maximum 2.00
Sum 302.00
LOANS: EXPAND BY BUSINESS
Valid YES 226 84.8 86.0 86.0
NO 37 13.8 14.0 100.0
Total 265 98.5 100.0
Missing System 4 1.5
Total 269 100.0
LOANS: INCREASE BUSINESS INCOME
LOANS: START ENTERPRISE
Statistics
LOANS: START ENTERPRISE
N Valid 265
Missing 4
Mean 1.7585
Std. Error of Mean .02634
Median 2.0000
Mode 2.00
Std. Deviation .42881
Minimum 1.00
Maximum 2.00
Sum 466.00
LOANS: START ENTERPRISE
Valid YES 64 23.8 24.2 24.2
NO 201 74.7 75.8 100.0
Total 265 98.5 100.0
Missing System 4 1.5
Total 269 100.0

Appendix H: Journal Publication

International Journal of Social Science and Technology *Vol. 5 No. 3* *July 2020*

TYPES OF AGRIBUSINESS ENTERPRISES AMONG THE BENEFICIARIES OF YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND IN NAKURU COUNTY, KENYA

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Dr. Justus M. Ombati, PhD Department of Agricultural Education and Extension, Egerton University, P. O. Box 536-20115 Egerton, Kenya

ABSTRACT

About 60 percent of the Kenyan population are youth. Around 40 percent of the Kenyan youth are unemployed. Agriculture provides over 80 percent of employment opportunities and livelihood to Kenyans. However, while youth unemployment is rising, youth engagement in agribusiness is declining. Kenya's service and industrial sectors have not created enough jobs for the youth. Decreasing youth participation in agribusiness has effects on household and national food security. Unemployment of the youth may affect the Government's efforts to ensure the 10 percent national economic growth through agriculture as envisioned in the country's Vision 2030. The Kenyan Government has developed various strategies and initiatives to support training, funding and make the agriculture sector more attractive to the youth. One such initiative is the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF). Despite availability of Youth fund, youth participation in agribusiness has remained low. This study determined the influence of Youth Enterprise Development Fund on youth participation in agribusiness in Nakuru County, Kenya. The factors investigated include; type of enterprises among the beneficiaries of YEDF. The study used descriptive survey research design. The target population of the study was youths, agricultural extension officers and YEDF officers in Nakuru County, Kenya. Accessible population for the study was youths who have accessed the YEDF and used it in agribusiness. Random sampling was used to sample six constituencies from the eleven constituencies in Nakuru County. 269 youths were randomly selected from six constituencies in the County. In addition, two key informants comprising of extension workers and Youth Enterprise Development Fund officers were nominated from each of the six randomly selected constituencies to give a total of 12 respondents. Three Researcher-developed questionnaires were used to collect data from the youth and from the key informants. A pilot test was conducted in Ol-Kalou constituency in Nyandarua County to determine reliability coefficient, which was 0.89α ,0.887α and 0.83 α for youth and for Extension and YEDF officers respectively. All reliability coefficients were above the 0.70 threshold for acceptable reliability in educational research. The results showed that the enterprise most practiced by the youth in Nakuru was livestock production 88.8 percent, which involved keeping of dairy animals, poultry, pigs, and sheep and goats.

KEYWORDS: Agribusiness, Employment, Enterprises, Youth fund, Youth.

CASE STUDY OF SUCCESSFUL YOUTH IN AGRIBUSINESS IN KENYA

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture provides over 80 percent of employment opportunities and livelihood to Kenyans. However, while youth unemployment is rising, youth engagement in agribusiness is declining. Kenya's service and industrial sectors have not created enough jobs for the youth. Decreasing youth participation in agribusiness has effects on household and national food security. Unemployment of the youth may affect the Government's efforts to ensure the 10 percent national economic growth through agriculture as envisioned in the country's Vision 2030.

KEYWORDS: Agribusiness, Enterprises, Unemployment, Opportunities