

Women working wonders: small-scale farming and the role of women in Vihiga District, Kenya: a case study of North Maragoli.

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Abstract : It is argued that the study of farm management practices (as we constraints and increasing pressure on land caused by population growth) important role in explaining poor agricultural development. Farm management influenced by the nature of the policies pursued in boosting agricultural development by the functioning of institutions and their programmes in relation to farm management. It is noted that women play a considerable part in the management of farms in the Vihiga District of Kenya (an area with fertile soils and abundant rainfall, yet agricultural production in many households have to buy in food), and it is argued that there are numerous problems faced by the women, such as no access to credit, fertilizers, or agricultural information, and unequal tenure systems that need to be examined to develop policies and programmes. Following an introduction, eight chapters examine the role of women in farm management; Vihiga District, background information; small-scale farming in Maragoli; farm management situations and types of households in small-scale farming in North Maragoli; inter- and intra-household farm management situations: case studies; impact of selected agricultural policies and programmes on farm management; agricultural production in relation to gender in North Maragoli; and, women's strategy for agricultural and rural development.

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