

Name: Wamalwa Nyukuri H.

Institution: The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) – The University of Nairobi – Kenya

Contact: wnyukuri@uonbi.ac.ke or wnyukuri@yahoo.com

PhD Title: Resources and Firm Success: Examining How Irish Potato Processing Firms In Kenya Build Their Technological Capabilities.

Introduction

This study is anchored in the agro-processing sub-sector in Kenya. Part of the larger agriculture industry, agro-processing is a key pillar of the country's development agenda. However, despite enjoying several comparative advantages, the sector has historically performed below par. This is attributed to several factors including the business environment but also low technological capabilities. Conscious of the critical role resources play in a firm's strategy for success, this research focuses on technological capabilities. It shall study the capability accumulation process among firms and seek to establish the extent technological capabilities explain the differentiated performance among them.

Objective

Thus the main objective of the study is to investigate how potato processing firms in Kenya build their technological capabilities as part of a broad firm strategy to achieve successful performance. The following are the specific objectives:

1. To identify and document firms' technological capabilities;
2. To document how firms have built the capabilities over time;
3. To examine the extent different capability accumulation processes explain the differentiation among firm performance in the potato processing sector.
4. To examine the extent the level of technological capability explains the differentiation among firm performance;