



**CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES AND POVERTY REDUCTION AMONG SMALL SCALE FARMERS; A CASE OF ONE ACRE FUND IN LURAMBI SUB-COUNTY, KAKAMEGA COUNTY; KENYA**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Over the years, farmers in Kenya have continued to suffer from poor harvest due to problems like unpredictable weather conditions and poor storage facilities which lead to great losses of what is harvested. Moreover, unfavorable competition at the market for sale of produce occasioned by the importation of similar products that are cheaper than what the farmers have has led to untold suffering of the latter. Consequently, farmers in western Kenya, whose main source of income is farming, have continued to remain poor even as the government revamps money into this agricultural sector to revive it. Studies reveal that a gap exists between the activities of farmers and the reduction of poverty. The objective of this study was to investigate the effect of Capacity Building Activities on Poverty Reduction among small scale farmers of One Acre Fund of Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya. The study adopted descriptive research design. The target population of this study consisted of reliable farmers registered by One Acre Fund. The study used a structured questionnaire on collection of primary data from the farmers. Pilot study was done in Kakamega Municipality; Kenya, hence this enabled for testing of the reliability and validity of the research instrument. The study descriptive and inferential statistics was analyzed by use of SPSS software version 24, further; a regression equation model was developed to test the relationships between the variables. The results of the findings indicated capacity building activities had significant influence on poverty reduction. The study recommended for farmers to embrace the use of capacity building activities since it improves the poverty reduction. The study recommended for further studies on the same considering same variables but different methodologies.*

**Key words:** Capacity Building Activities, Farming Development Activities, Poverty Reduction

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## INTRODUCTION

Poverty is understood not just as lack of income, resources and services such as health care, education and housing, but also as deprivation of capabilities and choices as well as social discrimination and exclusion that impede the enjoyment of adequate standard of living and other human rights (FAO, 2017). Majority of the poor people work in the rural informal economy, where they depend largely on the income, they can earn from selling their crops. They lack social protection coverage which leads to inefficient use of resources, forcing them to opt for low-risk, low-return crops, for survival (Forti & Youn, 2014). In addition to that, most of the extreme poor – about 80 percent – live in rural areas). The *rural* extreme poor are different from the urban extreme poor and the non-poor. Their incomes depend greatly on agricultural activities, either from work on their own farms, or in agricultural wage employment. This reliance on agriculture makes the rural extreme poor highly vulnerable to climatic shocks and weather events (Castaneda, et al., 2018)

Agriculture is the anchor of the LDC economies, supporting their food security, foreign earnings and rural development. The poor performance of agriculture in the LDCs is related to the many internal and external difficulties that these countries face as they seek to develop this sector and achieve their objectives of improving food security and increasing export earnings. Their internal difficulties include low productivity, rigid production and trade structures, a limited skills base, short life expectancy and low educational qualifications, poor infrastructure, and inadequate institutional and policy frameworks. Economic growth is one of the principal instruments for poverty reduction and for pulling the poor out of poverty through productive employment (Bhagwati, 2012). Studies from Africa, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, and Indonesia show that rapid economic growth lifted a significant number of poor people out of financial poverty between 1970 and 2000, (Cecchini & Rico, 2015; Oyinbo, 2016; UNDESA World Bank.

2018). According to Bhagwati and Panagariya (2014), economic growth generates revenues required for expanding poverty alleviation programs while enabling governments to spend on the basic necessities of the poor including healthcare, education, and housing. Dedicated and integrated interventions can take several forms but should include social assistance (e.g. cash transfers) in combination with other types of incentives for productive support: livelihood interventions, skills building, access to markets, value chain development, and others in the context of economic inclusions strategies (Roelen *et al.*, 2017). Interventions dedicated to the extreme poor should also include approaches that help break social, cultural and psychological barriers to economic inclusion, and have a long-term view.

Seventy five percent of the economically active extreme rural poor engage in agriculture as a primary activity although they do not necessarily work on their own unit of production, whether farms, forests or fisheries. According to Castaneda (2018) Davis (2017) and De Haan, (2016), extreme poverty is particularly prevalent among agricultural wage workers and pastoralists while a much smaller share of small-scale producers are extremely poor (FAO 2018b, De la O Campos et al., 2018). In Latin America, poverty is not evenly distributed among population groups, and it is higher among children, women, rural dwellers, as well as among indigenous and Afro descendent people (Simone, 2017). One out of five Latin Americans lives in chronic poverty. Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile have the lowest rates of chronic poverty, of around 10 percent, while Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala have rates of chronic poverty significantly higher than the regional average of 21 percent (Dang & Peter, 2014). In this region, unlike the common belief that there are more poor people in the rural than urban areas, the reverse is true (Loayza, & Rigolini, 2014). Although there are many social programs in the rural areas than in the urban ones, their focus is on poverty reduction for all through provision of equal level of skills, access to paved roads resulting

in more trade and better opportunities to sell ones products (Macours & Vakis, 2014).

According to the Kenya Budgetary report, (2019), one of the items on the Big Four Agenda is food security and it is key to economic development (Republic of Kenya, 2019). 40% of the Kenyan population lives in poverty and many of these poor people practice farming on their small portions of land. Despite this, Agriculture contributes 51% of the country's GDP. Food and nutrition security are key to achieving both human and economic development agenda of our country. Indeed, the Government strives to achieve a food secure, healthy, productive and wealthy nation as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 that assures Kenyans of the right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality. This is further emphasized in the country's long-term development blue print, Kenya Vision 2030 whose vision is "A globally competitive and prosperous country with a high quality of life [for its people] by 2030" (Republic of Kenya, 2007). Under Agriculture and Livestock, the second MTP projected an increase in acreage under irrigation in order to reduce the country's dependence on rain fed agriculture. A total of 404,800 hectares would be put under irrigation during the plan period. Measures would be taken to mechanize agricultural production, revive cooperatives and farmers unions, and subsidize farm inputs to raise productivity (Republic of Kenya, 2013). According to the MTP III Report (2018), there was an increase area under irrigation from 142,000 ha (355,000 acres) to 193,600 ha (484,000 acres) by 2016 through the Galana Kulalu Food Security Project (GKFSP); National Expanded Irrigation Programme (NEIP); and Community Based Smallholder and Irrigation Projects (Republic of Kenya, 2018)

The One Acre Fund had served at least 361,000 farmers by 2018 (One Acre Fund, 2019). The four components of their 'market bundle' include: financing for improved inputs, distribution of farm inputs within walking distance of every family, weekly training on modern agricultural techniques

and market support facilitation. This initiative allows farmers to have a flexible repayment plan of the loans and also receive training by field officers on their farms. After harvest the farmers are encouraged to sell during the off season when prices are high (Deutschmann, 2018).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Over the years, farmers in Kenya have continued to suffer from poor harvest due to problems like unpredictable weather conditions and poor storage facilities which lead to great loses of what is harvested, moreover, unfavorable competition at the market for sale of produce occasioned by the importation of similar products that are cheaper than what the farmers have has led to untold suffering of the latter. Consequently, farmers in western Kenya, whose main source of income is farming, have continued to remain poor even as the government revamps money into this agricultural sector to revive it (Republic of Kenya, 2017).

A study on growing of maize in Teso by Deutschmann and Tjernstrom (2018) focuses on getting high yields. The study aimed to assess program impacts on maize yields and its primary outcome as well as beans and the profits. A study on maize by Opiyo (2018), focused on the impact of interventions by One Acre Fund on maize yield and farm profits in Busia County, Kenya, the study focused at the usage of improved inputs and how it impacts on both the yields and profits. The results showed that as long as farmers adhered to the One Acre Fund practices, the yields were higher than those of the farmers who dwelt on conservative farming practices. There have been no comprehensive studies on the effect of the Capacity Building Activities on poverty reduction in Lurambi Sub-County; Kakamega, hence necessitating to the rise of the research gap that led to this study to be undertaken .

### **Objective of the Study**

The study examined the effect of Capacity Building Activities on Poverty Reduction among small scale farmers of One Acre Fund of Lurambi Sub County,

Kakamega County; Kenya. The study was guided by the following research hypothesis;

- **H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between Capacity Building Activities and Poverty Reduction among small-scale farmers of One Acre Fund of Lurambi Sub-county, Kakamega County; Kenya.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Theoretical review;

#### Capability Approach

The capability approach is a normative evaluative approach to understanding poverty, well-being, and justice (Sen 1985). It argues that policy should primarily focus on expanding individuals' capabilities instead of resources and utilities (Boram, 2020). The standard focus for assessing well-being has been on real income, wealth, commodities and utility which is satisfaction or desire-fulfillment (Alkire 2002). From its perspective, understanding the sources and nature of capability deprivation and inequity is central to removing existing injustice in our society, and to re-establishing ethics at the centre of policy discussions.

The capability approach has widely been recognized and discussed in the field of poverty and development studies (Nussbaum 1988, 1992, 2003; Alkire 2002; Robeyns 2003, 2017; Crocker 2008; Wolff and De-Shalit 2007 and Berry 2017) and accepted in the UN agenda framework, such as the human development framework. Amartya Sen's capability approach has provided the core principles of the human development approach and formed a conceptual framework for the HDRs for the concepts, measurement tools and policy perspective of human development, for example, Fukuda-Parr and Shiva Kumar (2003), is a collection of papers that have shaped the human development approach.

Sen views the concept of functioning as the various things a person may value doing or being (Sen 1987) such as being adequately nourished, being free from avoidable disease, being happy, having self-

respect, and being able to take part in the life of the community (Sen 1999). A person's capability is the alternative combinations of functioning that are feasible for her to achieve. The capabilities indicate to what extent a person has real chances or abilities to choose valuable choices of lives. A functioning is an achievement, whereas a capability is the ability to achieve (Sen 1987). Having such capabilities implies that she has freedoms to achieve valuable functionings as an active agent, and not because she has no other options or is coerced to do so.

This study investigates whether the activities of OAF result in a more independent citizen who has the freedom of choice ranging from type of food they eat to proper housing to access to good education for their children and ability to go on holiday. It seeks to determine whether these activities improve the standards and quality of life of the farmers in question. The impact of sustainability standards depends, to a large extent, on the voluntary compliance of producers to their principles and indicators (Alkire, 2005). This means that farmers are required to change their farming practices and farm management systems to meet the expectations prescribed within these principles and indicators.

Sen defines a capability as the ability a person has to do or be certain things that she has reason to value (Sen, 1987). Sen argues that capabilities are not natural or intrinsic to an individual, or simply learnt but are influenced by the social and political conditions within which an individual performs particular functionings. Improving the capabilities of individuals is then not only a matter of transferring the skills, knowledge or infrastructure to perform a given functioning (i.e. to comply), but instead the opportunities an individual has, or is provided, to acquire skills, knowledge or infrastructure necessary to perform the functioning (Bengtsson, B. 1995). Sen further argues that the expansion of capabilities affords individuals the freedom to employ various combinations of performing everyday doings and beings (Sen, 1999). People might need or want to do or be different things,

while still aiming to reach the same goal (Evans, S. 2017). In the context of One Acre Fund, for instance, the more capabilities farmers have, the greater ability they have to not only meet basic needs and reproduce their practices, but to also actively engage in processes of change towards improved or better forms of production that can lead to wealth, wellbeing and/or sustainable production (Reeler,2007) . The potential of such expansion or diversification leads to increased freedom for farmers to make choices about how they improve their production.

The performance and diversification of capabilities is based on the acquisition and translation of a set of assets or 'capitals' (Robeyns & Brighouse. 2010). Capitals are commonly categorised into five types: human, social, natural, physical and financial capital (Roemer,E. 1996). Human capital refers to assets like knowledge, skills, health and labour, (all those involved in the activities of OAF). Social capital refers to informal networks, and membership of formalized groups (these are groups formed and clustered into sites by OAF). Natural capital generally refers to natural resources (living and non-living), there are rights to natural resources (these are the farms belonging to the OAF members). Physical capital refers to basic infrastructure, like buildings, transportation, but also production technologies and tools (these are the facilities available to the farmers at OAF for example the soil laboratory). Financial capital refers to money and savings in various forms, as well as to access to financial services (the credit facility given to farmers at OAF such as farm inputs).

### **Participatory Development Theory**

The main essence of participatory development theory is an active involvement of people in making decisions about implementation of processes, programs and projects, which affect them (Slocum, Wichhart, Rocheleau, & Thomas Slayter, 1995). Participatory development approaches view the term "participation" as the exercise of people's power in thinking, acting, and controlling their action in a collaborative framework. Roodt (2001)

and Dodds (1986) have noted that the participatory development approach stresses the participation of the majority of the population (especially the previously excluded components such as CBOs, Women, Youth and the illiterate) in the process of development program. This approach views development as a process which focuses on community's involvement in their own development using available resources and guiding the future development of their own community. The wishes of an individual never superimposes on those of a group. This approach emphasizes concepts such as; capacity building, empowerment, sustainability and self-reliance. According to the belief of participatory development theory, the answer to the problem of successful third world development is not found in the bureaucracy and its centrally mandated development projects and programs, but rather in the community itself. This needs its capacities and ultimately its own control over both its resources and its destiny (Korten, 1986).

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The rationale behind the emergence of the participatory development approach is that the participation and involvement of beneficiary groups develop and strengthen the capabilities of beneficiary groups in development initiatives. This is empowering, and leads to self-transformation and self-reliance thereby ensuring sustainability

(Pendirs, 1996; Rahman, 1993; Conyers & Hills, 1990). According to Dennis (1997), the Chinese philosopher, Lau Tse, argues that the principles of the participatory approach include inclusion - of all people, or representatives of all groups who will be affected by the results of a decision or a process - for example a development project; in our case, these are farmers from Lurambi sub-county, the government and OAF; Equal partnership, that is, recognizing that every person has skill, ability and initiative and has an equal right to participate in the process, regardless of their status(capacity building); Transparency in which all participants must help to create a climate conducive to open communication and building dialogue; authority and power must be balanced evenly between all stakeholders to avoid the domination of one party; at OAF, farmers appoint their own representatives who work with the field officers from OAF to ensure each of the five sites in the Lurambi Sub County is well covered. The government, on its part, gives the license for these activities to take place; all stakeholders have equal responsibility for decisions that are made, and each should have clear responsibilities within each process. All the farmers who are registered at OAF work in groups -cells- and each is assigned duties, like having to work together on each farm of a member and ensuring that the correct practices are observed (One-Acre Fund Annual Report, 2018).

In addition, participants with special skills should be encouraged to take responsibility for tasks within their speciality, but should also encourage others to also be involved to promote mutual learning and empowerment (Rahman, 1993). OAF recognizes the efforts of each member and base on the same when appointing leaders for the groups; co-operation - is very important; sharing everybody's strength reduces everybody's weaknesses. These farmers work in groups and have frequent meetings where they discuss matters affecting them (One-Acre Fund Annual Report, 2018).

In matters involving sustainable development, the term participatory approach is preferred to mean

methodological principle for intervention practice and a range of participatory methodologies, methods and techniques have been proposed in order to operationalize it. Despite the fact that important differences exist among the various methodologies, they have in common that they primarily perceive the process in which actors supposedly participate as a process of planning, decision-making and social learning (Cees, 2000). A number of participatory methodological approaches have been adopted to bring about sustainable development at the community level. However, each participatory approach is deemed suitable for a specific type of problem situation, in relation to which it aims to generate certain contributions. In part, this explains why so many methodologies and approaches exist, each with its own acronym, abbreviation or (marketing) label like PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) and PAR (Participatory Action Research).

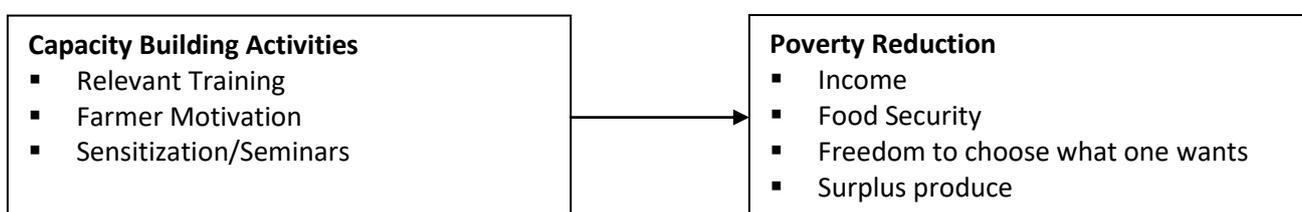
PRA is a set of informal techniques used by development practitioners, like OAF, in rural areas to collect and analyze data. PRA was developed in the 1970s and 1980s in response to the perceived problems of missing outsiders (donors, sponsors or partners) or miscommunications with the local people in the context of development work (GTZ, 1995). Several authors (Farm Africa, 1996; GTZ, 1995; Dunn, 1994) note that PRA uses group animation and exercises to facilitate information sharing, analysis, and action among stakeholders. The purpose of PRA is to enable development practitioners (One Acre Fund), government officials (Ministry of Agriculture), and local people (farmers) to work together to plan context appropriate programs. In PRA, local people (farmers) undertake data collection and analysis, with outsiders (One Acre Fund) facilitating rather than controlling. PRA is an approach for shared learning; farming using new methods between the farmers and OAF.

PAR (Participatory Action Research) is another important tool and according to Allen and Unwin (1997) it is a systematic learning process in which people act deliberately by remaining open to

surprise and responsive to opportunities. This process uses critical intelligence to inform action, and develop it so that social action becomes not only critically informed but also a committed one. Checkland (1992) noted that PAR is unpredictable on authentic participation, which involves a continuing spiral of planning; implementing plans, observing systematically, reflecting and then re-planning so that the spiral goes round again. Kemmis & McTaggar (1998) indicated that PAR establishes self-critical communities of people

participating and collaborating in the research processes of planning (capacity building), implementing (use farm inputs and correct methods), observing (monitoring) and reflecting (evaluation). It aims to build communities of people committed to enlightening themselves about the relationship between environment, how we use it and the outcome, and to free themselves from the established limitations which limit their power to live comfortably legitimately by freely chosen social values (Dinbabo, 2003).

### Conceptual Framework



**Independent Variable**

**Dependent Variable**

**Figure 1: Conceptual Framework**

### Review of study variables

#### Capacity Building Activities and Poverty Reduction

Capacity building is the transformation that is generated and sustained from within; a transformation of this kind goes beyond performing tasks to changing mind-sets and attitudes (Fan & Halsema, 2013). It is a mechanism of enabling local people to determine their own values, priorities and act on their decisions. It can only yield the intended transformation if it is relevant. Relevancy in this case refers to the practicality of the new skills, abilities, processes, or resources in line with the prevailing conditions and the sustainability of the new practices (Stewart et al 2016). Smallholder farmers for example, cannot be taught on mechanization of their farms as a form of capacity building due to generally smaller size of their farming land (Adijah et al,2011). The aim is to enable them to be better able to face their responsibilities in policy and decision-making and in implementing rural development programs more efficiently. This also implies decentralization down

to local level and providing incentives for local community initiatives and people's participation. To this end, clear rights to resource use must be established at local level (Bennett, 2008). Voluntary organizations and those representing the interests of the various parties/interest groups should be involved: they have a capacity to train community leaders and to assist in consolidating grassroots organizations. In-service training of staff in participatory techniques is an essential complement to the involvement of local groups (One Acre Fund, 2017)

Adijah, Kathuri, Odero and Shivoga(2011) conducted a research to find out the major challenges facing small and medium scale farmers in western Kenya with a major focus on the underdeveloped production of maize as a cash crop in the region. The study was conducted in Bungoma, Busia-Teso, Kakamega, Lugari, and Mount Elgon districts in western province, Kenya. The choice of the region was based on the fact that maize is a staple food in the region despite the poor

yields posted by most farmers. The population sample for this study comprised 41,809 farmers from Lugari, 158, 370 farm households from Bungoma, 19,746 farmers from Mt. Elgon, 136 from Busia Teso and 48 extension personnel. Data from the respondents was collected using open and closed-ended questionnaires and interviews. According to the findings of this research study, lack of capital and inadequate extension services was identified as the leading challenges facing farmers in western Kenya. The study revealed that most farmers practice subsistence farming despite owning large tracts of land due to lack of funds to purchase inputs. Similarly, maize farming in western Kenya was identified as one of the crops with the least number of extension officers available on the ground to help farmers improve on their practices and have higher results.

## METHODOLOGY

Descriptive research survey design was used to determine an association between the conceptualized independent and dependent variables as shown in the study's conceptual model. This study targeted 146 farmers registered with One Acre Fund of Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya. A sampling frame is a list of all the items in the population (Cooper & Schinder, (2007). That is, it is a complete list of everyone or everything you want to study or a list of things that you draw a sample from. In this study it consisted of farmers registered with One Acre Fund, Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya. Samples refer to subsets or small parts of the total number that could be studied (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2009). Sampling frame is a list of elements from which a sample could actually be drawn (Cooper & Schindler, 2011). Sampling frame is a list containing items from which a sample is drawn (Kothar, 2004). The current study derived its sample population from the farmers from Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya includes; Ingoste, Lwesero, Shibuli, Shisiru and Rosterman. To determine the sample size, the study used Yamane's formula as below. Out of the 146

targeted staff, the sample size was approximately 107

$$n = N / 1 + N (e^2)$$

N = Population, n = sample size, e = margin for error (0.05)

$$n = 146 / 1 + 146(0.05^2)$$

$$= 107$$

Primary data was collected by means of self-administered questionnaires. The questionnaires had structured questions. These questionnaires were structured and designed in multiple choice formats. Section one introduced the researcher, topic of research and its purpose to the respondent.

Data collected from the field was coded, cleaned, tabulated and analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics with the aid of specialized Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).version 24 software. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages as well as measures of central tendency (means) and dispersion (standard deviation) was used. Data was also organized into graphs and tables for easy reference.

Further, inferential statistics such as regression and correlation analyses was used to determine both the nature and the strength of the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. Correlation analysis is usually used together with regression analysis to measure how well the regression line explains the variation of the dependent variable. The linear and multiple regression plus correlation analyses were based on the association between two (or more) variables. SPSS version 24 is the analysis computer software that was used to compute statistical data.

Study conceptualized Regression Model;

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \epsilon$$

y = Poverty Reduction

$\beta_0$  = Constant

$X_1$  = Capacity Building Activities

$\{\beta_1\}$  = Beta coefficients

$\varepsilon$  = the error term

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The study involved 107 questionnaires being dispatched for data collection, 98 questionnaires were returned completely filled, representing a response rate of 92% which was good for generalizability of the research findings to a wider population.

### **Descriptive statistics: Capacity Building Activities on Poverty Reduction**

These are summarized responses on whether Capacity Building Capacity has influence on Poverty Reduction among small scale farmers of One Acre Fund, Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya.

Most respondents agreed (34.7%) agreed and 16.3% strongly agreed that the One Acre Fund organization provides farmers with the training that equips farmers with relevant skills that enables farmers to work effectively. More closely, only 27.5% agreed while 10.2% strongly agreed that farmers apply the skills acquired from the One Acre Fund on their farms. Further, while 39.7% agreed and 9.2% strongly agreed that the farmers were inspired to work harder after training by One Acre Fund. Lastly, most respondents agreed (39.7%) and strongly agreed (9.2%) that generally, the farmers are now utilizing land that was underutilized after acquiring new skills from One Acre Fund. Lastly 38.6 % agreed and 13.2% strongly agreed that new farmers joined one acre fund after noticing the benefits.

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### **Inferential Statistics**

#### **Linear influence of Capacity Building Activities on Poverty Reduction**

This tested the direct influence of Capacity Building Activities on Poverty Reduction of One Acre Fund, Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya. The results were shown table 1.

**Table 1: Direct influence of Capacity Building Activities**

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.824 <sup>a</sup>	.677	.676	.69397	.676	159.562	1	97	.000

ANOVA <sup>b</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	76.844	1	76.844	159.562	.000 <sup>a</sup>
	Residual	36.120	97	.482		
	Total	112.964	98			

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.689	.232		2.945	.004
	Capacity Building Activity	.917	.074	.874	12.632	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Poverty Reduction

From table 1, the model summary shows that  $R^2 = 0.677$ ; implying that 67.7% variations in the Poverty Reduction of small scale farmers of One Acre Fund, Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya is explained by Capacity Building Activities while other factors not in the study model accounts for 32.3% of variation in Poverty Reduction of small scale farmers of One Acre Fund, Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya. Further, coefficient analysis shows that Capacity Building Activities has positive significant influence on Poverty Reduction among small scale farmers of One Acre Fund, Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya ( $\beta = 0.917$  (0.074); at  $p < .01$ ). This implies that a single improvement in effective Capacity Building Activity will lead to 0.917 unit increase in the Poverty Reduction among the small scale farmers of One Acre Fund, Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya. Therefore, the linear regression equation is;

$$(i) Y = 0.689 + 0.917X_1$$

Where;

Y = Poverty Reduction

$X_1$  = Capacity Building Activities

#### Testing of study hypotheses;

Study hypothesis one ( $H_{01}$ ) stated that Capacity Building Activities does not significantly influence Poverty Reduction among small scale farmers of One Acre Fund of Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya. Multiple regression results indicate that Capacity Building Activities significantly influence Poverty Reduction as indicated by  $\beta = 0.917$  (0.151) at  $p < 0.05$ . Hypothesis one was therefore rejected. The results indicate that that a single improvement in effective Capacity Building Activities will lead to 0.917 unit increase in the Poverty Reduction among the small scale farmers of One Acre Fund.

According to the research by Okoboi(2010), farmers who had access to financial products such as seasonal farming loans to invest in farming activities reported high levels of income and better living standards compared to farmers who had no access to such services and products. The study also established that revenue from farming activities increased with the use of modern farming techniques which were expensive to procure.

Hence, the availability of seasonal loans to farmers enabled them to invest in modern farming practices, thereby increasing their returns and overall revenue. The results of this study revealed a direct proportionality between the availability and access to financial products and services and the level of income generated from farming activities amongst the study population.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This tested the influence of Capacity Building Activities on Poverty Reduction among small scale farmers of One Acre Fund Lurambi Sub County, Kakamega County; Kenya. The study found that Capacity Building had a significant effect on Poverty Reduction. The study results are consisted with earlier researchers that found that Capacity Building had an influence on Poverty Reduction; hence,

Capacity Building as a requirement for the farmers was necessary for the improvement of Poverty Reduction.

The study concludes that Poverty Reduction policy that utilizes well Capacity Building Activities result into improvement in Poverty Reduction; hence, for such, leads to professional awareness about capacity building being done because of training sessions on the farmers of One Acre Fund.

The study recommends Poverty Reduction as a function should embrace the proper use of Capacity Building Activities since it would improve on the Poverty Reduction.

### Areas for further research

Similar study can be done on other organizations using similar variables, though using different methods.

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