

IMPACT OF TEA GROWING TO THE SOCIAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF COMMUNITIES, A CASE STUDY OF MPANGA PARISH IN KABAROLE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to determine the effects of tea growing on the socio-economic development of smallholder farmers in Mpanga Sub County, to find out the extent at which tea production impacts the lives of farmers in Mpanga Parish in Kabarole District, to assess the contribution of the government on the tea farmers in Mpanga Parish Kabarole District.

Data was collected in Mpanga Parish in Kabarole District. The findings of the study presented results indicating that majority of the respondents presented results to the researcher showing that tea growing had an effect on the social-economic development through boosting the household income. The study also indicated that majority respondents presented results showing that to a greater extent tea growing impacted the lives of farmers in Mpanga Parish Kabarole District and finally majority of the respondents presented results showing that the government would contribute to the tea farmers through providing tea markets.

Background of the study

Apart from water being the first beverage, tea is the next popular beverage around the world. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the total tea production in the world has shown an increase by 4.4% annually over the last decades to reach 5.73 million tons in the year 2016 (Kazaara & Christopher, 2023). Tea being popular for thousands of years, it is believed to originate from China as a medical drink. In the mid-17th century, it had to spread to the United Kingdom (UK) establishing its hold there. According World Atlas 2019, China is still the largest producer of tea and the largest exporter of the tea around the world. Today, China

alone has over 43% of the global tea produced and more than 20% of the world's tea export in every year. China is followed by India and Kenya in global rankings of tea production in that order.

Tea came to be first introduced in the Sub-Saharan Africa region in the years 1900's and 90% of tea farms in the Sub-Saharan Africa are on a small scale of less than one acre land offering a unique opportunity to farmers to deliver innovation to their tea crops (Collins et al., 2023). Although tea is still a relatively new crop in Africa, as a continent, it has quickly gained prominence globally, becoming the fourth largest tea producer in the world. According to Tropics of Tea 2019, East African countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania contribute about 11% of the total tea produced in the world (Allan et al., 2023).

Tea is one of the priority cash crop commodities in the Agricultural Sector Strategy and Investment Plan (ASSP of 2015/16-2019/20). Tea was first introduced in Uganda in the late 1900's and had by mid-1950's tea had become Uganda's main estate crop grown. According to MAAIF 2017, Uganda has only exploited 20.6% of its potential for tea growing where by tea estates produce 54% of the tea and small holder tea growers contribute 46% of the total acreage (Lydia et al., 2023). It produces about 10,000 metric tons of tea per annum of which about 90% is exported to Mombasa for auctioning. As a result of the importance of the tea sub sector, the Ugandan government through Uganda Tea growers Corporation (UTGC) has tried to extend support to the tea sector with much emphasis on the small-scale tea farmers. The small scale tea farmer based sub sector has proven to be viable, resilient and adaptable (Grace et al., 2023).

Tea is one of the oldest cash crops that is grown in Kabarole district. Since 2008 up-to-date, the cost of a tea seedling per unit in has been on rise from 250 Ushs to 380 Ushs in Kabarole district making it more expensive to buy. This implies that the farmer

has to spend 2 to 3 million (Ushs) to buy seedlings for planting one hectare. This clearly explains why the government intervened to procure seedlings and given out to farmers at free cost to facilitate increased tea production in Kabarole district.

Problem Statement

According to Mathias. (2013), tea has been promoted in the district as strategic enterprise to improve household income for the farming communities since 2004 (Oromo et al., 2023). The promotion of tea enterprise was much more emphasized since 2008 where the local government under NAADS program in partnership with private companies, have been procuring and giving out tea seedlings to farmers at a free cost to establish new tea fields or to expand on their earlier existing tea fields (Christopher, 2022). The objective of the tea project was to promote planting quality tea, increase tea green leaf production and enhance household income and food security (District et al., 2023). However, promoting a cash crop is said to be contrary to household social economic transformation (Francis et al., 2023).

This project has resulted into a stiff competition between the food crops and tea for the production land and other factors of production like labour at household level since tea growing among smallholder farmers is besides food crops which are produced for home consumption and surplus for selling, (Moses et al., 2023) brings the need to find out how tea growing impacts the economic transformation of communities in Mpanga Sub-County in Kabarole District.

Objectives of the study

- 1. To determine the Effects of tea growing on the socio-economic development of small holder farmers in Mpanga Sub County.*
- 2. To find out the extent at which tea production impacts the lives of farmers in Mpanga Parish in Kabarole District.*
- 3. To assess the contribution of the government on the tea farmers in Mpanga Parish Kabarole District.*

Research Questions

1. *What are the Effects of tea growing on the socio-economic development of small holder farmers in Mpanga Sub County?*
2. *What extent has tea production impacted the lives of farmers in Mpanga Sub-County in Kabarole District?*
3. *What is the contribution of the government on the farmers in Mpanga Sub-County Kabarole District?*

Methodology

Research Design

The Researcher adapted both a quantitative and qualitative research design because they are all the best research designs when dealing with a large population.

The Study Area

The Study was conducted in Mpanga Parish in Kabarole District. The choice of the study area was because the researcher knew all the languages used in the study area and more so the researcher understood the study area properly which made data collection easy and concrete.

Study Population

Target population is defined as a compute set of individuals, cases/objects with some common observable characteristics of a particular nature distinct from other population. According to Ngechu (2014), a population is a well-defined or set of people, services, elements, and events, group of things or households that are being investigated.

Table 1: Sample size

Respondents	Target Population	Sample Size	Percentage
<i>Tea Farmers</i>	120	50	63%

<i>Tea estate employees</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Community leaders</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>12%</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>80</i>	

Population Description

The population from which the sample was taken involved the tea farmers, Mpanga tea estate employees and community leaders. The respondents were got from Mpanga tea Estate in order to come up with accurate data which helped the researcher get all that was needed.

Population Sampling Design

The sample size was on 120 Tea farmers, 30 estate employees and finally 15 community leaders using stratified sampling technique because it was the most effective when handling heterogeneous population's parameters that were obtained like this one, and enabled separate estimates of the populations of the parameters that was obtained for each stratum without additional sampling. Respondents from different villages then were selected using simple random sampling technique to make the results objective and inferences based on them more valid.

Research Instruments

The researcher developed both primarily and secondary sources of information and data. In collecting Primary Data, the researcher used questionnaires as tools for collecting the data. For Secondary Data, publications by re known authors in this field

Interviewing

An interview guide consisting of structured questions was designed and administered to the community leaders. Information that was solicited by this instrument helped the researcher enhance responses from the self-administered questionnaires and this

made it possible for the researchers to cross examine some key issues in the research. The choice of this instrument made because it was much considered as a good method for producing data which dealt with the topic in depth. Interviewing was also a good method for producing data based on informants' priorities, opinions and ideas. Informants were given opportunities to expand their ideas, explain their views and identify what they regarded as crucial factors.

Data Collection Procedure

For this study, a survey was used as a research strategy. This was conducted to collect comprehensive primary data that answered the research questions. A survey which based on structured interview was also used. This enabled the researcher to interact with the respondents and listen to them as they voiced out their opinions.

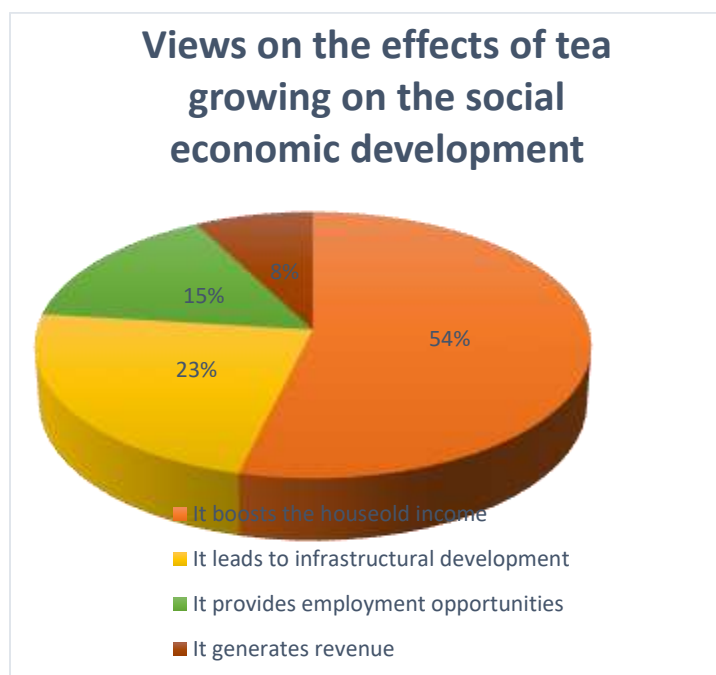
Data Analysis

This involved editing, coding, measuring and tabulation of the collected data. A quantitative method was used in computation of percentages and totals (Nelson et al., 2023). Tables were used to present and summarize data for easy interpretation and display of information. Data from questionnaires was coded using tallies and the coded data was analyzed using SPSS statistical methods (Nelson et al., 2022).

RESULTS

Effects of tea growing on the socio-economic development of smallholder farmers.

Figure 1: Views on the Effects of tea growing on the socio-economic development

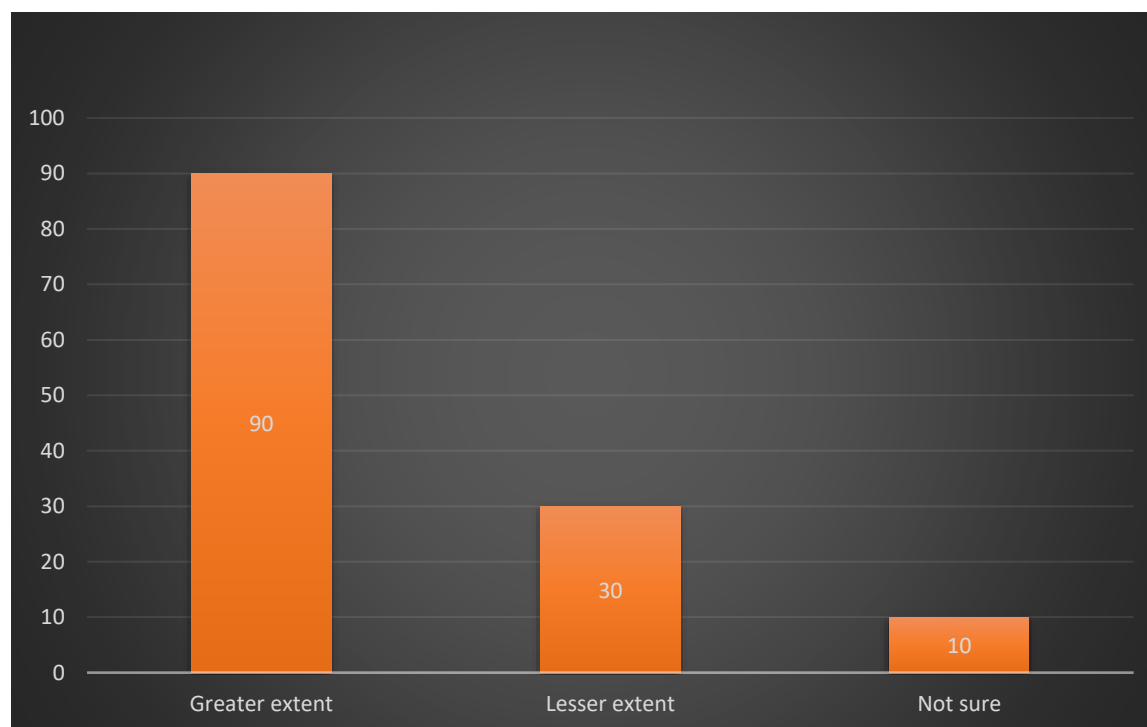


Source: Primary Data 2022

According to the figure 1 above, the findings of the study clearly indicated that 54% of the respondents' presented results to the researcher indicating that tea growing had an effect on the social-economic development through boosting the household income followed by 23% of the respondents who presented results to the researcher indicating that tea growing would also contribute to the social economic development through leading to infrastructural development. 15% of the respondents presented results to the researcher indicating that tea growing would also provide employment opportunities hence social economic development and finally 8% of the respondents presented results to the researcher showing that tea growing would also help to generate which leads to the social economic development (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022).

What extent has tea growing impacted the lives of farmers?

Figure 2: Views on the extent to which tea production impacted the lives of farmers

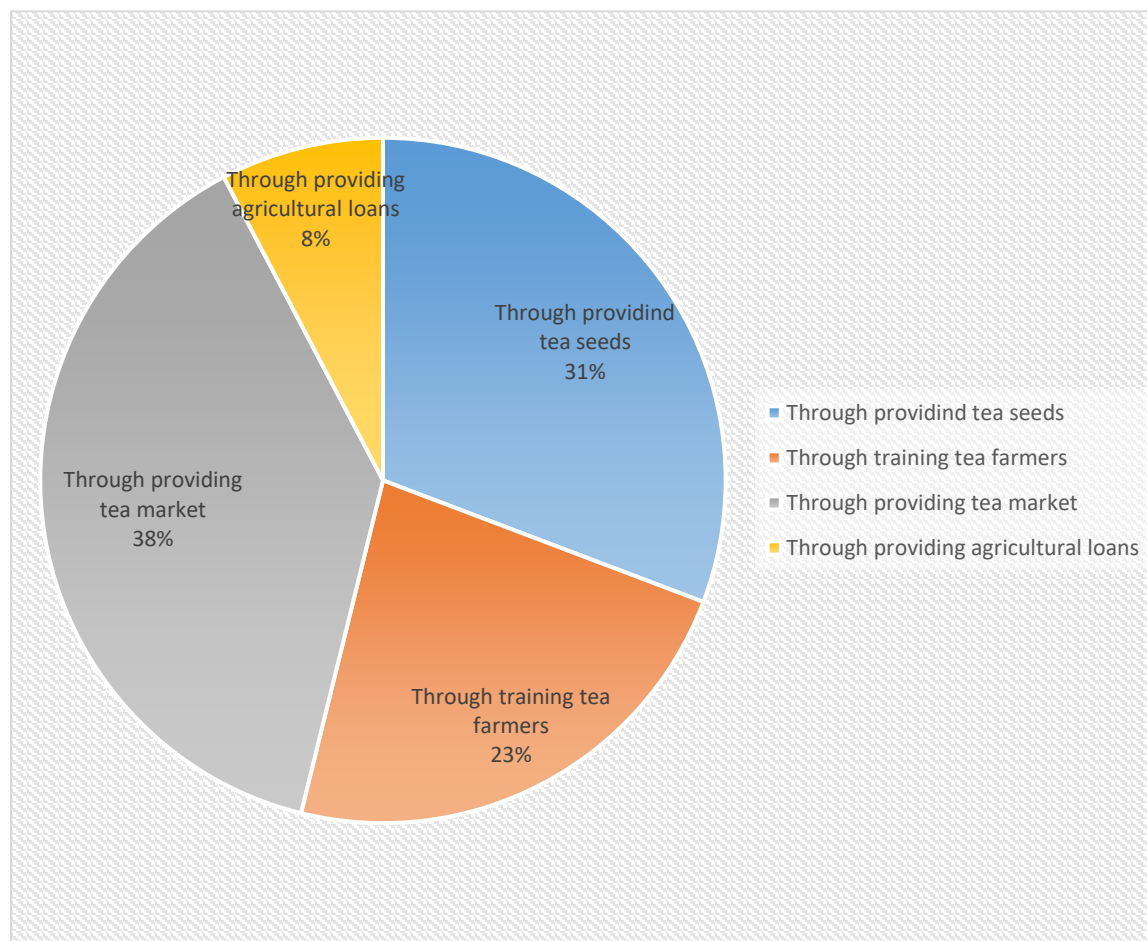


Source: Primary Data 2022

According to the figure 2 above, the findings of the study clearly indicated that 90 respondents presented results showing that to a greater extent tea growing impacted the lives of farmers in Mpanga Parish Kabarole District followed by 30 respondents who presented results to the researcher indicating that there was a lesser extent to which tea growing would impact the lives of farmers in Mpanga Parish and finally 10 respondents presented results to the researcher indicating that they were not sure of the way tea growing would impact the farmers in Mpanga Parish in Kabarole District (Emmanuel et al., 2023).

What is the contribution of the government on the farmers?

Figure 3: Views on the contribution of the government on the farmers.



Source: Primary Data 2022

According to the figure 3 above, the findings of the study clearly indicated that 38% of the respondents presented results showing that the government would contribute to the tea farmers through providing tea markets followed by 31% of the respondents who presented results to the researcher showing that the government would also contribute to the tea farmers through providing tea seeds. 23% of the respondents however presented results showing that the government would contribute to the tea farmers

through training the farmers and finally 8% of the respondents presented results showing that through providing agricultural loans was another way the government would contribute to the tea farmers (Kazaara & Christopher, 2023).

Conclusions

According to the findings of the study, majority of the respondents presented results to the researcher indicating that tea growing had an effect on the social-economic development through boosting the household income followed by some of the respondents who presented results to the researcher indicating that tea growing would also contribute to the social economic development through leading to infrastructural development. Few of the respondents presented results to the researcher indicating that tea growing would also provide employment opportunities hence social economic development and finally the least number of the respondents presented results to the researcher showing that tea growing would also help to generate which leads to the social economic development.

The findings of the study also indicated that majority respondents presented results showing that to a greater extent tea growing impacted the lives of farmers in Mpanga Parish Kabarole District followed by some other respondents who presented results to the researcher indicating that there was a lesser extent to which tea growing would impact the lives of farmers in Mpanga Parish and finally the least number respondents presented results to the researcher indicating that they were not sure of the way tea growing would impact the farmers in Mpanga Parish in Kabarole District.

Finally, the findings of the study showed that majority of the respondents presented results showing that the government would contribute to the tea farmers through providing tea markets followed by some other respondents who presented results to the researcher showing that the government would also contribute to the tea farmers through providing tea seeds. Few of the respondents however presented results

showing that the government would contribute to the tea farmers through training the farmers and finally the least number of the respondents presented results showing that through providing agricultural loans was another way the government would contribute to the tea farmers (Allan et al., 2023).

Recommendations

The study recommends that the key stakeholders should improve on the selection criteria for the future tea seedlings beneficiaries basing on the size of land and putting in mind the possibility of food crop growing reservation space and clear guidelines based on the analysis of tea in relation to other food crops and resource base of the smallholder farmers should be considered to determine farmers that should or not benefit from the tea seedlings that are given out.

More training should be given to farmers on a major emphasis on proper land use planning so as to help the tea farmers to properly plan and balance their agricultural land for tea production and food crop growing. This will help the farmers to partake the two activities at ago without conflicting each other on the land.

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