

THE CONTRIBUTION OF LAND USE CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF FARMERS IN NYAMAGABE DISTRICT, RWANDA

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Abstract

This study dealt with the contribution of Land Use Consolidation Program to the Economic Development of Farmers in Nyamagabe district, Rwanda. The main research problem is that poor productivity of Nyamagabe farms does not allow farmers to have food crop surplus to sell to market for revenues. The specific objectives wanted to assess land use consolidation in Nyamagabe district, find out the economic capacity of Nyamagabe farmers before the introduction of LUC, and highlight the contribution of LUC to the economic development of farmers. This study used descriptive and correlational research design. It described independent variable and dependent variable and also looked for the relationship between independent and dependent variables to stress on the contribution of land use consolidation to the economic development of farmers in terms of percentages. To determine the extent to which the above variables are related, the researcher made recourse to a survey to record data. A systematic random sampling was used to sample 100 respondents. The majority of them were married and household heads. The data collection tools were the questionnaire and the interview. The former was addressed to farmer household heads while the latter was addressed to six sector agronomists. After the analysis of data and interpretation, results showed indeed that land use consolidation program not only increased farmer's arable land in the range of one Are to 7 Ares but also increased land productivity and crop yields by 3.5 times which brought food crop surplus to sell to market for money. The sale of the latter brought a considerable income to Nyamagabe farmers. The raise of income positively affected farmers' livelihood and their economic development as well.

Keywords: Land use consolidation, economic development, farmers