

## **Farming Technologies: Constructing economic history of the Babukusu society of Western Kenya in pre-colonial and Colonial era.**

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### **Abstract**

Subsistence farming in western Kenya has been the mainstay of livelihood among the societies in the region. There exist different technologies in the homesteads of peasant societies in Western Kenya. These technologies were drawn from stone, wood, soil, rock, skin and iron. These technologies are a result of use of manual labor but with skills in design and complexity. The most common expressions of farming technologies were: basketry, pottery, spears, hatchets, swords, hoes, well designed wood products for weeding millet .Other items include. Grinding stone equipment, iron molded grinding mill, iron furnace that produces hoes and swords and pangas, knives. The Babukusu are the majority ethnic group among the Abaluhya Bantu speaking social formation. This paper will assess the material culture and technologies that have characterized the economic systems of the Babakusu. The paper specifically will attempt to reconstruct the economic history of the Babukusu in pre-colonial and colonial periods. The paper will bring out how the Babukusu have successfully preserved their farming technologies for many centuries despite the process of modernization. It will assess the nexus between farming technologies and the religious and social philosophies of the Babukusu society in Western Kenya. The paper will discuss continuity and change in farming technologies with special reference to the impact of European colonialism on traditional technologies. The paper will obtain data from fieldwork using observation checklist and oral interview schedule guide. Consequently, purposive sampling and snowballing technique will be handy to identify the right respondents to participate in the research. The research will rely on two theories, namely the structural functionalist theory which will be collaborated with the articulation modes of production.