

**Furaha Aydan Gwivaha**

**Factors that Impact Agricultural Extension Training Programs for Smallholder Women Farmers in Njombe District, Tanzania**

**Abstract**

Agriculture is and will remain a very important component of national social and economic development, particularly in developing countries. The provision of agricultural training to the right people at the right time and in a right way will remain essential for the development of the agricultural sector. Women have a large contribution in agricultural development at the household level, and the country at large. The need for women involvement in agricultural training programs is crucial to make sure that their full potential is utilized in agriculture. The purpose of this study was to identify major factors that impact smallholder women farmers training programs in Njombe district in Tanzania and to identify strategies that could enhance food security training of women farmers. This study was identified the current training programs for smallholder women farmers and factors that influence women participation in agricultural training programs. The target population of the study was all women smallholder farmers, particularly rural women from Njombe Rural District. A descriptive cross-sectional survey design was used to collect data from 100 smallholder women farmers. The data show that very few women farmers participate in agricultural extension training. They further indicate that the following factors contributed to their participation in agricultural training: (a) less access and possession of land; and (b) lack of affiliation with farmer groups/associations. Most farmers use hand held hoes to work on their farms, and most women grow food crops. Furthermore, results indicated that women farmers use agro inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides. Very few use improved seeds because they don't have enough information. They are also very expensive to handle and many of the seed varieties are incompatible with their environment. Based on the findings of this study it is recommended that government organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders provide strong support to women as important contributors to the agricultural sector. Factors that prevent women farmers from participating in the agricultural training programs should be considered when planning for any training activities.