

KENYA

Principal Investigator: Dr. Willis Owino

Internship Title: Food Security and Dietary Quality on Cowpea-Producing Households in Makueni County: Effect of ICT

Time Period: May-June 2025

Project Background: Horticultural value chains can either be long or short depending on the number of players involved. However, these value chains in general have potential to empower women and youth to make better decisions in terms of nutrition, health and economic aspects. Commercialization and formalization of fruits and vegetables value chains may inadvertently disempower women but feedback effects are currently not clear. Even though Kenya has been at the forefront of ICT innovations, there is limited knowledge on the impact of the ICT along horticultural value chains especially in the context of climate change and advent of pandemics such as the Covid-19. This study seeks to investigate the nutritional, economical, and social (gender equity and youth engagement) impacts on producers along both short and long value chains, and determine to what extent ICTs are incorporated and what are their benefits and or impacts

Research Question(s)/Specific Issues to be Addressed	Range of Acceptable Disciplines	Deliverables
<p>What is the level of food security and dietary quality among user and non-ICT user cowpea producer households in Makueni Sub County?</p>	<p>Human nutrition Food science Agricultural economics</p>	<p>To carry out interviews on purposely selected households to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per capita monthly food expenditure (PCMFE) • Food consumption score (FCS) • Dietary quality using the Diet Diversity Score (DDS). <p>The interviews will be carried out in 3-4 days with the help of a nutritionist.</p>