

Attitude of Students in the Formal Educational Sector towards Agricultural Education and Training in South Africa

Tsion T. Kidane* and Steve H. Worth

*School of Agriculture, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Agricultural Extension and Rural
Resource Management, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, Private Bag X01,
Scottsville, 3209, South Africa*

KEYWORDS Agricultural Science. Attitude. Learner. High School. South Africa

ABSTRACT The purpose of this study was to determine the attitude of students towards agricultural education and training (AET). The sample population of the study was 375 high school agricultural science students in KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa. A five-point Likert-type scale was used. Cronbach's alpha coefficient was found to be 0.8, which indicated the internal consistency of the scale. Over 90% of students had a positive perception towards farming, agricultural education, high school agricultural knowledge impartation and the importance of practical lessons, but responded negatively ($P \leq 0.001$) to the delivery process, especially regarding agricultural sessions. A higher percentage (75%) of the respondents showed that they are acquiring agriculture knowledge to target the public institutions. The majority of students had high favourable attitude towards AET. There was significant ($P \leq 0.001$) attitude score difference between dedicated, urban and rural high schools students' perception towards AET. The provision of fields for practical experience, laboratories and libraries to facilitate the learning is also recommended. The responsible body should focus on the impartation of the agri-business concept in order to create awareness in learners about the potential of agriculture for job creation.