

ABSTRACT

This study was undertaken to analyze the factors affecting women participation in agricultural marketing co-operatives in Arusha District, Tanzania. The main objective was to establish the factors that contributed to low level of participation by women in agricultural marketing co-operatives.

The studied sample comprised of 90 respondents. Purposive sampling was used to select co-operative and community development experts, co-operative board members, and women participants. Simple random sampling was used to select respondents from the register of active co-operative members. To establish the findings, questionnaires, personal interviews, observation and focus group discussions were applied to collect data from active participants of selected co-operatives. Data analysis was done by using descriptive statistical tools, while the findings were presented by charts, tables and figures.

Major findings revealed that women lack access to land and other productive resources, membership, decision making opportunities, co-operative education, training and recognition of their legal rights. Also, women shared less than 10% of the income from coffee sales, and women are still marginalized in agricultural marketing co-operatives. The study recommended for National review of agricultural marketing systems, policies and gender mainstreaming, women capacity building and empowerment. Also, more research is needed on women's access to legal rights, including their actual participation in Agricultural Marketing Co-operatives.