

Assessing the capacity requirement and gaps of agriculture sector stakeholders in Kenya to implement, monitor and report Climate Change Adaptation Actions

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PREPARED UNDER

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Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting of Climate Change Adaptation Actions in the agriculture sector at the county level continues to experience enormous challenges. According to a survey being carried out by The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) project, counties are still grappling with the lack of tools, M&E experts and lack of proper reporting frameworks to aid in transparency reporting. Four counties out of the five pilot counties have already undertaken the survey and the pattern of the glaring reporting capacity gaps display a similar trend with the most outstanding gap being the lack of a simplified and harmonized reporting framework/format. While, all the interviewed county departments reported to have been undertaking their climate actions reports, none seemed to share a similar reporting format with the other hence exposing the lack harmonization in the reporting.

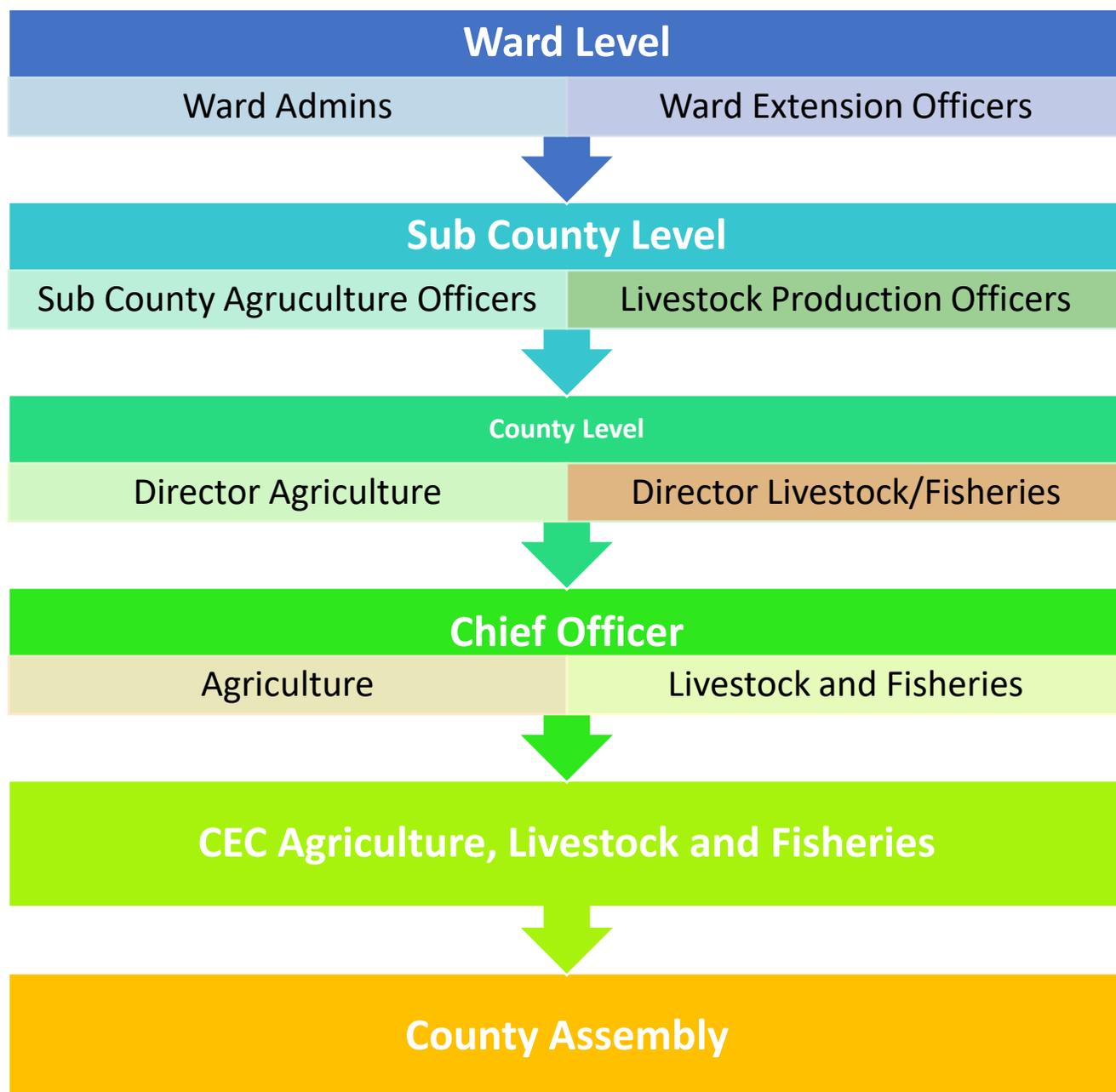
Further on, the other issue that poses a risk of transparency reporting on agriculture sector climate change actions, is the inadequate monitoring and evaluation experts in the county departments with some sharing only one amongst the various directorates leading to their being overwhelmed. This means that most of the officers who are involved are technical experts in other areas that are not M&E related and yet still some have no technical expertise at all particularly at the ward level where most of the directorates derive their reports from the ward administrators. Therefore, this calls for continuous capacity building right from the ward level where all the reports originate from up to the County assembly level where they are consumed by the policy and decision makers.

At the consumption level, a majority of the County Executive Committee Members(CECMs) who are in charge of the agriculture sector and sub sectors are not technical persons a fact that poses a huge challenge when it comes to presenting them to the county assembly where decisions and policies are made at the county level. This call for capacity building of the executive and chief officers to equip them with the necessary knowledge and tools to aid in comprehending and reporting disseminating information on climate change actions.

Another huge gap in the county is the lack of functional Climate Change Units. Out of the four counties who have already undertaken the survey, only one county i.e. Makueni that has a functional CCU. In the case of Taita Taveta, Baringo and Nyamira, all have started the process of constituting the CCUs but lack the capacity especially financial to make them functional. All the CCUs are domiciled at the Environment and Natural Resources Departments hence the need for a delicate balance to ensure that the agriculture sector is involved actively in the CCU's day to day activities so as to ensure that their reporting on climate change actions is well captured at all levels of the reporting structure.

All the four counties have similar reporting structures that were borrowed from the national government before devolution. However, despite the fact that the reporting structures exist, they are not fully functional with the main contributing factor being shortage of staff to fill in the positions. According to the respondents, this has led to report guessing or recycling of reports which is has been a huge hindrance to transparent reporting. This has also led to continuous weakening of the reporting structure.

County Agriculture Sector and subsectors reporting structure



Conclusion

The outcome of the survey in the already concluded counties paints a grim picture of a weak agriculture sector's reporting on climate change actions. With a large number of experienced

experts getting closer to their retirement age, this poses an even bigger transparency reporting risk. Hence, calling for an urgent need for capacity building on climate change adaptation actions