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EVALUATION OF THE SATISFACTION AND PERCEIVED IMPACTS OF THE FREE CERTIFIED MAIZE SEEDS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM AMONG SMALL SCALE-FARMERS IN JUJA FARM, KENYA

This study investigates the satisfaction and perceived impacts of a free certified maize seed distribution program among small-scale farmers in Juju Farm, Kiambu County, Kenya. The program, implemented by the county government, aims to enhance food security and support the livelihoods of local farmers by providing high-quality, drought-resistant maize seeds. The research utilized a snow ball sampling technique to acquire the participants and questionnaires in Google Forms were used for data collection. 102 participating farmers were surveyed. Key variables assessed included satisfaction with seed quality and quantity, the impact on agricultural productivity and income, and the overall effectiveness of the program.

The findings indicate that the majority of farmers experienced significant improvements in crop yield and income following their participation in the program. The high-quality seeds provided were well-received, with most farmers reporting satisfaction with both the seeds and the accompanying agricultural extension services. However, challenges such as inadequate seed quantities and inefficiencies in the distribution process were noted, which affected the overall satisfaction levels.

The study suggests that while the seed distribution program has been largely successful in achieving its goals, there is a need for improvements in distribution logistics and increased provision of agricultural inputs like fertilizers. The involvement of Village-Based Advisors (VBAs) was also recommended to enhance the fairness and effectiveness of the distribution process. Overall, the program has made significant contributions to agricultural productivity and economic stability among small-scale farmers in Juja Farm, supporting broader sustainable development goals in the region.

This research provides a foundational understanding of the impact of seed distribution programs and offers evidence-based recommendations for enhancing the scalability and sustainability of such initiatives in Kenya and similar contexts.

Key words: Seed distribution programs, Farmer satisfaction, Certified seeds, Agricultural productivity.