

# POLICY BRIEF

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ASSESSMENT OF THE INTEGRATION OF  
SMALLHOLDER FARMERS' PRIORITIES INTO  
2024/2025 AND 2025/2026 COUNTY ANNUAL  
DEVELOPMENT PLANS (ADPS) AND BUDGETS

**ELGEYO MARRAKWET COUNTY**

OCTOBER 2025

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## Key messages

- In FY 2024/25, farmers submitted a number of proposals and priorities, of which 66.7% were fully included and 33.3% were partially included.
- In the FY 2025/26, all farmers' proposals and priorities were fully included (100%).
- Budget allocations rose significantly, from KES 50.33 million for sustainable agriculture in FY 2024/25 to KES 955 million in FY 2025/26, with increases also recorded in water and agroforestry.
- Elgeyo-Marakwet County demonstrates progressive improvement in integrating farmer priorities, moving from 66.7% full inclusion in FY 2024/25 to 100% in FY 2025/26.
- Low funding for agroforestry and partial integration of long-term climate adaptation interventions remain areas for improvement to enhance ecosystem resilience and sustainable agricultural production.
- There is need to strengthen citizen engagement and participation in public participation forums through civic education and mobilization.

## Introduction

Elgeyo-Marakwet County, located in the Rift Valley region, covers approximately 3,029.9 km<sup>2</sup>. According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, the county has a population of 454,480 people (227,317 males, 227,151 females, and 12 intersex persons). Human development indicators by KNBS show that the county has 57% of residents living below the poverty line compared to the national poverty level of 46%. The county's varied topography includes highlands, escarpments, and valleys, with bimodal rainfall averaging 1,000–1,200 mm annually. Agriculture and livestock production are the main economic activities.

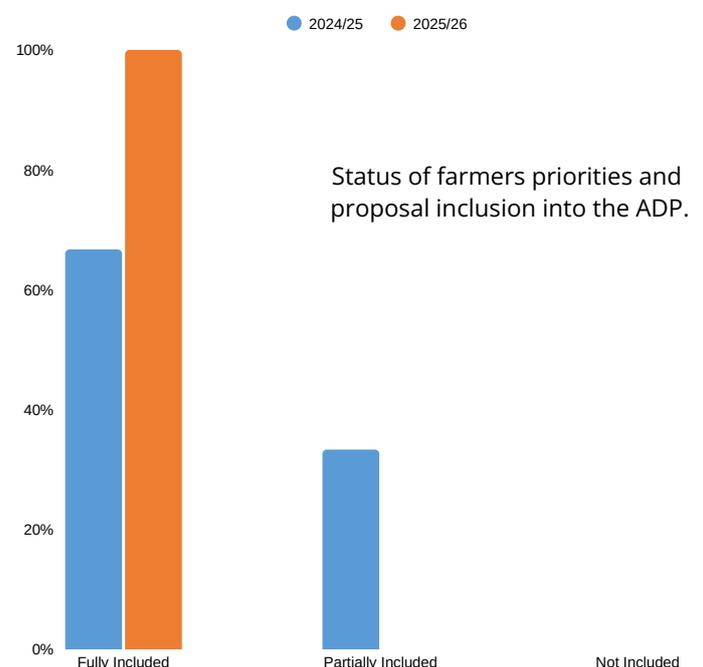
## Approach and Methodology

PAMIC Consulting and Investment limited adopted A mixed method design that included qualitative and quantitative approaches to undertake this assessment.

The approach included:

- Detailed literature review of: Documented priorities from farmers' organizations, Public participation reports, 2024/25 and 2025/26 ADPs; County approved budgets for FY 2024/25 and 2025/26; Memoranda and Petitions; Public participation reports; and Programme Based Budgets
- Interviews: With 6 relevant county officials from (Agriculture, Environment, Water, Climate Change, Finance and Economic Planning Department, Public Participation) and partner organizations Marakwet Highland Farmers Association)
- Focused Group Discussion was held with representatives from Marakwet Highland Farmers Association from Elgeyo Marakwet County.
- A comparative analysis of the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 ADPs and budgets was conducted to assess how smallholder farmers' priorities in sustainable agriculture, water, climate change, and agroforestry were included.
- In-depth analysis was undertaken to determine the extent to which smallholder farmers' proposals and priorities were reflected in the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 ADPs and budgets by comparing planned allocations across the two financial years.

## Key findings



## Observations and remarks

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In FY 2024/25, 66.7% of farmer proposals were fully included in ADPs, while 33.3% were partially included, with none excluded. In the FY 2025/26, all farmer priorities were fully integrated (100%), marking a decisive improvement in participatory planning and budget responsiveness. This progression underscores the county's growing commitment to aligning development plans with smallholder needs, though limited funding in agroforestry and long-term climate adaptation remains areas for further strengthening.

### Sustainable Agriculture

Budget allocations rose sharply from KES 50.33 million in FY 2024/25 to KES 955 million in FY 2025/26, demonstrating strong inclusion of farmer proposals and priorities. In 2024/25, four of six proposals were fully included covering indigenous irrigation practices, integration of modern and traditional technologies, water governance structures, and community nurseries while two (maintenance funding and hill-slope stabilization) were partially included. In 2025/26, all proposals were fully integrated, signaling a significant improvement in county responsiveness.

### Climate change

In FY 2024/25, climate change initiatives received KES 46.5 million, focusing on ecosystem restoration, tree nurseries, and locally led climate actions. In FY 2025/26, allocations rose to KES 135.3 million, with full inclusion of farmer proposals and priorities such as establishment of tree nurseries, and climate mitigation programs. However, scaling of early warning systems and household-level adaptation is still partially included.

### Agroforestry

Agroforestry received only KES 0.1 million in FY 2024/25 but increased to KES 0.8 million in FY 2025/26. This was allocated to support tree nursery establishment and catchment protection. While inclusion of farmer priorities improved, allocations remain modest compared to the potential of agroforestry for soil conservation, climate resilience, and income diversification.

## Water

Water programs received KES 206.85 million in FY 2024/25 and increased to KES 530.9 million in FY 2025/26. In 2024/25, proposals for irrigation expansion, intake structures, and water governance were mostly included, but maintenance funding and slope stabilization were partially integrated in the ADP. In the FY 2025/26, all farmers' proposals and priorities were fully integrated, reflecting strong county alignment with farmer needs.

## Key recommendations

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- Improve community education about public participation rights and the importance of civic engagement, ensuring every citizen knows when and how to get involved.
- Utilize online platforms, such as WhatsApp, more effectively to boost public awareness and facilitate remote participation, particularly for youth and those living in remote areas.
- Create youth-focused participation programs and platforms that address their specific needs and perspectives, like youth councils or forums centered on employment, education, and entrepreneurship.
- Implement a transparent system for the county government to regularly share how public feedback has influenced policies, budgets, and development plans, fostering greater accountability and trust.
- Host public participation events at accessible times and locations, making sure they are inclusive for all community members, especially marginalized groups such as women, youth, and people with disabilities.



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