

**MODULE 1: Structure of Agriculture and Agricultural Policies**

**LESSON 3: Agricultural Policies in Kenya**

**TIME: 1 hour 36 minutes**

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LESSON

3

AGRICULTURAL  
POLICIES IN KENYA



TIME:

1 hour 36  
minutes

AUTHOR:

Dr. Maina Muniafu



OUTCOMES:

By completion of this this lesson you will

- Identify various types of agricultural policies in Kenya.
- Understand the rationale behind credit, production, marketing and the extension policies of Kenya

INTRODUCTION:

Policies in agriculture set the framework for action and thus provide guidance to the whole system. They are generated from laws of the country from which the acts of parliament come. The biggest challenge for policies, however, is how effectively they are implemented.

The lesson will look at the case study videos of a Mwingi farmer called Simon as well as Beatrice, a farmer in Chepsonoi, Kapsabet as well as four documents related to agricultural policy including the *Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS), Kenya (2010 – 2020, Agricultural Policy-Making in Sub Saharan Africa: Kenya's Past Policies, Agricultural Policy in Kenya* and the *Kenya Agricultural Marketing and Policy Analysis Project*.



These policy documents can be accessed from the course CD ROM under Resources Index | Module 1 | Lesson 3

## TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IN KENYA

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First let us consider policies on agriculture in a general way. There are various policies, acts and session papers that guide food production in Kenya. Since 2003, there been much activity in an attempt to revitalize Kenyan agriculture. Here is a selective list of just some of the agricultural policies recently generated or under consideration. (Source: Gitau R et al.,2008. <http://www.tegemeo.org/documents/work/Wp34-Agricultural-Policy-Making-Africa-Kenya-Past-Policies.pdf> )

### *National Potato Industry Policy 2005*

The objectives of this policy were to raise productivity in the industry through the provision of appropriate technology and services; develop and implement processes that will lead to increased empowerment of growers and other stakeholders; and develop and promote the use of standard packaging and weight measures which was put at 100 kgs per bag. However, the Kenya Potato Farmers Association (KENAPOFA) successfully lobbied and persuaded the Ministry of Local Government to stand behind the Gazette Notice and have the Minister stipulate in Legal Notice No. 113, the maximum size of bags in which potatoes can be bought. KENAPOFA officials are now also recognized enforcement officers. The Legal Notice requires all Local Authorities to enforce the maximum size (110 kgs) standard bag for potatoes.

### *Sessional Paper on Soil Fertility and a Bill on Fertilizers and Soil Conditioners, 2006.*

This was to regulate of the importation, exportation, manufacture and sale of fertilizers and soil conditioners. The Policy on soil fertility and Bill, 2006, were subjected to stakeholders' analysis.

### *The National Biotechnology and Development Policy, 2006*

The policy addresses various issues with regards to capacity building and resource mobilization, financial and business support, public protection and support, public education awareness and access to information with regards to biotechnology, regional and international collaboration and ethical issues.

### *Dairy Development Policy 2006*

The objective was to correct previous government policies which were unsupportive of small-scale farmers, traders and consumers who constituted a large proportion of the market. The new dairy policy now openly acknowledges the role of informal milk markets in the development of the sector and will help to legitimize small-scale milk traders, subject to them being trained and certified in milk hygiene.

*Sessional Paper and Bill to Amend the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) Act, Cap 338*

Sessional paper and Bill to amend the National Cereals and Produce Board was developed in 2007. The paper and Bill develops a comprehensive policy and legal framework that clearly outline the role of government in ensuring food security.

*Cassava Policy*

The policy is aimed at promotion and development of traditional food crops. This process is being led by ASARECA and the policy is in the process of being developed.

*Nut Crops Development Policy and Bill*

The purpose is to provide a legal and regulatory framework for the nut industry in a liberalized regime. A draft policy and bill were finalized and included in the performance contract for 2007/8.

*Kenya Plant and Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) Bill*

This bill aimed at incorporating KEPHIS under an Act of parliament. The draft bill was included in the 2007/8 performance contract.

Also consult the ASDS document from the course CD ROM under Resources Index | Module 1 | Lesson 3

## Activity 1



### Policy types



1. List the objectives of all the policies in order to make comparisons and to identify their scope.
2. Place into the same group, policies that have a similar purpose.
3. Make a one page report on your general impressions on the policies.

# CREDIT, PRODUCTION, MARKETING AND EXTENSION POLICIES

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This part of the lesson looks at the four policies in more detail, namely *Rural Financial Services in Kenya: What is Working and Why?*, *Trends in Regional Agricultural Productivity in Kenya*, *Kenya Agricultural Marketing* and *Policy Analysis Project*, and will allow for a better feel of the policies in how they are translated into various actions. These include financing, production, marketing and general assistance from agricultural officials in the field.

## Activity 2



### Policy support for farmers



Consult these 4 policy documents from the course CD ROM under  
Resources Index | Module 1 | Lesson 3

1. Identify crucial areas in the policies that you feel have the most impact on farmers
2. Document the assistance from extension officers in your region of production.

## Conclusion

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From the review of agricultural policies, you should have seen that they are designed to improve production across the board. Many of them identify support structures to farmers. Support ranges from organizing credit for farmers, aiding production, marketing as well as setting up extension officers whose task it is to provide help and advice at grass roots levels

## References

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