



© Kamla-Raj 2017



Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group

J Hum Ecol, 59(2-3): 82-91 (2017)
DOI:10.1080/09709274.2017.1353581

Factors Affecting Smallholder Farmers' Perception Regarding Their Use of Soil Conservation Practices: Evidence from Farming at Qamata Irrigation Scheme, South Africa

Ighodaro Ikponmwosa David* and Mushunje Abbyssinia

*Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Science and Agriculture,
University of Fort Hare, Private Bag X1314, Alice 5700, South Africa*

KEYWORDS Adoption Decision-making. Agricultural Production. Behavior of Individuals. Extension Officers. Innovations for Change. Soil Erosion

ABSTRACT Using a case study research design, this paper evaluated factors determining smallholder farmers' perceptions on the use of soil conservation technologies at Qamata Irrigation Scheme, Eastern Cape in South Africa. According to the empirical results, perception is highly relevant in adoption decision-making, interacting significantly positively with age, marriage, farmers' education, incomes, awareness and participation in extension services. The indication is that older, more educated, married farmers with increased income have more likelihood of improved perception. Further, farmers who are aware of the soil technologies introduced by extension services are also those who participate in their use, thus affirming the significance of perception in the adoption process. The suggestion therefore is that encouraging farmers' education and incomes, awareness and participation in extension programs, as well as encouraging more youth to take up farming, will increase positive perceptions, consequently leading to improved adoption by farmers.