

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAJIADO



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & FISHERIES

KAJIADO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRES POLICY, 2019

AUGUST 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| List of Abbreviations..... | 3 |
| Foreward | 4 |
| CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND..... | 6 |
| 1.0 Introduction..... | 6 |
| 1.2 Rationale of the Agricultural Training Centres Policy..... | 7 |
| 1.3.Scope of the Agricultural Training Centres policy..... | 9 |
| CHAPTER 2: AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRES AND CURRENT CONSTRAINTS...10 | |
| 2.1 Agricultural Training Centres in Kenya..... | 10 |
| 2.2 Agricultural Training Centres in Kajiado County..... | 11 |
| 2.3 ATC Operations | 13 |
| 2.4 Challenges facing Agricultural Training Centres..... | 13 |
| 2.4.1 Inadequate and insufficient modern facilities..... | 13 |
| 2.4.2 Lack of funding to complete the current projects..... | 13 |
| 2.2.3 Inadequate labour..... | 13 |
| 2.2.4 Inadequate office for staff..... | 13 |
| 2.4.5 Inadequate land..... | 13 |
| 2.4.5 Dormant ATC board and committees..... | 14 |
| 2.4.6 Non-servicing of fixed assets | 14 |
| 2.4.7 Delayed and inadequate funding..... | 14 |
| 2.4.8 Non –Operation of the DFF | 14 |
| CHAPTER 3:VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES..... | 15 |
| 3.1 Vision..... | 15 |
| 3.2 Mission | 15 |
| 3.3 Objectives..... | 15 |
| 2.4 Functions of the ATCs..... | 15 |
| CHAPTER 4: POLICY ISSUES AND STATEMENTS..... | 17 |
| CHAPTER 5: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND COORDINATION MECHANISM..... | 21 |
| 5.1 Introduction | 21 |
| 5.2 Implementers..... | 21 |
| CHAPTER 6: MONITORING AND EVALUATION..... | 22 |

List of abbreviations

| | |
|-------|--|
| ASDSP | Agricultural Sector Development Sector Programme |
| ATC | Agricultural Training Centre |
| ATVET | Agricultural Technical Vocational Educational and Training |
| BOM | Board of Management |
| CIRP | Potato Research Centre International |
| DFF | Demonstration Farm Fund |
| ERA | Economic review on Agriculture |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| IILR | International Institute of Livestock Research |
| ITWG | Intergovernmental Thematic Working Group |
| KARO | Kenya Agricultural Research Organization |
| KEFRI | Kenya Forest Research Institute |
| NASEP | National Agricultural Sector Programme |
| PPP | Public Private Partnership |
| TMC | Technical Management Committee |
| UNCED | United Nations Conference on Environment and Development |

Foreword

Article 189 (c) of the Kenya Constitution requires the National government to liaise with the County government for the purpose of exchanging information, coordinating policies and enhancing capacities while the 6th schedule requires the national government to assist the county government in building their capacity to govern effectively and provide services for which they are responsible.

Article 35 of the Kenya Constitution grants every Kenyan citizen the right to access information. Similarly the Kenya Vision 2030 has given priority to infrastructure, human resource, science, technology and innovation that have implications in capacity building in the agriculture sector.

The Agriculture Policy identifies the importance of skilled and creative human resource to stimulate sector development. To this end it proposes formulation of standards for agriculture training and skill development through promotion of investment in agriculture education, research and extension.

Agriculture is dynamic owing to new technologies, innovations and products coupled with impacts of external factors such as marketing, access to credit and climate change. This dynamism necessitates that technical officers and other stakeholders be equipped continually with the necessary skills, knowledge and competencies. To enhance research and development as stipulated in the policies such as the Agriculture and Livestock.

ATCs are the only institutions where farmers, stakeholders, students, pupils scholars and researchers can freely utilize. In February of 2014 under the clause of transfer of functions in The Constitution of Kenya, the ATCs transfer to their respective counties was approved .The Transition to Devolved Government also specified that the counties in which the ATCs were located were to develop mechanisms of management and develop annual budgets to cater for the operation costs of the ATCs. This official transfer indicates the start of a new strategy of Management of The ATCs in terms of funding.

This policy targets the Establishment of Agricultural Training Centres in Kajiado County. It further stipulates the terms of their operations, management and sustainability in line with the county laws. It will give guidelines on institutional requirements for efficient and effective service delivery to the farming community and other agricultural sector stakeholders within Kajiado County. It is expected that the policy will lead to the operationalization of the ATCs.

Hon. Jackline Koin
County Executive Committee Member
Agriculture,Livestock and Fisheries

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The Agricultural sector directly contributes about 27% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and a further 27% through manufacturing, distribution and service sectors and accounts for 65% of the total export earnings annually (Economic Review of Agriculture (ERA), 2017). The sector employs over 80% of Kenya's rural work force and provides more than 18% of formal employment. The performance of the agriculture sector and the national economy are closely linked with the economic growth - declining whenever there is a shock in the agriculture sector and vice versa. Kenya Vision 2030 identifies agriculture as one of the key sectors through which to achieve the projected 10% annual economic growth rate. The sector faces many challenges that constrain its growth and limit the envisaged sector contribution. These constraints include; inadequate commercialization, low production and productivity, weak market linkages and inadequate infrastructure. Capacity building can assist in addressing the identified challenges through consistent capacity development, skills and knowledge improvement for service providers and stakeholders; thereby utilizing the benefits of advances in agricultural research, technology development and public policy.

Capacity Building entails much more than training and encompasses development of the human, scientific, technological, organizational and resource capabilities for institutions (UNCED, 1992). Capacity building for the sector will therefore involve the following components:

- Human resource development involving equipping individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training in agriculture to contribute to sector development;
- Institutional strengthening entailing; management of structures, processes, procedures, not only within organizations but also the management of relationships between the different organizations and sectors (public, private and community).
- Enabling environment where the focus will be on policy, legal, regulatory, norms and institutional framework.

The sector has various categories of institutions that include training, research & technology development, policy, financial, extension, marketing, ICT and value addition. The majority of institutions in the country (26%) provide extension services while about

8% provide training services and only 0.8% of the institutions offer ICT services (ASDSP, 2016).

Most of the sector institutions reported training as one of the tools for building capacity and all categories of institutions required training in farming husbandry, computer literacy, financial management and administration, and leadership skills.

1.2 Rationale of the Agricultural Training Centres Policy

County obligation: Article 189 (c) of the Kenya Constitution requires the National government to liaise with the County government for the purpose of exchanging information, coordinating policies and enhancing capacities while the 6th schedule requires the national government to assist the county government in building their capacity to govern effectively and provide services for which they are responsible.

Agriculture was one of the government functions which were devolved to the counties. In February of 2014 under the clause of transfer of functions in The Constitution of Kenya, the ATCs transfer to their respective counties was approved. The Transition to Devolved Government also specified that the counties in which the ATCs were located were to develop mechanisms of management and develop annual budgets to cater for the operation costs of the ATCs. This official transfer indicates the start of a new strategy of Management of The ATCs in terms of funding.

Training: Article 35 of the Kenya Constitution grants every Kenyan citizen the right to access information. Similarly the Kenya Vision 2030 has given priority to infrastructure, human resource, science, technology and innovation that have implications in capacity building in the agriculture sector. The Vision highest priority is infrastructure through; devoting more resources to research and technical capabilities of the workforce, raising quality of teaching technology and innovation in schools, polytechnics and other institutions, building global competencies and adaptive human resource base through life long training and education and to establish new technical training institutions with enhanced closer collaboration with relevant industries.

The ATCs main role is Training and on average approximately 1500 farmers are served at the Centre through residential and non residential trainings, field days and exhibitions, outreach programmes, demonstrations and on farm trials. This is a figure that cannot be ignored in terms of knowledge sharing if the county and the country in general has to achieve household food security. These and other are among the approaches used at the ATCs to disseminate agricultural messages and offer extension

services to the farmers at no cost. This has been underscored by the Intergovernmental Thematic Working Group (ITWG) on food Security, capacity building and extension.

Learning: The Agriculture Policy identifies the importance of skilled and creative human resource to stimulate sector development. To this end it proposes formulation of standards for agriculture training and skill development through promotion of investment in agriculture education, research and extension. Agriculture is one of the subjects offered by the school curriculum in the country. Privatization of land use has seen diminishing land set aside for farming demonstrations, on-farm trials, screening and training areas for farmers. Agriculture is dynamic owing to new technologies, innovations and products coupled with impacts of external factors such as marketing, access to credit and climate change. This dynamism necessitates that technical officers and other stakeholders be equipped continually with the necessary skills, knowledge and competencies. To enhance research and development as stipulated in the policies such as the Agriculture and Livestock, ATCs are the only institutions where farmers, stakeholders, students, pupils scholars and researcher can free utilize .These clients are able to showcase , demonstrate and learn from the ATCs without much of restrictions.

Food Security: Vision 2030, Agriculture and Livestock policies highlight the importance of food and nutrition security. In particular the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, stipulates that the government has a responsibility of capacity building to ensure availability of adequate, quality, safety-assured food for all at all times. Article 43 (1) of the constitution of Kenya gives every Kenyan right to freedom from hunger and access to adequate food. One of the roles of the ATCs is to allow for bulking of food and multiplication of crop and livestock materials. The centers multiply good breeds of dairy cows , dairy goats ,rabbits, fish, chicken and sell them to farmers within the county at fair prices lower than the market rates. It is at these centres as they buy their goods that they are trained on management and husbandly aspects. This is something they will not get from the private extension providers. With a constant organized supply the farmers are assured of quality crop varieties and animal breeds. The communities around the ATCs also benefit from the sale of surplus food produce from the crops planted in the farm. The ATCs have sustained supply of vegetables and milk to their environs.

Revenue: The Agriculture food policy identifies agriculture institutions to be among those who experience poor governance, and deteriorating physical infrastructure coupled with obsolete equipment and machinery. It however proposes strengthening of sector institutions establishing mechanisms for intra and inter institutional linkages and

provisions of mechanisms of good governance and funding. The ATCS maintain commercial enterprises for the purposes of self sustainability. From these enterprises the produce realized is treated as surplus (both crops and livestock).The produce thus sold generates revenue and the proceeds are debited in the county revenue account as stipulated in county finance bill. Once this revenue is remitted it is not revolved back to support continuity of ATCs projects thus most of the enterprises cease. A revolving fund may assist in self sustaining of these enterprises for longer periods. This will help justify the deployment of required staff to the ATCS and the engagement of contractual workforce.

Public-Private-Participation (PPP): The Veterinary policy on its part highlights the need for strong Public Private Partnership to ensure a continuous professional development programmes and internship as strategies that should be institutionalized by both levels of government. The centers attract wide PPP- engagements for the County. These engagements are stipulated in the Agriculture Sector Development Strategy Paper (ASDSP 2016). Organizations like CIRP have bulked seed potatoes and distributed to farmers timely at fair prices through their partnership with the ATCS. Other organizations include IILR, KARO, KEFRI who have collaborated with the ATC on a number of activities. This trend has been improving and needs to be enhanced for improved service delivery.

1.3 Scope of the Agricultural Training Centres Policy

The policy targets the Establishment of Agricultural Training Centres in Kajiado County. It further stipulates the terms of their operations, management and sustainability in line with the county laws. It will give guidelines on institutional requirements for efficient and effective service delivery to the farming community and other agricultural sector stakeholders within Kajiado County. It is expected that the policy will lead to the operationalization of the ATCs.

CHAPTER 2

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRES AND CURRENT CONSTRAINTS

2.1 Agricultural Training Centres in Kenya

Agricultural Training Centres(ATCs) were started in Kenya in the 1950's after the launching of the Swynnerton plan, which called for intensification of African agriculture. Since then these centres have continued to play a major role in the development of both livestock and crop production in the country. Currently there are 27 ATCs located in different agro-ecological zones (AEZ) and still others are being proposed

In every ATC there are two interdependent sections namely the School and the Farm. The School comprises of the training facilities including classrooms, conference rooms, hostels, dining hall and kitchen. The Farm comprises of two sections; first are the demonstration plots of various crops and animal enterprises which are maintained with funds voted under Recurrent and Development Votes. The centres also operate commercial enterprises (both under the school and the farm) which are maintained by a revolving fund referred to as Demonstrations Farms Fund (DFF). This fund was formed under the Ex-chequer and Audit act, CAP412 laws of Kenya through the legal notice No.456 of 16th November 1990.

The Objective and purpose of fund was to provide resources for development and running of the commercial activities/enterprises on a revolving basis with the ultimate goal of making the ATC self sustaining.

The ATCs are headed by a principal. The deputy principal is the training coordinator and is in-charge of the school section. There is a farm manager who is in charge of the farm section. Other technical staff include: Agro-procesing. Livestock,crops and Home Economics officers. The support staff include: driver, Clerks, secretaries, cateress, cooks, housekeepers and plant operators. The other category of workers are the

security guards, livestock attendants, gardeners, cleaners, who maybe engaged on contractual or casual basis.

In addition the ATCs are managed in collaboration with a number of boards and committees. There exists a Board of management (BOM) comprising of farmer members (drawn from ATC catchment area), representatives from key departments and co-opted members. The Board acts as an oversight body. There is a technical management committee which is in charge of handling technical issues for example training needs assessment of farmers, organizing for Field days and manning the demonstration plots. There are two other sub-committees namely: the ATC procurement and the ATC inspection and acceptance committee. Their role is to oversee procurement and delivery of goods and services to the centres especially the perishables and to counter check timeliness of supplies. Finally there is the Biological Assets Committee which sits annually with the role of stock taking of the institutional physical and biological Assets. It establishes and proposes the culling and disposal of unserviceable assets.

2.2 Agricultural Training Centres in Kajiado County

Kajiado county has one ATC under its jurisdiction namely ; Ngong Agricultural Training Centre.

The ATC is located in Kajiado North sub-county, Ngong ward within Vet farm LR NO. 2627. It is about 5kms from Karen and 1km before Ngong town along Ngong Road. The location is ideal for a wide catchment area having its clients from Nairobi, Kiambu, Machakos and its mother Kajiado counties

Ngong ATC is among the oldest centers in the country. It was started during pre-independence period in 1940, as a livestock improvement center for the then predominantly pastoral Maasai community. Later in 1965, there was neede to diversify the services provided. Crop and animal husbandry training was introduced to help improve agriculture production in the region.

Since its inception, over 100,000 farmers and youths from all over the country have been trained at the centre at an average of 1,500 participants yearly.

The main objective of the ATC is to improve agricultural production through training of farmers on recommended crop and livestock technologies and to practically demonstrate on the farm the agricultural extension messages passed to them by extension staff.

The ATC lies within the large Vet Farm LR No.2627 which is owned by the Ministry of Livestock. The centre occupies about 15 acres of land, which is utilized as 8 acres for crop production and 7 acres for training facilities, offices and farm structures. The land is not surveyed and thus the centre has no title deed.

The School : The primary objective of the ATC School is the provision of training facilities and /or organizing for training/courses for farmers and stakeholders aimed at bringing about change in the knowledge, attitudes and skills, and enhancing receptiveness to emerging skills and technologies. Towards achievement of the above objective the ATC maintains the following school facilities:

| Sr n. | Facility | Capacity |
|-------|------------------|----------|
| 1 | Men dormitory | 16 |
| 2 | Ladies dormitory | 12 |
| 3 | Conference hall | 50 |
| 4 | Classroom | 20 |
| 5 | Kitchen | 100 |
| 6 | Dinning | 30 |

The Farm: The ATC lies along AEZ2 and 3 with bimodal Rainfall of 600-900mm pa, minimum temperatures are between 10-14⁰C and soils are clay loams/black cotton. The ATC maintains a model/demonstration farm showcasing both crop and animal production. Under the crop section there is farming in greenhouse, open drip irrigation and rain-fed. The crops grown include: root crops especially Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes horticultural crops eg. Tomatoes, onions, kales, spinach and cabbages, traditional vegetables, herbs and spices. The livestock section has dairy cows and goats, rabbits, poultry and fish. The farm runs its own borehole

Other Programmes: School visits- school pupils and college students visit the centre for agriculture excursions and educational tours

Outreach – the ATC staff visit the farmers who have been trained at the institution for follow-up and backstopping

Collaboration- The ATC invites collaborators/stakeholders/incubators in agriculture to showcase/demonstrate/exhibit up-coming technologies to farmers in the institution

2.3 ATC Operations

The ATC currently operates under recurrent expenditure from the county government of Kajiado.

2.4 Challenges facing Agricultural Training Centres

2.4.1 Inadequate and insufficient modern facilities

The ATC school facilities are old, dilapidated and lack modern facilities especially the dormitories. The capacity cannot meet the demand. Currently refurbishment is not economical owing to the poor state.

The farm structures are of the old designs and do not conform to the modern agricultural trends for example the zero-grazing and dairy goat units, greenhouses.

2.4.2 Lack of funding to complete the current projects

When the ATCs were devolved some structures were still under construction like the conference hall and the poultry unit. They have since stalled as no funds have been allocated for their completion.

2.4.3 Inadequate labour

The sections of ATC require contracted and casual labour for running the activities. In the school cleaners for hostels and compound maintenance are required while in the farm livestock attendants and gardeners man the animals and crops respectively. The centre currently has very few of these laborers. On overall the centre requires contracted guards for security purposes and this has not been possible under the county governments funding.

2.4.4 Inadequate office for staff

The ATC principal is hosted by the Livestock department while the D/principal and Home Economics officers use part of the hostels as their offices. The working environment is not conducive and coordination of activities is poor.

2.4.5 Inadequate land

The 15 acres piece of land owned by the ATC is not adequate for expansion of the centre facilities and the fact that the land is not surveyed limits the scale of operations and investments. For instance large scale multiplication/bulking of crops and animal for supply to farmers is limited. The ATC has its structures far apart within the large Vet Farm with the school and the farm approximately 800metres apart which poses a challenge in activity coordination and resource utilization e.g. Water, electricity, IT equipments.

2.4.6 Dormant ATC board and committees

Since devolution the Board and the various committees have been inactive. This has negatively affected operations at the centre and of ultimate concern and urgency is the culling/disposal of old and unproductive livestock.

2.4.7 Non-servicing of fixed assets

The ATC has assets that require regular repairs and maintenance. These include-borehole, vehicles, generators, water piping systems. The county procurement system has not favoured the servicing of these assets leading to their quick depreciation and frequent dysfunctioning.

2.4.8 Delayed and inadequate funding

The average funding of Ksh 200,000 annually given for recurrent expenditure given against an annual budget of Ksh 4M is far below the financial requirements of the institution. Delay in reimbursement causes discontinuity of most projects and losses in both crops and livestock.

The facilities attract large utility bills which are not promptly settled leading to non-operations at the centre. The ATC plan of activities are disrupted by these delays.

2.4.9 Non –Operation of the DFF

Upon devolution the fund which maintained the commercial activities/enterprises became non-operational. Running of these enterprises e.g. multiplication of KenBro chicks for farmers, bulking of planting materials from KALRO collapsed. The ATC has since ceased to offer residential trainings, conference and accommodation services to farmers which is still on very high demand.

CHAPTER 3

VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Vision

The Vision of the Agricultural Training Centres is “To be centers of excellence for agri-business incubation and training of farmers/pastoralists/aquaculturalists and other stakeholders”.

3.2 Mission

The Mission of Agricultural Training Centres is “To train farmers/ pastoralists/ aquaculturalists and other stakeholders on relevant agricultural technologies, innovations and skills through technical demonstrations, agribusiness incubation provision of training facilities and germplasm”

3.3 Objectives

The overall objective of ATCs is to provide quality training services and facilities for enhancing agriculture and development.

Specific objectives for ATCs are:

- (a) To improve access to agricultural technology and information;
- (b) Provide quality training facilities for agricultural development;
- (c) Promotion of sustainable land use and conservation of natural resources;
- (d) Promote household food security;
- (e) Provide improved germplasm to users
- (f) Promote value-addition and utilization of agricultural produce; and
- (g) Promote commercialization of agricultural enterprises.

3.4 Functions of The ATCs

The following are the core functions of the ATCs:

- a) to offer residential and non-residential (including outreach) trainings on relevant technologies backed with practical demonstrations;
- b) to provide training facilities to farmers and other stakeholders involved in agriculture and development;
- c) to maintain a model farm for training purposes and for demonstration to stakeholders in agriculture;
- d) to provide facilities for and participate in carrying out adaptive on-farm as well as nation performance trials on relevant technologies;
- e) to serve as bulking centres of plant material ,multiplication of livestock and fingerings for farmers and conservation of germplasm;
- f) to generate revenue for self-financing of commercial enterprises; and
- g) to provide incubation for viable agribusiness to stakeholders and tailor made ATVET hands on skills and knowledge

CHAPTER 4

POLICY ISSUES AND STATEMENTS

Policy issue 1: Modernization of Agricultural Training Centres

Human resource in the agricultural sector lack adequate physical and bio-physical facilities in the work environment. The Agricultural Training Centres, for example, have dilapidated physical and bio-physical facilities for effective practical training. In addition, agricultural staff at the centres have inadequate office space, ICT hardware and software facilities, and specialized equipment required to discharge their duties. The old office facilities where available are either shared or taken up by the increased number of staff at the centres. In other instances officers work from other structures owing to lack of office facilities.

The training facilities for example the hostels lack self-contained facilities and quality beddings, the conference hall lack in-built ICT training equipment while the kitchen and dining lack modern appliances, furniture and cutlery. The centre lacks an outside ablution/lavatory block to cater for the needs of its visitors.

Objective :

To establish agricultural training centres with modern infrastructure and training facilities for improved service delivery

Policy Statement:

County Government will:

- (1) Establish new and/ or rehabilitate existing agricultural training centres;
- (2) Construct new and modern training facilities including hostels, conference hall ,dining and kitchen and classrooms.
- (3) Procure and maintain vehicles, computers, video conferencing facilities and associated equipment for use by human resource in the agricultural centres;

Policy issue2: Demonstrations Farm Fund

The ATC runs, the commercial activities/ enterprises both under the school and the farm.

The school section offers: (i) residential and non-residential trainings which have accommodation and catering aspects (ii) hires out conference facilities (iii) hires out equipments. Provision of some of these services requires pre-stocking and constant refilling thus a constant financial supply. The school section needs advance facilitation in finances to procure sanitary, fuels, foodstuffs and other necessities required during the trainings

In the farm section crops require inputs especially chemicals, seeds and instant labor for activities e.g weeding which may require urgent attention. The animals on the other hand require services like AI, drugs and other veterinary services which are of urgent nature especially disease outbreaks like ECF in cows and Newcastle in poultry.

The county recurrent funding system cannot sustain the above operations thus the need for a revolving fund. This fund should be easily accessible, accountable, flexible and have a roll-over at the closure of the financial year, but not withstanding should be subjected to the current county financial regulations.

Objective:

To establish an ATC development farm fund to run the commercial activities/enterprises

Policy Statement:

The county will:

- 1) Establish and facilitate the Demonstrations Farms fund
- 2) Provide the start-up capital for the Fund
- 3) Provide for the mechanisms of operating the fund

Policy issue 3: A Model farm

The ATC maintains a model farm showcasing modern agricultural technologies including greenhouse, drip irrigation, aquaculture, dairy, poultry among others. Agriculture is very dynamic and technology is changing very fast. Within the county some farmers are ahead with these technologies while others lack. The ATC should bridge the gap through maintaining a model farm to allow the farming community a chance to learn.

Farm structures within the centre should be of the most recent technological upgrade available to be effective in knowledge transfer.

Recommended farm planning practices, modern technologies and modern farm structures should be exhibited at all times. Demonstration plots in the farm should be maintained at all times and the farm should be able to accommodate stakeholders in the agriculture sector willing to collaborate on areas of seed bulking, screening, demonstrations, on-farm trials

Objective:

To establish a Model farm exhibiting modern and up-coming agricultural technologies for effective technology transfer

Policy Statement:

The county government will:

- 1) Provide 20 acres of land to be set aside as a model farm.
- 2) Provide funds for the establishment of the model farm.
- 3) Provide fund for the farm labor.
- 4) Ensure enabling environment for PPP to thrive.
- 5) Provide land for development of Vocational & Agriculture training Institutions;
- 6) Preserve all Agriculture Training Institutions for use by the sector.

Policy Issue 4: Farmers training programmes

The ATC runs residential and non-residential training for farmers. These trainings are county or stakeholder sponsored. There are also farmer demanded trainings, visits and on-farm training within the ATC. It also hosts students for attachments and research purposes, educational school visits and excursions. The ATC staff have a role to follow-up on the farmers trained through the outreach programme. These activities have work plans and schedules which need strict adherence to avoid loss of confidence by clients. Collaboration with TVET and other institutions of learning needs to be enhanced for quality training

Objective:

To enhance the quality of training and training programmes at the ATCs

Policy Statement:

The county will:

- 1) Provide funds to run the training programmes
- 2) Provide transport facilities to improve extension service delivery
- 3) Organize refresher courses
- 4) Conduct a Training Needs Assessment for the farmers.
- 5) Create a platform for knowledge sharing

CHAPTER 5

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND COORDINATION MECHANISM

5.0 Introduction

Effective implementation of this policy will begin after assigning responsibilities clearly, to relevant institutions charged with different tasks. The implementation process will require coordination, consultations, cooperation and collaboration by the implementers.

The department of agriculture will play the leading role during implementation.

5.1 Implementers

The implementation of this policy will require a number of institutions to take various responsibilities.

The county Office

The county will implement its county executive functions in the implementation of this policy through the County Executive Committee Member of Agriculture. The CECM will formulate guidelines, standards and norms relating to this policy and facilitate the strengthening of legal and regulatory frameworks for the Implementation.

The County Treasury

The County Treasury will provide leadership in directing, regulating and facilitating the implementation of this policy with regards to fiscal matters.

The County Department of Agriculture

The department will implement, facilitate, and coordinate agricultural training centres activities arising from this policy.

The ATC

The ATC principal will plan and implement all the activities envisaged in this policy.

The ATC Board Of Management

The Board will offer oversight role in the implementation of the policy activities.

CHAPTER 6

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and Evaluation ensures control and provides information needed for decision making. Monitoring involves a continuous assessment of the progress made in ATCs while evaluation deals with gathering of data and information to establish the value and the impact of the ATC policy implementation.

An effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism is critical to the successful implementation of the policy. The Departmental Technical Committee at the county level will be responsible for M&E activities.

A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system will be developed and used to ensure that the policy is being efficiently implemented, reaching the intended target groups and is achieving the intended objectives.

An annual evaluation of the policy will be jointly undertaken by stakeholders at the both levels.