

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY

**SCHOOL OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

GITHUMU DAIRY FARMERS DISTRIBUTORS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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1.0 CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

A dairy is a business enterprise established for the harvesting of animal milk mostly from cows or goats, but also from buffalo, sheep or camels for human consumption. A dairy is typically located on a dedicated dairy farm or section of a multi-purpose farm that is concerned with the harvesting of milk. The milk cooperatives try to realize the best possible price from the market for their members. The dairy farmers who are the supplier of the milk are also the owners of the cooperative societies. They provide the cooperative dairy company with equity and are paid a dividend.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Githumu dairy farmers distributor is a cooperative society formed by farmers and located in Kangari location in Murang'a County. It was started in 1995 with intention to helping farmers selling their milk by collecting and re-distributing it for them. It was also intended to help farmers gain more knowledge about dairy farming through educating them, as well as distributing quality and the recommended animal feeds that will help them spend less and earn more from their animals.

The main objective of the organization was to enable dairy farmers sell their products, borrow and make savings from it. The farmers are supposed to supply the organization with milk where the organization will then process, pack and distribute the milk to the customers. The amount of saving to a farmer will depend on the quantity and quality of milk he /she is able to produce. A farmer is allowed to borrow any amount of money once he/she is registered as a member.

A farmer is identified by his/her name, ID number, telephone number, a unique number that each farmer has address and the location of his/her farm. The organization has over 2800 farmers but the number is expected to rise as the farmers continue to register as members. Its mission is to help dairy farmers to save enough for them and also to make sure their animals are kept in good health and conditions.

Their vision is to be able to make more products from the milk, make local sales and also export them all over the world. However data storage is a major problem because all their data is kept in files. The organizational data needs to be well stored and easily retrieved to enable smooth running of the organization and customer satisfaction using the new technology. Keeping the information about the organization, farmers and customers in files is risky since they might be destroyed by fire, water, misplacements and writings fading because of being kept for long or even they might be lost completely due to lack of backup. Looking for data is tiresome, time consuming, expensive and also expose one to health risk due to dust settling on them. Now that technology has taken over the traditional filing system, I thought of coming up with the best way to store files technologically and that is by coming up with a database management information system.