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APRA brochure: Tanzania



Agricultural Policy Research in Africa

The Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA) programme is a five-year research consortium that is working to **identify the most effective pathways to agricultural commercialisation** that empower women, reduce rural poverty, and improve food and nutrition security in sub-Saharan Africa.

What is agricultural commercialisation?

We define commercialisation as a process occurring when farmers increasingly engage with the market, either to procure inputs and resources (such as fertiliser, seeds, hired labour, formal credit, rented land), or to process and sell their produce. Commercialisation may occur through either external investment or market specialisation and farm consolidation, or a combination of the two.

Commercialisation is successful if more people are '*stepping up*', '*stepping out*' and '*stepping in*', and fewer people are '*hanging in*' or '*dropping out*' of productive agriculture.

What will APRA do?

APRA researchers are examining how African farmers engage with four different types of commercial agriculture (estate/plantation, medium-scale commercial agriculture, contract farming, smallholder commercialisation) and the effects this has on the livelihoods of rural people, particularly women and young people. The aim is to help inform future policy and investment decisions to promote more inclusive forms of agricultural commercialisation in sub-Saharan Africa.

APRA's goals

- Generate high-quality evidence on pathways to agricultural commercialisation in Africa.
- Undertake policy research on agricultural commercialisation to fill key evidence gaps and define policy options.
- Ensure the sharing and uptake of research by a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Strengthen the capacity of the research team, and associated partner institutions, to deliver high-quality research and advice.

Analysing five livelihood trajectories through agricultural commercialisation

1. '*Stepping in*' – returning/moving into commercial agriculture from a non-farm base, rise of medium-scale farmers.
2. '*Stepping out*' – accumulating, diversifying and creating alternative, non-farm economic activities.
3. '*Stepping up*' – improving and investing in existing agricultural activities.
4. '*Hanging in*' – maintaining subsistence level.
5. '*Dropping out*' – moving away or slipping into destitution due to shocks and stresses.



APRA in Tanzania

APRA is working in Tanzania (as one of its focus countries) to conduct quantitative and qualitative research to:

1. **Analyse the effects of different forms of rice commercialisation** on poverty, food and nutrition security, and women's empowerment in the Kilombero valley of Tanzania;
2. **Explore how different pathways of agricultural commercialisation** have evolved over time to assess the dynamics of agrarian change, and how these have influenced the livelihood opportunities and outcomes for rural men and women in Singida, Tanzania;
3. **Explore the different pathways young people use** to establish themselves in farming or associated economic activities in areas where agriculture is already highly commercialised;
4. **Examine how investment corridors are reshaping agricultural commercialisation pathways** and rural livelihoods, looking at what the impacts have been – and for whom.

APRA study sites in Tanzania

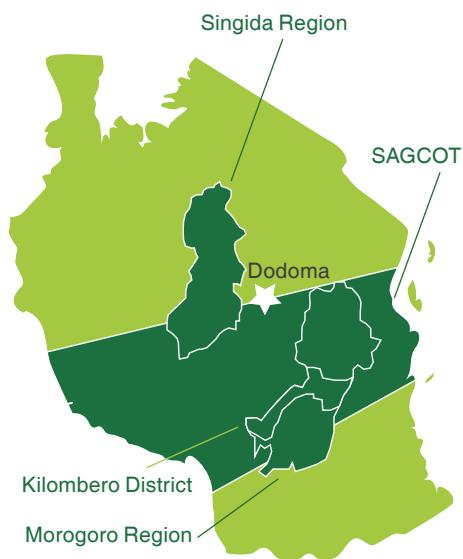


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Analysing the livelihood trajectories of households participating in rice commercialisation in Tanzania

Research objective

This study aims to explore how different pathways of rice commercialisation have influenced the livelihood opportunities and outcomes for rural men and women in the Kilombero valley. In particular, the study will look at the coexistence of, and interactions between, large-, medium- and small-scale farms in the study area. It will examine the impact of a programme aimed at helping smallholders to adopt more intensive rice cultivation practices, and will also examine the effects of the rural electrification programme on agricultural commercialisation.

Study questions

- What are the drivers of rice commercialisation, and how can they inform policy and accelerate commercialisation to reduce poverty and food insecurity – especially among women and girls?
- What different commercialisation opportunities and options are chosen by different groups of people, i.e. men and women?
- Are different forms of commercialisation associated with different livelihood outcomes?

Methodology

- i. Survey of 500 households in 2017 and again in 2019 (panel data);
- ii. A two-stage sampling design was developed, with stratification at both the village level (according to electrification status) and household level (based on participation in the initiative to promote rice intensification);
- iii. Collect qualitative data via focus group discussions, key informant interviews and in-depth life histories of selected households and individuals, to explore the impact of different forms of commercialisation on livelihood outcomes.

Research contact

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Investigating the evolution of pathways to sunflower commercialisation, Tanzania

Research objective

The study will explore the dynamics of sunflower commercialisation in Singida Region over the past 20 years, and how these have influenced the livelihood opportunities and outcomes for rural men and women. It will explore the factors that have stimulated and constrained sunflower production and examine the interactions between sunflower production, livestock keeping and population growth. Throughout it will consider who has participated, benefited and lost from the various changes.

Study questions

- Which community groups have lost or benefited from sunflower commercialisation?
- What are the drivers of sunflower commercialisation?
- What are the roles of the public and private sectors in sunflower commercialisation, and what is their influence on the development of commercialisation pathways over time?
- Where are the proceeds of commercialisation invested?
- How have agricultural dynamics changed in Singida in terms of the commercialisation opportunities and challenges, and how have such changes influenced the livelihood outcomes for rural men and women?
- What are the challenges to commercialisation and how is it affected by climate change?

Methodology

- i. Scoping visits to Singida undertaken in August 2017 and June 2018 to gain an overview of sunflower commercialisation and to select study districts;
- ii. Collect quantitative data with a survey of 500 households (October 2018). Sampling will be designed to ensure comparability with data from National Agricultural Sample Surveys of 2002/03 and 2007/08;
- iii. Qualitative work to investigate diverse livelihood trajectories and the influence of sunflower commercialisation on these. Village-level exercises will identify different livelihood groups, after which focus group discussions and life histories will explore the experience of these different groups, with a particular focus on the impacts of sunflower commercialisation on rural women.

Research contact

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Analysing the pathways young people use to establish themselves in farming, Tanzania

Research objective

This study will investigate the pathways young people use to establish themselves in farming and/or in associated economic activities in areas where agriculture is already highly commercialised. Field sites have been selected in three countries (Ghana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe) as more or less 'hot spots' of agricultural commercialisation. In Tanzania, the study area will be Morogoro.

Study questions

- What pathways do young people use to establish themselves in farming, and/or associated economic activities, in areas where agriculture is already highly commercialised?
- How do these pathways vary in relation to different crops, commodities, commercialisation models etc?
- Have these pathways changed over time, and if so, how?
- What are the barriers to entry for young people, and how do they navigate these barriers? How important are family dynamics in this navigation?
- How are these pathways and outcomes affected by factors of social difference like gender?

Methodology

- i. The study will be carried out using detailed one-to-one interviews with young men and women to document the work histories of those who have been engaged in farming and/or associated employment.

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Analysing how investment corridors are reshaping agricultural commercialisation pathways and rural livelihoods in Tanzania

Research objective

This study explores the political economy of investment corridors, and with what impacts for whom, across four countries: Kenya – Lamu Port, South Sudan, Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET); Mozambique – The Logistics Integrated Corridor of Nacala (CLN) and Beira Agricultural Growth Corridor (BAGC); and Tanzania – Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT).

Study questions

- In the four corridors across the three study countries, what has been the history and timeline for their development?
- What difference do investment corridors make to commercialisation pathways in particular places?
- How do government/private sector alliances reshape the local political dynamics and influence land access, markets and livelihoods?

Methodology

- i. Explore changes to livelihoods and social economics, for example, through a qualitative assessment, which will include interviews with actors involved in investment corridor development, i.e. government members, NGOs, businesses and donors;
- ii. Explore the commodities (both illegal and formal; export-oriented and not) and people (as labour, migrants etc.) that flow along each of the four corridors, and look at who controls this flow.

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APRA builds on more than a decade of research and policy engagement work by the Future Agricultures Consortium (www.future-agricultures.org).

