

**Bio Intensive Farming and Smallholder farmers Welfare in Marangu East,
Kilimanjaro Region**

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Master of Arts in Co-operative and Community Development

Moshi Co-operative University, 2015

Bio intensive farming plays a great role in assisting smallholder farmers to increase production and hence reduce poverty in rural areas. This in turn, contributes into realizing the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction cluster two (improving quality of life and social well-being). This study was undertaken to assess contribution of bio intensive farming in enhancing smallholder farmers' welfare. The objectives of this study were to examine the level of adoption, to examine factors influencing adoption of bio intensive farming among smallholder farmers and to assess contribution of income generated from bio intensive farming to smallholder farmers. A total of 72 smallholder farmers practising bio intensive farming were involved in the survey. Data were collected using semi structured interviews, documentary review and observation. The analysis of data was done descriptively using SPSS and contextual analysis. Findings revealed that there were significant changes in welfare within smallholder farmers' households after practicing bio intensive farming particularly increased capacity to meet basic household needs by 83.3% and paying school fees by 86.7%; which translated into improved access to food, clothing, health services, education and other social amenities. Among the important factors found to influence the adoption of bio intensive farming were lack of money to buy inputs, need to access better markets, limited access to land, peer pressure, environmental and soil conservation, and the need for improved yield harvest. The study concludes that bio-intensive farming can be a good alternative for improving farmer's welfare particularly in areas with limited access to land and thus it is recommended for improvement of farmers' welfare in such areas.