

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to assess the logistic factors facing small scale farmers in Arusha District. The study involved a total of 61 respondents (small scale farmers) including 17 males and 44 females. The study relied on both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected by use of questionnaires and through in-depth interviews. A questionnaire was used to collect information from 57 farmers who were randomly selected. Interviews were held with four Arusha District officers who were purposively sampled.

The findings showed that small scale farmers have access to subsidized agricultural inputs although what they get is not enough. Sometimes certain inputs did not reach the farmers due to poor road infrastructure. There is delay in paying agro dealers (distributors of agricultural inputs) the fact that may make them deliver those services inefficiently. Small scale farmers could access finances through their respective rural cooperative or through contract farming. However, what they were able to get was piecemeal compared to the actual demands. Transportation was a serious problem facing small scale farmers in Arusha District. The study further revealed that farmers had limited information about the market for their products. Particularly, the vegetable farmers did not know where the market of their commodity is.

The study made four key recommendations. The ministries of agriculture and infrastructure development should join efforts to ensure that road infrastructure to rural areas is in good condition. This is important in order to realize the objectives of ongoing green revolution by the name of "Kilimo Kwanza". The ministry of industries and trade should intensify efforts on marketing of small scale farmers agricultural output. The Arusha District Authority should work hard to restrain middle men involvement in marketing of small scale farmers' products. Lastly, the farmers should make effective use of available information's to look for market, agricultural inputs and the knowledge concerning modern agricultural practices.

