

**Contribution of Dairy Co-Operatives in Youths' Income Improvement in Tanzania  
A Case of Tanga Dairy Co-Operative Union (TDCU), Tanga**

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Co-operative society is the most important enterprise that improves income and the standard of living of youths in Tanga. The study assessed the contribution of dairy cooperatives in youth's income improvement in Tanga. Specifically, the study examined factors influencing youths to engage in dairy co-operatives, the contribution of dairy cooperatives on youths' income generation and the challenges limiting youth's participation in co-operatives. The study sampled 100 respondents obtained through Raosoft sample size calculator. Data were collected using key informant interviews and documentary review. The data collected from the study were analyzed descriptively for data interpretation. The study findings revealed that access to market, training, financial freedom, social interaction and livestock loans were the factors influencing youths to engage in dairy co-operatives. Also, source of income, farm size, and household income were contributing factors of the dairy cooperatives on youth's income generation. Despite the contribution of dairy cooperatives on youth's income generation, youths faced different challenges limiting their involvement into dairy co-operatives such as skills and knowledge, climate change, population growth, and management bottlenecks. The study concluded that, dairy cooperatives help youths in income generation despite the challenges limiting their engagement in co-operatives. The findings also showed that youths were well motivated to join the co-operative due to the fact that the loans were given. The study recommended that leadership needs to expand more markets for other milk products that will be producing by the youths this will influence more youths to join the co-operative.