

Socio-economic Factors Influencing Participation of Households in Farming as a Livelihood Strategy in Nyandeni Local Municipality

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ABSTRACT Farming is the livelihood strategy with great potential to address food insecurity and poverty, especially in rural areas. However, participation in farming is declining from year to year. Therefore, the objective of this paper is to investigate socioeconomic factors influencing the participation of households in farming. The data from 176 respondents was collected using multi-stage sampling and analysed using the probit model. The descriptive results indicated that 62 percent of the households were female-headed with an average age of 55 years. Moreover, 50 percent of the respondents obtained primary education and 55 percent were unemployed. Probit model estimated that gender, age, education, employment, and income had a negative influence on households' farming while marital status, household size, farm experience, and extension services had a positive influence. Therefore, the study recommends the empowerment of women and youth in farming and promotion of farming through infrastructural development and initiation of agricultural projects.