



Student Challenge: South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU)

Mangoes Value Chain Profitability in South Eastern Kenya

Partner: NZAMKA Farmers Cooperative Society Ltd.

Contact Parsons:

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Schedule: July – December 2022

Project background

Nzamka farmers' cooperative society Ltd was registered in 2013, formed by members from 3 sub-counties in Kitui county; Nzambani, Mulango and Katulani thus the origin of the name. The cooperative was started with an objective of organizing and promoting members' welfare and economic interest. It comprises of 246 active members with 61 of them having global gap certification. It has a solar drier which enables the cooperative to process mango flakes.

The overall objective of the project is to investigate causes of low mango productivity, develop ways of increasing profit, develop a model for record keeping, and help the society formulate gross margin analysis tool for profit computation.

Tasks

The students will support the society by doing research on the following:

- Assessing the current mango production and management practices being carried out on the farm with a view to recommending practices that enhance increased productivity and profitability.
- Familiarizing with the existing records used and recommending better and modernize book keeping methods and programs needed in recording harvesting, processing, financial entries and in addition keeping membership records.
- Ascertaining the contributions made by cooperatives in mango value chain.
- Investigating and recommending convenient tool for information handling and computing farm profitability.
- Recommending way forward for future collaborations.

Knowledge, skills and competences to be acquired by the end of the study (expected Learning Outcomes):

At the end of this module, the students are expected to learn the practical application of this exposure in their professional field of farm management and farm business analysis and management. Specifically the student is expected to:

- Develop farm level practical skills for the careers in the field of agribusiness management and entrepreneurship

- Get adequate and valuable exposure in dealing with farm level challenges that face communities and societies as they strive to make their farm operations profitable
- Understand the value of own professional orientation to the area of farm business management.
- Be able to evaluate his/her strengths and weaknesses, competencies, employability and professional orientation and firm up his/her career path
- Diversification of their professional networks.

Mentoring plan:

- Introduction to the tasks including company briefing
- Students' own literature review
- Weekly mentoring by SEKU supervisors/mentors
- Weekly presentation of work done by the students
- Participation in SEKU Project presentation activities
- Final report and powerpoint presentation

Supervisors:

Dr. Julius Kilungo (senior lecturer/Agriculture Economist): jkilungo@seku.ac.ke

Students' Team: comprises of five (5) masters students (MSc Agric Resource Mgt & MSc Agric Econ)

Student Team Leader:

Mr. Bukekhe Dan Ebenezer (MSc. Agricultural Economics) : danebenezer21@gmail.com

Evaluation plan:

The Project Work is graded from 1 (lowest grade) to 5 (highest grade)