ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to determine the impact of agricultural outputs on economic growth, by looking at the growing of maize in Musanze District. A survey was conducted in selected sectors of Musanze. The specific objectives were: to identify problems affecting agricultural outputs; to identify possible causes to agricultural outputs problems; to demonstrate the impact of the identified problems on household income and economic growth; to provide solutions for addressing those problems in order to enhance economic growth. A structured questionnaire used to collect the required information and the data gathered was analyzed using SPSS program to determine frequencies and percentage means. In this study both qualitative and quantitative data were used. The study established that lack of access to agricultural inputs is hindrance to maize production. Regarding the effect of the cost of agricultural inputs, it was established that these were not affordable. The results also revealed that the priority constraints to maize production are: declining soil fertility, limited use of inputs, poor agricultural practices and lack of appropriate varieties. With regard to maize post harvest and processing, the priority constraints were; lack of processing facilities, lack of knowledge, lack of storage facilities and lack of institutional support. Furthermore, the constraints to maize utilization options were ranked as follows: lack of processing technologies, limited knowledge on development and limited value addition. The study further revealed that price fluctuations, lack of market information, poor infrastructure, low demand, and low quality are priority constraints to maize marketing. It is important also to note that lack of credit facilities was a hindrance to maize production. This needs much attention as the income derived from agricultural outputs, when combined with credit, can offer real prospect of sustainable farmer investments need for productive agriculture. A large number of farmers have never been visited by agricultural extension agents. There is a great need in agricultural practices focusing on maize production in order to boost productivity. Emphasis should be placed on training of farmers in maize production (use of fertilizer, use of improved varieties, pest and disease management, soil management).