

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF
POVERTY REDUCTION PROJECTS IN RWANDA
A CASE STUDY OF ONE COW PER POOR FAMILY PROJECT IN GATSIBO
DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

One cow per poor family project is the project initiated in Rwanda to improve the life of the poor people in rural areas who have been affected by the poverty, have no livestock and consequently leading them to poor life condition hence Gatsibo District was among the others, therefore the project has to be well managed to reach its objectives that is why there must be project monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring and Evaluation when well designed and implemented results into effective and efficient economic performance of the project beneficiaries and to the community at large by achieving the income, fertilizer, milk and mutual friendship among the citizens. The study was to find out the Monitoring and Evaluation and Economic Performance of Poverty Reduction Projects in Rwanda with reference to one cow per poor family project (Girinka) to which Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) implemented to improve the welfare of the Rwandan who have been in poor condition. Research questions were formulated to get the information about the research project which was taken in Gatsibo District in Eastern Province. The objectives of this study were: To examine Monitoring and Evaluation practices used by MINAGRI in design and implementation of project. To identify problems facing the performance of poverty reduction projects (one cow per poor family projects). To identify challenges facing implementation of Monitoring and Evaluation in poverty reduction projects. To assess M&E contributions to performance of poverty reduction projects. This research was an important tool for analyzing Monitoring and Evaluation of poverty reduction projects and their contribution to the overall achievement of the Poverty Reduction Strategy through uplifting people's standards of living. It has academic significance serving as a tool for consultation by the other researchers. To lay a background to the study, relevant literature was reviewed. This was also effective when there is a well-designed and well implemented project plan. Primary and secondary data was collected for the analysis. Simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques were used to select three sectors out of the fourteen sectors in Gatsibo District and respondents from those selected sectors. It was also used to select the project's leaders and project beneficiaries who were used to provide information about the project. Out of the population of (275) people (80) was selected. Data was collected using questionnaires, interviews and documentation analysis. The research study examined whether M&E of project is effectively and efficiently done and what are its impacts in relation to economic performance of the project in the selected sectors it also indicated the methods used in Project M&E and how they are useful in as far as economic development of the rural area in the selected sectors of Gatsibo District. The study revealed that M&E when well-done leads to better project performance. But that is not the way it was done in Gatsibo district even if some achievements were gained where people got cows and milk, money and manures. Data were collected, analyzed based on researcher's objectives. Poor systems of monitoring and evaluation were used. Poor

selection of project beneficiaries also involved the nepotism and corruptions where cows were given to people who are not needy. Some of cows were sold by the people who got them this was more especially those given to the rich people. Performance has been achieved but it could have been good when all those problems had been solved. The recommendation drawn was that monitoring and evaluation should be the main emphasis and done in appropriate manner as far as the project objectives are concerned. There should be good practice of selecting who are to be given cows, M&E should be done regularly to comply with the better project objectives.