Influence of gender differences on youth participation in agriculture in Kajiado North Sub County, Kenya

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Abstract

Agriculture in Kenya can develop gainful employment opportunities for youth that would enable them exploit their economic innovation and enhance equal opportunity for male and female youth in agricultural value chain development for national economic growth. Thus, improving youth participation in the agricultural sector pertinent for the nation to develop. Youth’s interest in agriculture is however likely to be positively related to their gender differences in terms of acquisition of resources, support and encouragement necessary for enhanced participation. The difference between male and female youth in their level of participation in agriculture in Kajiado North Sub-County was poorly understood and hence the need for this study, which used a cross-sectional design to collect data from 397 randomly selected youth and 22 youth and agricultural officers. Content validity of the youth and agricultural officers’ questionnaires was ascertained by extension experts while reliability was determined through a pilot test involving 30 respondents. The reliability coefficient were 0.86α and 0.80α respectively, which were above the 0.70 threshold for acceptable reliability. The study showed that there is statistically significant difference between the male and female youth in their level of participation in agriculture in the study area (t=3.425, df 395, p=.001). The study indicated that female youth who took part in agriculture were more than male youth. However, the level of participation by the male youth in terms of number of agricultural activities they undertook was higher than that of the female youth and the difference was significant. It also showed that gender difference influenced their participation in agriculture with since male youth indicated higher level of participation with 23.7% female youth having inadequate access to land, 22.2% had inadequate collaterals while 23.9% had limited access to markets for agricultural produce.

Keywords: Agriculture; Employment; Gender; Value Chain; Youth