

Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Organic Coffee Farming in Tanzania

A Case of Smallholder Coffee Farmers in Hai District

By

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The purpose of the study was to determine the socio-economic factors affecting organic coffee farming in Hai District. The specific objectives were to determine social factors influencing organic coffee farmer's decision to participate in organic coffee farming in Hai district; to examine the economic factors influencing the intensity of organic coffee production and to identify agronomic challenges that organic coffee farmers face in coffee production. A cross sectional research design whereby a sample of 55 respondents was selected through purposive and random sampling techniques, Primary data were collected through survey technique whereby structured questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. Data was analysed using quantitative techniques such as descriptive statistics (percentage, means), Cross Tabulation, and Multiple Regression Analysis. The findings revealed existence of a strong relationship between the prices of coffee and the volume of coffee produced. Rise in prices motivates farmers to produce more coffee and low prices leads to low production volume as farmers lose hope. Volume produced fluctuates following the changes in prices. Economic factors such as land, price of coffee, extension visits to farmers and labour man power were found to impact organic coffee production. Adverse changes in economic factors negatively affect organic coffee production and favourable economic factors led to increased production of organic coffee. It was then found that organic coffee production is very profitable to farmers. It was concluded that the socio-economic factors affecting organic coffee farming are interrelated and the major way to tackle them is close cooperation among farmers themselves and with other stakeholders.