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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (SADS
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES

BDS 204: AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 27TH JULY 2026

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Mavuno County is one of the leading agricultural regions in the country. For many years, local communities depended on small-scale farming, livestock keeping, and informal rural enterprises as their primary sources of livelihood. Agriculture contributed significantly to household income, food security, and employment opportunities. Over the last decade, however, major transformations have occurred within the county. Population growth has increased pressure on land resources, resulting in land fragmentation and declining farm sizes. Many young people are abandoning agriculture and migrating to urban centres in search of employment opportunities. Consequently, agricultural productivity has declined while rural poverty and food insecurity have increased.

At the same time, globalization has transformed local agricultural systems. Imported agricultural products compete directly with locally produced goods, making it difficult for smallholder farmers to access profitable markets. Large agribusiness companies have introduced modern farming technologies and commercial production systems, but many small-scale farmers cannot afford these innovations.

Climate change has further complicated rural livelihoods. Prolonged droughts, irregular rainfall patterns, floods, and increasing temperatures have negatively affected crop production and livestock farming. Farmers report declining yields, increasing production costs, and growing vulnerability to food shortages.

The government has implemented several agricultural and rural development policies aimed at improving food security, promoting climate-smart agriculture, and increasing access to markets. International organizations have supported these initiatives through training programmes, agricultural financing, and technology transfer projects. However, implementation challenges persist because of weak

infrastructure, inadequate extension services, and limited farmer participation in policy formulation.

Gender disparities also remain evident. Women contribute significantly to agricultural production but often lack access to land ownership, credit facilities, and decision-making opportunities. Development practitioners argue that empowering women farmers could significantly improve household food security and rural development outcomes.

The county has recently attracted investors interested in biofuel production and large-scale commercial farming. Supporters argue that such investments create employment opportunities and stimulate economic growth. Critics, however, believe that expansion of commercial agriculture may reduce land available for food production and increase rural inequalities. International trade policies and World Trade Organization (WTO) regulations continue to influence local agricultural markets. Farmers are concerned about agricultural subsidies provided to producers in developed countries, arguing that such subsidies make it difficult for local producers to compete fairly in international markets.

The county government is currently reviewing its agricultural and rural development strategy and has invited development experts to recommend practical approaches that can promote sustainable agriculture, improve rural livelihoods, strengthen food security, and enhance resilience to environmental and economic challenges.

As an Agriculture and Rural Development consultant, you have been invited to evaluate the challenges facing Mavuno County and propose practical strategies for sustainable agricultural and rural transformation.

Required:

- (a) Using evidence from the case study, analyze the major agricultural and rural development challenges affecting Mavuno County and explain how they influence rural livelihoods and development. **(10**

Marks)

- (b)** Evaluate the effects of globalization, climate change, and agricultural policy interventions on agricultural development and food security within Mavuno County. **(10 Marks)**

- (c)** Assess the importance of gender inclusion, stakeholder participation, and sustainable agricultural practices in promoting rural development. **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION TWO

- (a)** A county government intends to design a new rural development programme targeting smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Using practical examples, demonstrate how development theories and rural development approaches can guide successful programme implementation. **(7 Marks)**

- (b)** A development agency seeks to improve coordination among stakeholders involved in rural development projects. Propose any four practical strategies that can strengthen collaboration among government institutions, NGOs, farmer groups, and private sector organizations. **(8 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- (a)** A rural community is experiencing declining agricultural productivity due to environmental degradation and population pressure. Analyze how bio-physical and non-physical determinants influence agricultural production patterns and rural development outcomes. **(7 Marks)**

- (b)** Using practical examples, evaluate any four relationship between environmental sustainability and agricultural development in developing

countries.

(8

Marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- (a)** A developing country is reviewing its food security strategy following recurring droughts and increasing food imports. Analyze the differences between food security and food sovereignty approaches in addressing national food challenges.

(7

Marks)

- (b)** A policy maker argues that globalization has transformed agricultural systems worldwide. Evaluate four opportunities and challenges associated with globalized agriculture and food systems for smallholder farmers.

(8

Marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- (a)** A rural region has experienced increasing poverty, unemployment, and migration despite government investment in agricultural programmes. Analyze how rural livelihoods are influenced by poverty, vulnerability, and agrarian change.

(7

Marks)

- (b)** Using practical examples assess any four ways how gender relations influence agricultural productivity, food security, and rural livelihood development.

(8 Marks)

QUESTION SIX

(a) Climate change negotiations continue to influence agricultural and environmental policies across the world. Analyze how international climate change policies and North-South political debates influence agricultural and rural development. **(7**

Marks)

(b) A government intends to strengthen climate resilience among rural communities. Evaluate practical climate adaptation and mitigation strategies that can improve agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability, and rural development. **(8**

Marks)