ABSTRACT

Rwanda considers the producer agricultural cooperatives as full partners in efforts for improving quality life and development of rural communities. The study on producer agricultural cooperatives and agrarian development in Nyagatare district Rwanda is carried out in order to assess the contribution on household food security, household income, investigate constraints affecting cooperatives members and identify the factors that can promote the producer agricultural cooperatives. A total of 70 respondents were selected purposively from a target population of 770 members of four producers agricultural cooperatives, CODEMATA, CODPCUM, COOPAMA and FDC. The primary data were collected by use of questionnaire, interviews and documentation through the field visits to the cooperatives. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics. The results of the study showed that the producer agricultural cooperatives have improved household food security of the respondents from 10% in 2007 (when the producer agricultural cooperatives started) to 68.6% in 2012. It shows also that the household income increased from 28,987.56 Rwandan francs to 239,876.30 Rwandan Francs in five years ago. The producer agricultural cooperatives stand great chance of achieving their objectives and they are attractive because they participate in addressing the food security and also improving the conditions of living through household income. They promote activities which render great services to local population and play an important role in improvement of better livelihoods in rural communities. However, members of agricultural cooperatives must increase their effort to extending the activities and the government must provide facilities to the cooperatives in case of the financial fund and training which help to sustain and extend cooperatives activities.