

ECONOMICS OF ENTERPRISE DIVERSIFICATION AMONG PASTORAL COMMUNITIES IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

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Diversification

- Diversification is an attempt by individuals and households to look for new ways of raising their income and reducing environmental risks.
- Categories of diversification:
 - » Off-farm-wage employment, trade, crafts
 - » On-farm-livestock production activities

Pastoral diversification entails the pursuit on any non-pastoral income generating activities

Sedentary farmers practice mixed farming, cultivation of food crops and rearing of modest cattle, sheep and goat.

Ex-pastoralists are household that have lost their livestock and depend wholly on human labour

Challenges and Opportunities of Diversification

- **Challenges**

- Lack of information on the best enterprise
- Land tenure system
- Conflict between ranchers, wildlife, farmers, and pastoralists
- Lack of political will

- **Opportunities**

- Reduced risks and uncertainties associated with focusing on a single enterprise
- Easy to adopt sedentary lifestyle which enable pastoralists to access:
 - » Education
 - » Extension services

Research Problem

- In Laikipia County, real estate developers have encroached on land that was previously owned by the pastoralist communities
- Thousands of acres have been sold to real estate agents
- Government has leased pastoral land to major flower companies for development by politicians and foreigners
- Pastoralists have been pushed to areas with low rainfall
- Vast lands and frequent movements of pastoralists have made it very hard for the government and other stakeholders to provide them with quality services

Research Problem...Cont.

- Kenya was banned from exporting meat to European market in 2008
- Frequent attempts to create disease-free zones which would meet the required hygiene conditions have failed over the years
- Frequent outbreak of diseases have made it hard for pastoralists to take advantage of the expanding markets
- Meat from pastoral areas does not meet the required standards in the local and international market
- Many of the pastoral areas cannot handle large herds of animals
- Sedentary lifestyle will enable the government to control disease outbreak

Objective of the study

- **General Objective**
- To evaluate the determinants that influence enterprise diversification among the pastoralists in Laikipia County.

Specific objectives

- Analyse the social-economic factors that influence the adoption of non-livestock income generating activities
- To assess the economic viability of enterprise diversification among pastoralists
- Determine the vulnerability of households practicing different enterprises

Justification of the study

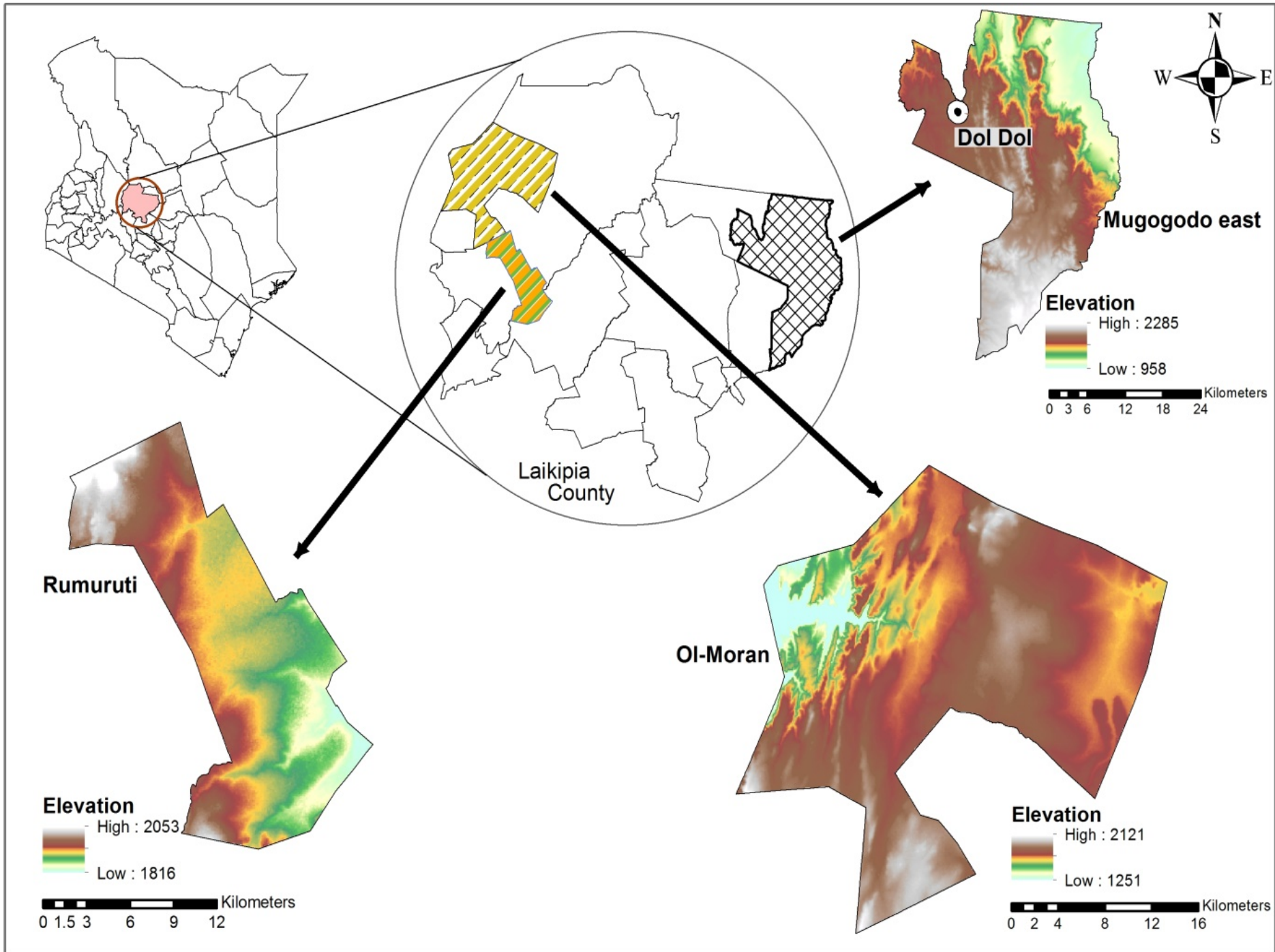
- The study will enable pastoralists to take advantage of the increasing demand for meat by optimizing their income while at the same time minimizing risks through diversification
- The study will help various stakeholders involved in Livestock Development e.g. communities, non-governmental organizations, and the government to develop better strategies and practices that will enable the pastoralists cope with climate change
- The project will have a critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of eradicating poverty and hunger.

Data collection and Analysis

- Data was be collected from primary and secondary sources.
- Sample size: 322
- Purposive and random sampling techniques were used
- Primary data was obtained through semi-structured interviews which that assisted in probing and questionnaire-based approach.
- The statistical procedure of data conversion involves the use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)
- Data was collected on 6th August-8th September through household survey and FDGs
- In order to analyse data for this study, both descriptive statistics and regression analysis is being used

Study Area

- The study took place in Laikipia West and North
- Laikipia County is located on the equator and the leeward side of Mt Kenya.
- The whole area covers approximately. 9,666km².
- The rainfall patterns vary significantly with the annual rainfall ranging from 400-800mm. The mean temperatures range from 25-30 degrees centigrade.
- In July and August, the temperatures ranges from 12-17.
- Geographically, the area consist of plateau which are bounded by the great rift-valley to the west, Aberdare ranges and Mt Kenya to the south.
- The major soils in the county are the red soils and black soils.
- The eastern parts have well drained sols that is good for farming.
- The larger parts of the area are suited for pastoral activities and ranching. However, farming through irrigation has become a common aspect in the area



Household characteristics	Frequency/Mean (n= 322)	Standard deviation
Gender (% male)	70.63	-
Age (mean years)	41.1	15.6
Access to credit (%)	20.0	-
Business (mean Kshs)	14,383.33	13,406.3
Employment (mean Kshs)	9,699.47	10709.31
Remittances (mean Kshs)	2825	1929.378
Sand harvesting (Mean kshs)	2690	3327.46
Honey harvesting (mean kshs)	1761.46	1690.32
Stone mining	2700	1875.43
Motorcycle business (mean kshs)	888.33	444.6
Marital status (%)	88.13	-
Group membership (%)	47.62	-
Access to extension services (%)	38.7	-

- The mean income from business was 14,383.33. This is an indication that those who have diversified to business are leading a better life.
- Only 20% of the respondents have access to credit. Many of them are members of a Sacco.
- 47.62 are members of a social and economic group.
- The mean age of the respondent was 41.1 years

Vulnerability

- 88.79% of the households are vulnerable to droughts. The reason is that they entirely depend on a single enterprise
- Cattle rustling affects 58.81% of the households.
- Human wildlife conflicts affects 33.13% of the households especially those in the Northern part of Laikipia county.
- 58.07% are practicing herd diversification while 27% are practicing pasture conservation.

Expected Output

- Masters Thesis
- Two journal articles
- Upcoming conferences

