

A PAPER ON AGRICULTURE PERFORMANCE IN KENYA



1. Economic survey 2019 in Kenya

Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector posted a slowdown decelerated growth of 16%. The year under review was characterised by depressed long rains besides early access of short rains.

Scarcity of key food crops in particular maize and some vegetables was experienced.

The poor performance of the sector affected tea and coffee production. Coffee declined by 70% while tea production declined by 11%.

Sugar cane farming and growing of sisal similarly experienced a decline.

However, despite the general underperformance of the sector, the production of many crops such as potatoes, beans and cereals posted relatively imposed performance and somehow mitigated the impact of the deduction.

2. Manufacturing Sector

The manufacturing sector posted a marginal growth of 0.2% in 2017. The slow growth was partly attributed to uncertainties related to the 2017 elections, high cost of imports compared to the cheap Exports.

The volume of food processing declined by 10.8% as compared to 19% in 2016.

The sector (Agriculture) declined negatively. The sector performance in 2016 was constrained by reduced domestic supply of agricultural practice.

Nevertheless, there was improvement in food processing.

3. Storage and Transportation

Transportation and storage have remained vibrant during the year of review 2017/2018/20.

There was underperformance in land transport particularly of freight mainly. Volumes of land freight dropped from 5.9% in 2016 to 1.9% 2017 mainly due to depressed levels of clientele through road and railways.

During the period, the number of new registration of lorry trucks, pick-ups and heavy vans commonly used to transport goods declined by 22%.

On the other hand, performance in other sub sectors were better.

Total throughput grew by 10.6% in 2017

In 2017 while the number of ships that docked at the port of Mombasa increased to 1767 compared to 1607 in 2016. Similarly, the volume of petroleum products transported through pipeline increased by 10.8% in 2017 as compared to a 9.7% growth recorded in 2016.

4. Information and Communication

This sector is one of the fastest moving sectors, having experienced growth at 11.0% in 2017

This exemplary performance was mainly supported by expansion in the digital economy through mobile telephony ecommerce.

Growth in the sector was driven in performance in tele communications activities.

The enhanced performance in the telecommunication mainly recorded to an increase in volume of call tariffs.

Mobile money transfers increased to twofold

5. The Big Four

The big four is a strategy meant to improve welfare & ensure overall development at national level.

The big four are:

- a) Affordable housing for the majority of Kenyans
- b) Manufacturing which will process mainly agricultural foods. The sector will process food and leather and many modern materials like textile and tailors. Kenya is producing leather and it is expected to be exported process. Manufacturing process allows the raw materials add value.
- c) Health – universal medical for all is one of the major steps to improve medical delivery even in rural areas.
- d) Food security has remained a challenge particularly in asal dependant on rain for agriculture is difficult. Gross domestic growth

rate is slow due to lack of sufficient rain. The dependent of one staple food increases the forces of maize, wheat and rice. The strategy of the big 4 should reduce poverty, create employment and promote wealth production. It is noted that many governors were not sensitized

Going through the budget there were limited resources to implement. The presidency should put pressure on the county government to assist and support the county.

Lastly the implementation of needed a lot of good will from the public is called for.

As far as the trade unions are concerned the concept of decent work should be one of the guiding principles. the International Labour Organization put emphasis on social protection which also advocates for National Social Security Fund, National Hospital Insurance Fund.

Working under the four pillars would boost productivity.

Affordable housing is a welcomed idea for average earning workers however, COTU (K) would like the country government to give more information on the implementation of the affordable housing and any challenge foreseen as well as the financing strategy for the project.

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