

Agricultural Policy in Kenya: Case of maize Policy



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About Tegemeo

- Policy institute of Egerton university
- Developed a panel data base (1997, 2000, 2004)
- Other Non panel survey data
- Non survey data base developed within the last 15 years
- Local agricultural policy think tank in collaboration with MSU
- Largely funded by donors
- Has built reputation of policy research and analysis
- Employed different methods to influence polices
- Contributed towards formulation of various government policies and sectoral strategies

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Data base

- Tegemeo Institute Rural household Surveys
 - Panel data 1997, 2000 and 2004
 - Additional data collected in 1998, 2000 and 2002
 - Additional quantitative and qualitative information
- Other Non panel household and urban surveys
- Key informant and secondary data
- Annual Enterprise budgets
- Publication and secondary sources

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Policy influence process

- Identify an important issue for analysis
- Contact a few key informants to affirm the importance of the issue
- Prepare a concept paper with expected policy outcomes (Hypotheses)
- Conduct field research and data collection
- Data analysis
- Discussion of results with some key stakeholders
- Dissemination workshops with stakeholders and other interested groups
- Policy briefs for Technocrats
- Use the information to influence policy directly and or indirectly

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Kenyan Policy Context

- Largely legislated agriculture
 - Over 130 pieces of legislations
 - Controlled by milliard of parastatals
 - Private sector
 - Slow enactment by parliament
- Legal reform has lagged behind economic reform
 - Reform illegal
 - Reversal a common feature
- Small and large-scale production
- Vested interests
- But have made several success in policy changes

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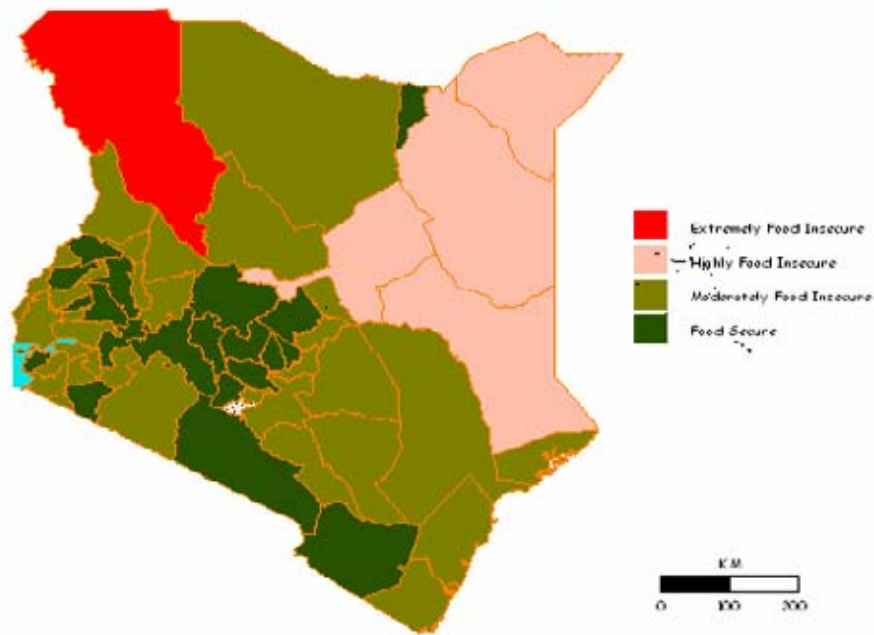
Policy process in Government

- Identification of an issue for policy change
- Establish a task force – Stakeholders/professionals
- Develop a draft policy paper
- Discussion by stakeholders
- Revision of policy paper
- Cabinet memo
- Sessional paper
- Draft Bill
- Revised Bill
- Legislation
- Act of parliament

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Vulnerability to Food Insecurity in Kenya



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National Food Security Strategy

Food Policy Strategy

- Sessional paper 4 1981 on National Food Policy
- Sessional Paper No 2 of 1994
- New Strategy Entitled National Food and Nutrition Policy is being developed

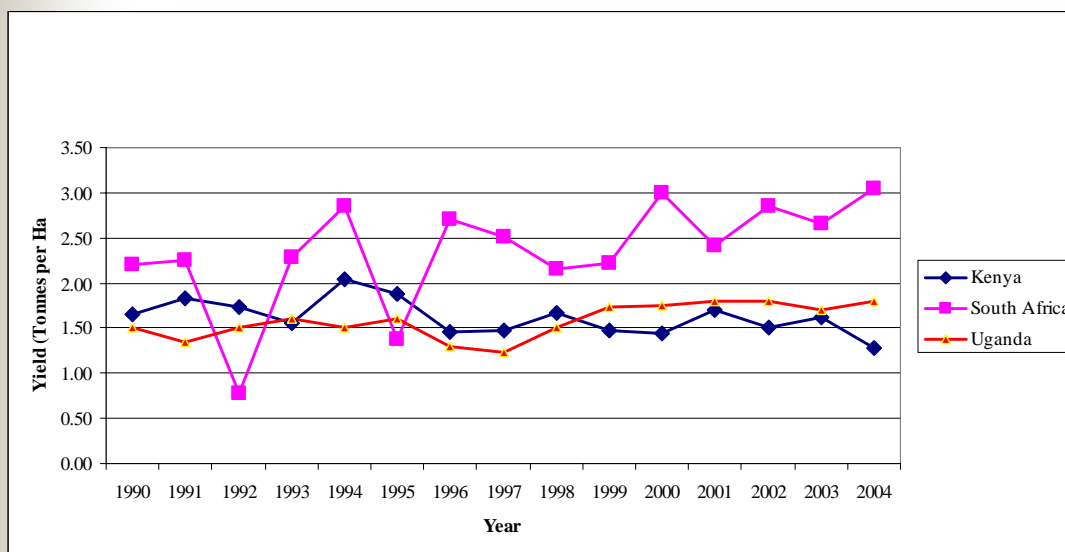
Elements of the Food Policy

- Geared towards attainment of self sufficiency:
- Limited to Maize, Wheat and Rice
- Biased towards producers and discriminate consumers
- Limited consideration to Urban poor and rural landless
- Geared towards more High potential areas
- Geared towards Crops

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Comparison of Yields for Selected Countries, 1990-2004



Source:www.fao.org

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Facts on Maize in Kenya

- Average production 26-30 million bags
- Consumption – 30-36 million bags
- Deficit between 4 to 8million bags
- Average Yields is 8 bags/acres (20 bags/ha)
- Yields varies between 5 and 30 bags
- Area – stagnating at 1.4 million hectares
- Imports could double by 2015

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Maize Market Position

Zone	Net seller	Autarky	Net Buyer
Market Position in %			
Western Lowlands	5	15	82
H potential maize Zone	68	10	22
Westen Lowlands	23	11	66
Western Transition	23	19	58
Central Highlands	16	21	53
Total	32	16	52

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Government interventions in Food Market

- Setting up of maize buying prices through the NCPB
- Restriction of external maize trade through use of tariffs which raises average food prices
- Purchased maize for famine relieved at commercial rates
- Management of strategic grain reserves
- Poor infrastructure that raises food prices as it moves from Surplus to deficit zones

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Key observations on Food security

- Most smallholder farmers are net maize buyers
- Maize is not a very important source of household
- Maize is an important source of calories but not the only one.
- Net sellers Higher per capita income than buyers (USD 405 vs. 235)
- Poorest 25% spend larger proportion of income (71%) compared to 59% by the wealthiest 25%
- Maize Purchase is 28% of annual household income
- High maize prices transfers income from low income to the more non poor households

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Why do farmers demand High prices

- Typical Food policy dilemma
- Low maize productivity
- High costs of production
- Low maize profitability
- High costs of living: education, medical, housing etc

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Challenges To Food Security

- Reinvigorate productivity, reduce production costs and increased Kenya's competitiveness:
- Address technological inadequacies in food production
- Reform markets for traditional exports
- Exploit untapped commodity markets (Coffee, tea, pyrethrum)
- Stimulate Private sector investment in Agriculture

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Ways of influencing Policy

- Direct policy influence
 - Partially supply and demand driven policy research
 - Seconding Policy researcher in government
 - Participation in government appointed task forces
 - Providing contacts directly with government technocrats
 - Participation in formulation of specific policies and national and sectoral strategies

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Ways of influencing Policy Cont'

- Indirectly
 - Working with farmer association to address industry issues
 - Working with private sector organizations
 - Working with the Parliamentary committee
 - Policy briefs and workshops
 - Working with press
 - Working with government technocrats
 - Party manifestos

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Challenges in influencing policy

- Balancing between fire-fighting and long term plan
- Ownership of policy influence system
- Source of funding and collaborators
- Political nature of policy issues
- Understanding the different interest groups
- Balance publicity particularly use of press
- Empirical basis

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Lessons Learnt in Influencing Policy

- Application of both the direct and indirect methods to influence policy
- Neutrality in policy research and analysis
- Linkages to different stakeholders
- Ready not to claim credit
- Patience – changes take a long time
- simplicity in presentation
- Confidence and credibility
- Ownership issues

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Thank You



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