Breed and Social Economic Factors Influencing Smallholder Dairy Cattle Productivity in Tigania East Sub-County, Kenya

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Abstract

A survey in Tigania East Sub County, Kenya was carried where structured questionnaires were administered to 156 respondents, spread out in 3 agro-ecological zones. The study objectives were to establish social-economic and breeding factors influencing milk productivity. There were 87.2% male respondents. About 89% were married and 93% had post primary education. About 40% had monthly incomes between 100-200 US dollars. Only 27% of respondents mentioned dairy farming as their major source of income. About 78.4% owned 1-2 dairy cows. Farmers' experience in dairy farming averaged 11.8 years. Regression analysis showed that education levels, family income, decision maker on dairy farming, major farming activity involved and experience in dairy farming were the significant ($p < 0.05$) social economic factors influencing milk productivity. While usage of artificial insemination, type of semen breed, breeding service, and quality of breeding bull used were the breeding factors that significantly ($p<0.05$) affected milk productivity. Improving on these significant factors would help improve dairy industry in the study area.

Key words: dairy, breed, social economic