FACTORS AFFECTING EXTENSION SERVICES AND FAVOURABLE EXTENSION METHODS THAT CAN EASE EXTENSION SHORTAGE IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF UASIN GISHU COUNTY

1Kangogo, M. and 2Maina F. N.W.

1 University of Eldoret, Department of Extension and Rural Development, P.O. Box 1125, Eldoret 30100, Kenya. 2 University of Eldoret, Department of Seed, Crop and Horticultural Science, P.O. Box 1125, Eldoret 30100, Kenya.

Extension services, if functioning effectively, can improve agricultural Productivity through providing farmers with information that helps them to optimize use of limited resources. The objective of this study is to assess the factors influencing the delivery of the extension services and the extension methods that can be employed to reach more farmers and cost effectively. The study covered Uasin Gishu county Soi division. Data was analyzed by way of frequent tables and percentages. The instruments used for data collection were questionnaires, observation and interview methods. The design adopted was stratified sampling method where 40% of the whole target population was sampled. 40 farmers and 12 extension officers was sampled. It was observed that the factors that challenged extension service provision were high illiteracy levels among the farmers, minimal support from the government in terms of training of officers, financial allocation and low staff to farmer ratio. Since public resources for extension are very constrained, it’s important for public extension to employ cost effective methods of service provision to farmers like group approach. In conclusion there is a lot to be done to improve extension service delivery because Uasin Gishu is an agricultural zone that is a food basket for the country as well as income generating for the farmers.

Key words: Extension services; Extension methods ; Challenges in extension service delivery