

Project Monitoring and Evaluation in the Sustainability of Donor-Funded Potato Projects in Kabale District, Uganda

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ABSTRACT

High Points

- The study is about the effect of potato project design and implementation in the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District and there is minimal participation of potato farmers in project monitoring and evaluation in the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District.
- The essence of potato project monitoring and evaluation in the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District is to increase knowledge and improve the livelihoods of potato farmers without wasting donors' resources after donor exit.
- It was found out that, there is the participation of potato project farmers in monitoring and evaluation with vital for the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District

Background: This study was set to determine the effect of project monitoring and evaluation on the implementation of funded potato projects in the Kabale District. Monitoring and evaluating a strategic role of communities that equips potato project beneficiaries to feel that they have a stake in the project. However, monitoring and evaluation activities by the communities have not been entirely accepted by donors.

Objective: This study was set to determine the effect of project monitoring and evaluation on the implementation of funded potato projects in the Kabale District.

Methods: This study adopted a descriptive survey design, and it used potato farmers as the unit of analysis. Data was collected in the means of administering a questionnaire survey from a sample of 196 potato farmers. Structural equation modeling was used to test hypotheses.

Results: Findings revealed that project monitoring and evaluation have significant positive relationship sustainability of funded potato projects

Conclusion and Recommendations: The study concludes that; Project monitoring and evaluation should be participatory. Therefore, the study recommends that project beneficiaries should share information concerning their project, collect data together and learn lessons from the project report and disseminate data for purposes of understanding very well the project.

Keywords: Project Monitoring and Evaluation, Sustainability, Community Participation, and Donor Funded Potato Projects, Kabale District, Uganda

I. INTRODUCTION

The study reports the findings of the research carried out to determine the effect of project monitoring and evaluation in the sustainability of funded potato projects in Kabale District South Western Uganda. Jamaal(1) explained that monitoring and evaluation is a strategic role of communities that equips potato project beneficiaries to feel that they have a stake in the project. However, monitoring and evaluation activities by the communities have not been entirely accepted by donors. As a result, this has hindered the effective implementation of donor-funded projects. Mutonga(2)Presents it as monitoring and evaluation as a community role in funded potato project as defined as the shared investigation and calculation of the project by the project beneficiaries for purposes of owning the project. However according to Omari (3) notes that all over the world, there is minimal participation of potato project beneficiaries in monitoring and evaluation of funded project projects. Mutonga (2)is in agreement with Omari (3) by explaining that, funded potato projects have failed due to limited participation of potato project beneficiaries in monitoring and evaluation which is the heart of the

projects to be sustainable. Hodgkin (4), adds that monitoring and evaluation are not taken by the donors as a remedy for deficiencies within the project when it is done participatory with the potato project beneficiaries. The elements of project monitoring and evaluation were the Development of data collection tools, Data collection, Report writing, and Dissemination of findings.

Field visits and sustainability of funded potato projects

Hodgkin (4) asserts that there is the participation of potato project beneficiaries in project field visits on the funded potato projects, George *et al*(5) said that, field visits are normally by the potato project implementers and the donors themselves without involving project beneficiaries.

Mubita *et al* (6) confirm that potato projects over all of America, Asia, as well as Africa, field visits are done by the technical people after all projects are done to inform policymakers for decision making. Therefore, there should be limited participation of community members in projects. When they participate, they will bring confusion during project implementation, and that it will be very hard for the potato project stakeholders who have not participated in the field activities of the organization to own a project after donor exodus. Ojwang (7) confirms that potato project beneficiaries are less vital to participate in field activities of potato projects because they always have limited knowledge in the potato project activities. Nawi *et al*(8) Noted that it is a waste of resources to involve potato project beneficiaries in project field activities. Yet the use of project field trips by beneficiaries would be a good measure for the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects. Summaries and Findings, Mugo (9) are in line with the above researchers who said that field trips in potato projects life cycle management, project beneficiaries are less important. Since field trips are for lessons learned, project beneficiaries have no role to play. This should be for technical people who need to see if the project is being implemented according to project document Kennedy (10)

Development of data collection tools and sustainability of donor-funded potato projects

Bartletti(11) reported that with a growing emphasis on participatory approaches towards sustainability of donor-funded potato projects, there has been no recognition of project beneficiaries during project documentation. Donors think that, if potato project beneficiaries participate in the development of data collection tools, their main goal on research will not work. This is because they have limited knowledge of potato agronomy-based practices. Sometimes these potato projects are done to support potato project innovation research and development where potato farmers are not necessary at the time. Barletti(11) confirms that donor-funded potato projects in Uganda are experiencing sustainability issues due to the limited participation of potato project beneficiaries in the development of data collection tools. All most potato projects in Uganda are donor-funded meaning that, they are the ones to determine who is supposed to be part of data collection. However, donors prefer the conventional approach compared to the participatory approach Mubita(12). This implies that it is the top-bottom approach. For any project where project beneficiaries have not participated in the development of data collection tools at all levels of project life cycle management, they can't own the project after donor exit. Ochunga *et al*(13) explain that lack of community participation in potato projects in the development of data collection tools, owning the results is not possible and therefore, it becomes irrelevant after donor exit for the potato project beneficiaries to own the project. Muchelule (14) noted that, where potato project beneficiaries have not participated in the development of data collection tools, they are not reliable for the outcomes after data analysis and interpretation.

Data collection and sustainability of funded potato projects

Keura *et al*(15) Noted that potato project beneficiaries have been completely abandoned to participate in data collection all over the world in donor funded potato projects. Effective data collection is no longer part of the local communities that are the potato project beneficiaries. Oino *et al*(16) lamented that potato projects in Sub Sahara Counties, there is minimal sustainability of donor-funded potato projects, due to minimal involvement of stakeholders. Potato project beneficiaries have not been fully involved in these potato projects' data collection which has affected project sustainability. Whatever comes from data findings is not shared by the beneficiaries. If this situation continues, the local communities who are willing to participate in these projects but are denied a chance of getting involved, will end up in a bad situation. Ochunga (13) explains that, unless donors engage in community members in participatory data collection at all project life cycle management, potato project beneficiaries will never own the project after the donor's exit.

Mugo(17) it is essential for potato projects beneficiaries to participate in the data collection. However, donors are not interested in participatory data collection. Mugambi (18) explains that, in all developing countries, donors are highly promoting a conventional approach than a participatory approach concerning data collection. This has somehow humiliated project beneficiaries in getting fully involved in potato projects. A good data collection system should involve all project beneficiaries whereby they are allowed to freely express their opinion without fear because they are project owners after the donor exit. According to Wanjara (19), donor-funded potato projects have failed because of the minimal participation of project beneficiaries in data collection. Participation

of potato projects beneficiaries in data collection ensures project ownership and sustainability of the project. Andrade-Piedraet al (20) desire that there is limited data collection among donor-funded potato projects in Uganda. Since in memorial, donors have been supporting communities to enhance potato projects through CARE, AMRF, African 2000 network, community connector, however, none of these projects have been involving potato project beneficiaries in data collection. As we say now, all these projects one cannot trace any of the potato funded projects in the country due to lack of ownership.

Participatory report writing and sustainability of donor-funded potato projects

Kenedy (21) noted that limited participation of potato project beneficiaries has made project reports of no value. and the limited of potato project beneficiaries in the development of data collection tools have made them not participate in data collection and therefore cannot participate in the report writing which affects potato project dissemination of the findings. It is the work of the communities to know the current situation on the project that is being implemented. Nawi (8) Explained that project reporting allows both project beneficiaries and project team to track the current progress of the project against the original plan. However, potato project beneficiaries are just used for giving accountability only during the dissemination of findings. Bartletti (11) supports Nawi (8) explaining that the negligible of donors to allow potato project beneficiaries in the development of potato projects has affected donor-funded projects all over the world. It is worse in the sub-Saharan Countries where every potato project is based on donor funding. Potato project beneficiaries have failed to understand what the project report is, how to develop a project report, who is supposed to be involved in the projects report, they are just left in confession.

Mbugua *et al* (22) noted that limited participation of potato project beneficiaries all over the world is confusing. They cannot easily discover, the inputs verse outputs, impacts as well as sustainability. Bekele *et al* (23) explain that where potato project beneficiaries have not participated in feasibility studies reports means will never understand any project development which will affect project sustainability. To understand potato project objective verifiable indicators, means of verification and as well as identifying the risks involved in the project s/he has must have to participate in feasibility studies reports, midterm evaluation reports, monitoring, and evaluation reports, and potato project termination reports. However, this is different in most developing countries like Uganda.

The hypothesis of the study:

To give the route on the trail towards realizing the desired findings and outcomes of this study as specified below as the aim and intention of this research investigation. Within the context of the research topic, the objective is to examine the effect of project design and implementation on the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in the Kabale District. Furthermore, to examine the relationship between the variables (project design and sustainability of funded potato projects), the following hypotheses are postulated and specified in their alternative form:

H₁: There is a positive significance between project design and implementation on the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District South Western Uganda.

Objective

This study was set up to determine the effect of Project monitoring and evaluation on the implementation of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District.

Method

The study used a descriptive research design. In the prevalence study design, a particular occurrence is considered at a particular period. Prevalence study designs a suitable for studies aimed at discovering out the appearance of occurrence, situation, problem or attitude, by ascertaining a certain group of the population at a given period. Therefore, the prevalence research design is a form of observational study that discovers data collected from a population, or a representative subset, while correlational research design is a quantitative approach of research in which there are two or more variables from a similar group of subjects from which association can be determined if it happens or not

The study population comprised 198 respondents. The study comprised of 131 potato individual farmers, 24 potato farmer groups, 10 district marketing, and production department, 13 community development officers, and 13 sub-county chiefs. The total target number was 196 respondents. Therefore $338+26+10+13+13=196$. In sum, the total size of the target population is four hundred.

Sample size strategy.

Population category	Target Population	Sample Size	Sampling Techniques
Potato individual farmer	338	131	Simple random sampling
Potato farmer groups	26	24	Simple random sampling

District marketing and production department	10	10	Purposive
Community Development officers	13	10	Purposive
Sub County Chiefs	13	10	Purposive
Total	400	196	

Source: Primary Data 2021

Data Quality Control (Validity and Reliability)

All research is concerned with ethically producing valid and reliable knowledge. The data quality control techniques were ensured that the data collected was valid and reliable; the instruments were tested first to ensure validity and reliability through the following:

Validity

Validity is the degree to which a test measures what it is supposed to measure. The researcher ensured the validity of the instruments for efficiency and effectiveness of the tools to arrive at the dependable findings, conclusions, and recommendations demanded by the study objectives and topic. The instruments were designed and discussed with experts in the field to ascertain whether they are comprehensive, clear, simple, and relevant to the study objectives. A Content Validity Test was conducted using the CVI whose formula is;

$$CVI = \frac{\text{Number of relevant items}}{\text{Total number of items}} \times 100 = \frac{100}{110} \times 100 = 99.9$$

Summary of the reliability statistics

Judge 1. = 190/196=0.969

Judge 2. =192/167= 0.979

Judge 3. = 189/167= 0.964

Judge 4. = 185/196=0.944

Therefore 0.969+0.979+0.964+0.944=3.856. 3.856/4=0.964

These results implied that research instruments were valid to be used for the data collection on the community participation and sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District. said that for instruments to be accepted as valid the average content validity index (CVI) no. of items declared valid divided by the total No. of items = at least

0.7. Since the CVI value is above 90%, then the instruments were valid,

Reliability of the questionnaire

The reliability of the questionnaire is the extent to which a questionnaire produces the same result on the repeated trials, hence the stability or consistency of scores over time. The reliability of the questionnaire was ensured by training of researcher assistants before the study, pretesting the questionnaire, and calculation of Cronbach's alpha to measure reliability or how well a test measure what it should. Coefficient alpha was also used because the questionnaire responses are in form of multiple choices and short answers.

Pretesting of the questionnaire and Cronbach alpha test

To determine the Cronbach alpha, the questionnaire was pretested through a pilot study conducted in Rubanda District. Rubanda District is found in South Western Uganda which is neighboring Kabale District in the north, the Republic of Rwanda in the south, Kisoro in the South west, and Kanungu and Rukungiri Districts in the East. Therefore, the population is likely to have similar characteristics to those of the intended study participants. A total of 15 respondents took part in the pilot study. The data collected from the pilot study/ test was entered in SPSS version 23 and analyzed for reliability using the Cronbach alpha test, SPSS version 23. Analysis of data was done based on the demission of the independent variable as below.

The Discussion of the Independent Variables

Variable	Reliability statistics
Project design and implementation	0.890
Project resourcing	0.904
Project monitoring and evaluation	0.941
Sustainability	0.866
Total	3.601
Average	3.601/4=0.900

Source: Field data 2021.

Cronbach's Alpha was 0.900. a reliability coefficient (alpha) of 0.7 range is considered acceptable and those above 0.9 are considered good. Therefore, the questionnaire had good reliability.

Data Analysis

After the fieldwork, the data were input into Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 21 and exposed to a systematic cleaning before hypothesis testing. Two statistical software packages were applied for dissecting the data collected. Specifically, SPSS version 21 was used for preliminary data analysis, while Analysis of Moments of Structures (AMOS) version 21 was used for Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) guided by confirmatory factor analysis.

Findings

Correlation analysis on project monitoring and evaluation and how it positively affects the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District.

The table below shows a correlation coefficient of 0.383 shows that project monitoring and evaluation have a positive correlation with the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in the Kabale District. A regression analysis was hence, run to determine the strength of the relationship between project monitoring and evaluation rates and sustainability of donor-funded potato projects that is, how much of the variance in the independent variable would affect the dependent variable.

Correlations

		Sustainability of Donor-Funded Potato Projects	Project Monitoring and Evaluation
Sustainability of Donor-Funded Potato Projects	Pearson Correlation	1	.383**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	196	196
Project Monitoring and Evaluation	Pearson Correlation	.383**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	196	196

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The model summary of project monitoring and evaluation and how positively affects the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.383 ^a	.147	.143	1.05243

a. Predictors: (Constant), Project monitoring and Evaluation

The coefficient of determination .383 implies that project monitoring and evaluation influence the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District.

Thus, a significant positive relationship between project monitoring and evaluation and sustainability of donor-funded potato projects. This means that the more community involvement in project monitoring and evaluation, the stronger the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District. Hence project monitoring and evaluation contribute 38.3% to the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District.

Regression output summary on project monitoring and evaluation and sustainability of donor-funded potato projects and how project monitoring and evaluation positively affects the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District.

Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.870	.141		13.227	.000
1 Project monitoring and Evaluation	.355	.061	.383	5.783	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainability of donor of funded potato projects

Source: Field Data 2021

The result again revealed a regression coefficient of .383 at 0.01 significance level hence a positive significance. Results further confirm that project resourcing has an influence on the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District with a Beta value of 0.383 at 95% level of confidence. Therefore, the researcher holds an alternative hypothesis which states that “project resourcing positively affects the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District. Hence project resourcing contributes to the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale district with 38.3%

II. DISCUSSION

The findings of the study indicate a positive and significant relationship between project monitoring and evaluation in the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District ($r=.383^{**}$, $p<0.01$). This is in line with Jamaal (1) explained that monitoring and evaluation is a strategic role of communities that equips potato project beneficiaries to feel that they have a stake in the project. However, monitoring and evaluation activities by the communities have not been entirely accepted by donors. As a result, this has hindered the effective implementation of donor-funded projects. Mutonga (2) Presents it as monitoring and evaluation as a community role in donor-funded potato projects as defined as the shared investigation and calculation of the project by the project beneficiaries for purposes of owning the project. However according to Omari (24) notes that all over the world, there is minimal participation of potato project beneficiaries in monitoring and evaluation of donor funded project projects

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III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**Conclusion**

The study concludes that changes in project monitoring and evaluation would bring about positive changes in the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in Kabale District holding other factors constant.

The study further concludes that project monitoring and evaluation affect the sustainability of donor-funded potato projects in the Kabale District.

Recommendations

The study recommends that project monitoring and evaluation should be participatory. This allows project beneficiaries to share information concerning their project, collect data together, analyze data together and learn from lessons from the project report and disseminate data for purposes of understanding very well the project.

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ABBREVIATIONS

M&E- Monitoring and Evaluation

CARE- Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere

AMREF- The African Medical and Research Foundation

ETHICAL ISSUES

None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare they have no competing interests with study design or final report, no financial or personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence this research.

RESEARCH FUNDING

Self-Sponsored