Logical Framework, Project Environment Enablers and Sustainability of Caritas Projects in Meru County, Kenya

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Abstract: **The purpose of the study was to establish the influence of utilization of logical framework as monitoring and evaluation tool on sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya with project environment enablers as a moderating effect. A pragmatic research paradigm and a descriptive survey research design were adopted. The target population was 59 smallholder farmer groups and 24 Caritas Meru staff. The sample size was 51 smallholder farmer groups andthe total sample size was 177 respondents comprising 153 group leaders and 24 project officers.The data collection tools were questionnaire and an interview guide. The collected data were coded and entered into the SPSS 5th edition for analysis. The qualitative data was analyzed by way of grouping similar responses together and identifying the main themes from them. The multiple linear regression models were used to determine the link between dependent and independent variables. The study found out that utilization of Logical Framework (R^2 =0.438 t=32.892 P=0.000<0.05) had a statistically significant influence on the sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya. The findings revealed that there was a positive correlation r=0.256 between the project environment enablers and the sustainability of community agricultural projects.The study found out that the relationship between utilization of logical framework and sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya depended on the project environment enablers. The researcher recommends that organizations dealing with the community project should utilize logical framework as monitoring and evaluation tool, factor in project environment enablers in project plan, and involve critical stakeholders. They should also train farmer groups' leaders on leadership and management skills, train farmers on utilisation of information communication technology such as use of internet. They should train farmers on record keeping and conflict management practices to avoid collapse of groups.The researcher suggests that a similar study be undertaken to find out the influence of other monitoring and evaluation tools on sustainability of community projects. A comparable study including other non-governmental organizations working on community agricultural projects is advised.**

Key words: **Monitoring, Evaluation, sustainability, Logical framework, community projects, environment enablers.**

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Sustainability is the main indicator of success of community projects. The long-term viability of projects, especially in the food crop sector, has been a major concern. According to IFAD (2009), 50% of the projects evaluated in 2007, including those in agriculture, were only marginally satisfactory in terms of sustainability, while 33% were unsatisfactory.

According to the Caritas Internationalis, Food Security study summary report (2015) recommends that the world needs to do much more to fight hunger. The Food Security Study shows that the best way to end the scandal of hunger is to support small scale farmers, especially as they try to adapt to the changing climate.

In Asia, Caritas has developed sustainable agriculture and revive food sufficiency to boost the income of farming communities (Fare Eastern Agriculture report 2018). The commitments were made at a conference in the Indonesian diocese of Ruteng by members of Caritan organizations from 13 Asian countries. India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Philippines, Kazakhstan and Timor Leste were among the countries concerned. By setting up 16 support groupings in the villages, the diocese trained farmers in organic fertilizer production. This allows these organizations to find inexpensive ways to solve the soil fertility crisis. Caritas Asia has also established a holistic approach to farmers in Indonesia which provides not only improved skills but spiritual support through catechesis (Fare Eastern Agriculture report 2018)

A joint Caritas Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihood (CSAL) programme by Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, Caritas Australia and Caritas Papua New Guinea are making inroads into the rural highland communities of Southern Highlands, Hela, Enga, Western Highlands, and Jiwaka Provinces of PNG. It is touching the very heart of the people's livelihood through the distribution of potato seedlings. The project was implemented in 2015-201(Caritas New Zealand report, 2016).

In Uganda, a Misereor-funded Initiative, which has run in Caritas Kampala since 1991, is the sustainable agriculture programme. Since then, household food security has increased to increase smallholder farmers' household income. Also, SAP has developed and simplified the establishments of strong farmer (Caritas Kampala Report, 2020). In Kenya, Caritas has been involved in different projects, for Example, Caritas Nairobi has been involved in a milk project (Caritas Nairobi Report, 2020). The Project has turned over the ability of members to improve their knowledge of food security and has helped them improve their lives (Caritas Nairobi Report, 2020). In Meru County, Caritas is playing a leading role in farming and animal development, water and sanitation, irrigation, health and education (Caritas Meru Profile, 2020).

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1.2 Statement of the Problem

Globally, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were proposed as a response to social, economic and environmental challenges standing on the way to the realization of sustainable development. SDG goal number 2 highlights agriculture and food security. Kenya has aligned its policies and development agenda to the SDGs by incorporating them into "Vision 2030" and the "Big Four Agenda". Kenya Vision 2030proposes 100% food and nutrition security through improved viability, increased land under irrigation, improved smallholder production and value addition, create jobs and make food affordable to all. According to The Big Four Agenda, food and nutrition security shall be achieved by enhancing large scale production, driving smallholder production and reducing the cost of food (Kenya, Republic of 2013). At the continental level, the Maputo Declaration of 2003 and Malabo Declarations of 2014, confirms the importance of the agricultural sector. These declarations contain key commitments to transform agriculture by enhancing public and private investment in agriculture; ending hunger; increasing intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services, and enhancing resilience to climate variability and related risks(Benin, S., and Yu, B. 2013)

Njeri&Omwenga (2019) conducted a study on the "influence of monitoring and evaluation practices on sustainable projects: a case study of the national aids control council". Their study was guided by the following variables: monitoring andevaluation organisationalfactors, the human capacity formonitoring and evaluation,partnerships inmonitoring and evaluation systems, communication inmonitoring and evaluation.Their studyadopted a descriptive study to collect data from all the 90 respondents sampled using structuredquestionnaires and their findings were: M&E organizational factors, Partnerships in M&E, and Communication in M&E had positive endorsements from the participants and therefore thesefactors played an important role in ensuringthe sustainability of projects at NACC.

The study by Njeri & Omwenga (2019) focuses on the sustainability of the project at NACC. This means that there is a gap since their study did not focus on the sustainability of the community agricultural projects by Caritas. Their study also does not focus on utilization of Logical Framework and Sustainability of Community Agricultural Projects Therefore this paper fills this gap by investigating theutilization of Logical Frameworkand Sustainability of Community Agricultural Projects Supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya.

A similar study was conducted by Selestin (2018) on "the role of Monitoring and Evaluation on Sustainability of The Road Construction Project in Bagamoyo District – Tanzania".Their study focused on the following variables (compliance to guidelines and procedures, compare resource requirements and role of time management). The study adopted a cross-sectional descriptive research design involving both the qualitative and quantitative method in collecting and analysis of data. The people who were interviewed included, Project Managers, District Executive Director (DED), District Engineer, Civil Technicians, Ward Executive Officers, Village Executive Officers (VEO) and households which include Men and Women because some of these people were implementers of the road project and others were beneficiaries of the interventions.

The findings of the study revealed compliance with guidelines and laid down procedures as an important aspect of monitoring and evaluation. Also, the findings revealed a statistically significant positive relationship between resource requirements and resource used in successful road construction projects and between time management and sustainable road construction projects in Bagamoyo. Her study does not show how utilization of logical framework influence sustainability of community agricultural projects by Caritas, rather Selestin (2018) study investigates the roles of monitoring and Evaluation on the sustainability of the construction projects.

Kinoti and Emily (2011) conducted a study on "factors influencing ownership of development projects by the communities: a case of Kiambaa Constituency, Kenya." Their findings showed thataccountability and transparency of leadership influences ownership of development projects to a great extent, indicated by 79.2% of the total respondents. Secondly, 75% of respondents showed that availability of funds influences ownership of development projects whereby 35.4% indicated earning less than a dollar per day. The study also showed that 56.3% had moderate and high expectations on the returns from the project, and 42.7% of respondents

indicated having withdrawn from participating in development projects. The authors recommended that community members be involved in decision making on development projects and that their decisions be considered when implementing development projects . Their study does not show the link between utilization of logical framework and sustainability of the projects, however, the study shows some of the factors that lead to sustainability of the community development projects.

A study in Nyeri County by Mugo, et. al., (2016), established that much has not been researched on the utilization of logical frameworkin agricultural activities and proposes further investigations. Mutegi(2015) conducted a study on "factors influencing the performance of community-driven development projects. a case of Kenya Agricultural Productivity Project Meru County, Kenya."The study found that there is a need for initiatives to be undertaken to create awareness and encourage the youth and the educated to take part and own community projects to boost the ability of the local community to plan, design, mobilize resources, make a decision, participate and implement their projects.

Murungi (2020) conducted a study on "Determinants of Sustainability of Community Based Ecotourism Development Projects in Kenya. A Case of Northern Rangeland Trust Conservancy, Meru County". The study found that there is a need for the government and NGO's to encourage the local community to diversify their income-generating activities and venture into bee keeping and supply of goods and services among others. The study also found out that Community Based Ecotourism Projects' stakeholders or partners in Meru should also promote information flow, awareness and communication amongst themselves to ensure transparency and accountability which are key to the success of community-based enterprises.

Based on the findings by Murungi (2020) and Mutugi (2015), it evident that there is a challenge when it comes to the sustainability of community agricultural projects in Meru County. Also, the established knowledge gap from the study will be the endeavour of this proposed research to discover the influence of the utilization of logical frameworkon the sustainability of community agricultural projects. However, little is known of studies addressing the specific link between utilization of logical framework, project environment enablers and sustainability of community agricultural projects from Kenya's perspective. logical framework utilized by Caritas Meru have not been documented. As a result, the proposed study evaluated the influence of utilization of logical framework, project environment enablersand sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County. Kenya.

1.3 Study Objectives and Hypothesis

1.3.1 Objectives

The study was guided by the following objectives:

1. To establish the extent to which utilization of Logical Framework as Monitoring and evaluation Tool influences sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya.
2. To determine the extent to which Project Environment Enablersas moderating variable influences sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya
3. To determine the moderating effect of Project Environment Enablers on the link between utilization of Logical Framework and Sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya

1.3.2 Hypothesis

The hypotheses of the study were the following;

1. $H_0 1$: There is no significant positive relationship between utilization of Logical Framework and Sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya.
2. $H_0 2$: There is no significant positive relationship between Project Environment Enablersas moderating variable and sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by caritas in Meru County, Kenya.
3. $H_0 3$: The strength of the relationship between utilization of Logical Framework and Sustainability of community agricultural projects undertaken by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya does not depend on Project Environment Enablers.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The researcher reviewed literature related tosustainability of community agricultural projects, project environment enablers, and utilization of logical framework as a tool of monitoring and evaluating projects to ensure sustainability.

2.1 Sustainability of Community Agricultural Projects

Sustainability of Community Agricultural projects is measured by how the community can run the projects without the support of the donor. This is supported by IFAD (2013) who describes sustainability as ensuring that the institutions funded by projects, as well as the benefits realized, are sustained and continue after the project ends. This means that for the projects to be sustainable they should show the signs of continuations even after the donor withdraws or when the project comes to an end as per the work plan. Person (2016) conducted a study onfactors influencing the sustainability of community-based programs, using a mixed-method study, combining a systematic literature review and expert interviews. In the review, 14 studies were analyzed of which 37 factors were abstracted. The factors were divided into 4 categories: human resources, organizational setting, social and political environment and financing. The result showed that community-based program sustainability is influenced by

multiple factors; of which community involvement was identified as the most important. This implies that community involvement plays are a very important role in the sustainability of community-based projects. Involving community when carrying out monitoring and evaluating may influence the sustainability of projects.

2.2 Utilization of the Logical Framework and Sustainability of Community Agricultural Projects

The logical framework tool is a highly efficient, broadly applicable methodology for strategic planning and project management. It includes an integrated toolkit for the analysis, resolution and design of planning problems. Scholars like Al-Tmeemy, Abdul-Rahman & Harun (2011) states that Logical frameworks should be seen as a continuous and evolving process rather than rigid plans. Therefore, we can conclude that the Logical Framework Approach (LFA) helps in managing different project cycles. This goes in line with Milika,(2011) who assert that a logical framework helps users to analyze existing situations including identifying stakeholders' needs and defining related objectives. Also, it is utilized to determine the causal link between projects' purposes, activities, results, objectives, and input. The vertical logic of the framework defines the assumptions under which projects' logic build on. According to (Milika, 2011) the LFA guarantees the continuity of the project even in the replacement of people who run projects. In this respect, this study attempts to find out how utilization of logical framework as M&E tools is related to the sustainability of community agricultural projects.

Miako(2018) conducted a study on "monitoring and evaluation tools and the performance of irrigation projects in Kiambu County, Kenya. Logical framework was one of the variables to be investigated as a tool of M&E. A descriptive research design was used and the target population was three irrigation projects in Kiambu County, Kenya namely; Wamuoro Irrigation Project, Kawira Irrigation Project and Githuito Irrigation Projects. It was revealed that the logical framework had a positive and significant effect on the performance of irrigation projects. The study focused so much on the performance of irrigation projects, whereas this study investigated the relationship between the logical framework and sustainability of community agricultural projects.

For those projects that are funded by a donor, utilization of a logical framework is a major tool when it comes to the success of projects in Kenya. This has been demonstrated by Kaino(2013) who conducted a study on the "Usefulness of the log frame approach in monitoring and evaluation of health sector donor-funded projects in Kenya." The study included the challenges of using a log frame approach in M&E of projects and a comparison with other tools and methods of M& E. The study found that the use of log frames in M&E projects specifically donor -funded projects cannot be underestimated. The log frame was found to be used in planning, and monitoring and evaluation. The study

acknowledges the importance of using Logical framework; however, it doesn't show or explain the relationship between logical framework and sustainability of community projects.

2.3 Project Environment Enablers and Sustainability of Community Agricultural Projects supported by Caritas

There are other factors within the context of the project that may influence the sustainability of community Agricultural projects. This study identifies project environment enablers as the moderating variable that may influence the sustainability of community agricultural projects. The project environment relates to the surrounding under which projects are undertaken. The project environment must apply to both projects' sustainability and the shorter-term effects that projects have on their beneficiaries as well as their conceptual development together with their long-term impacts (Aziz & Abdel-Hakam, 2016).

Project managers and team members should acclimatize themselves with projects' social, organizational and cultural surroundings (Adelback, & Johansson, 2013). This helps them to impact projects' environments positively because whenever people in neighbouring environments do not embrace changes brought by projects they are likely to impact projects' sustainability negatively. In particular, they are likely to oppose projects; hence, impact their continuity. A review of the internal project environment seeks to understand leadership structures, politics adopted within organizations during project implementation, organizational structures, policies and cultures. This extends to different cycles in projects including planning, close-out, initiation, execution and monitoring. To a large extent, organizational culture is the one that determines the internal project environment. Despite this, the nature of projects is also likely to impact the internal project environment even though it has a considerable impact on the external project environment (Wideman, 2015).

Simiyu(2018) conducted a study "on project management practices and performance of agricultural projects by community-based organizations in Bungoma county, Kenya." One of the objectives was to establish the moderating influence of project environment enablers on the relationship between project management practices and the performance of agricultural projects by community-based organizations in Bungoma County, Kenya. The study used descriptive and explanatory research designs. The target population was 138 community project groups carried out by CBOs registered in Bungoma County. The study used stratified sampling to select 61 project groups from the target population. Primary data was collected using a self-administered questionnaire. Interviews were also conducted with 15 field officers. The study revealed that Environmental enablers (moderating variable) were found to influence the relationship between project management practices and project performance. The interest of this study is to evaluate the moderating effect of project environment enablers on the

link between logical framework and sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

This study was based on program theory.The program theory explains how a project, program or policy contributes to a chain of results that produce the intended or actual impacts (Mertens & Wilson, 2018). Program theory looks at how the intended intervention for the specified target population represents the desired social benefits. It involves an analysis of both positive and negative impacts. Program theory can be used to provide a logical framework for monitoring and evaluation. A program theory is a very useful way of bringing together existing evidence about a program, and clarifying where there are agreement and disagreement about how the program is understood to work, and where there are gaps. It can be used for a single evaluation, for planning cluster evaluations of different projects funded under a single program, or to bring together evidence from multiple evaluations and research.

The theory assesses whether a program is designed in such a way that it can achieve its intended outcomes. It offers guidance on what areas need to be emphasized during the evaluation process (Newcomer, Hatry & Wholey, 2015). Further, it can be used to enhance decision making and expand conceptions of solutions to any project problems (McDavid, Huse & Hawthorn, 2018).

2.5 Conceptual Framework

The study conceptual framework presents a diagrammatic form of the researcher'sconceptualized relationships between the independent variable (logical framework), moderating variable (project environment enablers) and the dependent variable (sustainability of community agricultural projects).

Independent Variable **Moderating Variable** **Dependent Variable**

Project Environment Enablers
- Legal requirements
- Geography
- Politics
- Technology

Utilization of Logical Framework
- Identification of project activities
- Resource allocation to project activities
- Achieved expected result

Sustainability of Community Based Agricultural Projects supported by Caritas
- Project objectiveachievement
- Number of groups that collapsed
- Number of groups generating income from projects
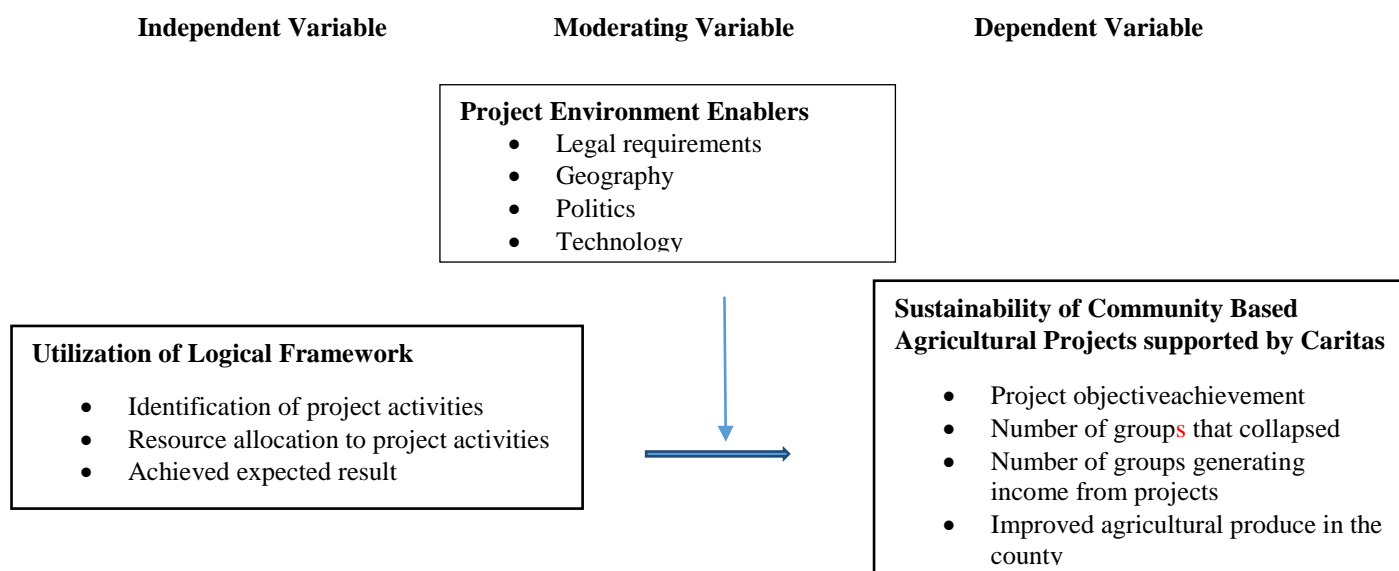- Improved agricultural produce in the county

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework on the utilization of logical framework, project environment enablers and sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Paradigm and Design

The researcher adopted the pragmatic paradigm as it seeks to utilise the best approaches to gaining knowledge using every methodology that aids knowledge discovery. It allows the researcher to choose the research methods depending on the topic and purpose of the research. Descriptive research was adopted to ensure a complete description of the situation and to make sure that there is minimum bias in the collection and interpretation of data (Kumar, 2019).

3.2 Target Population

The target population consisted 59 farmer groups in three sub counties of Meru County with a total of 997 farmers (Table 3.1) andthe 24 Caritas project staff as illustrated in 3.2.

Table 3.1 Study Target Population for Farmers group

Sub-county	No. of Groups	Members		Total
		Female	Male	
Buuri	31	271	174	445
Tigania West	14	158	124	282
Imenti Central	14	139	131	270
Total	59	568	429	997

Source: Caritas Meru Records (2020)

Table 3.2: Target population for Caritas Project Staff

Category	Target Population
Field Officers	18
Senior administrative staff	3
Project Co-coordinators	3
Total	24

Source: Caritas Meru Records (2020)

3.3 Sample Size

The sample size for this study was calculated using the formula put forward by Silverman (2008)as follows;

$$n = X^2 Npq / \{d^2 (N-1) + X^2 pq\}$$

Where n = Desired sample size, n= desired sample size, N =Target population (59), P= population proportion (set to 0.5, q= 1- p, d= corresponding to the significance level which was the degree of accuracy reflected by the amount of error that was associated with the sample size of the population (set to 0.05), and X^2 =chi-square value for one degree of freedom relative confidence at 95% confidence level, X=1.96

Therefore, the sample size (n) $=1.96^2 x$ 59x0.5x1-0.5 / $\{0.05^2(59-1) + 1.96^2 x0.5x1-0.5\}$ = 153. Thus there were 153 officials of the groups and the 24 Caritas project officers. Hence the total sample size was 177 (Table 3.3 and Table 3.4 respectively)

Table 3.3 : Sample Size determination for Famers groups

Sub-county	Target Population	Sample size		Percentage
		Farmer Groups	3 top officials per group	
Buuri	31	27	81	52%
Tigania West	14	12	36	24%
Imenti Central	14	12	36	24%
Total	59	51	153	100%

Table 3.4: Sample size determination for Caritas Project Staff

Category	Target Population	Census(Sample)
Field Officers	18	18
Senior administrative staff	3	3
Project Co-coordinators	3	3
Total	24	24

Source: Caritas Meru Records (2020)

3.4 Sampling Techniques

The sampling techniques used in this study were cluster, simple random, proportionate and purposive sampling. From the sampling frame, the researcher identified three sub-counties where the target projects were being undertaken, namely Buuri with 31 farmer groups, Tigania West with 14 and Imenti Central with 14. Proportionate sampling was used to obtain the number of farmer groups per cluster from the total sample size of 51. The study used proportionate sampling to allocate each cluster was a sample of respondents depending on its proportion to the total number of respondents. To select the farmer groups from each cluster that participated in the study, simple random sampling was adopted.

Purposive sampling was used to select 3 top officials from each farmer group sampled to participate in the study. The Census technique was utilised to include all the 24 Caritas project staff, who are projects' officers. Three Caritas senior administrative staff were interviewed to triangulate the study findings. The rest of the respondents filled in questionnaires.

3.5 Data Collection Instruments

The researcher utilized a structured questionnaire and interview guide to collect data.

3.5.1 Research Instrument Validity

The validity of research instruments in this study was determined by subjecting them to the pilot test and consulting with the university supervisors. Invalid questions were changed and errors corrected to ensure accurate and quality data is obtained from the study. The content validity was attained by ensuring the questionnaire captures all variables in the study and respective indicators of measurement. The construct validity was sustained by confining the questions to the research conceptualizations and ensuring that the indicators of the study variables fall within the construct.

3.5.2 Research Instrument Reliability

Reliability is the extent to which a test consistently measures whatever it is supposed to measure (Omona, J., 2013). Research instrument reliability relates to the ability of an instrument to yield dependable results via repeated trials. Instruments' reliability was assured through methodological triangulation. This was ensured by proposing two data collection methods namely questionnaire and interviews. According to Zohrabi (2013), the use of different type of procedures for collecting data and obtaining information ensures the reliability of data. In this study, Cronbach's Alpha α, a reliability coefficient was used to test internal reliability. It ranges between 0 and1, where 0 indicates no relationship among the items on a given scale, and 1 indicates absolute internal consistency (Tavakol & Dennick 2011). The Cronbach alpha measures the degree to which different items measuring the same variable attain consistent results which is computed as follows:

$$\alpha = \frac{k}{k\ 1} X [1-\Sigma (s^2)/\Sigma s^2 sum]$$

Where:

α = Cronbach's alpha

k = Number of responses

Σs²sum = Variance of summed up scores

Σ (s²) = Variance of individual items summed up

Cronbach's Alpha was discovered to be 0.798, which was judged satisfactory in the study. Beyond 0.7, alpha values are generally regarded as acceptable and satisfactory, above 0.8, as fairly good, and above 0.9, as indicating exceptional internal consistency. The accepted range of alpha value estimations in the social sciences is 0.7 to 0.8 (Orme, J.G. and Combs-Orme, T, 2009).

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.798	7

3.6 Data Analysis Techniques

The filled inquestionnaires were subjected to data cleaning, categorization, coding and entering in the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software 5th edition. The qualitative data collected using interview guides were analyzed by way of identifying themes. This entailed grouping similar responses together and developing information from them. The linear regression and Pearson's Correlation was utilized to determine the relationship between dependent and independent variables and to determine the moderating effect of the moderating variable on the relationship.

Descriptive analysis generated data output that was presented in tabular format for ease of interpretation. The inferential analysis produced linear regression, autocorrelation test, and multi-collinearity. Linear regression measures the extent to which there is a linear relationship between two variables. A diagnostic test was carried out to test multicollinearity and normality.

Pearson's Correlation was utilized to determine the relationship between dependent and independent variables while linear regression was utilized to determine the moderating effect of the moderating variable. It was also used as the inferential statistics that inform the decision to reject or not reject the alternative hypothesis for the research study. The regression equation was presented as follows;

$H_0 1$: Utilization of logical framework does not have a significant influence on the sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya

$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \alpha$

Where: Y= Sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya

β_0= Y-intercept

X_1=logical framework

α= random error (presumed to be 0.)

$H_0 2$: There is no significant positive relationship between Project Environment Enablers and sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya.

$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_2 X_2 + \alpha$

Where:

Y= Sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya

β_0 = Y-intercept

X_2 = Project Environment Eablers

α = random error and it will be presumed to be 0.

Hypothesis 3

$H_0 3$: The relationship between utilization of logical framework and sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya does not depend on the Project Environment Enablers.

$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \alpha$

Where:

Y is the Sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya

β_0 is the Y-intercept

X_1 isthe utilization of Logical Framework

X_2 is Project Environment

X_3 is the relationship between X_1 and Y depending on X_2

M is the moderating effect of Project Environment

α is the Random error and it will be presumed to be 0.

IV. FINDINGS

4.1 Demographic characteristics

This section outlines the general characteristics of the respondentsin terms of their gender, age, academic qualifications and projects initiated by farmers.

4.1.1 Gender of the respondents

Table 4.2 summarizes the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. From the majority of the results of the respondents 35.1% were males while 64.9% were female. This implies that women are more involved in communityagricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County compared to Men.

4.1.2 Age of the respondents

It was observed that the respondents were aged between 25 and above 55 years with about half (50.6%) in the (26 – 35) age bracket (Table 4.2). The other age groups constituted 16.1%, 20.7% and 12.6% for the below 25 years, 46-55 years and above 55 years, respectively. This shows that community

agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru Countyand are done mainly by the mid-aged people and only a few young and elderly engage in these projects.

4.1.3 Education of the respondents

The findings showed that 93.6% of the respondents had some formal education, a majority of whom had attained primary education (49.4%) followed by secondary education (28.7%), tertiary (4.6%) and university level of education 10.9% (Table 4.2). This infers that respondent could make valid and informed decisions that impacted the sustainability of communityagricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County.

4.1.4Type of agricultural project initiated in farmers group

The respondents indicated the type of agricultural project initiated by the farmers' group (Table 4.2). It was observed that the majority of the farmers' groups (44.8%) did Poultry farming, 6.3% did sorghum farming, 18.4% did cattle rearing and 30.1% did goat rearing.This implies that different farmer groups have initiated different agricultural projects that generate income.

Table 4.2: Demographic Characteristics

Demographic Characteristics		N	%
Gender	Male	61	35.1
	Female	113	64.9
	Total	174	100.0
Age	Below 25 years	28	16.1
	26-35 Years	88	50.6
	46-55 years	36	20.7
	above 55 years	22	12.6
	Total	174	100.0
Highest Level of Education	None	11	6.3
	Primary	86	49.4
	Secondary	50	28.7
	Tertiary	8	4.6
	University	19	10.9
	Total	174	100.0
Type of agricultural project initiated in your group	Poultry farming	78	44.8
	Sorghum	11	6.3
	Cattle rearing	32	18.4
	Goat rearing	42	24.1
	Others	11	6.3
	Total	174	100.0

V. RESULTS

5.1 Sustainability of Community Agricultural Projects Supported By Caritas in Meru County, Kenya

Sustainability of community agricultural projects was examined using the following indicators; the project achieved its objective; several groups that collapsed; the number of groups generating income from projects and improved agricultural productivity in the county (Table 4.5). Respondents were asked to provide answers on 5 Likert items in the questionnaire that were measured by a five-point Likert scale. Where 5= strongly agree, 4= Agree, 3=Neutral, 2=Disagree and 1=strongly disagree. The mean of each item was computed to assess the extent to which respondents agreed with views regarding project sustainability. The Likert scale mean score wasinterpreted as 1.00 to1.49 strongly disagree, 1.5 to 2.49 disagree, 2.50 to 3.49 undecided, 3.50 to 4.49 agree, and 4.50 to 5.00 strongly agree.

The researcher assessed whether agricultural projects achieved their intended purpose as it was planned. The result returned a mean score of 4.2414 and a standard deviation of 0.55798 (Table 4.5). Respondents agreed that the agricultural projects achieved their intended purposes as they were planned. A mean score of 4.0632 and Std. Deviation of 0.90696 indicated that the respondents agreed the number of agricultural projects managed by farmers is above 50%, the respondents were undecided or neutral that some groups have collapsed due to mismanagementthe recorded mean was 3.0862with Std. Deviation of 1.18201, the respondents agreed that the projects run by the farmers are generating incomethe recorded mean was3.9943with Std. Deviation of 0.87017, Lastly respondents strongly agreed members are trained on modern farming methods, the recorded mean was 4.1092 and Std. Deviation of 0.57363. These results suggest that community agricultural projects supported by Caritas are owned by the community hence they are sustainable

Table 4.5: Sustainability of community agricultural projects

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The agricultural project achieved its intended purpose as it was planned	174	3.00	5.00	4.2414	.55798
The number of agricultural projects managed by farmers is above 50%.	174	1.00	5.00	4.0632	.90696
Some groups have collapsed due to mismanagement	174	1.00	5.00	3.0862	1.18201
The projects run by the farmers are generating income	174	1.00	5.00	3.9943	.87017
Members are trained on modern farming methods	174	3.00	5.00	4.1092	.57363
Valid N (listwise)	174				

The researcher interviewed 2 Caritas senior officers and they were asked to comment on the sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County. Interviewee no 1 had this to say;

"Well, most projects supported by Caritas Meru have benefited the local community. Some started with 5 chicken 5 years ago but as we speak, they have hundreds. They supply eggs and chicken to hotels and they educate their children from the project"

Interviewee no 2had this to say;

"Majority of these projects are fully owned by the community, especially the projects that started 5 years ago. The community generate income from these projects"

Based on the comment made by Interview no 1&2, it is a clear indication that Caritas projects have helped the community in terms of development. This is also an indication that these projects are fully owned by the community.

Interviewee numbers 1 and 2 were asked howthey ensure the projects' continuity after donor fund.

Interviewee no 1 had this to say:

"Members are trained in bookkeeping, those who keep cows or goats are trained on animal health and how to care for them. Those growing crops are members of water projects and trained on modern farming methods"

Interviewee no2 had this to say:

"We encourage members to have chamas and save a certain percent of the money from the profit they get in those projects. That money is dedicated to run those projects, we also link the farmers with buyers for example those who want to sell their chickens or eggs. Once we connect the farmers with buyers they can sell their products and create a sustainable long term business relationship"

Based on answers given above by interviewees 1 and 2 onprojects' continuity after donor fund, the findings imply that Caritas has a strategic plan that ensures that all the projects that they initiate or target community members are sustainable even after the donor withdraws.

5.2 Utilization of Logical Frameworkas a Monitoring and Evaluation Tool

The researcher examined Utilization of the logical framework using the following indicators; identification of project activities; Resource allocation to project activities, and achieved expected results. Respondents were asked to provide answers on 5 Likert items in the questionnaire that were measured by a five-point Likert scale, where 5= strongly agree, 4= Agree, 3=Neutral, 2=Disagree and 1=strongly disagree. The mean of each item was computed to assess the extent to which respondents agreed with views expressed in the item. The Likert scale mean score will be interpreted as 1.00 to1.49 strongly disagree, 1.5 to 2.49 disagree, 2.50 to

3.49 undecided, 3.50 to 4.49 agree, and 4.50 to 5.00 strongly agree.

The data analysis revealed that a mean of 4.0230 and Std. Deviation of 0.50379 agreed that agricultural Project activities were identified in the logical framework (Table 4.16). A mean score of 4.1092 and Std. Deviation 0.67544 indicated that the respondents agreed that financial resources were allocated to each agricultural activity, a mean score of 3.6437 and Std. Deviation 0.67963 indicate that respondent agreed that human resources were allocated to each agricultural activity. A mean score of 3.7931 and Std. Deviation 1.12397 indicated respondents agreed that each agricultural activity achieved expected results. The respondent agreed that work breakdown structure was discussed with farmer groups this recorded a mean score of 3.7126 and Std. Deviation 0. 45384. The study found out that respondents agreed that realistic durations were assigned to project activities this was shown by a mean score of 4.1207 and Std. Deviation 0.32671. A mean score of 0.1379 and Std. deviation 0.58245 indicated that the respondents agreed that project activities in the schedule were properly sequenced. A mean score of 3.5862 and Std. Deviation 1.03188 indicated that the respondents agreed that all project's activities were included in the schedule. Farmer groups meetings were conducted to compare the results of project actual outputs against planned outputsthis is shown by a mean score of 3.5862 and Std. deviation 1.03188.Lastly, a mean score of 0.5862 and Std. Deviation 1.03188 indicated that the respondents agreed that decisions made from lessons learned influenced the sustainability of the project (Table 4.16). The findings imply that there was proper utilization of logical framework as a monitoring & evaluation tool.

Table 4.16: Utilization of the Logical Framework as a Monitoring & Evaluation Tool

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Agricultural Project activities were identified in the logical framework.	174	3.00	5.00	4.0230	.50379
Financial resources were allocated to each agricultural activity.	174	3.00	5.00	4.1092	.67544
Human resources were allocated to each agricultural activity.	174	2.00	4.00	3.6437	.67963
Each agricultural activity achieved expected results	174	2.00	5.00	3.7931	1.12397
Work breakdown structure was discussed with farmer groups.	174	3.00	4.00	3.7126	.45384
Realistic durations were assigned to project activities.	174	4.00	5.00	4.1207	.32671

Project activities in the schedule were properly sequenced.	174	4.00	5.00	4.0632	.24406
All project's activities were included in the schedule.	174	1.00	5.00	3.5862	1.03188
Farmer groups meetings were conducted to compare the results of project actual outputs against planned outputs.	174	1.00	5.00	3.4023	1.03085
Decisions made from lessons learned influenced the sustainability of the project.	174	4.00	5.00	4.0747	.26369
Valid N (listwise)	174				

5.2.1 Correlation Utilization of Logical Framework and Sustainability of Community Agricultural projects

The results of the correlation analysis are presented in (Table 4.17) Correlation coefficients were the statistical method utilized to explore the variables: Sustainability of projects (*The agricultural project achieved its intended purpose as it was planned*) and Utilization of Logical framework

(*Identification of project activities; Resource allocation to project activities and achieved expected result*). The findings reveal that there was a strong positive correlation r= (206**) between utilization of Logical framework and sustainability of community agricultural projects, the correlation was found not to be statistically significant since the p-value of 0.006 was greater than 0.05. The study established there was a negative correlation r= (-0.239**) betweenfinancial resources being allocated to each agricultural activity and sustainability of community agricultural projects, the correlation was found to be statistically significant at 5% since the p-value of 0.01 was less than 0.05. There was a positive correlation between r= (0.228**) between human resources allocated to each agricultural activity and sustainability of community agricultural projects the correlation was found to be statistically significant since the p-value of .002 was less than 0.05 Lastly, there was a positive correlation r=(0.191*) between each agricultural activity achieved expected results and sustainability of community agricultural projects the correlation was found to be statistically significant since the p-value of 0.012 was less than 0.05. These results imply that an increase in the Utilizationof Logical framework leads to an increase in the sustainability of the community agricultural project supported by Caritas in Meru County and vice versa (Table 4.17)

Table 4.17: CorrelationUtilization of Logical Framework and Sustainability of Community Agricultural project

Correlations						
		Sustainability of community-based agricultural projects	Agricultural Project activities were identified in the logical framework	Financial resources were allocated to each agricultural activity	Human resources were allocated to each agricultural activity	Each agricultural activity achieved expected results
Sustainability of community-based agricultural projects	Pearson Correlation	1	.206**	-.239**	.228**	.191*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.006	.001	.002	.012
	N	174	174	174	174	174
Agricultural Project activities were identified in the logical framework	Pearson Correlation	.206**	1	.332**	.699**	.437**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.006		.000	.000	.000
	N	174	174	174	174	174
Financial resources were allocated to each agricultural activity	Pearson Correlation	-.239**	.332**	1	.727**	.175*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.000		.000	.021
	N	174	174	174	174	174
Human resources were allocated to each agricultural activity	Pearson Correlation	.228**	.699**	.727**	1	.508**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002	.000	.000		.000
	N	174	174	174	174	174
Each agricultural activity achieved expected results	Pearson Correlation	.191*	.437**	.175*	.508**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.012	.000	.021	.000	
	N	174	174	174	174	174
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).						
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).						

5.2.2 Model Summary of objective One

Coefficient of determination explains the extent to which changes in the dependent variable can be explained by the change in the independent variables or the percentage of variation in the dependent variable (sustainability of community-based agricultural projects) that is explained by all the independent variable (Utilizing logical framework) which is measured by the following indicators (*Identification of project activities; Resource allocation to project activities and achieved expected result*))The three indicators that measure an independent variable that was studied, explain only 43.8 % of the effects of the predictors on the sustainability of community agricultural projects as represented by the R^2which means that other factors not studied in this research contribute 46.2 % of the effects of the independent variables on the sustainability of the projects. (Table 4.18)

Table 4.18: Model Summary of objective One

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.662a	.438	.424	.42332
a. Predictors: (Constant), Each agricultural activity achieved expected results, financial resources were allocated to each agricultural activity, Agricultural Project activities were identified in the logical framework, Human resources were allocated to each agricultural activity				

5.2.3 ANOVA Model for objective One

Study findings in ANOVA (table 4.19) indicated that the above-discussed coefficient of determination was significant as evidence of an F ratio of 32.592 with a p-value 0.000 <0.01 (level of significance). Thus, the model was fit to predict the sustainability of community-based agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County using the Utilization of logical framework as a monitoring and evaluation tool.

Table 4.19: ANOVA Model for objective one

ANOVA						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	23.577	4	5.894	32.892	.000b
	Residual	30.285	169	.179		
	Total	53.862	173			
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainability of community-based agricultural projects						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Each agricultural activity achieved expected results, Financial resources were allocated to each agricultural activity, Agricultural Project activities were identified in the logical framework, Human resources were allocated to each agricultural activity						

5.2.4 Hypotheses Testing

The results of quantitative data were further subjected to regression analysis to test the hypothesis on this variable

H_01: Utilization of logical framework does not have a significant effect on the sustainability of CBAP supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \alpha$$

Where: Y= Sustainability of CBAP supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya

β_0 = Y-intercept

$\quad$ X_1=logical framework

$\quad$ α= random error (presumed to be 0.)

The result of the test is represented in (table 4.20)

Results in Table 4.20 showed that agricultural projects activities being identified in the logical framework had coefficients of the estimate which was significant basing on β_1 = 0-.258 (p-value = 0.008 which is greater than α = 0.05), an indication that there was no association. Financial resources being allocated to each agricultural activity had coefficients of the estimate which was significant basing on β_1 = -0.830 (p-value = 0.000 which is less than α = 0.05) which means there was an association. Human resources being allocated to each agricultural activity had coefficients of the estimate which was significant basing on β_1 =0.979 (p-value = 0.000 which is less than α = 0.05 which means there was an association. Therefore, the researcher rejected the hypothesis and concluded that there is a significant relationship between utilization of logical framework as monitoring & evaluation tool and sustainability of community agriculture projects.

Table 4.20: Coefficient estimate

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	5.385	.323		16.688	.000
	Agricultural Project activities were identified in the logical framework.	-.258	.096	-.233	-2.697	.008
	Financial resources were allocated to each agricultural activity.	-.830	.078	-1.005	-10.619	.000
	Human resources were allocated to each agricultural activity.	.979	.108	1.192	9.069	.000
	Each agricultural activity achieved expected results	-.068	.035	-.138	-1.943	.054
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainability of community agricultural projects						

5.3 Project Environment Enablers as moderating variable

Correlation coefficients were the statistical method utilized to explore the variables: Sustainability of projects (The agricultural project achieved its intended purpose as it was planned) and utilization of project environment enablers as moderating variable (Table 4.30). The findings reveal that there was a positive correlation r=0.256 between the project environment enablers and the sustainability of community-based agricultural projects. These findings imply that an increase in the project environment enablers as moderating variableleads to an increase in the sustainability of the communit agricultural project by Caritas in Meru County and vice versa

Table 4.30: Project environment enablers as moderating variable

Correlations			
		Sustainability of community agricultural projects	Project enablers
Sustainability of community agricultural projects	Pearson Correlation	1	.256**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	174	174
Project enablers	Pearson Correlation	.256**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	174	174
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

5.3.1 Model Summary of objective two

Coefficient of determination explains the extent to which changes in the dependent variable can be explained by the change in the independent variables or the percentage of variation in the dependent variable (sustainability of community agricultural projects) that is explained by project enablers. The study found out only 65 % of the effects of the predictors of project enablers on the sustainability of community-based agricultural projects as represented by the R^2 which means that other monitoring and evaluation tools were not studied in this research contribute 25 % of the effects of the independent variables on the sustainability of the projects. (Table 4.31)

Table 4.31: Model Summary of objective two

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.256ᵃ	.065	.060	.54099
a. Predictors: (Constant), Project enablers				

5.3.2 ANOVA Model

Study findings in ANOVA (table 4.34) indicated that the coefficient of determination was not significant as evidence of an F ratio of 12.036with a p-value of 0.001 is less than 0.05 (level of significance). Thus, the model was fit to predict the sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County using the project environment enablers as moderating variable

Table 4.32: ANOVA Model

ANOVA						
	Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	3.523	1	3.523	12.036	.001b
	Residual	50.339	172	.293		
	Total	53.862	173			
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainability of community projects						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Project enablers						

5.3.3 Hypothesis Testing of objective two (Project environment enablers as moderating variable)

The results of quantitative data were further subjected to regression analysis to test the hypothesis on this variable

H_02: There is no significant positive relationship between Project Environment Enablers and sustainability of Community Agricultural Projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya.

$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_2X_2 + \alpha$

Where:

Y= Sustainability of CBAP supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya

β_0 = Y-intercept

X_2 = Project Environment

α = random error and it will be presumed to be 0.

The result of the test is represented in table 4.33

Results in Table 4.33showed that project environmental enablershad coefficients of the estimate which was significant basing on β5 = 0.239 (p-value = 0.001 which is less that than α = 0.05), an indication that there was an association. Therefore, we reject the hypothesis and conclude that there was a significant relationship betweenproject environment enablers and sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya.

Table 4.33: A coefficient estimate of objective two

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	3.356	.259		12.979	.000
	Project environmental enablers	.239	.069	.256	3.469	.001
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainability of community based agricultural projects						

5.4.0 Moderating effect of Project Environment Enablers

5.4.1 Model Summary of objective three

Coefficient of determination explains the extent to which changes in the dependent variable can be explained by the change in the independent variables or the percentage of variation in the dependent variable (sustainability of community agricultural projects) that is explained by project enablers' moderator variable and utilisation of logical framework. The study found out only 95 % of the effects of the predictors of project enablers as moderating variables on the sustainability of community agricultural projects and utilization of logical frameworkas a monitoring and evaluation tool as represented (Table 4.34)

Table 4.34: Model Summary

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.309[a]	.095	.068	.53855
a. Predictors: (Constant) Utilization of logical framework, Project environment enablers				

5.4.1 Hypothesistesting of objective three (project environment enablers as moderating variable)

The results of quantitative data were further subjected to regression analysis to test the hypothesis on this variable

Hypothesis 3

H_03: The relationship between utilization of logical framework and sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya does not depend on the project environment.

$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \alpha$

Where:

Y is the Sustainability of CBAP supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya

β_0 is the Y-intercept

X_1 isthe utilization of Logical Framework

X_2 is Project Environment Enablers

$X_3$is the relationship between $X_1$and Y depending onX_2

M is the moderating effect of Project Environment enablers

α is the Random error and it will be presumed to be 0.

Table 4.35: A coefficient estimate of objective three

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	4.099	.582		7.042	.000
	Project environment enablers	.308	.131	.330	2.348	.020
	Utilization of logical framework	-.107	.113	-.111	-.951	.343
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainability of community agriculture projects						

VI. CONCLUSION

The first objectiveof the study was toestablish the extent to which utilization of Logical Frameworkinfluences the sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya. The findings reveal that there was a strong positive correlation r= (206**) between utilization of logical framework and sustainability of community agricultural projects, the correlation was found not to be statistically significant since the p-value of 0.006 was greater than 0.05.

The study established that there was a negative correlation r= (-0.239**) between financial resources being allocated to each agricultural activity and sustainability of community agricultural projects, the correlation was found to be statistically significant at 5% since the p-value of 0.01 was less than 0.05. There was a positive correlation r= (0.228**) between human resources allocated to each agricultural activity and sustainability of community agricultural projects and the correlation was found to be statistically significant since the p-value of .002 was less than 0.05 Lastly, there was a positive correlation r=(0.191*) between each agricultural activity achieved expected results and sustainability of community agricultural projects and the correlation was found to be statistically significant since the p-value of 0.012 was less than 0.05.

It was found out that agricultural projects activities being identified in the logical framework had coefficients of the estimate which was significant basing on β1 = 0-.258 (p-value = 0.008 which is greater than α = 0.05), an indication that there was no association. Financial resources being allocated to each agricultural activity had coefficients of the estimate which was significant basing on β1 = -0.830 (p-value = 0.000

which is less than α = 0.05) which means there was an association. Human resources being allocated to each agricultural activity had coefficients of the estimate which was significant basing on β1 =0.979 (p-value = 0.000 which is less than α = 0.05 which means there was an association. Therefore, the researcher rejected the hypothesis and concluded that there is a significant positive relationship between utilization of logical framework as monitoring & evaluation tool and sustainability of community agriculture projects supported by caritas in Meru County, Kenya.

The second objective was to determine how Project Environment Enablers influence the sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya. The study revealed that project environment enablers had coefficients of the estimate which was significant basing on β5 = 0.239 (p-value = 0.001 which is less that than α = 0.05), an indication that there was an association. Therefore, we rejected the hypothesis and concluded that there was a significant relationship between project environment enablers and sustainability of community agricultural projects undertaken supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya.

The third objective was to determine the moderating effect of Project Environment Enablers on the link between logical framework and sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya. The study found out that the relationship between utilization of logical frameworkand sustainability of community agricultural projects supported by Caritas in Meru County, Kenya depends on the project environment enablers.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The study shows that use of logical framework as monitoring and evaluation toolcannot be ignored and thereforerecommends that organizations dealing with the community project should utilize the tool to enhance sustainability. The study revealed that project environment enablers significantly influence sustainability of community projects. To ensure the sustainability of communityprojects organizationsdealing with such projectsshould factor project environment enablers in project plan. They should involve critical stakeholders such as the local politicians, agricultural extension officers, department of development and social services, legal officers, and the area chiefs. They shouldalso train farmer groups' leaders on leadership and management skills. Toempower farmers with modern farming skills, organisations should train farmers on utilisation ofinformation communication technology such as internet to research on farm inputs, market for their farm produce as well as best farming practice. The study also recommends that organizations should train farmers on record keeping and conflict management practices to avoid collapse of groups.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

The findings from this study revealed that Caritas as an organization utilized logical framework as monitoring and evaluation tool hence this influenced sustainability of the community agricultural projects. Further research can also investigate the influence of other monitoring and evaluation tools such as stakeholder analysis, budget, project plan and Gant charts on sustainability of community projects.

Given that this study focused on Caritas Meru, a faith-based organization in Kenya, a comparable study including other non-governmental organizations working on community agricultural projects is advised. This study can also be done in other Kenyan counties and other countries to establish whether the same outcomes can be achieved.

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