



**AGRICULTURE COUNCIL OF KENYA (AgCK)**

**Project Title:** Government agricultural expenditure, budget tracking and implications on Nakuru County agriculture sector growth and development through Non-State Actors Advocacy and Consultation Tool (NSA-ACT)

**Type of report:** Final Project Report

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**December, 2018**

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## **1. Background**

Kenya is among the 41 African Member States that signed Maputo Declaration in 2003 and recommitted to the principles through the Malabo Declaration (2014); committing to an African policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth and prosperity for all. Key among the commitments was allocating at least 10% of public expenditure to the agricultural sector to realize 6% annual growth in agricultural GDP.

Despite Kenya's government commitment to the Malabo Declaration and significant contribution of agriculture sector to the economy, the agricultural development has been sluggish over a period of time; challenges of food security have increased, declining productivity, low returns on investment, increased post-harvest losses, increased cost of farm inputs coupled with inefficient use, unstructured markets hence limited access to market, low access to credit, heightened incidences of climate change related disasters, inadequate infrastructural development to support investment in agriculture, predominantly subsistence driven and rain fed dependent among others still remain unresolved.

These problems are closely tied to the level of investment in agriculture. Over the last two years, 2015 and 2016, the public agriculture expenditure as a share of total public expenditure stood at 2.106% and 2.592% respectively. In view of the commitment to allocate at least 10% of public expenditure to agriculture, the figures are too low an indication of lack of commitment towards supporting agricultural growth and transformation.

The NSAs have a role under the mutual accountability principle of CAADP to ensure that government investment to agriculture is adequate. It is evident that investment in agriculture would significantly change the agriculture landscape of the country. There is evidence by the 1990s downward trend and the upward trend during the first half of 2000.

In view of limited funding to the agriculture sector, AgCK implemented a 6-month project based intervention whose objective was to deliver accountability for excellence, effectiveness, efficiency and evidence based agriculture allocation and expenditure for agricultural growth and transformation. The intervention was piloted in Nakuru County with lessons learned aimed at informing similar interventions in other counties.

The project was anchored on the following objectives:

1. Objective 1: To build the capacity of NSAs on ACT methodology and National and County budgetary process
2. Objective 2: To establish budgetary allocation tracking systems and data bank for both national and county government expenditures on agriculture.

The successful implementation of the intervention resulted in:

1. Enhanced capacity of NSAs to use NSA-ACT approach for effective policy dialogue processes
2. Evidenced based advocacy engagement by NSAs on agriculture budgetary allocation and implications on development
3. Triggered actions towards increased budgetary allocation to agriculture for enhanced participation of NSAs in priority agricultural investments

## **2. Activities**

The Agricultural Council of Kenya (AgCK) rolled out project activities as scheduled in the work plan. The activities undertaken included:

1. Program kick-off meeting
2. Project planning meeting which was attended by 7 NSC and AgCK members
3. Identification and training of 18 NSAs on ACT methodology and budget allocation process
4. A write-shop which brought together 16 NSAs to develop a policy brief to engage Nakuru County Government informed by research on agriculture sector budgetary allocation for the last three years and the implication on agricultural development in Nakuru County
5. Validation and presentation of policy brief to Nakuru County Government
6. Project learning event

### 3. Achievements

The table below gives a summary of achievements realized during the quarter.

Table 1: Summary of achievements

<b>OBJECTIVE</b> (List each objective)	<b>ACTIVITY</b> (Describe what has been done, how and when.)	<b>OUTPUT</b> (Provide quantifiable indicators of what has resulted or been produced and when.)	<b>OUTCOME</b> (Indicate who has used the immediate outputs, what steps have been taken to ensure their use, what benefits have resulted from using them, quantify the benefits as much as possible.)
<b>Example:</b>			
<b>Preliminary activities</b>	1. Program meeting kick-off  2. Project meeting planning	1. The Project Officer and Chairman trained on grant requirements, that is, reporting, procurement and financing modalities.  2. Development of a refined work plan by 7 representatives from the NSC and AgCK members	1. Better project management  2. Detailed project work plan with clear timelines and deliverables
<b>Objective 1:</b> To build the capacity of NSAs on ACT (Advocacy and Consultation Tool)	1. Identification and training of NSAs on ACT methodology and budget allocation process	1. 18 NSAs identified and trained on ACT and budget process	1. Enhanced capacity of NSAs to use NSA-ACT approach for effective policy dialogue processes 2. Improved understanding of the

methodology and National and County budgetary process			budget process and potential entry areas and or platforms for advocacy
	<p>2. Research on agriculture sector budgetary allocation for the last three years and the implication on agricultural development</p> <p>a. Literature review on agriculture allocation and expenditure for the last 3 years and implications on agriculture development</p> <p>b. A write-shop to develop a policy brief to engage Nakuru County Government informed by research on agriculture sector budgetary allocation for the last three years and the</p>	<p>1. Intensive research undertaken by 16 NSAs on Nakuru County Agriculture budgetary allocation for the last 3 years, its implication on agriculture development in the county</p> <p>2. 1 policy brief developed</p>	<p>1. Evidenced based advocacy engagement by NSAs on agriculture budgetary allocation and implications on development</p> <p>2. Policy brief as a an advocacy tool by the Agriculture CEC advocating for increased budget allocation to the sector</p>



	<p>implication on agricultural development</p> <p>c. Validation and presentation of policy brief to Nakuru County Government</p>	<p>3. Policy brief presented and adopted by the Nakuru County Agriculture CEC and the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee at the County Assembly and tabled at the Cabinet meeting for action</p>	
<p><b>Objective 2:</b> To establish budgetary allocation tracking systems and data bank for Nakuru county government expenditures on agriculture.</p>	<p>1. Continuous review and analysis of literature from information and data provided</p>	<p>1. Database developed with Nakuru County Agriculture Budget allocation and expenditure with excel tracking table</p>	<p>1. Improved NSAs role in the biennial review process by providing evidence to back Kenya's data</p>

## 4. Narrative of achievement by activity

### 4.1. Program kick-off meeting

The Africa Lead II team organized a half day program kick-off meeting which was held on 18<sup>th</sup> of April, 2018 at Accord Offices in Nairobi. AgCK was represented by the Project Officer and the NSC Chairman. The meeting aimed at enhancing grantees understanding of the project management for smooth implementation of the projects in line with the USAID guidelines.

To this end, AgCK adopted the guidelines for the operationalization of the project which contributed immensely to the successful implementation of the project.

### 4.2. Project planning meeting

To effectively deliver on the anticipated project results within the timeline and financial resource allocation, AgCK organized for a half day project planning meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 at Farmers' Conference Centre. The meeting brought together 7 participants comprising of NSC members which is the governing organ of the Council as well as other AgCK members to support in the planning process.

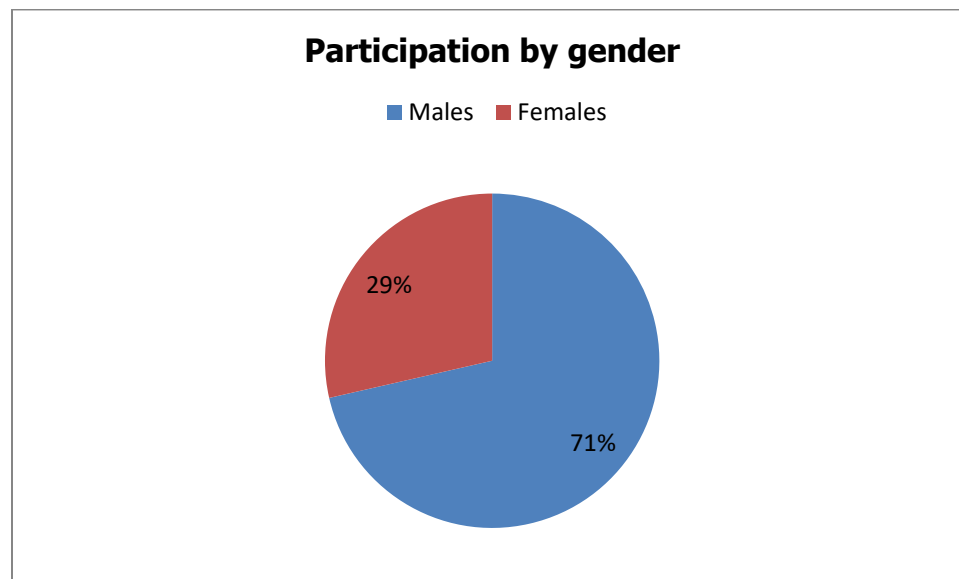


Figure 1: Project planning meeting participation by gender

The meeting facilitated awareness creation about the project to the NSC as well as AgCK members and identified areas of collaborations for member institutions with their ongoing interventions. In addition, the meeting was able to develop a revised work plan

with clear timelines, actions, person's in-charge and resource allocations for effective and efficient project management.



Figure 2: Participants during the planning meeting discussing the work plan

#### **4.3. Identification and training of NSAs on ACT methodology and budget allocation process**

To enable the Council undertake this activity effectively, it engaged the services of a consulting firm, Kenya Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services, to develop training materials and take the NSAs through the ACT tool and the budget process. They were competitively selected based on their knowledge on ACT and budget process given their experts prior experience and practical application of the advocacy tool.

The Council thereafter organized a 3 day workshop that was held on 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 at Jumuia Conference Centre in Nakuru. The workshop brought together 19 representatives of the Non-State Actors.

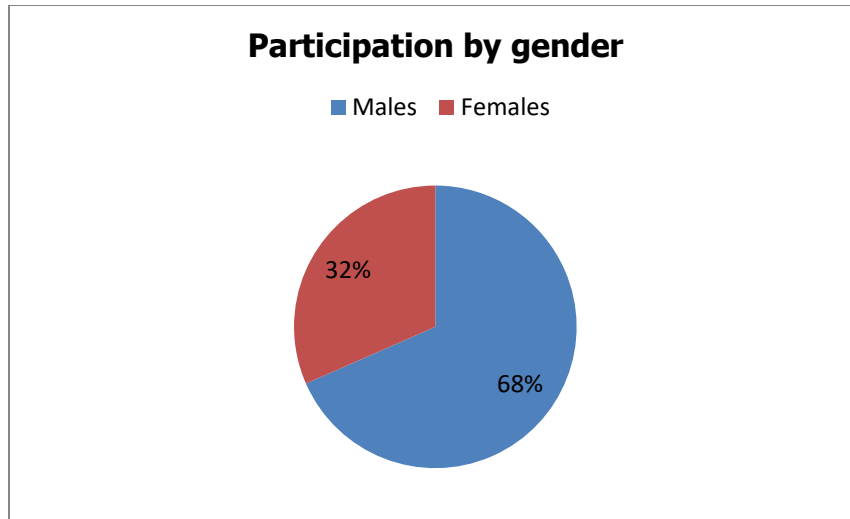


Figure 3: Participation by gender during the NSAs training

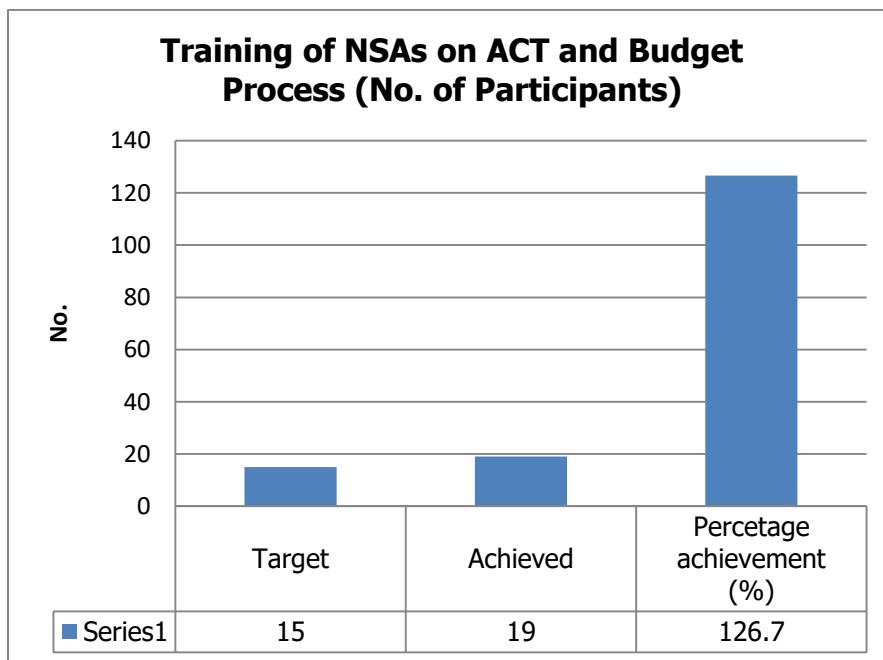


Figure 4: Number of participants and achievement in % during the NSAs training

The workshop sort to: (i) Build the capacity of the Non-State Actors on the Non-State Actors Advocacy and Consultation Tool (NSA-ACT) as a tool they could use to advocate for an enabling policy environment for agriculture transformation in the country; (ii) Build the capacity of NSAs for practical use and application of the NSA-ACT tool; (iii) Enhance the capacity of NSAs on national and county government budgetary process and; (iv) Build the capacity of NSAs for practical use and application of the knowledge gained on the budgetary process.

The Council has identified the NSA-ACT as a tool for NSAs and their constituencies to relate to each other and ensures that any policy proposal that the organization prepares take root in the reality, needs and concerns of members. The tool provides for evidenced based lobby and advocacy which ensures that policies are informed by data and information and hence practical to the county needs and circumstances. It allows NSAs to build their case in policy dialogue process and hence gain the respect and recognition of the authorities as institutions that can generate data and information to inform policy decisions. The tool can be applied on any lobby process and for this case the NSAs applied it to advocate for increased budget allocation and expenditure to the agriculture sector for Nakuru County.

Among those present were AgCK members comprising of PGA, NPCK, WoFaAK, AAK, KENAFF, YPARD and AAK members. Others present included Kilimo Trust, Seed Savers Network, KLBO, KeFAAS, Fugo Poa and FSK among others.

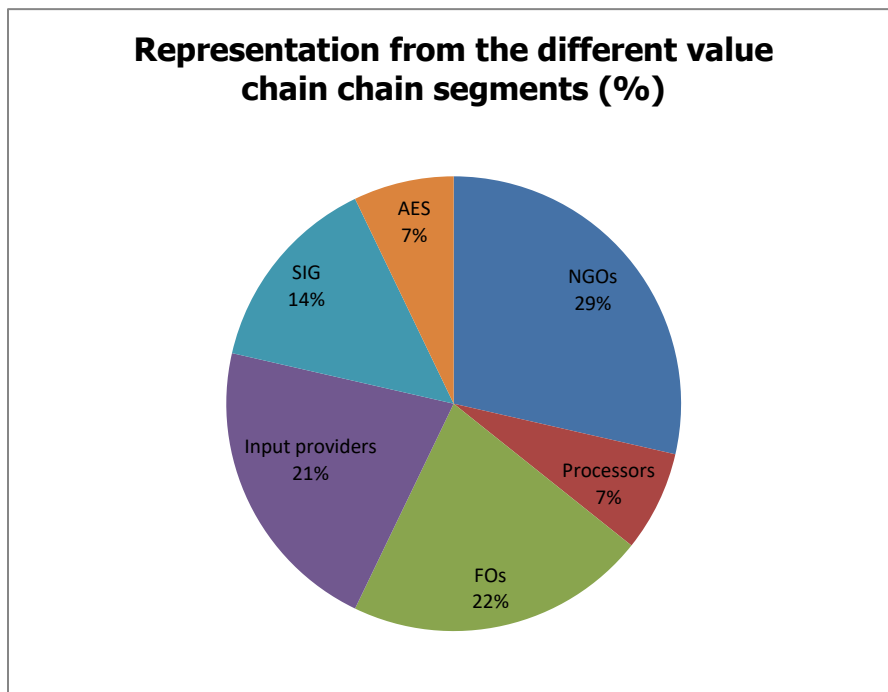


Figure 5: Representation across the agricultural value chain continuum during the NSAs' training

The workshop employed a participatory approach with both the facilitator and participant having a plenary session to clarify or emphasize or contribute to some of the issues discussed or presented during the facilitation process. On the other hand, the participants were organized into groups to further interrogate issues affecting agriculture sector in Nakuru to enhance the understanding of agriculture sector in Nakuru as well as prioritize issues that require urgent intervention from the County Government.

The workshop was able to realize an AgCK, Nakuru Chapter with an Interim leadership in place. The Committee elected spearheaded discussions with Nakuru County Government

on issues affecting agriculture, priority focus areas that would transform agriculture landscape in Nakuru County and advocate for increased budget allocation to agriculture.



**Figure 6: Group photograph during NSAs' training**



**Figure 7: A group of participants during a group discussing during the NSAs training**

**4.4. A write-shop to develop a policy brief to engage Nakuru County Government informed by research on agriculture sector budgetary allocation for the last three years and the implication on agricultural development**

As a buildup on the previous activity where NSAs had been trained on ACT and budget process, AgCK organized for a write-shop on 18<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at Jumuia Conference Centre. The aim of the workshop was to facilitate NSAs use the knowledge acquired to develop a policy brief that would be used to engage the Nakuru County Government. The workshop brought together 17 representatives of NSAs.

To prepare the participants to undertake the assignment of developing a policy brief to Nakuru County Government on agriculture sector budgetary allocation and implication on agriculture development in the county, participants were trained on how to plan, write, and communicate an effective and evidence-based policy brief that addresses needs as per county’s development agenda as highlighted in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). In addition, they were taken through lobby and advocacy strategy that enhanced their understanding on how best to target the policy brief.

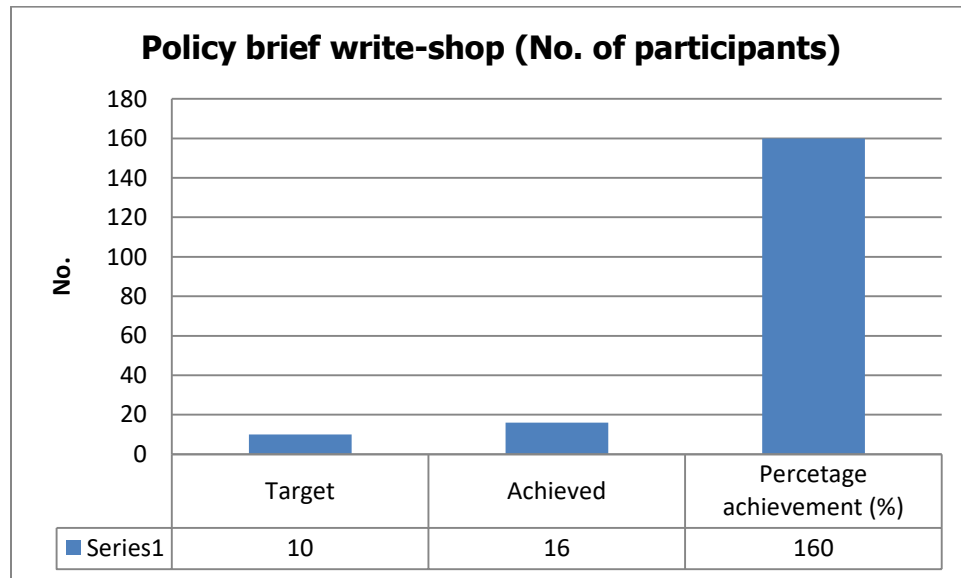


Figure 8: No. of participants and achievement (%) during the write-shop



**Figure 9: Group discussion during the write-shop**

### **Key findings from the workshop**

The 2013 - 2017 County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) Review (contained in Chapter 2 of the 2018 - 2022 Draft CIDP, Table 3.4, page 63) 'Expenditure Performance by County Departments' indicates that financial allocation to agriculture has been declining since 2014. During the 2014/15 financial year, KES 441.4 Million (5.2% of the budget) was allocated for agriculture. In the 2015/16 financial year KES 706.2 million, which is 6.5% was allocated to the sector. In the following financial year, the agriculture sector budget allocation dropped to KES 555.4 million, representing only 4.8% of the total county budget. At the same time, the actual expenditure in the sector also remained low at 69% in 2014/15, increasing to 91% in 2015/16 and dropping to 68% in 2016/17. These gaps can mainly be attributed to low funding in the sector. This decline continues to hurt the agriculture sector which is the major source of livelihoods for residents of Nakuru County.



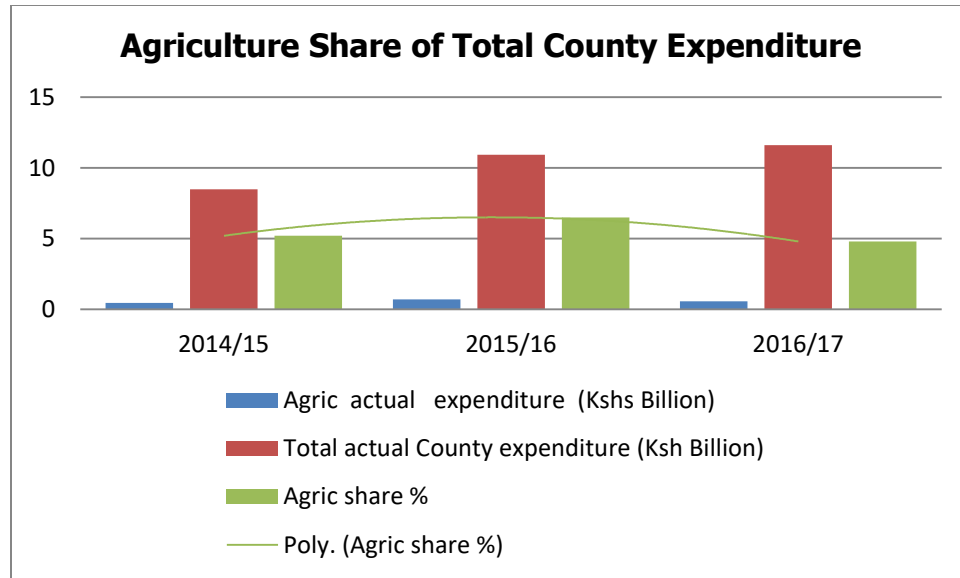


Figure 10: Agriculture share of the total county expenditure

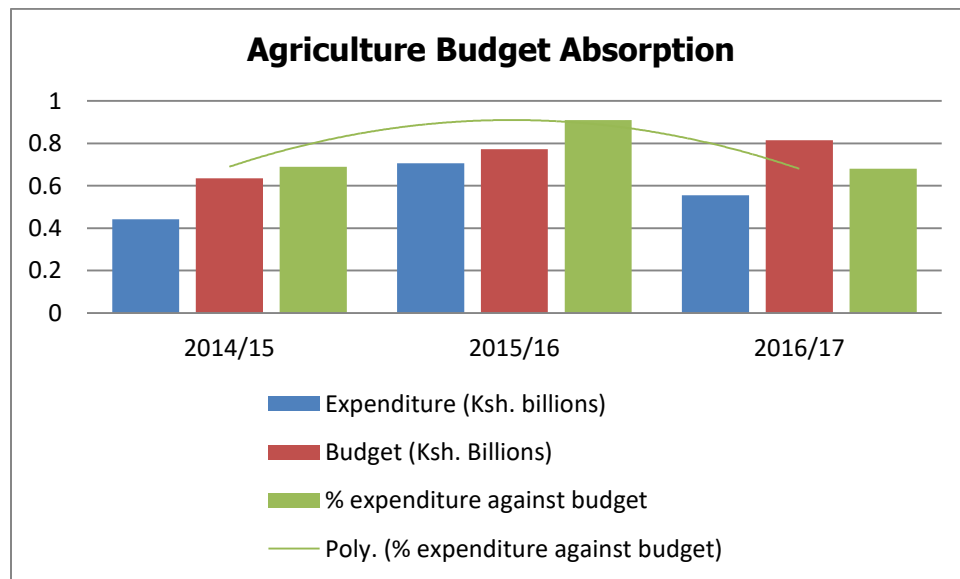


Figure 11: Agriculture budget absorption

Despite the county government’s past efforts to revitalize and further develop the sector in the 2013 – 2017 planning period, farmers still face a number of challenges. According to the Nakuru County profile report by the Ministry of Devolution and Planning (2013-2017), about 94.4 % of farmers in the county experience market access challenges, while 73.1% of farmers experience infrastructure problems. Farmers also get low prices

for their produce sold raw with no value addition and only 45.9% of the farmers have access to extension services.

#### **4.5. Validation and presentation of policy brief to Nakuru County Government**

The policy brief developed during the write-shop was presented to the Nakuru County CEC and Chairman of the Agriculture Committee in the County Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> of December, 2018. The CEC was particularly enthusiastic and presented the policy paper to the cabinet for deliberations. Follow up discussions with the CEC have indications that during the next budget cycle, agriculture sector in the county will likely attract more funding. The Council envisages to continue tracking the same using the excel template developed during this project and advocate as necessary.

#### **4.6. Project learning event**

Following successful implementation of project activities, Africa Lead II organized for a one and half day project learning event held on 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Movenpick Hotel, Westland. The event brought together the different grantees to share experiences and more importantly lessons learned during the implementation process.

The vet was an eye opener and highlighted how the different grantees played significant role. It was enthusiastic to note of how the different grantees could work together under the apex NSA organization to harness their different synergies which AgCK gladly took note of as an action area moving forward. Different innovative approaches by the grantees were also evident which needed to be documented and published to inform continental approaches.

### **5. Challenges in carrying out the project- New Directions**

A few challenges were experienced during the implementation of the project including:

- Limited funding and hence the activity could only be implemented in 1 county unlike earlier planned for 3 counties

### **6. Lessons learned**

Several lessons were drawn from the exercise and they will inform future similar interventions. They include:

- ACT is a good systemic and easily applicable tool by NSAs and is made up of 4 pillars: Consultation, Participatory Research, Lobby mapping and writing SMART proposals

- Public participation in budget making process is limited to budget hearing yet there are many other avenues which include: Pre-budget public sector consultative forums; County Budget and Economic Forum; Sector Working Groups / Department Working Groups and; Budget and Appropriations Committee hearings
- Low budget allocation at national level has an implication on budget allocation at county level
- Most of the county financial resources are on recurrent expenditure

## **7. Recommendations**

From the implementation of the project, it is important that the following recommendations are considered moving forward:

- There is need to undertake continuous monitoring of agriculture budget allocation and implication on agriculture development for every county and should inform future allocations
- It is important that the NSAs are strengthened to effectively undertake their role