

## ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to assess the importance of tree plantation activities on economic growth of the country in the District of Songea, Ruvuma. There were three range area of villages involved, namely Igawisenga, Lilondo both in Wino ward which were also included as one of the village. The objectives of the study have been to identify the reasons for tree plantations, managements and stability, to examine the effects of tree plantations on economic growth of a country and to establish amicable solutions on its importance to the economy growth. Data were gathered by direct observation, interviews, questionnaire, as well as secondary data, which were collected from related agencies such as the Agricultural Department and the timber Industrial Board in Songea. There were 47 observations of plantation areas recorded, and the farmers involved were interviewed. The study has identified that pines and conifers of the timber agriculture crops' tree were the most types planted by the small holders and also large holders. Species planted under the category of other selected plantation trees were Acacia sp. (19 %), Pinus sp. (40%), calatus sp (23%) and Eucalyptus sp.(13 %). The species of Acacia sp.,and Eucalyptus sp. were found at Lilondo, while Pinus sp., Calatus sp. was found all over the Wino ward plantations. The study has also revealed that the tree plantations among the small holders in Songea were influenced by land areas owned by the farmer, and the willingness to wait for the long term outcome of the investment. Integrated planting among trees and various crops was applied in order to maximize the usage of the available land. The tree plantation under the category of agriculture crops was mainly for the purpose of economic income, while other selected plantation trees were cultivated for landscaping, long term investment and also for soil protection

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