

Farmers Perception on the Level of Participation in Agricultural Project: The Case of a Community Garden Project in Imphendhle Municipality of Kwazulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Authors : Jorine T. Ndoro, Marietjie Van Der Merwe

Abstract : Rural poverty remains a critical challenge in most developing countries and the participation of farmers in agricultural projects has taken a key role in development initiatives. Farmers' participation in agricultural initiatives is crucial towards poverty alleviation and food security. Farmers' involvement directly contributes towards sustainable agricultural development and livelihoods. This study focuses on investigating the perceptions of farmers' participation in a community garden project. The study involved farmers belonging to community garden project in Imphendhle municipality in Mgungundlvu district of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The study followed a qualitative research design using an interpretive research paradigm. The data was collected through conducting in-depth semi-structured interviews and a focus group was conducted with the eight farmers belonging to the community garden project. The findings show that the farmers are not involved in decision makings in the project. The farmers are passive participants. Participation of the farmers was mainly to carry out the activities from the extension officers. The study recommends that farmers be actively involved in projects and programmes introduced in their communities. Farmers' active participation contributes to the sustainability of the projects through a sense of ownership.

Keywords : farmers, participation, agricultural extension, community garden

Conference Title : ICAE 2018 : International Conference on Agricultural Engineering

Conference Location : Lisbon, Portugal

Conference Dates : April 16-17, 2018