FACTORS MOTIVATING WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN CONTRACT SUGARCANE FARMING IN MUMIAS SUB-COUNTY, KAKAMEGA COUNTY, KENYA

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A Research Thesis Submitted to Graduate School in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of the Degree of Master of Science in Community Studies and Extension of Egerton University

EGERTON UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 2015
DECLARATION

This Research Thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree or any other award in any other University.

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RECOMMENDATION

This Thesis has been submitted for examination with our approval as University Supervisors:

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DEDICATION

To God my source of strength, who has given me assurance of eternal life, good health and the inspiration to carry on with this study against many odds. To my late bro, Joseph Makhotsa Oyombera, who heartily wished me well by facilitating my education in formative stages of learning, and my aged father, John Ambani, who long predicted I am destined for the heights and has continued inspiring me to go for my best in life.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

The sugar sector generates an estimated 12 billion shillings annually, supporting livelihoods of about six million people in Kenya. Women bear the greatest responsibility of managing contracted sugarcane while men benefit from the profits as farming contracts are owned by the latter. Aspects of critical evaluation of patriarchal structures, equitable sharing of sugarcane profits and compensation for labour provided on the farms have not been documented and these comprised the focus of this study. The purpose of the study was to examine factors motivating women’s participation in contract sugarcane farming in Mumias sub-county, Kakamega County. The Research design used was cross sectional survey. The target population consisted of 57,568 women in the contracted households, who were the main labour providers within the County. Accessible population comprised of 3,305 spread within Ekero and Lureko sub locations which form Mumias sub-county. Systematic sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 118 respondents. Two focus group discussions were conducted in both Ekero and Lureko sub-locations. In each sub-location, the focus group comprised eight women, who included four contracted women farmers and four non-contracted women who provided labour on the household farms, adding up to 16 in the two sub locations. Data was collected using questionnaires administered to all the 118 selected respondents. Focus group discussion guides were used to collect thematic data narratives from the Focus Groups. The validity and reliability of the instruments was ascertained using content validity and Cronbach’s alpha coefficient respectively. Pre-test results in the latter yielded 0.709. Data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics aided by Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 17.0. The inferential statistics used were linear multiple and simple regression to establish the influence tested at 0.05 level of significance. The findings established that patriarchy had a higher influence, showing a variability of 67.1% on women’s participation than sharing of sugarcane proceeds which had 59.7% and labour compensation, 39%. The study indicated that all the three factors significantly (0.000) determined the way women participated in contract farming in households. The study recommended establishment of sound government and company policies and encouraged viable household strategies that would harness and direct the energies of these women in the study area towards contract farming, while achieving a win-win situation in the household. Such strategies include contracting actual workers on the farms to allow them participate in decision making and share in farming profits.
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<tr>
<td>AMS</td>
<td>Agricultural Management System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBS</td>
<td>Broad Based Survey</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
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<td>GII</td>
<td>Gender Inequality Index</td>
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<td>GOK</td>
<td>Government of Kenya</td>
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<td>HIV &amp; AIDS</td>
<td>Human Immune Virus &amp; Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<td>KESREF</td>
<td>Kenya Sugar Research Foundation</td>
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<td>KIM</td>
<td>Kenya Institute of Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>KSB</td>
<td>Kenya Sugar Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOA</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOCO</td>
<td>Mumias Out grower Company</td>
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<td>MOE</td>
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<td>MOSSACO</td>
<td>Mumias Out grower Society Savings and Credit Company</td>
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<td>MSC</td>
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<td>ODS</td>
<td>Out grower Development Services</td>
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<td>PRS</td>
<td>Poverty Reduction Strategy</td>
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<td>SPSS</td>
<td>Statistical Package for Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUKARI SACCO</td>
<td>Sukari Savings Cooperative Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCH</td>
<td>Tons of Cane per Hectare</td>
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