A BASELINE SURVEY REPORT ON THE EXISTING FARMERS COOPERATIVES AND THEIR CAPACITY GAPS IN THE NYERI, MERU AND THARAKA NITHI COUNTIES.

Prepared by

AFRICA ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CONSULTING

For the project

“INCREASED CITIZENS’ PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE COUNTIES OF MERU, THARAKA NITHI AND NYERI”.

DETРА-Africa ACT! SIDA
Development Training and Research Africa
Certification

We the undersigned hereby certify that the research was sorely conducted and this report produced professionally without due influence from anyone and the information presented is correct and reflects an objective approach.

The process involved a number of professionals from Africa Energy and Environment Consulting who professionally and personally were involved in the activities that led to completion of this report. This report was produced for Development Training and Research Africa, under the grant supported to Grassroots Development Initiatives Kenya and Development Training and Research Africa through the Changieni Raslimali Facility of ACT! Funded by the Government of Sweden and the UK’s Department for international Development.

Peter Waiharo (Ph.D.).

Africa Energy and Environment Consulting
Summary
This report consists of the analysis on the cooperative societies and community groups which are involved in production of agricultural goods in Tharaka Nithi, Meru and Nyeri Counties.

**Producer cooperative Societies** are farmers’ associations, which are registered under ministry of cooperative development, and are actively involved in large scale production of agricultural products, while **Community based farmers’ cooperatives** are groups registered by the department of Social services, whose their main activity is farming and are actively involved in production of agricultural produce.

Being the backbone of the economy of these the Counties addressed in this report, Agriculture and farming activities has led to degradation of natural resources. Small Scale farming has been associated with land tenure and small farm holdings that’s their farming activities being carried out by smallholder farmers with small parcels of land and characterized by lack cooperation amongst them and are heavily exploited by middlemen, have no access to markets and suffer enormous losses through damages and delayed delivery of fresh produce to the market.

Where farmer groups have been formed, they are characterized with poor production, processing, weak leadership, and marketing systems. The products are marketed in raw form and most often are perishable in nature. Small holder farmers incur losses in the farm and at post harvest through poor handling in the farm, transit and in the store. The farmers lack capacity and facilities to prevent losses.

Natural resource management can only be realized if there are deliberate efforts to sustain significant increases in farm productivity through the efficient use of land and other resources. Farmers who are the requisite engine in the management of natural resources understand the value of these resources for their survival and livelihoods. They must contend with unreliable rainfall and short, unpredictable rainy seasons.

To sustain their livelihoods, farmers need to be empowered to adopt strategies for managing these resources, effective management of natural resources, maximal land use and sustained livestock productivity among others.

The report has also identified a number of capacity gaps hampering maximized production by these farmers among them being lack of Knowledge, Capital and credit facilities, lack of modern
preservation and storage facilities among others which if sufficiently address can improve their income and also increased food security the country.
Acknowledgements

We hereby wish to appreciate the following for the contribution that they made, of which without their cooperation and support, production of this report would be impossible.

We hereby wish to acknowledge ACT! For financial support to implement the project “Increased citizens’ participation in governance and sustainable utilization and management of Natural Resources in the Counties of Meru, Tharaka Nithi and Nyeri”, for which this survey is being Conducted.

Much gratitude goes to Development training and Research Africa ( Detra-Africa) and Grassroot Development Initiatives Kenya ( Gradif-K) for giving us the opportunity to undertake this assignment. Throughout the period that we conducted this activity, they gave us guidance and support whenever we required.

We also wish to thank all the stakeholders, community groups’ members and cooperative Societies members who were our respondents while conducting this assignment. Without their information and feedback, the information documented in this report could not be gotten. We therefore appreciate their cooperation during the interview process.
### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Act Change Transform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO’S</td>
<td>Community Based organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFA’S</td>
<td>Community Forests Associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO’S</td>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS</td>
<td>Farmers Cooperative Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHG</td>
<td>Self Help Groups</td>
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Chapter 1: Introduction

In large parts of the Kenya’s dry lands, especially in rural areas, a large fraction of the population depends directly upon natural resources for their livelihoods. However, their efforts to improve living conditions are often thwarted by degradation of these resources. This more often than not takes place at an alarming rate as a result of a complex interplay of natural factors, climate variability, climate change and human-induced factors for instance unsustainable land use driven by geographic pressure and insecure land tenure system.

In Kenya, the underlying causes of the human-induced depletion of a range of natural resources are numerous and lie at different levels, but essentially revolve around their increased demand for profit and subsistence from a growing population. Over three decades ago, Kenya had 15 % of its surface area covered by forests but today its primary forest cover has been reduced to a mere 1.7 %. The forests are threatened by encroachment and logging for charcoal and fuel wood which has subjected many of the country’s 38.6 million people to great hardships.

Many rivers have dried up completely and others have become seasonal. Drought seasons have become acute and more frequent and so has the dying of animals. But these are not the only costs of the forest loss; the pronounced dry seasons continue to greatly affect the agricultural production and the supply of electric power in a country that derives 70 % of its electric needs from hydro-electricity power. Water scarcity is compounded by extensive degradation of water resources, including water catchment areas. The few existing water resources are intensively exploited, resulting in often irreversible environmental damage. The degradation of critical resource areas, negatively affects Kenya’s parks and wildlife reserves, which are the foundation for the country’s tourism industry. The degradation of critical natural resources poses a threat to Kenya’s social and economic life. In the targeted Counties of Meru, Tharaka Nithi and Nyeri poverty has often resulted to degradation and overexploitation of natural resources due to small farm holdings resulting to low land productivity, human/wildlife conflict and population pressure. Natural resources conservation and management by state administration has largely failed because local people’s necessary reliance on these resources for their livelihoods has often not effectively been taken into account. With devolution, each County has been vested with specific powers over management of natural resources under their jurisdiction. However, devolving
decision-making powers to various unaccountable local bodies threatens local equity and the local environment and threatens the very reason for resource use devolution.

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 has been made with the necessary shift to respecting the fundamental rights of people’s self determination and their welfare with the realization that sustainable management can be best achieved by those who most depend on natural resources.

NRM and use is critical to promoters of devolution and local democracy because they are a source of revenue and power and therefore potential legitimacy for the new county government. This project seeks to engage and empower the rural population, grassroots organizations and marginalized groups to claim their rights to environmental management and strengthen the responsiveness of the County government and the national government to respond to their needs in environmental management. This can be effectively be done by strengthening farmers groups who are at the centre of environmental conservation efforts in selected counties. But with often meagre resources and limited organizational and technical capacities, many farmers groups require external support to start-up and/or expand their operations. Furthermore, with the decline of farmers’ cooperatives, many smallholder farmers lack a collective voice. They often cannot gain access to affordable and vital resources and infrastructure, such as land, water, credit, seeds, fertilizer, post-harvest storage facilities or transport and are locked out of lucrative markets. As a result, many small-scale farmers in the selected Counties of Meru, Tharaka Nithi and Nyeri remain caught in poverty traps and are unable to influence policies that affect their livelihoods or benefit from emerging market opportunities.

The project seeks to facilitate reforms of NRM legislative, policy frameworks in each of the selected Counties with an aim of devolving sufficient benefits to motivate local actors to carry out new environmental management responsibilities and ensure genuine participation and representativeness of end users of local resources, both men and women, in development planning and practices and foster the local ownership and sustainable use of natural resources.
1.1. **Implementing Bodies**

The project is implemented in partnership with two organizations which are **DETRA-Africa** and **Gradif-K**;

**DETRA-Africa** is a registered NGO undertaking programmes in key areas of Environment and Climate Change; Education, Health and livelihoods improvement; Infrastructure and enterprise and through promotion of voluntary action, development and livelihood improvement. The Main Aim of Detra- Africa is to empower and strengthen local institutions and communities’ capacity to eradicate poverty, hunger and disease with a mission of fighting poverty and disease in Africa. It seeks to network people, organizations and resources in Eastern Africa for sustainable development and work in partnership with community based groups and organizations in Eastern Africa assisting them acquire technical, human and financial resources from all parts of the world. In Kenya, Detra Africa has an offices in Nairobi, Chuka and Meru.

**GRADIF-K** is a Public Community Development Foundation registered as a public company Limited by guarantee and with no share capital. The goal of the organizations is to support the improvement of living standards of disadvantaged children and other vulnerable community groups in poverty stricken areas in Kenya. For wider reach, cost cutting, impact and sustainability of the supported programmes, GRADIF-K works with organized community groups who are the key drivers of development agenda in various parts of the country. The organization has a fundraising office in Nairobi and programme coordination office in Embu town, Mweiga Nyeri and Kanyakine Market, inside the compound of South Imenti Farmers Milk Cooling Plant in Meru County.
1.2. Goal and objectives of the project

The overall Goal of the project is: To increase citizens’ participation in governance and sustainable utilization and management of natural resources in the Counties of Meru, Tharaka Nithi and Nyeri.

The projects has got two objectives

Objective one: To promote accountability by county governments in natural resources management and enhance equitable and efficient environmental management regimes in the Counties of Meru, Tharaka Nithi and Nyeri.

Decentralizations of environmental powers, has often been occasioned by the transfer of powers to centrally controlled, non-democratic or unaccountable local institutions, the failure to transfer significant powers that help create a meaningful domain of local discretionary decision making, and the use of insecure transfer mechanisms, such as ministerial or administrative orders. This has in many occasions not integrated local population into decision making with the resultant effect of the local population taking little regard to natural resource management viewing it as government project and often contributing to degradation.

This application seeks to bring on board citizenry into decision making on natural resource management through better representation by engaging county leadership of the selected counties though strengthening of adhoc CSOs networks, farmers cooperatives and county leadership) Representative and accountable local actors securely holding meaningful powers in return will constitute democratic decentralization. This application seeks to capture the natural resources base for the selected counties and show case stakeholders the accruing interests that can be realized if these resources are well managed.

GRADIF-K and DETRA-Africa in this application seeks to ensure through advocacy that local people in the selected Counties are actively involved in the planning, responsibility and decision-
making for the management through sensitizing them of the available County resources and further, their long term access and use rights must be guaranteed and benefits shared equitably amongst them and with other stakeholders.

The project seeks to contribute to creating accountable representative authorities by facilitating reforms of NRM legislative, policy frameworks in each of the selected Counties with an aim of devolving sufficient benefits to motivate local actors to carry out new environmental management responsibilities and ensure genuine participation and representativeness of end users. It will also seek to improve knowledge on local governance for natural resource management through mapping and inventoring the natural resource base in the targeted counties, documentation and dissemination of the County’s resource profile and dissemination of successful approaches and holding quarterly networking meetings to share best practices for policy dialogue and advocacy.

The quarterly forums will amongst others by members of the adhoc network, farmers’ representatives of cooperatives and selected stakeholders aiming at furthering the advocacy process for NRM. It also seeks to formalize adhoc network of civil society actors to be involved in the county’s natural resource management who include water users, forest neighbors, farmer groups and women groups.

The adhoc network is to engage with County government and awareness rising in their membership aimed at creating spaces for effective civil society participation and empowering citizens to take a more active role in decision-making related to the management and use of natural resources.

Build the capacity of the adhoc networks through training to enable them effectively feedback and question county policies on environment, natural resources and climate change. Build the capacity of the adhoc networks through training to enable them effectively feedback and question county policies on environment, natural resources and climate change.
Objective two: To strengthen the capacity of farmers groups to influence agricultural policy frameworks development in the Counties of Meru, Tharaka Nithi, and Nyeri

Degradation of natural resources in targeted counties has in many occasions been associated with land tenure and small farm holdings. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of these selected counties with most of the farming activities being carried out by smallholder farmers with small parcels of land and characterized by lack cooperation amongst themselves and are heavily exploited by middlemen, have no access to markets and suffer enormous losses through damages and delayed delivery of fresh produce to the market.

Where farmer groups have been formed, they are characterized with poor production, processing, weak leadership, and marketing systems. The products are marketed in raw form and most often are perishable in nature. Small holder farmers incur losses in the farm and at post harvest through poor handling in the farm, transit and in the store. The farmers lack capacity and facilities to prevent losses.

Natural resource management can only be realized if there are deliberate efforts to sustain significant increases in farm productivity through the efficient use of land and other resources. Farmers who are the requisite engine in the management of natural resources understand the value of these resources for their survival and livelihoods. They must contend with unreliable rainfall and short, unpredictable rainy seasons.

To sustain their livelihoods, farmers need to be empowered to adopt strategies for managing these resources including engaging in policy and advocacy processes. To effectively manage natural resources, maximal land use and sustained livestock productivity is requisite. This can only be realized by building the capacities of farmers through farmers groups in natural resource management. For decades the viability of livelihood systems in the targeted counties has been weakened for a number of reasons, including the erosion of farmers’ groups’ cooperatives institutional arrangements around natural resources management.
1.3. Expected Impact of the Project

The following are key expected outcomes/results of the project in the projects areas

- Improved knowledge of citizens and county leadership on existing natural resources, increased stronger citizen’s voices in NRM, enhance sharing of good practices in NRM advocacy, increased vigilance in NRM and Increased farmers voices on favorable agricultural policies/legislations.

- Improved knowledge on capacity gaps facing farmers cooperatives, enhanced farmers voices on supportive agricultural policies Improved knowledge on agricultural policies, increased participation of farmers in agricultural policies advocacy, increased adoption and replication of best practices on NRM and better farm management, increased adoption and replication of best practices on NRM and better farm management, increased lobbying and advocacy for supportive agricultural policies, increased participation of farmers in agricultural policies advocacy.
Chapter 2: Theory

2.1. Introduction

According to the current development trend, cooperative societies play a very crucial and important role as pertains to development of the society.

A cooperative society is defined as an organization of people who have voluntarily come together for the purpose of solving their socio-economic problems through self-help initiatives, mutual support and investment ventures aimed at equally benefiting the group/members.

Therefore cooperative societies are formed by the people who join hands or come together, with a common aim of addressing a certain issue with a common aim or with a motive of a positive gain.

According to the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA 2004) cooperative is “…an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise”. A cooperative is meant to embody the values of self-help, honesty, openness, self-responsibility, social responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, solidarity, mutual caring, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability.

The following Principles guide the formation, organization and activities of cooperatives:

(a) Voluntary and open membership

(b) Democratic member control

(c) Member economic participation

(d) Autonomy and independence

(e) Education, training and information

(f) Cooperation among Cooperatives

(g) Concern for Community
The following benefits accrue from adherence to the above principles: entrepreneurs achieve economies of scale, bargaining power and capacity to invest in more advanced stages of the value chain including storage, processing, marketing and distribution of products and services.

As transaction costs are reduced, relationships with commercial enterprises are built. In addition, as community institutions, cooperatives devolve decision making to the community level, build social capital, nurture community spirit and pride (Reynolds 1998). Today governments expect cooperatives to inform policy making and engage in advocacy while the cooperatives themselves seek a more pronounced, active and permanent role in decision-making (Mercoiret 1999). The shared spirit of cooperation and empowerment leads to engagement in larger projects such as reconstruction of schools or health facilities.

2.2. COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN KENYA
The Co-operative Movement in Kenya may be traced to the period immediately after the country’s independence. The movement is supposed to play an important role in wealth creation, food security and employment generation and hence participate in poverty alleviation. To date, there are over 13,000 registered cooperative societies country-wide. The membership is over 8 million and has mobilized domestic savings estimated at over Kshs 230 billion. The cooperatives have employed over 500,000 people besides providing opportunities for self-employment.

Indeed, a significant number of Kenyans, approximately 63% draw their livelihood either directly or indirectly from cooperative-based enterprises (Ministry of cooperative development and marketing);

The policy objective of the Kenyan cooperative movement is to spur sustainable economic growth by focusing on achievement of desired outcomes through strengthening of the movement, improving cooperative extension service delivery, corporate governance, access to markets and marketing efficiency (Ministry of cooperative development and marketing). The cooperatives have an immense potential to deliver goods and services in areas where both the public and the private sector have not ventured (Ministry of cooperative development and marketing).

In most cases cooperatives are local institutions that address “local needs”, employ “local talent” and are lead by “local leaders” either directly or through local branches.
The Cooperatives in Kenya are organized into service and producer cooperatives. The producer cooperatives’ objectives are to promote the use of modern technology and contribute to national development through production. The service cooperatives are responsible for procurement, marketing and expansion services, loan disbursement, sale of consumer goods and member education. The cooperatives have made remarkable progress in agriculture, banking, credit, agro-processing, storage, marketing, dairy, fishing and housing. Service cooperatives are the closest to communities and are organized on a shareholder basis formed by individual members of organizations voluntarily working in a specific geographic area. For instance, primary level sugar cane farmers cooperatives provide a collection point for the farmers’ produce, negotiate the per ton cost of sugarcane.

2.3. Procedure for registering a cooperative society
According to the cooperative act amended in 2004, the following is the procedure for registering a cooperative society

An application to register a society shall be made to the Commissioner in the prescribed form, and signed;

(a) In the case of a primary society, by at least ten persons qualified for membership of the society under section

(2) The application should be accompanied by copies of the proposed by-laws in English and the person or persons by whom or on whose behalf such application is made shall furnish such information within regard to the society as the Commissioner may require.

(3) If the Commissioner is satisfied that a society has complied with the Cooperative societies Act, he may register the society and its by-laws.

3). If the Commissioner is not satisfied that a society has complied with the provisions of cooperative Act 2004,

4). If the application does not meet the requirements, the commissioner can offer provisional registration for one year

5.) A society which is provisionally registered shall cause the fact that it is provisionally registered to be stated in legible Roman letters in all bill heads, letter papers, notices, advertisements and other official publications of the society, and on a sign board in a
conspicuous position outside any premises in which it operates. The commissioner shall publish particulars of its registration in the Kenya Gazette.

(4) (a) The Commissioner may for good cause cancel the provisional registration of a society, by a notice in writing addressed to the society, specifying the reasons thereof, and such cancellation shall operate as a refusal to register the society, and the society shall, from the date of service of the notice, cease to be a registered co-operative society.

2.4. Qualification for membership

The following are key qualifications of one to become a member of a cooperative society

(a) One must have attained the age of eighteen years,

(b) His employment, occupation or profession falls within the category or description of those for which the co-operative society is formed.

(c) One should be a resident within, or occupies land within the society's area of operation as described in the relevant by-law

2.5. Types of cooperative societies

The most common types of cooperatives in Kenya are:

Savings and credit cooperatives
- Housing cooperatives
- Consumer cooperatives
- Transport cooperatives
- Marketing cooperatives
- Horticulture cooperatives
- Handicraft cooperatives
- Industrial cooperatives
- Building and construction cooperatives
- Service cooperatives
- Multi-purpose cooperatives
2.6. Rights and Liabilities of Members

A member of a co-operative society has the right to:

I. Attend and participate in decisions taken at all general meetings of the society and vote;
II. Be elected to organs of the society, subject to its by-laws;
III. Enjoy the use of all facilities and services of the society subject to the society's by-laws; all legitimate information relating to the society, including: internal regulations, registers, Minutes of general meetings, supervisory committee reports, annual accounts, inventories, and investigation reports, at the society's head office.

A member of a co-operative society has the obligation to:

I. Observe and comply with all the society by-laws and decisions taken by the relevant organs of the co-operative society in accordance with the by-laws of the society.
II. Buy and pay up for shares or make any other payments provided for in the by-laws of the society.
III. Meet the debts of the society in case of bankruptcy in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the by-laws of the society.

2.7. Duties of Co-operative Societies

I. Every co-operative society should have a registered address to which notices and communications may be sent and shall send to the Commissioner notice of every change of address within one month of the change.

II. For each financial year, the committee of a co-operative society should prepare estimates of the society's income and expenditure including recurrent and capital estimates for approval by the general meeting at least three months before the end of the preceding financial year.

III. Every co-operative society should keep proper books of accounts which should

- Be prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standards;
- Reflect the true and fair state of the co-operative society's affairs;
- Explain the co-operative society's transactions including:
  a) all sums of money received and paid by the co-operative
  b) society and the reasons thereto;
  c) All sales and purchases of goods and services by the cooperative
Chapter 3: Research Objectives

3.1. Objectives and Purpose of This Survey
The key objectives of producing this report were

- To identify the existing grass root cooperatives (in type, and category) in Tharaka Nithi, Nyeri and Meru Counties which are weak.
- To identify the Capacity Gaps of the above identified cooperatives so as to come up with modalities to strengthen them.

Findings of this report will contribute towards enhancing the implementation of the project, “Increased citizens’ participation in governance and sustainable utilization and management of natural resources in the counties of Meru, Tharaka Nithi and Nyeri”, a project supported by a grant from ACT!, under the Changilieni Raslimali (CRM) facility funded by the Government of Sweden (GoSW) and United Kingdom (DFID). The project aims at improving governance in the area of Natural resources in the counties of Meru, Tharaka Nithi and Nyeri. A project implemented jointly by Grassroots development initiatives Kenya (Gradif-K) and Development training and Research Africa (Detra-Africa). This report will act as a guideline/Reference during the implementation of the above project.

3.2. Research Area
The survey was conducted in three counties which include Tharaka Nithi, Meru and Nyeri Counties.
3.2.1. Tharaka Nithi County

Figure 2: Map of Tharaka Nithi County
Located on the eastern part of Mount Kenya, Tharaka Nithi County is composed of the following Districts

**Table 1: Districts and Constituencies within Tharaka Nithi County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of District</th>
<th>Name of Constituency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meru South</td>
<td>Nithi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maara District</td>
<td>Maara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tharaka North District</td>
<td>Tharaka Constituency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tharaka South District</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The county borders Mt Kenya to the west which covers approximately 180Km2. The topography of the county is greatly influenced by the Mount Kenya volcanic activity creating a V shaped
valleys within which main tributaries of river Tana flow originating from Mt Kenya Forest. The Tributaries flowing eastwards are Thuchi, Ruguti, Maara, Nithi and Mutonga.

The drainage pattern in the County is characterized by rivers and streams draining into the Indian Ocean through Tana River. The rivers are Thuchi, Ruguti, Maara, Nithi and Mutonga.

The County has Bi-modal Rainfall pattern with the rains falling during the months of March to May and October to December. The highest amount of rainfall ranges from 220mm in highland areas near Mt Kenya to 500 mm in lowland areas of the County.

The rainfall is favorable for cultivating tea, Coffee, maize, Cow peas, pigeon Peas, Tobacco in the highland areas of the county and Cow peas, pigeon Peas, Tobacco, Cotton, Green grams plus many other food crops which are drought resistant.

Other Food and Cash crops which do well in the County include bananas, Sugarcane, passion Fruits among others.

Temperatures in the highland areas range between 140c to 170c while those of the lowland area range between 220c to 270c.

3.2.2. MERU COUNTY

Figure 3: Map of Meru County
Located on the North Eastern part of Mount Kenya, Meru County Covers 6936.2 Km2.

The total population as per 1999 National housing census was 1,356,301. Population Distribution per Gender includes

- Male- 670,656
- Female- 685,645

Meru County is made up of the following Districts

**Table 2; Districts in Meru County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of District</th>
<th>Name of Constituency</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Igembe North</td>
<td>Ntonyiri</td>
<td>482,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constituency</td>
<td>Constituency Description</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Igembe South</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tigania East</td>
<td></td>
<td>293,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tigania West</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buuri</td>
<td>North Imenti Constituency</td>
<td>258,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imenti North</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imenti Central</td>
<td>Central Imenti</td>
<td>141,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imenti South</td>
<td>South Imenti</td>
<td>179,604</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: from the above table, it is important to note that the merged districts and constituencies are very new, and their current statistics have not been achieved already. Therefore the old development plans and statistics are the ones being used up to date.

**Topography/Relief**

The altitude ranges from 2,145m a.s.l in the higher regions to 600m a.s.l in the lower parts which cover the greatest land area (3/4 of total area). These low lying areas were designated as the Northern Grazing Areas (NGA) and are characterized by very low erratic rainfall. The soils are predominantly volcanic clay loams with patches of rock and black cotton soils.

**Rainfall**

Rainfall amounts range from 380mm p.a. in the lower areas to 2500mm p.a. in the higher areas. Its spatial distribution is highly dependent on elevation, with the high altitude areas receiving the most amounts compared to the low-lying areas. Rainfall is bimodal with long rains expected from mid March to May and the short rains expected from mid October to late November. Short rains are most reliable.

**Economic Activities**

The main economic activities of Meru County are farming. The following are the key crops that are grown:

Coffee, Tea, Banana’s, Irish potatoes, Carrots among other food and Cash crops in the areas near Mount Kenya

Millet sorghum, Maize, Beans and cattle rearing are practices in the lower parts of the county.

The main Cash Crops in the region are Miraa, Coffee and Tea.
There is Dairy Farming in the areas near Mount Kenya.

3.2.3. NYERI COUNTY

Figure 4: Map of Nyeri County

Nyeri County is located in Central Kenya, it borders the following counties; Laikipia to the North, Meru to the North East, Kirinyaga to the East, Muranga to the South, and Nyandarua to the West.
Area (Km²): 3,337.1Km², Climate/Weather: Temperatures range from a mean annual minimum of 12°C to a mean maximum of 27°C, with rainfall amounts of between 550mm and 1,500mm per annum.


General Information (2009 KNBS report)

Population 693,558
Surface area (km²) 3,337
Density (people per km²) 208

Economic Activities
The main economic activity in Nyeri County is Farming

Cash Crops: Tea and Coffee

Food Crops: Maize, Beans, Bananas, among others
Chapter 4: Research Methodology

4.1. Research Type
The type of research carried out Explorative and qualitative. In order to conduct this Research, the researcher used guided semi structured questionnaires with an aim of finding out the following

- The existing grass root cooperatives (in type, and category) in Tharaka Nith, Nyeri and Meru Counties which are weak.

- Capacity Gaps of the above identified cooperatives so as to come up with modalities to strengthen them.

4.2. Sampling Methods

- Purposive Sampling Technique

By considering the main theme of the project to be undertaken by the results of this survey, the survey sought to source relevant information to those cooperative societies who are directly utilizing Natural resources. Therefore mainly this research targeted the producer and marketing cooperative societies. It was assumed that the producer and marketing cooperative societies directly benefit the farmers who direct utilizes of key natural resources including Rivers, Trees, Soil, Forests, Water Resources etc

- Random Selection Method

After analyzing the groups according to the purpose, random selection method was applied. This was applied to make sure all the regions were fully represented. This was done by looking at the geographical Boundaries in each counties either district, or division.

- Representation of interest Groups

The selection method ensured that key interest groups were included. The key consideration here was Gender balance and ensuring minority groups like those of women and youth were given were given much attention.
• **Special Consideration**

The research took on board a number of groups registered as foundations or community groups, but not as cooperative movements, and participated in similar activities to those of cooperative societies. The following Special considerations were put on Board

- Direct Utilizers of Natural resources.

- Large scale production of goods from natural resources eg Fruits, Honey, Timber, Charcoal

- Processing of the goods produced in large scale or small scale.

- Marketing of the processed goods done at central place in an organized manner

- A group with organized procedures on how the production and marketing will be coordinated.

### 4.3. Sample Size Selection

In order to understand the capacity gaps of various Cooperatives and groups, two cooperative societies and two registered group involved in large scale production and marketing of agricultural produce were interviewed. From these cooperatives, the researchers sought to know general Management procedures and production trends of the groups over the past 2 years. Two members from each of the identified Society were interviewed, one member and one official who were interviewed separately.

In Nyeri County, constituency boundaries were adopted while in Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties, the District’s Boundaries were adopted while selecting the samples.
Table 3: Sample size per County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number of Cooperative Societies selected</th>
<th>Number of individuals interviewed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tharaka Nithi</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meru</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyeri</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4. Interviewed Farmers Groups/cooperatives

This information does not tally with that provided in the methodology in the section of sampling size.

Table 4: Interviewed Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Name of the Group</th>
<th>Category (Cooperative Society/Community Group)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>District/Constituency</th>
<th>Location/division</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nyeri</td>
<td>Othaya Cofee Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Producer Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of coffee</td>
<td>Othaya</td>
<td>Many Locations Within Othaya</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Othaya Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Milk</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Many Locations Within Othaya</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Matiriani Wiyumirimrie Women Group</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Goat rearing</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wihonererie Rabbit Breeders</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Rabbit Rearing</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gachika Rabbit Rears SHG</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Rabbits</td>
<td>Nyeri Central</td>
<td>Kiganjo</td>
<td>23 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skuta Dairy Goat Farmers</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and marketing of milk from Goats</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Mukaro</td>
<td>4 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Githiru F.C S</td>
<td>Farmers Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Coffee</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Githiru Dairy Farmers</td>
<td>Farmers Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Milk</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gikari Bee Keepers</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Bee keeping &amp; and Honey Harvesting</td>
<td>Tetu</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kiandondo Modern Women Group</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Rabbit/poultry rearing/detergent making</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Gakii</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Type of Cooperative</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Location 1</td>
<td>Location 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
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<td>------------</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathima farmers SHG</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Dairy Goat Rearing</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>Gathima</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gakandu-ini Dairy Goat</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Milk</td>
<td>Mathira</td>
<td>Kilimuku yu</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karindundu Fruits &amp; Agro</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Fruits and agricultural Produce</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telu Coffee Cooperative society</td>
<td>Farmers Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Coffee</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>Kilimuku yu</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinatwa cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farmers Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Coffee</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>Kilimuku yu</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaturia Guteithania Youth Group</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Poultry keeping</td>
<td>Mukurweini</td>
<td>Muhito</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thangathi Bee Keeping Youth Group</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Bee farming and Honey Harvesting</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>Muy</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mukurweini Horticulatural S.H Group</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Banana sale and value adding</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mwangaza S.H Group</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Breeding Rabbits</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kieni Farmers</td>
<td>Community producer Association</td>
<td>Dairy Farming-Rearing Dairy Goats</td>
<td>Kieni</td>
<td>Kieni</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td>Githiru coffee cooperative Society</td>
<td>Producer Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and marketing Coffee</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>Githiru</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tharak a Nithi</td>
<td>Community producer Association</td>
<td>-Farming and marketing Passion Fruits and Bananas. -Fish Farming</td>
<td>Meru South</td>
<td>Karingani Location</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muiru FCS</td>
<td>Producer Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and marketing Coffee</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>Muiru</td>
<td>4534</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirubia FCS Mugirirwa Location</td>
<td>Producer Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and marketing Coffee</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>Mugirirwa</td>
<td>3,876</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ndigia Bee and</td>
<td>Community based</td>
<td>Bee Keeping and honey</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>Thuita</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Product Specialization</td>
<td>Member Location</td>
<td>Male Members</td>
<td>Female Members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muthambi FCS</td>
<td>Producer Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Harvesting</td>
<td>Maara Muthambi</td>
<td>754</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mwimbi Dairy FCS</td>
<td>Producer Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Milk</td>
<td>All Locations within Maara</td>
<td>7363</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mugumango Irrigation</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Horticultural Farming</td>
<td>Kairuni Chogoria Kamaara Kabeche</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>224</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farms cooperative</td>
<td></td>
<td>Passion Fruits Farming and Marketing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muungo Kiriani</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Horticultural Farming</td>
<td>Muungo Kiriani</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>170</td>
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<td>Farms cooperative</td>
<td></td>
<td>Passion Fruits Farming and Marketing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiiti Farmers Group</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Cereals</td>
<td>Tharaka North and South</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marimanti Society</td>
<td>Producer Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Harvesting and Marketing Honey in Small Scale</td>
<td>Marimanti</td>
<td>39 males</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natwana Cooperative</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Cereals</td>
<td></td>
<td>36 Males</td>
<td>67 Females</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mukothima Cooperative</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Harvesting and Marketing Honey</td>
<td></td>
<td>20 Males</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meru</td>
<td>Mikumbune Dairy cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Milk</td>
<td>Imenti South and Central</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>257 Females</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugenjo Coffee Farmers</td>
<td>Producer Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Coffee</td>
<td>Ruenjo</td>
<td>1,265</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitunguu paw paw Farmers</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Paw Paws</td>
<td>Mitunguu</td>
<td>76 males</td>
<td>63 Females</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Marketing Society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thuure Dairy Farmers</td>
<td>Community Producer and Marketing Association</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Milk</td>
<td>Nkubu</td>
<td>76 Males</td>
<td>85 Females</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thima Farmers Society</td>
<td>Producer Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of coffee</td>
<td>Imenti North and Buuri</td>
<td>1342</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makutano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nhimbiri Dairy Farmers</td>
<td>Producer Cooperative Society</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Milk</td>
<td>Nhimbiri</td>
<td>276 Males</td>
<td>278 Females</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mkulima Dairy SH Group</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Milk</td>
<td>Ngusushi</td>
<td>20 Males</td>
<td>65 Females</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mwangaza</td>
<td>Community based Farmers Cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing</td>
<td>Mutarakw</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.5. Assumptions Made

The research assumed that the sample size used represented the views of other groups/Members. Owing to the fact that the administrative boundaries were representative, therefore the sample size was distributed evenly in every District or Constituency.

The research opted to use constituency boundary because there was more reliable data and information sources than at the District level, both primary and secondary.

It was assumed that the officers in charge of cooperative societies will provide relevant information regarding the way the cooperatives are run in every region, plus the challenges faced by the members because they have been interacting and sometimes involved in problem solving.

It was also assumed that the leaders of selected cooperatives will provide a overview of the challenges and capacity gaps for all the cooperatives in every region they represented, assumption being they have been interacting in one way or the other.

The members also represented the other cooperative members, who could provide the information on how the cooperatives are run in general, their satisfaction and dissatisfaction with leadership and their recommendations. They too were meant to provide the challenges that they face day by day.
4.6. Data Collection Methods
The following methods were employed to collect the Data

4.6.1. Secondary Data
Key information regarding the cooperative societies was sourced from the following secondary sources. This was the first stage of the research

- Ministry of Cooperative development website
- District cooperatives Annual reports
- Districts and Constituencies Development Action and development Plans.
- Annual reports for various cooperative societies in the research area.
- Other reports e.g. research reports, thesis,

4.6.2. Primary Data
Three field officers visited each of the research areas and conducted a guided semi structured in depth interviews to the following

- Districts Cooperative Development officers/Offices

The researchers visited the key departments in every district. The researchers used a well summarized interview guides with specific questions regarding the cooperative movements to the districts cooperative officers in the District cooperative offices who are responsible for registration and general overseers of these groups. These officers possess key information regarding the groups and are well informed and well versed with information regarding the groups working within their mandate.

- In-depth interviews with the Key Cooperative Movement officials

Oral and guided semi structured interviews were conducted by three field officers who interviewed one official from every Cooperative society sourcing information regarding the details of the group. An interview Guide is Provided on the Annex.

- In depth interviews with cooperative movements members.

Oral and guided semi structured interviews were conducted by three field officers who interviewed one person who in not an official in every Cooperative society sourcing information regarding the details of the group. An interview guide is provided on the annex.
4.7. Type of Data Collected
The data collected was both Qualitative and Quantitative.

4.8. Content of the interview Guide
The interview Guide sought to find out key information regarding the cooperative Societies in the target areas. Due to varying types of information which sought to be understood in the research, separate interview guides were used in the Process. For more information on the content of the interview Guide, See the Annexure I

4.9. Reliability and Validity
It was through formulation of relevant questions that ensured that the data collected was valid. This was done by ensuring that the questions asked sought to give an answer to the main question. Open ended questions were also used to avoid provoking the respondents and biasness of the answers got. The research also ensured that the questions which were formulated were not ambiguous.

Triangulation method of data collection was applied by the researcher whereby crosscutting questions were raised to different respondents. This was done in order to relate the information got from different individuals expressing their views concerning the same idea. For example, the question of governance was addressed to both the cooperative members and the officials in order to understand the way the cooperative societies are run.

4.10. Variables and indicators
Table 5; Variables and indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Source of Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To identify the existing grass root cooperatives (in type, and category) in Tharaka Nith, Nyeri and Meru Counties which are weak?</td>
<td>-Active Groups, Registered Groups, -Dormant Groups, -Types of Cooperatives -Category of Cooperative Produce</td>
<td>-Number of Registered Groups in the research areas -Number of Active Groups in the research area -Different types of cooperatives I the research area -Number of Productive and Dormant groups in the research area -The different types of produce in different Groups/. Cooperatives</td>
<td>-Districts Cooperative Officers -District Cooperatives Annual Reports -District Social Development offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To identify the Capacity Gaps of the above identified cooperatives.</td>
<td>-Leadership -Knowledge and expertise -Technology -Marketing -Location -Finances</td>
<td>-Type and quality of Leadership in the identified groups/cooperatives -Knowledge of the farmers on the modern farming Methods and farm management techniques for better production -Application of Modern Techniques eg pest Control, Modern farming methods, better breeds, Drought resistant crops,</td>
<td>-Districts Cooperative Officers -Cooperative societies and Farmers groups Officials -Cooperative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Value Addition.
- Availability of marketing strategies for the farmers to fetch better prices for their produce.
- How the location of the cooperatives affects the productivity and management of farming activities undertaken.
- Availability of Finances and credit facilities to support farming, e.g., labor, transport, pests and disease control, etc.

4.11. Key challenges/limitations of the study.

- The concerned government departments lacked analyzed information categorizing the groups in terms of the activities that they are engaged in. Also, it was difficult to determine the total number of active and inactive groups at present.

- Up to date information regarding the current active groups. Therefore, the active groups were identified once the researcher visited the group personally. Therefore, it was not easy to keep the account of currently active and dormant groups because the research incorporate even grass root producer groups in the Research.

- There was limited time allocated for the activity and therefore the researcher lacked enough time to interact with as many groups as possible or to conduct focused group discussions.

- Limited funds to facilitate PRA’S and community meetings in order to understand the problems of the groups deeper.

- Some places were in Accessible with poor means of transport making it hard for the field officers to penetrate

4.12. Mitigation measures taken

The researchers made consultations with key village leaders in every location to confirm the existence, activities and the general membership of the groups. This was through physical contact. This section has not been captured in the sampling.

Few Samples per group were conducted to cut down the costs
Chapter 4: Research results and analysis

4.1. Data Analysis
The answers from the in-depth interviews were analyzed qualitatively, in order to answer address the objectives sought to be addressed.

4.2. Results Analysis
Objective 1: To identify the existing grass root cooperatives (in type, and category) in Tharaka Nithi, Nyeri and Meru Counties.

Types of Cooperative Societies in the research Area
There are different types of cooperative societies operating in the Counties addressed in this report, they include:

- Savings and credit cooperatives
- Housing cooperatives
- Transport cooperatives
- Producer and Marketing cooperative Societies
- Multi-purpose cooperatives

The main cooperatives that directly deal with the Farmers and influence the agricultural production in the research area include

- Producer cooperative societies

They are formed to protect the interest of small producers by making available items of their need for production like raw materials, tools and equipments, Machinery etc.

They also offer training and information to their members about the best farming practices and emerging issues in farming. In the research area, all the producer cooperative societies were efficient in providing information to the farmers with relevant information regarding farming systems, pest and control of deceases among other very important benefits which were relevant to improve both quality and quantity of the produce.

- Cooperative Marketing Society

These Societies are formed by small producers/ Small scale farmers to facilitate marketing their products. These societies collect the products from their individual members and takes responsibility of selling those products in the Market. All the Producer cooperative societies interviewed in this research qualified to be cooperative Marketing Societies because they played a key role in Marketing of the produce and looking for the market to sell them at a better market Rate.
• Cooperative Credit Societies

These Societies provide financial support to the members. The society accepts deposits from members and grants them loans at reasonable rates of interest in times of need and also to improve their farming systems. The studied cooperative societies did not qualified to offer credit, although arrangements concerning the access to credit will be discussed in some other parts of this report.

• Multi Purpose cooperative Societies

These have got multi functional Tasks ranging from Coordinating Producers, Organizing credit services for the members, offering education and training to the members.

Number of cooperative Societies per county.

Table 6: Cooperatives per County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Cooperative Society</th>
<th>Tharaka Nithi</th>
<th>Nyeri</th>
<th>Meru</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Producer cooperative Societies</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport cooperatives</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing cooperatives</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings and credit cooperatives (Sacco’s) (Urban and rural)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Purpose Cooperatives</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(The Cooperatives were not Categorized).

Source; District Cooperative Offices in Tharaka Nithi and Nyeri Counties

Types of produce by the cooperatives

The producer cooperatives interviewed I all the counties producing wide range of Agriculture products. The following are different types of produce per County.

Nyeri - Coffee, Dairy and Tea Producer Cooperatives, horticulture producers, Honey Producers, Rabbit/Chicken/Pig/Rabbit Keepers

Tharaka Nithi - Coffee, Dairy and Tea Producer Cooperatives, horticulture producers, Honey Producers, Rabbit/Chicken/Pig/Rabbit Keepers, Cereals

Meru - Coffee, Dairy and Tea Producer Cooperatives, horticulture producers, Honey Producers, Rabbit/Chicken/Pig/Rabbit Keepers, Cereals.
Objective 2: To identify the Capacity Gaps of the above identified cooperatives.

Access to credit Facilities to improve and support the farming Methods

Farmers Cooperative Societies
In all the counties, all the producer cooperative societies provided for opportunities for the members to access credit. They had an umbrella Sacco for the farmers for all the cooperative societies at the district level.

Members could access credit depending on the number of shares which are counted on the number of kilogram’s or the amount of harvest that one takes to the society for marketing.

It also emerged from the leaders that even before harvesting, Societies through Sacco’s are able to provide the members with “advance” payments, whereby the Sacco’s access the assets, crops or animals owned by the farmers. It was confirmed from the farmers that this was very helpful to them especially to facilitate or pre finance harvesting, and maintaining activities like pests and disease control, buying Fertilizer, among other inputs needed for better and quality production. This case applied to all the Counties in all the Farmers cooperative Societies.

Community based farmers Cooperatives-
2 out of 6 groups in Tharaka Nithi, 4 out of 12 in Nyeri and 4 out of 10 groups in Meru had an opportunity to borrow loans to improve their farming system in times of need. These 10 groups out of Total 28 had a joint and independent marketing system which was well organized to support their members’ by linking their members to the established Saccos, buy shares and access credit Facilities.

The remaining 18 groups totally depend on their income and personal savings to manage and improve their production. This characterized the group with poor quality production as a result of lack of inputs like better seeds, Herbicides and pesticides, Lack of Labor leading to destruction/spoilage of the farm produce in the farms.

These farmers too lacked adequate and modern and efficient farming techniques and knowledge, this is because the groups lacked capacity to take their members to the training as a result of insufficient finances and management.

The following were the key Capacity gaps and challenges identified from the interviews conducted to the group leaders and the members’

Marketing of produce Vs Market price

Farmers Cooperative Societies
22 out of 28 Farmers’ cooperative societies had an established and organized channel on how their produce is marketed. These cooperative societies have got enough machinery and competitive and experienced human resources to organize and prepare the raw materials of the farmer to make them ready for Marketing. The Factory managers, who are qualified personnel ensures that the produce is properly processed and well packaged, and source for the better prices for the farmers. He later facilitates transportation process where the final product is sold. Therefore the farmers here enjoy the privilege of accessing better market prices.
The only problem raised was how are the farmers took their farm produce to these cooperative societies/ Factories due to poor road condition.

Lack of decent technology for value addition for their produce, e.g. the coffee farmers expressed their concern on capability of them acquiring better processing machines to process coffee into the final product which they can directly take to the market rather than taking their husked coffee to the millers.

According to the cooperative officers from Igembe and Tigania, there are very few cooperative societies in the area. According to these officers, since 1990’s, coffee and tea have faced stiff competition from Miraa which is the crop that is fetching good money from its market price. Therefore all the societies which were very well established closed down collapsed from 10 cooperative societies to the currently working ones which are two. Did you interview those people who were officials of the collapsed cooperatives to understand the reasons for collapse?

**Community based farmers’ cooperatives**

From the study conducted, 2 out of 6 groups in Tharaka Nithi, 4 out of 12 in Nyeri and 4 out of 10 groups in Meru of the community based agriculture producers who still were the only ones able to access credit had organized marketing strategies. Others faced a problem of marketing their products due to lack of proper and organized marketing system which led to less or no market information.

They mostly sell their products locally or through middlemen who normally exploit them. This leads to low market prices for the raw product hence incurring losses.

According to the chairman to Gachika Rabbit Keepers from Nyeri County Nkio Agricultural Producers from Tharaka Nithi County who farm Bananas and rearing fish and Mitunguu Pawpaw Farmers from Meru County, their production cost exceeds the market prices. The losses incurred frequently by the farmers have led to deterioration of the groups making members to frequently resign from membership of the group. The issue emerged from all the 19 out of 21 groups interviewed from this category.

Bee keepers from Tharaka districts of Tharaka Nithi County normally sell their honey locally in Marimanti, Chiakariga, Kathwana and Mitunguu market at very low prices even without packaging.

**VALUE ADITION**

Value addition was also an issue which emerged from these local producers. All together including fish farmers, passion fruits farmers, Banana Farmers and bee keepers. Only group interviewed with machinery to process and package their produce were only Digia Bee keepers from Chuka in Tharaka Nithi County. All other groups marketed their produce in a raw form/manner meaning therefore they fetch very low prices.
The issue of raw marketing of the produce led to lots of losses as a result of perishability nature of the goods produced by these groups. On the other hand, they lack well advanced preservation equipments.

An example is the fish harvesters from Mutonga River, who after taking their produce to the market; they end up throwing them away as a result of perishability of the fish hence resulting to losses making the activity to be unreliable for the local farmers.

**Adverse weather Changes**

With the current trend of the climate change, un reliability of rainfall is the common enemy to agriculture as an economic activity not only in Kenya but in the whole world.

Frequent droughts have led to adverse drying of crops leading to a number of losses. The problem persists in all the counties including those bordering Mount Kenya forest.

According to the respondents who have been practicing the farming for the past 2 decades, it was clear that lack of rains has so much contributed to reduced output from the farms.

The most affected regions are the lower parts of Tharaka Nithi County (Tharaka North and South Districts) and the lower parts of Meru bordering Tharaka Mwingi and Isiolo. These parts have been demarcated under hardship (Semi Arid areas of Kenya – ASAL)In these areas, crops have been drying up, cattle have been dying and rivers which they depend on to irrigate their land have ever since dried up.

**Remoteness and poor accessibility** of these areas is another factor which have been affecting agricultural production. Roads network has not been up to date, but the government under CDF and ASAL programme has been trying hard to open up these areas so that they can be accessible to all and hence make marketing of the produce easier.

**Good governance, transparency and participation by the cooperative members in decision making**

60% of the respondents from producer cooperative societies felt that their leaders did not give their members freedom to express their views as to the way the cooperatives should be run. This has been accompanied by mismanagement and misappropriation of funds and resources by the Leaders leading to poor or very little output.

According to the cooperative office in Nyeri and Meru, a number of Coffee cooperatives have been closed down as a result of poor leadership, transparency and misappropriation of funds.

**Harmony, Social cohesion and Trust among members**

Good correlation is a very crucial and important factor for a better functioning association. According to the cooperatives officer From Maua (Igembe North District), 1 cooperative society
in the district completely collapsed as a result of boundary disputes in the bordering Tharaka area, a situation which was greatly affected by the tribal clashes which took place.

No other area was found to be so much being affected by the problem, except very minor differences which are resolved harmoniously by the leaders themselves.

**Access to alternative source of water supply for irrigation**

With current conditions especially during this era of climate change, unreliability of rainfall has become key problem to the farmers who rely on rainfall in order to grow their produce. For the past decade, the rains have not been adequate and hence leading to reduced and poor quality yields.

A number of groups from all the counties expressed their concern on how the rainfall has totally failed them. They expressed the need of the government to help them on alternative supply of irrigation water. The concern mainly was raised from the farmers from the remote parts of Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties which are very dry. Those cooperatives in the heart of Mt Kenya in all the Counties did not experience this problem because their vicinity to the forest and relief rainfall made their rivers, wells and dams to have water all the time throughout the year.

**Knowledge of the farmers on modern farming Methods and farm management techniques for better production.**

From the study conducted, 2 out of 6 groups in Tharaka Nithi, 4 out of 12 in Nyeri and 4 out of 10 groups in Meru of the community based agriculture producers did not have access to education opportunities to keep them updated on the emerging farming techniques, and also on sustainable methods. Those from remote and semi arid areas of Tharaka lacked Knowledge on the best crops to plat due to un predictability of rainfall. Nkio Agricultural Producers expressed of lacking Knowledge on better farming methods like Drip Irrigation and planting drought resistant and short rain crops to counter the problem of water shortage. Natwana Cooperative which farms Cereals among other cooperative groups in the remote areas also expressed the same concern.

Over Cultivation and over grazing was also found to be the other main issue with farmers after the research. Most Farmers plant the same type of crops for a long time hence interrupting with the nutrients of the soil. They also lacked knowledge of mixed cropping. The problem was mostly experienced in Nyeri County and upper parts of Tharaka Nithi and Meru Counties where each farmer has got very small portion of Land as a result of population pressure.

**Weak Ties and collaboration with other development sector and in sufficient support by the government**

Public-Private partnership was the other major setback for these organizations. Most group members and officials especially the community groups expressed their neglect by the government for support either with Knowledge or funds to develop their farms.
There are no Government field officers to support them with technical knowledge to support their farming mechanisms and systems.

**Lack of Capital to finance the farming activities**

2 out of 6 groups in Tharaka Nithi, 4 out of 12 in Nyeri and 4 out of 10 groups in Meru of the community based agriculture producers of the community groups expressed their concern on the availability of funds to support and to improve their farming systems. Unlike only 3 producer cooperatives in Meru, 2 in Tharaka Nithi and 4 in Nyeri who experienced the problem due to poor management and Governance by the leaders.
Chapter 5: Conclusions
In summary, here are the key challenges and capacity gaps experienced by these cooperatives

5.1. Production and Marketing
- Lack of Market information for the key produce hence fetching very low prices locally.
- Low Market Prices
- Lack of Value addition especially for the dairy, Coffee and horticultural produce eg Bananas and passion fruits.
- Exploitation of farmers especially by middlemen due to lack of market information.
- Lack of proper marketing system of the produce.
- Poor storage and preservation facilities especially on perishable goods produced by horticulture. This makes the products to spoil before they reach to the market.

5.2. Access to credit and farm Input
- Lack of cheap credit Facilities to improve production (for inputs) and marketing (Processing, Packaging).
- Effect of Pests and diseases which frequently attack their crops hence low and poor quality output.
- In adequate Knowledge of the modern farming techniques especially
- Problem in communication due to remoteness and poor infrastructure in some parts especially in Meru and Tharaka Nithi and Nyeri Counties.
- Lack of co guarantees system among members especially when in need of access to credit to improve their farming methods. This Mostly applies to community farmers. There is no data, results or discussion to support this problem. How did you know it exists? What can you base your argument to support it?

5.3. Weather and Climate change effects
- Frequent droughts, insufficient water, poor water use and preservation systems to poor yields. Some farmers were not aware of sustainable and efficient water use systems in dry areas like Drip Irrigation.
• Adverse weather change E.G Droughts, Frost and floods which destroy the cash crops especially in the remote parts of Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties

• Lack of integration and consideration of population and environmental concerns in all aspects of development process.

• **Over reliance on rain fed agriculture**

• **Lack of Knowledge on better farming Techniques**
  • Poor Governance, Management, and internal control Systems
  • Poor leadership leading to misappropriation of the funds.
  • participation by the members in decision making

5.5. **External Factors**

• Lack of harmony among the cooperative and community Members in General members.

• Immobility and sufficient field officers to provide relevant information as regards to farming and marketing strategies.

• Weak collaboration with other development sectors both public and private.

**Analysis of Capacity Gaps and Challenges as per the type of cooperative/ Group**

**Table 7:** Analysis of Capacity Gaps and Challenges as per the type of cooperative/ Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Cooperative</th>
<th>Capacity Gaps/ Challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Horticulture Groups | • Poor Governance in the Group  
                      | • Frequent droughts and insufficient water supply leading to drying of crops. Those with irrigation water have their reduced or no water supply during dry season. The rivers where they trap water dry up frequently;  
                      | • Lack of proper planting seeds  
                      | • Lack of knowledge on modern farming methods and how to manage the group, insufficient water for irrigation, financial problems.  
                      | • Lack of harmony among the group members / internal wrangles.  
                      | • Lack of sufficient Knowledge on modern Farming Practices |
| Rabbit Breeders    | • Poor Governance in the group  
                      | • Insufficient water to those fish Farmers who are using fish ponds to rear fish  
                      | • Lack of technical knowledge and skills on the modern farming techniques.  
                      | • A number of Farmers rear the local breeds which have very low market value and take long time to mature  
                      | • Lack of access to exotic breeds of Rabbits  
                      | • Attack by pests and deceases and insufficient knowledge on the best pests control methods hence losses.  
                      | • Lack of access to capital and credit facilities to expand their stock.  
                      | • Poor market value of the product due to lack of Value addition equipments and techniques.  
                      | • Most of these farmers market their produce locally or to brokers who buy at a very low |
market price hence reduced output.
- Lack of sufficient Knowledge on modern Farming Practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pigs Breeders</th>
<th>Lack of ready Market for the Produce</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor Governance in the group</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insufficient water to those fish Farmers who are using fish ponds to rear fish</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of technical knowledge and skills on the modern farming techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A number of Farmers rear the local breeds which have very low market value and take long time to mature</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of access to exotic breeds of Rabbits</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attack by pests and deceases and insufficient knowledge on the best pests control methods hence losses.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of access to capital and credit facilities to expand their stock.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Poor market value of the product due to lack of Value addition equipments and techniques.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Most of these farmers market their produce locally or to brokers who buy at a very low market price hence reduced output.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lack of sufficient Knowledge on modern Farming Practices</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chicken Breeders</th>
<th>Lack of ready Market for the Produce</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor Governance in the group</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insufficient water to those fish Farmers who are using fish ponds to rear fish</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of technical knowledge and skills on the modern farming techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A number of Farmers rear the local breeds which have very low market value and take long time to mature</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of access to exotic breeds of Rabbits</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attack by pests and deceases and insufficient knowledge on the best pests control methods hence losses.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of access to capital and credit facilities to expand their stock.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor market value of the product due to lack of Value addition equipments and techniques.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Most of these farmers market their produce locally or to brokers who buy at a very low market price hence reduced output.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of sufficient Knowledge on modern Farming Practices</td>
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<tr>
<th>Fish Farmers</th>
<th>Poor Governance in the group</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insufficient water to those fish Farmers who are using fish ponds to rear fish</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drying rivers to those farmers who depend on rivers to fish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of access to capital and credit facilities to expand their stock.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor market value of the product due to lack of Value addition equipments and techniques.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Most of these farmers market their produce locally or to brokers who buy at a very low market price hence reduced output.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lack of sufficient Knowledge on modern Farming Practices</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bee Keepers/ Honey Harvesters/</th>
<th>Poor Governance in the group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Most of these farmers market their produce locally or to brokers who buy at a very low market price hence reduced output.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of access to capital and credit facilities to expand their stock.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Poor market value of the product due to lack of Value addition equipments and techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use of traditional hives which accommodates very little honey and not easy to harvest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Most of the forest and trees that they use to keep the hives are being destroyed.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor market value of the product due to lack of Value addition equipments and techniques and packaging technology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prolonged droughts hence less honey production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of accessible market for the produce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>External conflicts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of sufficient Knowledge on modern Farming Practices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Dairy Farmers | - In accessibility and poor condition of roads hence hardships in ability to transport the produce to the market.  
- Drought hence leading to scarcity of feeds  
- Lack of finance to improve their farming  
- Farm supplements bought at a very high cost hence high cost of production  
- Lack of storage Facilities hence spoilage of the produce.  
- Lack of sufficient Knowledge on modern Farming Practices |
Chapter 6. Recommendations

Important points to note and conclusions from the findings are the conclusion addressing the objectives of the baseline survey?

Based on the Findings in this Research, the above identified Capacity gaps needs to be addressed in order to improve the productivity and Sustainability of the production of agricultural produce.

In order to address the problems faced these cooperative societies, agriculture production policies need to be reviewed in order to recognize the local farmers as the key and part of producers of both food and commercial agriculture produce, and proper systems put in place to build their capacity by both collaboration between private and public sector.

In addition, There are a number of gaps which needs to be addressed by building the capacity of the groups through training while others need financial support. They are summarized in the table below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description of Capacity Gap</th>
<th>How to address the Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Those that can be addressed</td>
<td>Poor Governance, lack of knowledge and capacity to manage the group, lack of harmony among</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>through training</td>
<td>the group members and internal wrangles.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Frequent droughts and in sufficient water supply</td>
<td>Educating the farmers on drought resistant crop variety</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Education on sustainable water use e.g. drip irrigation method</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conservation and climate change Literacy to the members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of knowledge on modern</td>
<td>Education and training on modern farming techniques which can bring more output with less</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>farming methods</td>
<td>production costs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of access to capital and</td>
<td>Training Members on how to support one another, and how to form associations to guarantee</td>
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<tr>
<td>credit facilities to expand their stock.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Destruction of trees leading to</td>
<td>Conservation and climate change Literacy to the members</td>
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<tr>
<td>loss of rainfall and biodiversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of accessible market for the produce/marketing of produce locally</td>
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<td>------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brokers buying their produce at a very low market price hence reduced output</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education on how to form marketing associations which can market their produce.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education on possibilities of associations adopting value addition methods before marketing their produce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attack by pests and deceases and insufficient knowledge on the best pests control methods hence losses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training on pest and disease Control methods and Techniques</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Those gaps that can be addressed through financial Support</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Value addition equipments and techniques.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor storage facilities require capital to put in place.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of Funds to finance their farming activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linking the farmers with Financial institutions like AFC among others in order to finance the farmers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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Annex

ANNEXTURE I: Interview Guide for the Cooperative societies (Leaders).

1. Name of the respondent
2. Position Held in the Group
3. Details of the Cooperative Society
   - Name
   - District
   - Division
   - Registration Number
   - Number of Members, Male..............Female..............
   - Date of initiation of the Group
   - Number of Officials
   - The period that the selected members serve as officials
   - Gender Representation of the officials, Male ..............Female..............
   - Whether the membership declines or has been increasing (Membership Trend)
5. Activities of the group (Give Description).
6. Types of agricultural production that the members are involved in (Bananas, Honey, Passion Fruits, Beans, Coffee, Tea, Fish, Meat, Mutton, Rabbit Meat, Chicken Meat etc.
7. Quantity of Production every harvesting Season and the trend for the past two years.
8. How they Market their products.
9. Method of Transport and challenges faced during transport
10. The awareness on the members pertaining climate change
11. The prices fetched from the goods Marketed For the period described in (5) above.
12. Do they market raw or processed?
13. How they manage the surplus.
14. Method of storage for the surplus
15. Challenges faced by the groups during

16. Production
17. Harvesting the produce
18. Marketing the produce

19. Availability of Assistance from the government
20. Their Satisfaction with the leaders they have (to members only).
21. Whether they have ever acquired any training on farming methods as pertains the
   activity that they are doing/ Their technical expertise as pertains the type of farming
   that they are doing.
22. Where the group get water to irrigate their land (Rainfall, irrigation etc)
23. Relationship among the group Members
24. How the differences are managed within the group.
25. General challenges faced by the groups

ANNEXTURE II: Interview Guide for the Cooperative societies (Members).
1. Name of the respondent
2. Position Held in the Group
3. Details of the Cooperative Society
   - Name......................
   - District...................
   - Division...................
   - Registration Number......................
   - Number of Members, Male.............Female...........
   - Date of initiation of the Group..........................
   - Number of Officials..........................
   - The period that the selected members serve as officials..........
   - Gender Representation of the officials, Male .................., Female...........
   - Whether the membership declines or has been increasing (Membership Trend)
5. Activities of the group (Give Description).
   Types of agricultural production that the members are involved in (Bananas, Honey, Passion Fruits, Beans, Coffee, Tea, Fish, Meat, Mutton, Rabbit Meat, Chicken Meat etc.
6. Quantity of Production every harvesting Season and the trend for the past two years.
8. Method of Transport and challenges faced during transport
9. The awareness on the members pertaining climate change
10. The prices Fetched from the goods Marketed For the period described in (5) above.
11. Do they market raw or processed?
12. How they manage the surplus.
13. Method of storage for the surplus
14. Challenges faced by the groups during
   - Production
   - Harvesting the produce
   - Marketing the produce
15. Availability of Assistance from the government
16. Their Satisfaction with the leaders they have (to members only).
17. Whether they have ever acquired any training on farming methods as pertains the activity that they are doing/Their technical expertise as pertains the type of farming that they are doing.
18. Where the group get water to irrigate their land (Rainfall, irrigation etc)
19. Relationship among the group Members
20. How the differences are managed within the group.
21. General challenges faced by the groups
22. Their Perception towards the leadership of the cooperative Society
Annexure III: Interview Guide for the cooperative officers.
1. Types of Cooperative Movements in the area of jurisdiction (District) (Producer, Savings and Credit, Multipurpose, Marketing).
2. Number of Registered cooperatives in the District in the category above.
3. Membership number
4. Variety of product either cash or food crop from the cooperatives mentioned.
5. Support rendered to the farmers by the government (Availability of Field officers from the government, any credit or subsidy facility offered etc.).
6. Challenges faced by the farmers as pertains production, marketing. Transportation,

Annexure IV: Interview Guide for the cooperative officers.
1. Number of Registered community groups in the District which take place in whose their main activities are Farming.
2. Membership number.
3. Variety of product either cash or food crop from the cooperatives mentioned.
4. Support rendered to the farmers by the government (Availability of Field officers from the government, any credit or subsidy facility offered etc.).
5. Challenges faced by the farmers as pertains production, marketing. Transportation,

Annexure V
A list of other groups identified and found to be actively involved and participating in agriculture production and registered under department of social services or cooperative Societies registered under ministry of Cooperative Development. Listed per County.

Tharaka Nithi County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<th>Gender Representation</th>
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<td>Hussein Gitonga</td>
<td>Meru</td>
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<td>-Farming and marketing Passion Fruits and Bananas. -Rabbit Keeping -Grains Farming -Credit Facility (Micro Credit)</td>
<td>Erick Kirimi Julius - 0720357632</td>
<td>Karingani Ciambarga</td>
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<td>Kirubia FCS Mugirirwa Location</td>
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<td>Ashford Kirwigi-0723747980</td>
<td>Kirubia Mugirirwa</td>
<td>Not Determined due to Drop Outs and Seasonality of Coffee</td>
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<td>Mukamanda Agriculture Producers and self help Group</td>
<td>-Farming and marketing Passion Fruits and Bananas. -Fish Farming</td>
<td>Ferdinand Ngai-0736758495</td>
<td>Magumoni Njuri</td>
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<td>Lillian Karegi-0733319769</td>
<td>Magumoni Thuita</td>
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<td>Rosalid Ciakuthie=0711315195</td>
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<td>Edward Mutwiri-0720587092</td>
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<td>Christine Murangiri-0711111948</td>
<td>Magumoni Magumoni</td>
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<td>0722897283 Dinah Wanja</td>
<td>Kiang’ondu Kiang’ondu</td>
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<td>Farming and Marketing of Cereals</td>
<td>Jerusha =0727049151</td>
<td>Tharaka Marimanti</td>
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<td>Harvesting and Marketing Honey in Small Scale</td>
<td>Kanyua 0710831186 Uki</td>
<td>Chiakariga Kithendo</td>
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<td>Natwana Cooperative</td>
<td>Farming and Marketing of Majau 0726684111</td>
<td>** Chiakariga Chiakariga</td>
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<td>Farming and Marketing of Milk</td>
<td>Imenti</td>
<td>Nkuene</td>
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<td>Thuure</td>
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<td>Nkubu</td>
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<td>Gakindu</td>
<td>Grazing Dairy cows/Pig rearing</td>
<td>0724865799 Lillian Wangui Mwangi</td>
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<td>Lydia Gathoni</td>
<td>Nyeri North</td>
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<td>Miriam Wahome</td>
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<td>Maina Wachira</td>
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<td>Mercy Mugai</td>
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<td>Maina Wairimu</td>
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<td>George Muthiga</td>
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