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Determinants of Commercialisation Level among Smallholder Maize Farmers in Eastern Cape, South Africa: A Case Study of Qamata and Tyefu Municipality

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ABSTRACT The paper sought to analyse the socio-demographic features of the smallholder maize farmers; and to determine the commercialisation level of the smallholder maize farmers. The study used quantitative research design to collect data. Descriptive statistics such as percentages, frequency distributions and tables; and the household commercialisation index were used in the analysis. The HCI result showed a low level of commercialisation among farmers, the higher maize yield of smallholder farmers contributed to higher commercialisation level, in addition to higher yield, total revenues and gross margins from maize enterprise, smallholder farmers produce more yields and earn slightly more total revenue. This therefore, implies that smallholder maize farming is lucrative due to its profit-making potentials. Moreover, this is a clear indication that more income and wealth is generated thereby implying that it is strategic and pivotal in improving farmers' livelihoods.