

Socio-economic Factors Constraining the Performance of Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies in Tanzania

A Case of Mruwia in Uru-East, Kilimanjaro Region

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Master of Aarts in Co-operative and Community Development

Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU), 2016

This study assesses socio-economic factors constraining performance of agricultural marketing co-operatives societies in Tanzania specifically in Mruwia. The research adopted cross section research design. The research respondents were obtained through purposive and simple random sampling. The study found that the prerequisite needed for membership at Mruwia AMCOs limit other people to join in co-operatives because it takes only coffee growers. The study also found that Mruwia is able to benefit its members through small grants and provision of some agricultural inputs such as seedlings, fertilizer and transportation of their produce. However, in Mruwia AMCOs there is a cultural behaviour that limit the expansion of its AMCOs, the issue such as land tenure security, in this regard, women are not allowed to own land while are the major work force in those farms. This reduces productivity. Lastly, the result showed that liberalized economy and price fluctuation are major factors that troubles co-operatives farmers hence the tardiness in its growth. The study concluded that Mruwia AMCOs is being deteriorating basing on the fact that the collection growth, sales growth and price offered is falling. Therefore, the study recommends that the government and other co-operative stakeholders should help coffee farmers to obtain better price also to reduce the stinginess brought by liberalized economy. To Mruwia AMCOs the study recommends that: it's should diversify its products by engaging other different crops available in their surroundings.