

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to find out the factors affecting sugarcane production by small scale farmers in Muhoroni Sub- County, Kenya. The following objectives guided the study: to determine how cost of fertilizers affect sugarcane production; to determine how cost of labour affect sugarcane production; to examine how access to credit facilities affect sugarcane production; to assess the extent to which extension services affect sugarcane production. In Kenya, agriculture is the mainstay of the country's economy providing 75% of industrial raw materials and 57% of national income. The agricultural sectors absorb over 50% of the labour force and dominated by small scale farmers who account for 75% of agricultural output. Kenya saves an estimated 20 billion annually through domestic product of sugar. The government also gets revenues from the industry through taxation on top the 15% of the agricultural GDP contributed by the sub sectors. Conceptual framework guided the study by illustrating how various variables were interrelated. The study adopted a descriptive research design. The target population of the study was 3000 farmers with a sample size of 97 farmers which was calculated using Cochran formula 1963. Both stratified sampling and purposive sampling techniques was used during the study. The study adopted primary data where questionnaires and interviews schedules were used to collect the data. The employed descriptive statistical methods in order to analyze the data that was collected. Inferential statistics was also used to generalize the findings to the study population. Regression analyses were used to test levels of significance and strength of relationship among study variables. An IBM SPSS version 20 was also used to compute the data. The study reveals that cost of fertilizers, cost of labour, access to credit facilities and extension services were important factors which affect sugarcane production in Muhoroni Sub-

County. The results of the study shows that all the specific objectives of the study had a positive relationship and significant association on the factors affecting sugarcane production. The adjusted r^2 was 0.749 which indicated that 74.9% variation in the factors was explained by all explanatory variables. The F- test value was 67.515 which was statistically significant indicating that the regression model was well fitted. The study recommends that farmers should be encouraged to increase the amount of fertilizers used during cane production. Farmers should have more access to extension services in order to improve knowledge of farming practices. The study also recommends that labour should be efficiently used by farmers.