FINDINGS FROM THE MOI UNIVERSITY AGSHARE SURVEY OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE MAIZE VALUE CHAIN.

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INTRODUCTION

- Maize is the main staple food in Kenya
- About 1.6 million hectares are under maize annually.
- The sector is both technologically and organizationally complex due to dynamic nature of farming characterized by:
  - ✓ low productivity and low use of farm inputs,
  - ✓ poor infrastructure,

INTRODUCTION: contd

- ✓ lack of rural finance and poorly developed markets

- The major constraints affecting growth of the maize sub-sector include:
  - ✓ low soil fertility,
  - ✓ unreliable rainfall,
  - ✓ pest infestation,
  - ✓ poor infrastructure,
  - ✓ marketing and policy bottlenecks and,
  - ✓ low profitability

INTRODUCTION: contd

- Production and marketing are a continuum in the development process
- An efficient marketing system is a pre-requisite for increased and sustained development of the products as it stimulates production

OBJECTIVES

- To compare and contrast best and recommended practices in the maize value chain by the different stakeholders.
- To find out the constraints faced by farmers and other stakeholder in the maize value chain.
- To recommend possible solutions to these problems.

METHODOLOGY

- The study was carried out in two regions:
  - ✓ the maize surplus areas (Trans-Nzoia and Ugishu Counties) and
  - ✓ maize deficit areas (Machackos County)..
- Target population was all the stakeholders in the maize value chain in Kenya

METHODOLOGY: contd

- The sample size comprised of:
  - ✓36 maize farmers
  - ✓10 traders
  - ✓3 transporters
  - ✓3 millers
  - ✓8 consumers
- The sample was selected using systematic random sampling

Study design

- Data was generated through a survey in November 2010
- Respondents were interviewed using a structured questionnaire.
- Separate questionnaires were prepared for the key actors in the maize value chain including:
  - ✓ farmers,
  - ✓maize millers,
  - ✓ traders,
  - ✓ transporters, and
  - ✓Other key informants

Study design

- Data collected included biological and socio-economic
- Maize surplus and deficit areas which included; Uasin-Gishu, Trans-Nzoia and machakos were purposively selected.

Data Analysis

- Done using (SPSS) and Microsoft excels
- Gross margin analysis was done to compare level of profitability of an ideal and average maize farm
- Descriptive statistics such as bar charts percentages and measures of central tendency were used to describe emerging relationships between variables.

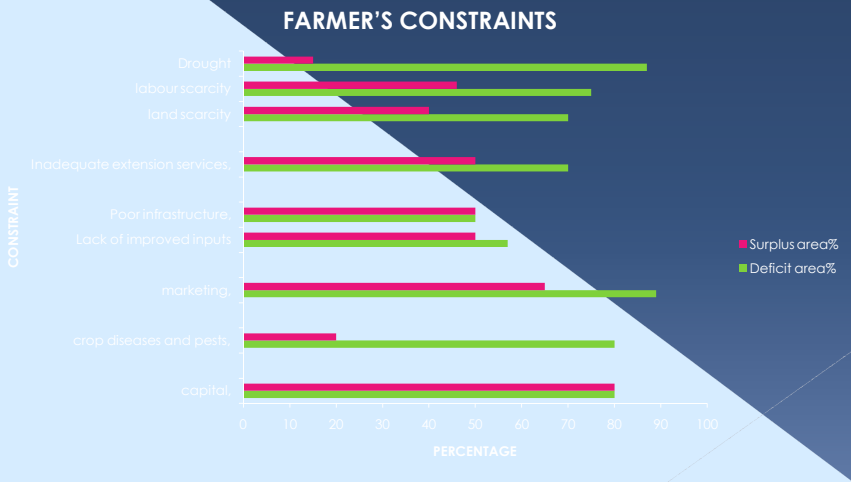
FINDINGS

Comparison of farmers and best practices

	Deficit areas(ha)		Surplus areas(ha)	
Comparison category	Farmers practice	recommended	Farmers practice	recommended
Gross margin	Kshs.415	Kshs.4,890	Kshs.8,260	Kshs.11,170
Maize seed	7Kg	20Kg	11Kg	25Kg
DAP	25Kg	80Kg	50Kg	150Kg
CAN	10Kg	80Kg	50Kg	150Kg

FINDINGS contd

FINDINGS: contd



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FINDINGS: contd

- The structure of Kenya's maize market change significantly depending on national production levels.
- small-scale farmers have a variety of potential markets through which to sell maize.
  - ✓small-scale assemblers operating at the village level
- Decreasing importance of NCPB as a market option for farmers

FINDINGS: contd

- The performance of the millers in the value chain is highly dependent on the functioning of the traders and transporters.
- Limited transportation capacity in the country limits the efficiency of maize markets.
- Many traders don't store grain.

FINDINGS: contd

- The importance of maize in urban staple grain diet is shown to have declined
- Market channels for acquiring maize vary across income groups
- Spatial price margins between surplus and deficit regions are also low.

CONCLUSION

- Maize farmers in both regions perceive the following as the constraints limiting increased maize productivity, listed from the most to least severe:
  - capital, ,
  - crop diseases and pests,
  - infrastructure,
  - extension services,
  - improved inputs, , land scarcity, labour scarcity,
  - marketing,
  - drought, soil erosion and theft.

CONCLUSION contd.....

- Most respondents view government as the source of solutions to most of their problems.
- Many of the constraints identified would require government action such as:
  - ✓improvements in infrastructure and marketing,
  - ✓research and extensionfarm
  - ✓inputs, as prerequisites for any significant development initiated by the people themselves.

CONCLUSION contd.....

- People ought to be educated about the need to find or initiate solutions to constraints facing them by themselves
- Farmers feel that the maize marketing system has improved.

CONCLUSION contd.....

- Most of the constraints are interrelated and affecting the same goal of increasing agricultural production,
- An interdisciplinary approach in the context of maize value chain research will be an appropriate strategy to follow in addressing the constraints.

Policy suggestions

- Short-term
  - Stimulating production
    - Targeted fertilizer/seed support for short rains season
    - Expansion of irrigation
- Long-term
  - Productivity enhancing investments
    - Expansion of irrigation; roads & railway infrastructure; R&D
    - Improving access to productivity enhancing inputs
      - Working with private sector to improve access to seeds and fertilizers by farmers


Thank
you