

Access and Use of ICTs in Crop Productivity by Young Farmers in Tanzania

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Background

- ICTs influence crop productivity by expanding communication, cooperation, and ultimately innovation among the growing array of actors in crop productivity.
- ICTs, especially mobile phones and computers, can and do drive participatory communication, including communication from those on the margins of traditional research-extension processes.
- ICTs are key instruments that organizations use to deliver services to larger numbers of rural people than they could reach before.
- Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) is a network of actors in the field of agriculture such as research, extension, input supply and credit, marketing, production and regulation.
- The network insists on interactions of people and ideas in order to improve productivity by applying new knowledge or recombine existing knowledge.

Factors that influence ICT Adoption in Tanzania

Positive

- Gender
- Education level of the respondents
- Access to credit
- Farm location
- Market distance
- Extension advisory services from NGOs
- Farm size

- NEGATIVE

Crop diversification

These factors according to the study affected the intensity of ICTs adoption.

Policy Implications

- Promoting the acquisition of smart phones or wider public access to computers is a necessary first step towards enhancing ICT use by young farmers in Tanzania.
- Creating initiatives that encourage adoption of new farming technologies including ICTs adoption.
- Facilitating interactions among key stakeholders such as farmers, researchers, extension agents, input suppliers, traders, processors, government officials.
- The need to equip districts with ICT facilities such as computers for exchanging information and knowledge on crop productivity by the Ministry of Agriculture so that young farmers can use these centers to access crop productivity related information.

Findings

- The study showed that, young farmers have limited interaction with important actors such as agricultural training and research institutes, agricultural seed agency and the financial institutions.
- Study results show that adopters of ICTs had higher crop yields compared to non-adopters by the difference of 49kg per acre.

