

MODULE 1: Structure of Agriculture and Agricultural Policies

LESSON 2: Management of Agricultural Resources

TIME: 96 minutes

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LESSON

2

MANAGEMENT OF
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES



TIME:

96 minutes

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OUTCOMES:

By the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- Describe Kenya's agricultural set-up at all levels and general planning going forward.
- Understand the place and role of producers in the agricultural sector of Kenya.
- Differentiate between public and private sector contributions to agriculture

INTRODUCTION:

The way agriculture is managed was set up many years ago in the pre-colonial era and then evolved into a system that has the involvement of both the private and public sectors. It is important that the management strategies in place lead towards a maximization of agricultural outputs.

Two important documents developed by the Kenyan government are essential reading for this lesson. You will need to review the *Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS), Kenya (2010 – 2020)* and the *Ministry of Agriculture, The Ministry at a Glance*. A third document prepared by the African Development Bank Group entitled *Kenya, Agricultural Sector Adjustment Report II* will provide details on private sector involvement in agriculture.



These documents can be accessed from the course CD ROM under
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GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURE STRUCTURE AND ROLES

Perhaps predictably, the government has a large role to play in the agricultural sector. The roles government officials play vary according to where in the organizational structure they are present. For example, policy decisions are made at national level within the Ministry of Agriculture, while at provincial and district levels they are more involved with implementation of the policies. Parastatals, State Corporations and agencies have specialized tasks and are deployed at the grassroots levels. For example see *Ministry at a Glance*, p16-17 for a list of state corporations and their mandates)



Activity 1

Government (20 minutes)

Review the *Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS), Kenya (2010 – 2020)* document. Pay special attention to Chapter 8.1 (p84-87) on *Organizational and Implementation Structures*. From your review use your journal to:

1. Trace the structure of agriculture from the national to the lower levels.
2. Pick out officials that you interact with at your level of production.

Also review the Ministry's vision (p28) and study *Subsector Strategic Focus* (Crops & Land Development p29, Livestock p35, Fisheries p43, Cooperatives p47) and


3. Comment on the general direction of Agriculture in Kenya. Do you agree with the direction chosen by the government? (Hint: Also see *ASDS* p3-5)

PLACE AND ROLE OF PRODUCERS IN AGRICULTURE

We need to examine what contribution farmers' play in the agricultural chain in order to assess their role in the industry.



Activity 2



Producers (20 minutes)

Review the three documents again. Using your journal:

1. List the activities of farmers in Kenya that contribute to the products in the country's agriculture. (Hint: *ASDS* p1-3)
2. Write a one page report indicating the extent to which the activities of small scale farmers contribute to each of the indicated products. (Hint: *ASDS* p1-3 & 29-30)

PRIVATE SECTOR INTERACTION WITH AGRICULTURE

This part of the lesson describes the multinationals involved in agriculture as well as farmer organizations, co-operatives and other emerging groups. Review the section on *Private Sector Participation* in the *ASDS* document, p52 and also the *Kenya, Agricultural Sector Adjustment Report II* (p1-2).

Activity 3



Private Section



Work in groups of five and after perusing the documents and discussing the questions with the group record in your journal:

1. List multinationals that are involved in agriculture in Kenya.
2. Make a comparison of the contribution of small scale farmers and that by the multinationals.
3. Fill in the names of farmer organizations, co-operatives and any other farmer groups in your region as well as the roles that they play in the spaces provided.
4. Make a *one* page report suggesting how farmer organization can strengthen small scale farmers' contribution to agricultural production in Kenya.

Conclusion



There is a clearly defined structure to the agricultural sector. Government has an important role to play in both directing and supporting producer and private sector activities. Their vision and directives are available in their various policy documents. Small scale producers are a vital component of the industry but government wants these stakeholders to strive to be profitable, commercially orientated and internationally and regionally competitive. They also want agriculture to offer gainful employment to Kenyans. (*ASDS* p3)

Consequently, they want more farms to move towards being firms. (See Module 5)

References



African Development Bank Group. (2001). *Kenya, Agricultural Sector Adjustment Operation II: Project Performance Evaluation Report*. Available online: <http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Evaluation-Reports/00684454-EN-KENYA-AGRICULTURAL-SECTOR-ADJUSTMENT-OPERATION-II-PPER01.PDF> . Accessed 18/02/2011.

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