

DETERMINANTS OF LEVEL OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS PARTICIPATION IN POTATO SALES IN KOFELE DISTRICT, OROMIA REGION, ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT

Market access plays an essential role in ensuring better income and enhancing welfare of smallholder farmers and thus contributes to alleviate poverty. This study investigated the determinants of the level of smallholder farmers in potato sales in Kofele district, Ethiopia with the objective identifying factors determining the level of participation of farmers in potato sales. A multi-stage sampling procedure was used to select sample households for data collection. A total of 120 potato producer households were randomly selected from the district using probability proportional to size. Semi-structured questionnaires were used to collect data from potato producer households through interview. The descriptive statistics and truncation regression model were used to analyze factors affecting smallholder farmers' level of potato sales. This study focused the households who sold potatoes only. The findings demonstrate livestock owned and access to market information affect farmers extent of potato sales positively whereas family size and participation in off/non-farm activity affects the extent of potato sales negatively. The study suggested that farmers potato sales are affected by abovementioned factors and policies addressing and solving these problems are required to improve quantity of potatoes supplied to market.

KEYWORDS: Kofele District, Potato Sales, Smallholder Farmers, Truncation Regression Model

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