

Factors Influencing Farmers' Participation in Agricultural Cooperatives in Ngaka Modiri Molema District

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ABSTRACT This study examined the factors influencing farmers' participation in agricultural cooperatives in Ngaka Modiri Molema district. A simple random sampling technique was used to select 10 co-operatives from the existing 160 agricultural co-operatives and 12 members were selected from each of the cooperative society to give a total sample size of 120. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents/farmers, and analyzed with Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) using frequency counts and percentages to describe the data. It was found that majority of respondents were male between 21 to 50 and had completed their secondary level of education and have contact with extension officers. The results indicate that majority of participants used hired labor for production. Majority of participants did not have adequate capital for production and minority of participants had adequate capital for production. The study discovered that majority of participants encountered increased prices of inputs, while one participant did not encounter increased prices of inputs. Most of agricultural cooperatives in the North West province have access to transport services and government services. The study discovered that majority of participants joined agricultural cooperatives to overcome food insecurity, while majority of farmers participated in agricultural cooperatives to improve their profit. Majority of farmers did not participate in agricultural cooperatives to access financial linkage. And it was found that participation in agricultural cooperatives was voluntary.