Contribution of Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOs) on the Livelihood of the Members

Case of the Selected Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies in MOSHI Rural District Master of Arts in Co-operative and Community Development Sokoine University of Agriculture, 2013

This study aimed at finding out about the contribution of Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives (AMCOs) in improving the livelihood of the members in Moshi rural district. The study was mainly guided by several objectives including the assessment of members' awareness about co-operatives and their importance in their day-to-day lives; goods and services offered by the AMCOs to the members and identification of various challenges facing as AMCOS in improving the livelihood of the members. As for the methodology used, case study design was employed, involving four AMCOs namely; Marangu West AMCOs, Kirua West AMCOs, Uru central Mawella AMCOs and Kibosho Central AMCOs From these areas both primary and secondary data were collected using questionnaire, interviews and focus group discussion and later analyzed by using SPSS. According to the findings of this study, the operation of AMCOs in these areas has helped to a great extent to the improvement of the livelihood despite some shortcomings noticed in the course of the study. Most of the members and leaders of AMCOs appreciated the efforts being made by their AMCOs in collaboration with other stakeholders so as to improve their livelihood. KNCU health plan was observed as an effective strategy in ensuring accessibility of health services by members almost in all areas covered in the study, though with slight difference in terms of strength of service. Other common benefits identified included access to education for the children of the members who proved unable to pay the school feed, access to quality seedlings as well as other agricultural inputs and the assured market for their produce.