

Supply Chain Factors Influencing Small Scale Farmers' Tea Production in Abothuguchi West Division in Kenya

Paul Mbaabu Karanga
Professor Henry M. Bwisa

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, P.O. Box 62000-00200 Nairobi
Kenya.

Kenya School of Human Resource Development, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture
and Technology, P.O. Box 62000-00200 Nairobi Kenya

Email: karangapaul@gmail.com

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Abstract

Low yields on the small scale tea farmers in Kenya led to this study. The purpose of this study was to establish the supply chain factors influencing small scale tea production in Abothuguchi West Division in Kenya. A survey of 70 small scale tea farmers of AWD was carried out with a target population of 5000 farmers registered to supply tea to the Kenya Tea Development Agency managed by Githongo Tea Factory. A questionnaire and interview guide was used to collect the data. A response rate of 80% was obtained. Based on research findings, the respondents cited poor state of road (60%) high cost of hired labour (93.3%) and low rate paid per kilogram of tea produced (93.3%) to farmers contributed to decline in the quantity of tea produced in Abothuguchi West Division. The study concluded that transportation is the greatest factor which negatively influences the quantity of tea produced. It is rated to have 86.6% influence.

Keywords: Supply chain factors, Tea production

1. Introduction

Tea is defined in the Tea Act 1950 as an evergreen plant of camellia genus and its scientific name is *Camellia Sinensis*. Kenya's tea growing regions are endowed with ideal climate, tropical volcanic red soils, well distributed rainfall ranging between 1200mm - 1400mm per annum long sunny days and altitude of between 1500 – 2700 metres above sea level (Tea Board of Kenya 2010). Production of tea is done all round the year with two peak seasons of high between March and June and October and December which coincide with the high rainfall seasons (Tea Board of Kenya 2011). Tea growing industry in Kenya is unique because it has two separate sectors; the large scale sector (plantations) and the small scale sector. The

plantation sector is owned by large scale tea producers and companies, mostly multinationals such as Unilever Tea while the small holder sector is owned by local small scale grower. The small holder sector has more than half a million tea growers scattered throughout Kenya, who sell their tea through small holder tea factories that are run by Kenya Tea Development Agency Ltd. (Tea Board of Kenya 2011). Tea growing in Abothuguchi West Division started in 1961 although most of tea farms were established in 1990s. Tea contributes about 10% of the Gross domestic product and was a top foreign exchange earner until tourism and horticulture overtook it (Christian Partners development Agency 2008). In spite of the above enormous importance and contribution of tea to Kenya's economy, tea production in Kenya's small scale sector has started declining. In Kenya, the actual per hectare production of tea have remained higher on the estates compared to the small scale farmers (Christian Partners development Agency 2008)

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Currently, the small scale tea farmers' account for 60% of the tea produced in Kenya (Kenya Tea Development Agency 2010). In Kenya, the actual per hectare production of tea have remained higher on the estates compared to the small scale farmers. For example, in the year 2006, small scale farmers had produced 1,996 kilograms of tea per hectare compared to 2,328 kilograms per hectare produced by the estates (Christian Partners development Agency 2008). Therefore, the reasons for the low yields on small scale tea farmers need to be studied. In Abothuguchi West Division, there is a declining trend in the production of tea. For example, in the year 2011, the planned annual output of tea in Kilograms was 12,500,932 while the actual output of tea in kilograms was 10,500,700. Production in tea in India decreased from 1,809 Million tons in 1996 to 1,774 million tons in 2005. The reasons for low production were: low levels of fertilizer use and poor husbandry practices (Source Saji W.Kadaviah, India Tea research 2005). In Abothuguchi West Division, the factors leading to decline in tea production could be supply chain related ones while others might not. The study therefore sought to establish the supply chain factors behind the decline in tea production in Abothuguchi West Division.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to establish supply chain factors which influence the tea production among small scale farmers in Abothuguchi West Division in Kenya. The specific objectives of the study were:

- i. To determine how the information flow can influence the quantity of tea produced in Abothuguchi West Division
- ii. To determine how availability of labour and training on tea handling influences the quantity of tea produced in Abothuguchi West Division.
- iii. To determine how marketing structure influences quantity of tea produced in Abothuguchi West Division
- iv. To determine how transportation influences the quantity of tea produced in Abothuguchi West Division.

2. Literature Review

The chapter discussed the literature review of the study. The main aim of the literature review was to explore the available and existing information which had been covered by the various

researchers. The literature was reviewed from journals, reference books, working papers, reports and periodicals.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Cobweb Model

This is an economic model that explains why prices might be subject to periodic fluctuations in certain types of markets. It describes cyclical supply and demand in a market where the amount produced must be chosen before prices are observed. Producers' expectations about prices are assumed to be based on observations of previous prices. The cobweb model is based on a time lag between supply and demand decisions. Agricultural markets are a context where the labour model might apply since there is a lag between planting and harvesting. Suppose for example that as a result of unexpected bad weather farmers go to market's with an unusually small crop. This shortage, equivalent shift in the markets' supply curve result in high prices. If farmers expect these high price conditions to persist then in the following year, they will raise their production of that particular crop relative to other crops. Therefore when they go to market the supply will be high resulting in low prices to continue, they will decrease their production of their particular crop on the coming year resulting in high prices again. As this process repeats itself, oscillating between periods of low supply with prices, the prices and quantity trace out a spiral.

They may spiral inwards, in which case the economy converges to the equilibrium where supply and demand crosses or they may spiral out ward, with the fluctuations increasing in magnitude. Simplifying, the cobweb model can have two main types of outcomes: if the supply curve is steeper than the demand curve, then the fluctuations decrease in magnitude with each cycle so a plot of the prices and quantities over time would look like an inward spiral. This is known as the stable or convergence case. If the slope of the supply curve is less than the absolute value of the slope of the demand curve, then the fluctuations increase in magnitude with each cycle so that prices and quantities spiral outwards. This is known as the unstable or divergent case. Two other possibilities are fluctuations may also remain of constant magnitude so as plot of the outcomes would produce a simple rectangle if the supply and demand curves have exactly the same slope (in absolute value). If the supply curve is less steep than the demand curve near the point where the two curves crosses, but more steep when we move sufficiently far away, then prices and quantities will spiral away from the equilibrium price but will not diverge indefinitely, instead they may converge to a limit cycle.

2.1.2 Freire Model of Extension Education

In the extension or communication essay, Paulo Freire, internationally renowned educator, applies his philosophy of human consciousness into the domain of rural extension in Latin America. Specifically he refers to agrarian reform to explain how extension is contrary to communication thus incomparable with education. Education according to Freire is for the humanizing others through conscious action for the purpose of transforming the world. Freire begins with a semantic analysis of the word "extension" He specifically focuses on its usage as extending something to the role of the extension agent is construed as extending ones knowledge and technical capabilities as opposed to directly improving a given situation; extension like communication involves other people and their relationship with the world in order for them to change the world. He analyses the meanings of extension, and explains that

those who extend are imposing their understanding of reality upon another while others might argue that extension is educative.

Freire disagrees; He refers to associative fields, which are associative relationships within the field of meaning of words. Freire also discusses reasons for resistance to new knowledge.

He focuses on the peasant community and magic aspects of their culture. Superimposing another thought stimulates a natural defensive reaction of mistrust and rejection. New technologies and ideas have tremendous implications on changes in the culture including language and sound perception.

Therefore Freire stresses the importance of the educator to be familiar with and involved in the learners view of the world. What may appear as a physical problem to the observer may be of deeper cultural meaning to the learner. Wrongful extension comes into play when the observer superimposes his or her own equally cultural perception upon the other. Again this begs the question, can't the act of communication itself be viewed as offensive to a culture? And if it is deemed as offensive would Freire suggest forcing dialogue.

Freire responds to another critique regarding the impossibility of communication on scientific or technical information In retort he states that the methods of dialogue are to include a confrontation of technical knowledge to their physical reality at its relation to their lives in terms of agrarian reforms, Freire stresses the intermix of technology and culture. Technical trainers become agents of change as they participate in relationships with human beings and nature.

2.1.3 Subsequent Model of Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)

The Kenya institute state for public policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), an autonomous institute that conducts public policy research, leading to policy advice to the government in the year 2000 recommended the following measures that were adopted to enhance tea production in Kenya which led to a paradigm shift. In a liberalized economy the TBK, should regulate the industry as stipulated in the Tea Act (CAP 343) but licensing of growers manufacturing and marketing agencies, should be done away with, thus allowing the board to deal only with registration, monitoring and ensuring a level playing ground for all players. This liberalized strategy was intended to stimulate tea production from the factory to tea auction market, tea marketing should be the responsibility of the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) is a commissioned management agent to maintain quality control and as an incentive to reduce losses. The problem with the KTDA operation systems are poor coordination and supervision of tea collection and processing uneven distribution of information regarding tea marketing earning and transfer of ownership. KIPPRA normally produce a body of well researched and documented information on public policy and formulating long term strategic perspective.

2.2 Empirical Review of Variables

2.2.1 Information Flow

Lysons and Gillmgham (2003) define information as data that has been processed into a form that is meaningful to the person who receives it and it is of real or perceived actions and decisions. In Kenya, according to Christian Partners development Agency (2008), information flow and sharing within the small scale sector is poor or in some cases completely lacking. Farmers being at the bottom of the supply chain management are most disadvantaged receiving little information from the major corporate stakeholders. This contribution hardly reaches the top and if it does then it is distorted and not acted upon. This is also supported

by Kiarie, et al (2011), when they noted that smallholder farmers have lacked information on better tea farming methods since the sector was liberalized in 1990. During the days of government control of the sector, farmers used to get extension services (including information on better farming practices) from the ministry of Agriculture. Furthermore, the information is disseminated to the growers through seminars, symposia, courses, publications such as participatory farmer demonstration and advisory (extensions) visits. These methods may be inappropriate to transfer the packages to the sector. One factor possibly responsible for poor diffusion of tea production technologies to the smallholder sector is the low level of education of the target farmers (Owuor, et al 2005). Further (Christian Partners development Agency 2008) adds that operational management of Mombasa Tea Auction (MTA) is not clearly known to the farmers. The farmers do not receive any trade information from Mombasa Tea Auction and hence all transactions at the auction are unknown to them.

2.2.2 Labour

Labour has been defined as the economic resource that includes all forms of human effort that results in the production of goods and services (Kenya Literature Bureau 2005). Labour can further be categorized into family labour which consists of the father and members of the family with the head of the family acting as the supervisor and hired labour, which is labour employed outside the family. The latter can either be permanent or casual (Beardshaw, et al 2001). Casual labour supplement the family labour and permanent labour when there is a lot of work to be done in the farm, during peak period (Norton, et al 2006) permanent labour which is hired on monthly basis depends on the nature of the farm enterprise and its productivity depends on the effectiveness of supervision (Mailu and Mwangi 2005).

According to Christian Partners development Agency (2008), labour is needed for plucking (that should be done at least once a week), weeding, fertilizer and manure application, tipping and pruning that are necessary for high yields.

In Kenya, most of the decisions on the small holder tea farms are made by the key members of the family unit that is husband and wife (Owuor et al 2005). The main use of labour in tea production in the small holder sector has grown to an extent that in most farms the family alone cannot cope with the crops. Since child labour is also illegal in Kenya, most small holders use hired labour in their farms (Owuor, et al 2005). Additionally, Christian Partners development Agency (2008) in their study found out that most small holder farmers use family labour although casual labour is engaged during peak production periods.

Wambui and Kagwathi (2012), found out that non availability of tea pluckers has pushed the tea plucking average kilograms payment from Ksh. 5 (\$0.06) in 2008 to Ksh. 5.50 (\$0.065) in 2009 to Ksh 6.00 (\$0.07 to Ksh. 7.00 (\$0.08) in 2010 and Ksh. 8.00 (\$0.09) in 2012. Farmers are paid Ksh. 14 (\$0.16) per kilograms monthly. This implies that tea pluckier take more than half of what is paid per month.

2.2.3 Market Structure

Kaynak (1982) emphasized four aspects that are very critical when one has to study marketing system. By "structure" here it means the number, location and size of marketing agencies, their contractual relations, the allocation of functions among them, the resultant level and distribution of marketing costs and margins. The term "product" includes variety and total of merchandise passing through marketing system and the dispersion of this value among different marketing channels and types of institutions.

Veronika and Theresia (2007) in their study on supply chain in the tea sector in Indonesia found out that the tea market structure is characteristics of the tendency towards monopsony in the upstream and monopoly downstream. Three top auction venues that hold strong influence on the international tea prices are Mombasa (Kenya), Colombia (Srilanka) and Kalkata (India). In Kenya, over 60% of Kenya tea is produced by small holder farmers (over 450,000) and marketed through K.T.D.A who operates 63 processing factories (MAFAP June 2013). According to K.T.D.A annual report (2011), the current existing market outlets for Kenyan's tea are: Mombasa auction which absorbs 75% Kenya Tea Packers Ltd (KETEPA) which absorbs 7%, directs sales (overseas and local) which absorbs 15% and factory door sales which absorbs 3%. The bulk of tea sold by KTDA Ltd on behalf of small scale growers is done through the Mombasa auction held every Tuesday except on public holidays. The auction is conducted under the supervision of the East African Tea trade Association (EATTA) that regulates the sale of tea leaves for East Africa Producers. Problems linked to marketing have the greatest impact on production and general development of the sub-sector. According to CPDA (2008), low payments to farmers are beginning to negatively affect production. In addition, in their study regarding sustainability of smallholder growing in Kenya (Owuor, et al 2005), found out that as monthly leaf payment increases by one percent the management of plucking, fertilizer application and others improves the green leaf supply increases by 32.877 percent in the following year. They also found out that, if the 'bonus' increases by one percent more new farmers enter into tea production and those already in production expand the scale of operations and the supply of green leaf increases by 6.69 per cent five years later ceteris paribus. If the "bonus" decreases, new farmers have no incentive to plant tea and those on production cannot expand their operations in the long run. The farmers respond to decreases in the tea prices by neglecting the tea yields.

2.2.4 Transport

According to Macie and Romanon (2008) transport in supply chain is a factor that gives mobility to logistic processes and is a basis for reliable, on-time and complex services. Furthermore, Bowerse and Copper (2013) on their study on transportation operation found out that transportation economics are driven by two main factors. One is distance which is a major influence on transportation cost since it directly contributes to variable expenses such as labour, fuel and maintenance. Another one is weight. As with other logistic activities, scale economies exist for most transportation movements. Transport cost per unit decreases as load size increases. J. Baffes (2004) in his study on Tanzania tea sector, found out that inadequate infrastructure has been a major reason for the sectors poor performance and an impediment to development of the sector. He contends that, because green lead must be processed within six hours of plucking, rehabilitation of feeder roads from farms to factories must be given priority. In Kenya, according to CPDA (2008) poor transportation methods used lead to further losses of green tea leaf while in transit. Furthermore, most farmers do not have adequate plucking time because the leaf collection lorry comes once a day and too early. Tea production is generally higher where leaf collection is done many times a day. In most cases, the poor leaf collection programme is due to the poor state of the roads. It is not possible to correct leaf collection problem without improving the state of roads (Owuor, et al 2005). Additionally, plucked tea is usually collected from the various tea buying centres by the KTDA trucks. The poor road infrastructure, affects the ability of tea farmers to meet the required processing schedules contributing to a lot of tea wastage (Kiarie, et al 2011).

3. Research Methodology

The study used descriptive survey design. The survey method was chosen because it is descriptive, can explore or explain the relationship between two or more variables. More so, the design is the best method available to social scientists and other educators interested in collecting original data for the purpose of describing a population which is too large to observe directly. The target population categories included all the 5000 active tea growers in AWD and purposively selected personnel from Githongo Tea Factory who included factory unit manager, field services manager, transport manager and two extension officers. Data collection methods were classified as questionnaires and interview guide. The study collected primary and secondary data. This primary data was gathered using both open ended and closed ended questionnaire the questionnaires were self administered to the 75 employers who were picked for the purpose of analysis. Empirical and theoretical literatures from books, journals and purpose of collecting the secondary data. This study employed descriptive statistics to analyze the data obtained Descriptive statistics involved summarizing the data and describing the data by use of frequency tables. Statistical packages for social science (SPSS) computer software (version 17) was used to present the data in the form of frequency tables and percentages

4. Results of the Study

4.1 Information Flow

Table 4.1 Training in tea farming

Training	Frequency	Percentage	No. of Training	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	46	76.7	None	15	25
No	14	23.3	Once	31	51.7
			Twice	9	15
			Thrice	3	5
			More than 3 times	2	3.3
Total	60	100.0		60	100.0

The researcher sought to establish if the farmers had been trained on the aspects of tea farming and how often the trainings were conducted. From the table above, 76.7% of the respondents had been trained on tea farming methods by extension officers while 23.3% had not. It was further established that 51.7% of the respondents received the training on farming methods once a year 25% did not receive any, 15% received the training twice and 5% received the training thrice while 3.3% received the training more than three times in a year. Since 51.7% of the respondents received training once a year, such training were inadequate to equip the farmers with relevant skills and knowledge on tea farming methods. This situation is worsened by the fact that 25% did not receive any training at all.

Table 4.2 Influence of information flow on quantity of tea production

Influence	Frequency	Percentage
Negligible	1	1.7
Little	3	5
Average	8	13.3
Above average	30	50
Significant	18	30
Total	60	100.0

The study also sought to know the opinion of the respondents on the influence of the information flow on quantity of tea produced. According to the table above, 50% said that information flow had above average influence, 30% said it had significant influence 13.3% said it had average influence, 5% said it had little influence while 1.7% said it had negligible influence. Hence according to the respondents' opinion, information flow influences tea production

4.2 Labour

Table 4.3 source of labour used by respondent in plucking tea

Source	Frequency	Percentage
Family	10	16.7%
Hired labour	50	83.3%
Total	60	100.0

The study sought to find out the source of labour used by farmers for plucking tea. The table above indicates that majority (83.3%) used hired labour while 16.7% used their families for labour purposes. This shows that majority of the farmers are paying more on labour costs which would affect their production

Table 4.4 Amount paid to hired workers per kilogram of green tea picked

Cost	Frequency	Percentage
Kshs 5 to 7	3	5
Kshs 8 to 10	56	93.3
Kshs 10 to 13	1	1.7
Total	60	100.0

The study also sought to establish the amount paid to hired workers per kilogram of green tea picked. According to table 4.12, majority (93.3%) of the farmers pay between Kshs 8 to Ksh 10 per kilogram of green leaf, 5% paid Kshs 5 to Kshs 7 and 1.7% paid Kshs 10 to Kshs 13. This implies that hired labour takes more than half of what the farmers are paid per month (that is Kshs 14) per kilogram of green tea sold to the factory

Table 4.5 influence of availability of labour on quantity of tea produced

Influence	Frequency	Percentage
Little	5	8.3
Average	5	8.3
Above average	40	66.6
Significance	10	16.7
Total	60	100.0

The study also sought to know the respondents opinion on the influence on the availability of labour on the quantity of tea produced. From the table above, 66.7% of the respondents said it had above average influence, 16.7% said it had significant influence and 8.3% said it had average influence same as little. From literature, hired labour is mostly required during two peak seasons of high crop between March and June, and October and December which coincide with the high rainfall seasons (Tea Board of Kenya 2011). Hence if labour is not readily available during these peak seasons tea production could be adversely affected.

4.3 Marketing Structure

Table 4.6 Amount per kilogram of tea earned by the respondent

Amount	Frequency	Percentage
Kshs 10 to Kshs 14	60	100
Kshs 15 to Ksh 19	0	-
Above Ksh 24	0	-
Total	60	100

The study sought to find out the amount per kilogram earned by the respondents. From the above table all the respondents (100) had earned Kshs 10 to Kshs 14. This is because the earnings are fixed by Githongo Tea Factory

Table 4.7 Respondents satisfaction on the rate of payment of tea

Satisfaction	Frequency	Percentage
Not at all satisfied	15	25
Little satisfied	41	68.3
Moderate	3	5
Satisfied	1	1.7
Total	60	100.0

The researcher sought to find if the respondents were satisfied with rate of payment of tea. According to the above table 68.3% of the respondents said that they were little satisfied, 25% said that they were not at all satisfied, 5% said that they were moderately satisfied while 1.7% were satisfied. Majority of the farmers were dissatisfied with the rate of payments because the cost per kilogram paid to hired labour is more than half of the rate of payment.

Table 4.8 Tea bonus received by the respondent in the previous year

Bonus Received	Frequency	Percentage
Below Kshs 20,000	3	5
Kshs 20,000 to 40,000	21	35
Kshs 40,001 to 60,000	6	10
Kshs 60,001 to 80,000	3	5
Above Kshs 80,000	27	45
Total	60	100.0

The study also sought to find out the amount of tea bonus received by the respondent in the previous year. From the table above, 45% of the respondents had received Kshs 80,000 and above, 35% had received Kshs 20,001 TO 40,000, 10% had received Ksh 40,001 to Kshs 60,000, and 5% had received below Kshs 20,000 and same as Ksh 60,001 to 80,000. Also bonus payments are paid by respective Kenya Tea Development Agency factories and they vary from factory to factory depending on factors such as quality of processed tea sold and operational costs of the factory. It implies that Githongo Tea Factory costs are high and that is why farmers received low bonus payments

Table 4.9 Respondents satisfaction on the amount received for bonus.

Satisfaction	Frequency	Percentage
Not at all satisfied	10	16.7
Little satisfied	50	83.3
Total	60	100.0

The study sought to find out if the respondents were satisfied with amount received for bonus. From the table above, 83.3% of the respondents were little satisfied and 16.7% were not at all satisfied. Dissatisfaction by farmers on the amount received for bonus demotivates farmers and hence production of tea decreases.

4.4 Transportation

Table 4.10 Types of roads from the respondents buying centre to the factory

Types	Frequency	Percentage
Weather roads	36	60
Murram	15	25
Tarmac	9	15
Total	60	100.0

The study sought to establish the types of roads from the respondents buying centre to the factory. From the above table, 60% of roads connecting respondents buying centre and Githongo Tea factory are weather roads, 25% are murram roads while 15.4% are tarmac roads. Since 60% of roads connecting the farmers buying centres and Githongo Tea Factory are weather roads, this implies that during rainy season these roads are impassable and hence a lot of tea plucked may end up being wasted. The situation is made worse by the fact that rainy seasons are the peak periods for tea when yields are expected to be high (Tea Board of Kenya 2011).

Table 4.11 Numbers of times tea is collected from buying center in a day

Number of times	Frequency	Percentage
Once	10	16.7
Twice	50	83.3
Total	60	100.0

The study sought to establish the number of times tea is collected from the buying centre in a day. From the above table, 83.3% of the respondents had their green tea collected twice per day from the buying centre while 16.7% had their tea collected once. This implies that farmers could pluck more green tea and hence increase the yield. However, 16.7% of the farmers had their tea collected once, which impacts negatively on the tea yields.

Table 4.12 Waiting period for tea collection from buying center

Waiting period	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1 hour	21	35
1 to 2 hours	3	5
More than 2 hours	36	60
Total	60	100.0

The study sought to find out the waiting period for tea collection from buying centres. From the above table, majority of the respondents (60%) experienced more than two hours waiting period for their tea to be collected from the buying centre, 35% experienced less than one hour waiting period while 5% experienced 1 to 2 hours waiting period. From literature, the poor leaf collection programme is due to poor state of the roads, which in turn contributes to a lot of tea wastage (Kiarie et al 2011)

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the above analysis and findings, it is apparent that decline in tea production in AWD of Meru County is as a result of the following factors, from the greatest to the least. Transportation is the greatest factor which negatively influence the quantity of tea produced. It is rated to have 86.6% influence. The poor state of roads leads to long waiting period for collection of green tea from the buying centre to the factory. . The second factor which causes the decline in tea production is labour which is rated to have 83.4% influence. Family labor is inadequate and hence majority of the farmers rely on hired labour. Hired labour is expensive since the farmers have to pay Ksh. 8 to Ksh 10 per kilogram of green tea. This rate of payment is more than half of what the farmers receive as rate of payment per kilogram of green tea which is only Ksh 14.50.

The third factor is information flow which is rated to have 80% influence. From the findings of interview guide, there are inadequate extension officers.

The fourth factor is marketing structure which is rated to have 80% influence. The aspects of this factor which negatively influenced tea production were low rate paid per kilogram of tea per month and low amount of bonus paid after the end of the fiscal year. These payments, demotivates the farmers who either neglects their tea farms or refuses to expand tea farming by planting additional tea bushes.

5.2 Recommendations

The extension services and support to the farmers from factories and other stakeholders should be more enhanced.

To ensure sustainability of labour, the government needs to improve the general conditions in rural areas by providing social, amenities, improving roads and communications' infrastructure and providing electricity among many others.

The sale of tea should be diversified, not to be restricted and monopolized by Mombasa Tea Auction. More focused, marketing of Kenya tea should be directed to the emerging markets such as Unite States of America, Australia, Dubai and Sudan.

As regards poor states of roads, farmers can have a communal work day when they can dedicate the time in unblocking the drainage and repairing bad sections of the road. The national and county government should also be involved in tarmacking some of those roads.

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