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## Press Release:

### Title

**Policy Advocacy On Agricultural Sector After Devolution To County Governments**

### Authors

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### Key Message

The agriculture sector has over the years been the largest contributor to our country's economic growth. In recent years, the sector has undergone a number of institutional changes – the most significant change being the transfer of majority of the functions to the County Governments in 2013. It is now two years since these functions were transferred to county governments. There is need to assess the progress on key areas in the sector and evaluate how the direction of these change is affecting smallholder farmers and the overall performance in the sector.

There is therefore need to understand the opportunities and challenges that face the sector after the transitioning to county governments. Key questions that we look at are:

1. Structure of the sector-how has it changed?
2. Planning, coordination & implementation of projects & programs. Are programs localized to make use of local ecological zones, specialties, comparative advantage? How is the national government and county governments coordinating policies, programs and projects?
3. Is the level of funding sufficient? Will the sector's objectives be satisfactorily met?
4. Do farmers participate in planning and make their voices heard?
5. What challenges are being experienced? What do we learn? & What are the best practices?

We make the following key findings:

1. Coordination between National Government and County Governments need to be enhanced to achieve complementary synergies envisaged when devolving functions to County Governments.
2. The planning and budgeting process are weak. There was little technical involvement in developing CIDPs.
3. A small proportion of farmers are participating in development meetings. Specifically absent are the youth. Participation is hindered by high opportunity cost suggesting that county governments should be flexible in timing when seeking views from the public.
4. There is enormous human resources challenge ranging from underemployment to staff shortages.

5. The funding to the sector is still below desired target.
6. The transition process has contributed to the numerous challenges being experienced at the county level as County Governments were not given sufficient time to prepare to take over the functions in the sector.

### **Recommendations**

Based on our findings, we recommend the following:

1. Need to **clarify functions that have been devolved**, prepare for functions yet to be fully devolved and eliminate duplication between CG & NG
  - a. **Improve Coordination** btw CG & NG and among CG, Operationalise institutions such as IGTRC and Improve Communication channels
2. Prioritise **strengthening Planning & Budget making processes** at the county level
3. **Build and Develop Capacity** at the Counties for effective discharge of functions
4. **Address the Human Resource** challenges at the County Level
5. There is **increased funding** to the sector at the county, although this needs to be increased to **cater for increased functions at the county level**
6. **Nationally, Ag sector funding still below 10%**

*For further assistance, more information or if you would like to conduct interviews with any of the authors, presenters or Tegemeo Institute staff, please contact: Judy Kimani, 0720 96 33 48, [jkimani@tegemeo.org](mailto:jkimani@tegemeo.org).*

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