AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN FACTORS DETERMINING COFFEE PRICES AT THE FARM LEVEL IN EAST AFRICA. A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN KENYA AND UGANDA

BY

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2022

DECLARATION

I do declare that this research project is my original work and has not been presented to any other university for any kind of an academic award**.**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBK:	:	**Coffee Board of Kenya**
EAC:	:	**East African Community**
FAO:	:	**Food and Agricultural Organization**
SACCOs:	:	**Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies**
UNCTAD	:	**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**
NACOSTI:	:	**National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation**

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ABSTRACT

This study sought to make a comparative analysis on the Agricultural value chain factors determining coffee prices at the farm level in East Africa between Kenya and Uganda. The study set out the following objectives. To establish the local agricultural value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda. To establish the international value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the far level in Kenya and Uganda. The study sought to subject the following hypothesis into test; there are local and international value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and in Uganda. The existing policies in Kenya and in Uganda are not sufficient in protecting the prices of coffee at the farm level. The study employed the descriptive survey design as its research desisgn.it relied on both the primary and secondary sources of data collection in which the questionnaire and the interview guide were the main primary methods of collecting data. The sample size of this study was 36 respondents and it was well representative of the target population as explained in chapter three. The study adopted the cluster sampling technique in arriving at the sample size. The study relied on tables, pie charts and bar graphs in the presentation and analysis of the collected data from the field. Among the ethical considerations of this stsudy is that it relied so much on the objectivity of the researcher since he also comes from the coffee growing counties, confidentiality of the respondents as well as explaining everything to the respondents and getting their consent before interviewing them. The stsudy found out that land tenure system, high costs of farm inputs, high levels of illiteracy among the farmers, government policy towards coffee framing and the absence of storage facilities continue to be the main value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level. The study identified the unfair exchange rates system, the unfair coffee trade regime and the issue of import quotas to be the main international value chain factors that affected coffee prices at the farm level. The study recommended that the government becomes more proactive in strengthening the coffee cooperatives societies so that they can better coffee framing, changing their state of land tenure system through land reforms, massive education and sensitization of coffee farmers on the best coffee framing methods, reorganizing the meteorological departments, lowering the cost of farm inputs by abolishing all the unnecessary taxation among others.

CHAPTER ONE: THE INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the study

Throughout the world, most states in the developing countries according to Lewin, Bryan & Varangis (2004) always find it difficult to carry out meaningful trade with developed nations at the international markets, this is partly because the cost of producing commodities in the developing countries is far much higher than that of developed countries. For instance, in Mexico, the type of coffee which is produced there is known as Robusta, however most developed countries do not prefer that type of coffee because its taste is not as satisfying as those from the African states and therefore, the Mexican coffee and the Brazilian coffee are sold at lower prices so as to attract buyers from developed states (Lewin, Varangis and Brayan 2004). This makes the coffee growing farmers in Mexico to go at a loss since the cost of producing the Robusta type of coffee is far much higher than the returns which they are making by selling their coffee at the international markets.

The core national interest of any state is survival of the state, enhancement of the state's soft underbelly and prosperity of its citizen's welfare. Whereas most states have done exceptionally well in the first two core interests, most states especially those in the developing world have not done very well in the third interest which is ensuring prosperity of its citizens. For instance, most developed countries have supported their citizen's economic activities by way of initiating policies which enhances and promotes those economic activities. This could be by way of sensitization, education, promotion of Sacco's, lowering the cost of land, lowering the level of taxation, provision of subsidies to different inputs, provision of a good infrastructure as well as ensuring that farmers' cooperative societies are functioning well. However, in the developing countries, although on paper, most governments have adopted good policy documents which pledged to support their citizens in their various economic activities so that they are able to meaningfully compete at the global markets, on the ground, however, there is very little which has been done to support these citizens hence, making it difficult for these citizens to benefit from the import and export trade, therefore there is a very big disconnect between what is on paper and what is on the ground.

The problem of high Cost of production of different farm produce has hit so many African countries (Gemech & Struthers 2007). For instance, Ghana is a well-known country which is a known Cocoa producing country, despite the fact that the Ghanaians are very hardworking people in their coffee farms, these farmers have times without number been up in arms claiming that they are not benefiting from their hard work. This has prompted most researchers and international organizations to do further research on this matter (Dempsey 2006). All these research findings have pointed out to the fact that the cost of producing coffee in Ghana is far much higher than the prices which this coffee is being sold in the International markets. The yard stick used in determining this high cost of production has revealed that there is the absence of efficient farmers' cooperative societies, unavailability of storage facilities and high cost of farm inputs among others Therefore, it has made it impossible for the Ghanaian government to actively participate and have a gainful engagement in the international trade. Therefore, as a strategy of addressing this issue, various regimes in Ghana have attempted to lower the cost of producing these coffee by way of providing subsidies of different farm inputs as well as reduction of taxation in the agricultural sector, supporting the existing cooperative societies and provision of enough storage facilities. However, according to most researcher's claims, not all value chain factors at the farm level has been addressed by the Ghanaian government hence the persistence of the problem (Dempsey 2006)

On the other hand, Nahanga, Bamwesigye & Darkwah (2015) noted that the type of coffee which is mostly grown in the East African states is Arabica. This type of coffee has mostly been preferred by the buyers from the developed countries, however most buyers find it more expensive to buy owing to its high cost of production. This means that they are forced to set prices for this type of coffee which is acceptable to both the buyers and the sellers. This makes this type of coffee from the African states and that type of coffee from the South American states to compete with each other at the international markets. However, its coffee from the African states particularly the East African states which has suffered heavily due to its high cost of production back at home. This leads to the question: why?

It's for this reason that this study sought to examine the politics of coffee growing in the Third world countries with a special focus on the Agricultural Value chain factors influencing coffee prices at the farm level in East African states such as the cost of farm inputs, efficiency of cooperative societies and availability of storage facilities among others. The study achieved this by doing a comparative analysis between Kenya and Uganda

1.1 Statement of the Research Problem

A number of studies in this area have been done, for instance, Mburu (2011) carried out a study on the factors that influences the development of coffee exports handled by Coffee Board of Kenya. Mugweru (2015) carried out a study on the determinants of coffee production in the Kenyan economy, Nahanga, Bamwesigye and Darkwah (2015) carried out a study on the analysis of coffee production and exports in Kenya and Uganda. As it can be seen in the above studies, all the three studies did not look at the value chain factors which affected coffee prices at the farm level in the two states and other East African states, neither did they attempted to do a comparative study in the value chain factors at the farm level which affected the overall coffee prices in the two states.

The major study which attempted to look at the impact of coffee growing in the lives of the Kenyan people was done by Karanja & Nyoro in 2002. This study of Karanja & Nyoro (2002) which looked at the coffee prices and regulation and their impact on livelihoods of rural community in Kenya, the study which is regarded as a landmark study in the coffee sector in Kenya did not mention anything to do with the factors affecting coffee process at the farm level such as cost of farm inputs, availability of storage facilities and the efficiency of the farmers' cooperative societies, neither did it do any comparative analysis with any other country in the East African region which is regarded a s major coffee growing region.

Another study by Bibangamba (1989) which is regarded as a landmark study of coffee sector in Uganda keenly looked at the issue of the cooperative societies in Uganda and how they promote rural development, whereas the author makes valid ideas on the roles in which farmers' cooperative societies play in promoting rural development, he does not mention any role that such cooperative societies play specifically in affecting coffee prices at the farm level in Uganda, his study based on generalities, neither did it attempted to compare the Ugandan experience with any other neighboring state in the East African region hence the rationale for this study.

It is therefore against this background that this study sought to examine the politics of coffee growing in the Third world countries by way of doing a comparative study of the agricultural value chain factors influencing coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda.

1.2 Research Questions

The study was guided by the following questions

1.2.1 Main Question

1. What are the agricultural value chain factors that affect coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda?

1.2.2 Specific Questions

1. What are the local factors along the agricultural value chain that influence coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda?

2. What are the international factors along the agricultural value chain that influence coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda?

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 Main Objective

To establish the agricultural-value chain factors that determines coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

1. To establish the local factors along the agricultural value chain that influence coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda.

2. To establish the International factors along the agricultural value chain that influence coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda.

1.4 Justification

This study was justified at two levels, at the academic level and at the policy level

1.4.1 Academic Level

At the Academic level, this study established that there was a knowledge gap with regards to the value chain factors which affects coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda. The study filled the existing literature gap. For instance, the studies which had been done in this area had focused on the impact of coffee growing on the farmer's livelihoods, the challenges affecting the coffee sector, and the impact of coffee growing on the Kenyan economy. None of these studies ever focused on the Agricultural value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level in

Kenya and Uganda. The findings of this study and the recommendations which the study made sealed the literature gap thereby contributing to knowledge expansion. Secondly, this study provoked a serious academic and philosophical thought among the students undertaking International relations, Law, Economics, agricultural studies, International business, planning and Finance. This is because it offered a platform for academic debates and create a basis for further research. The study also served to further enlighten the Kenyan and the Ugandan government as well as all their citizens on the actual happenings on the ground so that they may have a national conversation over this subject.

1.4.2 Policy Level

At the Policy level, this study identified a number of gaps or loopholes in the existing policies in Kenya and Uganda with regards to Value Chain Factors at the farm level. for instance, policies to do with coffee growing, Agricultural land utilization and protection of water catchment areas, Environmental policies in as far as pollution is concerned, policies on subsidization of farm inputs, infrastructural policies as well as the general polies on cooperatives, Sacco's and the banking sectors in Kenya and Uganda. The study attempted to offer suggestions and recommendation on how these policy loopholes will be sealed. The main reason as to why the study did this is for the purposes of enhancing or enriching all these policy documents which in one way or the other affects the growth and development of the coffee sector in Kenya and Uganda. This contributed to policy growth and development as it reformed the existing policies and inform future policy making. Another advantage of this is that other policy makers from other coffee growing countries the East African Region and in developing countries since the study was useful as it influenced their thinking and shape their knowledge on how things should be done. This ensured policy development across the world.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the study

This study focused on the various value chain factors which affects coffee prices at farm level in selected East African states. Kenya and Uganda will be taken as the case studies to represent other East African states. This was because Kenya and Uganda are the largest growing coffee in the regions. It's also the region which had experienced the worst case where the prices of coffee are very low while at the same time they are uncompetitive in the international Markets. The study focused between 2010 and 2019. This was because it's the period which had experienced a continuous market upheaval in as far as the coffee prices are concerned. This was the period when there has been massive and continuous decline in coffee earnings running into billions of shillings. This was also the period which has been severely hit by a consistent reduction of the volumes of coffee produced and depressed prices at the levels of auction.

Among the Limitations of this study were the costs, the idea of the study requiring the researcher to get the respondents from Kenya and Uganda is quite costly and getting respondents from all over the region may be hard and a very complex issue, However the researcher relied on his key informants and a few contacts he knows in those countries to contact these respondents. The other limitation was getting the managers in the coffee sector at the senior level who were in-charge of policy making in both Kenya and Uganda may be hard, since they were busy people and may not have time for such a study. Another limitation was that the Kenyan experience was quite different from that of Uganda since the two countries had got different land tenure systems and their problems which related to the value chain factors which affects coffee prices at the farm level may be different. It should be noted that various factors affect the coffee prices at the farm level and value chain factors was just one of them, therefore drawing out conclusions involved a lot of balancing act on the part of the researcher.

In the wake of the novel Corona Virus Disease (COVD-19), there were restrictions on movements and interactions. Although physical interviews are possible while observing social distancing and wearing of face masks, most of the interviews were done through phone calls, emails and video conferencing. This somewhat hindered the recording and documentation of insights that were enabled by observation during the field work.

Therefore in responding to the above limitations, the delimitations of the study was contacting the respondents through phone calls, and other online channels such as the social media, explaining everything to the respondents and seeking their consent before interviewing them, sending the research instruments to the respondents prior to the interview date and observing all the corvid-19 rules such as maintaining social distancing, wearing face masks as well as constant sanitization while conducting the study

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 The Introduction

This chapter looked at the existing studies which have been done by various authors with regards to the coffee sector. This literature adopted the funnel approach whereby it began from the global and come down to the region as well as go to the local which in this case is in Kenya and Uganda.

2.1 Coffee Production at the Global Level

According to the FAO report of (2004), production of coffee is one of the most populous agricultural activity in the world and it's what most developing countries relies on to earn their foreign exchange. However, Bigamba (1989) warned that coffee production and coffee business was one of the most unproductive agricultural ventures in the developing countries majority of which are found in the African continent. This is because not only do these coffee farmers earn lower amounts of money from coffee production but there are so many economic injustices at the global level that determines the prices of these coffee exports. This means that the process of coffee production is not able to get the African people out of poverty. This contradicts the ICO report of 2013 which noted that coffee was the worlds widely traded tropical agricultural commodity which accounted for exports worth $15.4 billion in 2009/2010.its a as result of these contradictions that Kenya and Uganda is are not able to properly conceptualize their policy documents right in as far as the value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level is concerned hence the rationale for this study.

Watson & Achineli (2008) argued that the production of coffee is done by over 70 states who belong to the International Coffee Organization. This means that the production of coffee earns most of these states foreign exchange as well as generating tax revenues to such countries. The authors also estimated that over 26 million people derived their employment from the coffee sector. However, the authors also warn that between the periods of 2000-2010, there was a serious decline of coffee production across the world where the value of total exports declined by 10%. However, from 2010 going forward, there was a significant improvement. But this improvement does not specifically point out how the local farms in states such as Kenya and Ugandan famers benefited

In Columbia, FNC report (2008) noted that coffee production was the greatest employment sector in that country since over 30% of the Columbians derived their livelihoods from the coffee sector.

This means that in as far as development of Columbia is concerned, the coffee sector cannot be ruled out. The type of coffee which Columbia produces is mostly Arabica which for a long time has been considered as a high quality bean. Therefore, the coffee matters in that country are vested in the hands of the Columbia Coffee Federation. The organization sets the production standards of coffee as well as regulates the prices of coffee, the mode of operation of this organization is by way of imposing levies on the farmers, consumers as well as the exporters of coffee. The proceeds of all these levies are used in reinvestments in the coffee sector as well as cushioning the coffee farmers from the problem of price fluctuations. The funds also are used in reinvesting in the education, healthcare, electricity, communication, drainage as well as the general infrastructural improvement. This body is also responsible for the outsourcing of the new technologies, promotion of the reforestation as well as protection of the wildlife.

Columbia produces a similar type of coffee with Kenya and its regarded as one of the best qualities of coffee around the world. The other reasons that favors Columbia in growing the Arabica type of coffee is its terrain and geographical features, other factors which have greatly contributed to making coffee production in Columbia a success is the National federation of coffee growers(FNC). All these factors combined have successfully led Columbia to be the second best coffee producers after Brazil a South American state, however there is a lot of competition from Vietnam which produces a Robusta type of coffee (Bacon, Robert & Hannah 2005). Therefore all that Colombia needs to do is to rely on its biodiversity in a bid to preserve its ecology as well as support its coffee growing farmers.

2.2 Coffee production at the Regional Level

Gemech & Struthers (2007) noted that the origins of the growth and development of the Robusta Type of coffee in Africa was Ethiopia. This has seen coffee be the leading cash crop which is exported abroad and as a result of this many Ethiopians have found a means of livelihood in this coffee sector. Secondly, it’s the sector that generates a lot of revenue and foreign exchange to the government of Ethiopia. However, the main challenges with the coffee business in Ethiopia is that most of the coffee farmers have small acres of land put under coffee farming. For instance, according to Dempsey (2006), coffee farmers in Ethiopia are about a million in number. Majority of these farmers have less than an acre of land which has been set aside to do coffee farming, surprisingly, these farmers combined account for over 95% of the total amount of coffee which is exported abroad.

The total amount of coffee exports annually is about 280,000 metric tons according to Dempsey (2006), however Bacon, Robert and Hannah (2006) warns that not all the exported coffee from Ethiopia lands in the official export markets. The author also added that Coffee farmers in Ethiopia face a number of challenges in the production of coffee, these challenges includes but are not limited to, high transaction costs, lack of market information, poor infrastructure as well as weak capital markets. Gemech and Struthers concludes by arguing that the coffee value chain factors in Ethiopia has a number of actors who includes, coffee farmers, collectors, different buyers, processors, primary cooperatives, cooperative unions, exporters, as well as state institutions. The author continues to argue that all these actors have got a role or two in determining the prices of coffee. Whereas the author never commented anything to do with value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level in Ethiopia, his ideas continued to shape the perception of this study.

2.3 Coffee production at local level

Karanja and Nyoro (2002) argued that the production of coffee in Kenya is an important venture which is the fourth most contributing factor to the national GDP after Tourism, tea as well as the Horticultural sectors. They explain that between the years 2000 and 2002, the coffee sector contributed 10% of the total export earnings Kenya ever received. The authors continued to explain that the sector employed between 600,000-700,000 Kenyans hence making it as a serious employment venture in Kenya. However, there has been a steady decline of coffee production in Kenya since then according to Kegode (2005). This steady decline of coffee production in Kenya according to the Coffee Development Fund (2014) has resulted into massive job loses, as well as reduction of the incomes form many households in Kenya. In the areas where coffee was mostly being grown, the level of misery, poverty has been on the rise while there has also been reported increasing levels of insecurity. The report continued to explain that the sector was employing over 400,000 permanent staff and a further 350,000 non-permanent staff, however by the year 2014, the number of total employs which were employed by the coffee sector had significantly dropped to 100,000 individuals. Although this study never did any comparative analysis between Kenya and Uganda, the ideas it brings out continues to shape the perception of this study about the coffee growing sector.

Kegode (2005), noted that Kenya mainly produces the Arabica type of coffee and its only 2.5% of it which is being consumed locally, the rest of this coffee is exported to international markets. He explains that the reason for this situation is because Kenya has not put in place any serious intervention measures to ensure that there is value addition in the raw materials it produces. Another reason to explain this situation according to the author is the over-regularization of the sector which empowers mostly the middleman to the disadvantage of the local farmer. therefore, the author concludes that coffee prices in Kenya has been affected by quite a number of factors such as global massive overproduction of coffee, inaccessible credit facilities, strict rules that bars people from trading, expanding or uprooting the product, absence of coffee promotion and low coffee consumption in Kenya. Whereas these factors are important in shaping the understanding of this study, they are simply not value chain factors which affect coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya hence the need for this study.

2.4 Challenges Facing Coffee Producers.

Kegode (2005) pointed out that several factors are responsible for discouraging farmers from the production of coffee in Kenya, these factors included, difficult procedures of obtaining licenses to plant coffee in gazette or on gazette areas, difficulties in uprooting coffee, high cost of borrowing, limited access to credit as well as difficulties in obtaining bank loans. At the moment, the government of Kenya has only taken up the issue of subsidizing the fertilizer only and leave the rest of the things to be handled by the individual farmers thereby making the production of coffee to involve huge expenses. The other challenge according to the author are the statutory charges which farmers are forced to pay to the cooperative societies which stands at 12.8%. Other factors which have increased coffee prices includes the issue of currency devaluation, inflation as well as the easing cost of obtaining farm inputs. The issue of inefficient market can also not escape a mention. All these factors have been responsible in one way or another in increasing the cost of producing coffee. Another serious factor which has been behind this kind of increase are the dilapidated infrastructure along coffee farmer's i.e. poor roads. This makes coffee transportation costs to go high.

The UNCTAD report (1999), acknowledged that there was the existence of a world crisis in the coffee sector which was characterized by overproduction, collapsing prices, lowering of the quality of coffee produced, rising cases of various coffee diseases as well as the inequalities in the value chain factors in coffee production. These global happenings had a disastrous effect at the local level where most coffee farmers reside. The ICO report of 1997 argued that oversupply of coffee over the years has negatively impacted on the development of the coffee sector since most famers are not motivated to expand the sector any further. As a result of this developments, there was a sudden increase in poverty and crime rates in Kenya between the periods of 1991 and 2002.

Another factor which has been identified that affects the coffee prices is the issue of innovation. This refers to that situation where the farmers and all the coffee producer's device ways and means of increasing on the quality of coffee they price and the employ efficient technological methods of producing the commodity. This will rearrange to activities in the coffee farmers such as planting, pruning, managing nurseries, weeding, application of fertilizer as well as pesticides, plantation of new coffee varieties and development of new methods of harvesting. Harwich and Scheideggger argue that the performance of any innovation measure should be assed basing on is capability to increase the farm yields, stabilization of coffee prices, as well as a significant contribution to matters of sustainable development. The CRF report of 2008 noted that coffee needs good nutrition in order to make it be susceptible to pests and diseases. For the central Kenya region which is a known coffee producing region, the report recommends the use of nitrogenous fertilizer, Ammonium sulphate, Calcium Ammonium Nitrate, Ammonia sulphate, urea among others.

Gicuru (2011) advised that the only way to raise the value of the Kenyan coffee is by increasing the levels of production while at the same time lowering the cost of producing coffee. This will enable to raise the level of product competitiveness in the international markets. The sector will also be able to provide adequate job opportunities to the significant population of the Kenyan citizens. The author also called for the relaxation of the many coffee rules and allow inter cropping, this will enable farmers to spread their risks as well as cushion them in case of any coffee crisis.

2.5 The overall research gap

From the above literature Review, it was clearly seen that a knowledge gap in the areas of value chain factors which affects coffee prices at the farm level. Whereas it's true that coffee prices were affected by a variety of factors, there was insufficient studies on the coffee value chain factors, local and international, and how these factors affected the prices at the farm level.

The second knowledge gap that existed is regarding government policies, it is the study's considered opinion that governments all over the world exist to support their citizens to realize economic prosperity, therefore any responsible government must do something to improve on the amount of money that went to the farmers’ pockets.

There was a scarce data or information that the study existed which explains what the Kenyan and the Ugandan government did in order to create a favorable environment in which value chain factors at the farm level can influence coffee prices in Kenya and Uganda and with what kind of success or failure? Hence the essence of a knowledge gap and the rationale for this study.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on the Institutionalism theory as advanced by Ernest Haas. This theory builds its foundation on liberalism theory, it assumed that states were not the most important actors in international relations, that non-state actors such as the Regional coffee board can also play an important role in the economic system. Secondly the theory assumed that the major aim of actors in the international system was not just in power acquisition and fighting for their survival, instead, they were there for the purposes of promoting interdependence and enhancing increased interactions, Thirdly, the theory assumed that the essence of increased interactions in the international system was promotion of peace and ensuring the prosperity of all persons across the world. This prosperity came in the form of increasing the value of farmers produce at the farm level.

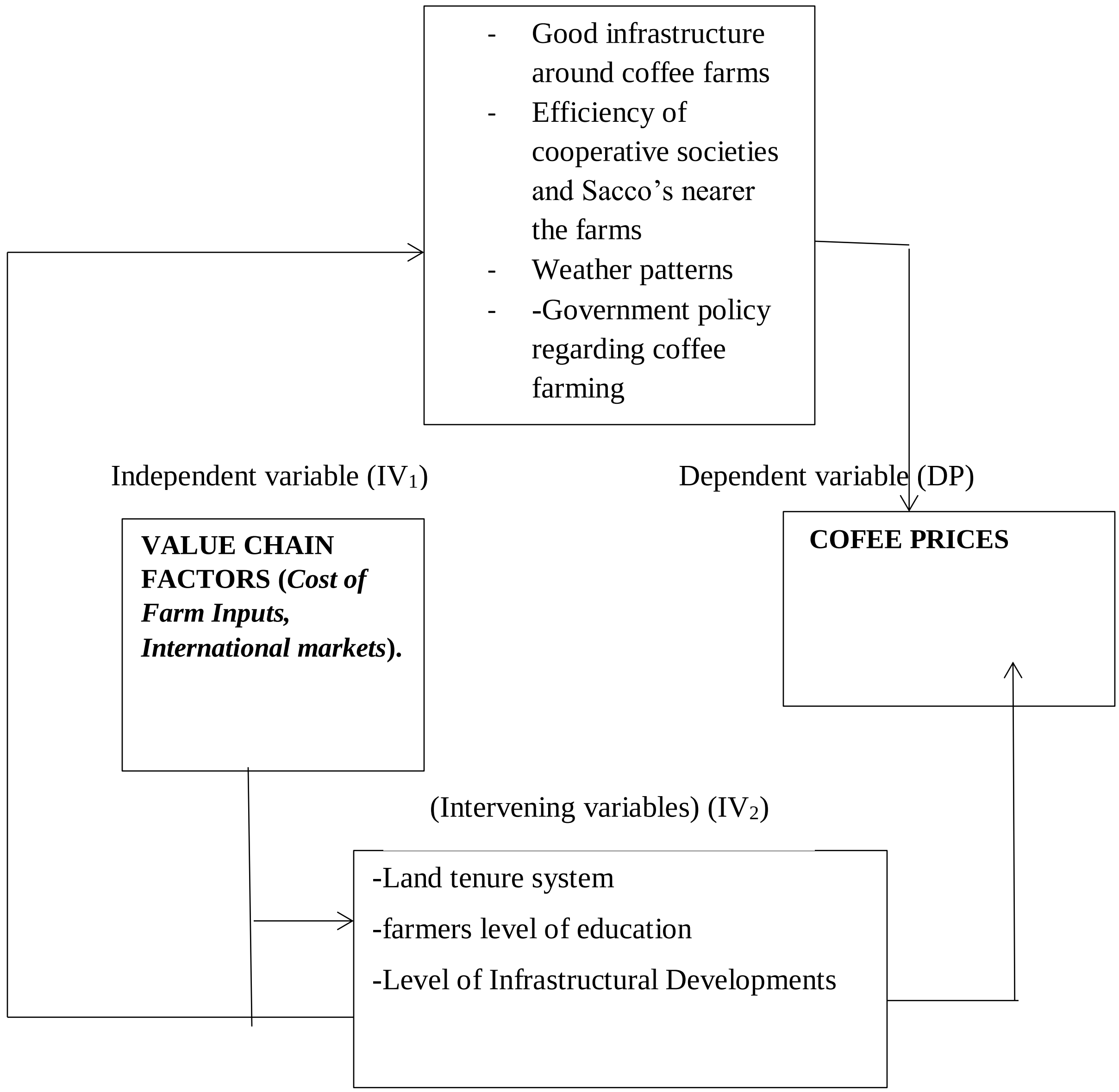
However, the institutionalism was the third strand of liberalism theory, which argued that inter-state cooperation through international institutions was the surest way of enhancing progress of every person. This was because of the issue of sovereignty and territorial boundaries limits the ability of the state to shield itself from the adverse effects of globalization and negative experiences in the international markets. States were unable to cooperate on anything and therefore issues which were cross cutting to different states were easily handled through international organizations.

Therefore, the theory encouraged states such as Kenya and Uganda to create regional institutions such as the East African community coffee board and further some specialized institutions to deal with different issues affecting coffee process at the farm level. The aim of doing this was to enable these institutions to create a similar mode of operation at the farm level in carrying out coffee production, distribution auctioning as well as marketing. As a result of these institutions doing this, it caused spillover effects to all the EAC member states and assumed the same protocol in affecting the value chain factors which affects coffee prices at the farm level.

This theory was relevant to this study because it argued that unless the East African states institutionalize the coffee sector, and allow the institutions which have been put in place to address matters affecting coffee prices at the farm level in the entire East African states, it was going to be very difficult to resolve the coffee problems which lowered the prices of coffee most especially at the farm level.

2.7 Conceptual Framework

The following conceptual framework showed the independent variable (value chain factors) and the dependent variable (Overall coffee prices at the farm level) in the East African states. The rates at which the independent variable influenced the dependent variable was either accelerated or de-accelerated by the intervening variables which was explained in a diagrammatic form.



Source (author 2022)

From the above framework, it was seen that the value chain factors at the farm level which was the independent variable can effectively influence coffee prices under certain circumstances. These circumstances were explained by the existence of the absence of the intervening variables.

The intervening variables in this sense refered to all those factors that can positively or negatively accelerate the level of influence in which the independent variable can make on the dependent variable. For instance in these case, coffee prices at the farm level was influenced by the value chain factors which affects coffee prices such as the costs of farm inputs, if the costs are low and most farmers can afford these farm inputs, the prices of coffee was higher and beneficial to the farmers, if there was the existence of better land tenure system, this promoted better coffee process for farmers, in cases where the farmers have been properly educated on coffee farming and given all the techniques of doing better coffee farming, it resulted into better coffee yields which can attract best prices, finally when there was the existence of storage facilities of coffee grains, this ensured that farmers were able to auction their coffee grains at better prices. On the other hand, if the government provided a better infrastructure around coffee famers, it eased transportation and lower the cost of production hence better coffee prices, if there were efficient farmers' cooperative societies and SACCOs around coffee farms, there was a likelihood that coffee attracted better prices, finally if there existed favorable government policies regarding coffee farming, it attracted better coffee prices and vice versa. The reverse of all these intervening variables were true.

2.8 Research Hypothesis

The study was anchored on these hypotheses;

1. There are local and international factors that affect the prices of coffee at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda.

2. The Existing policies in Kenya and Uganda are not sufficient in protecting the prices of coffee at the farm level.

2.9 Operationalization of Key Terms

Value chain factors: According to Dempsey (2006), It referred to all those factors which were sequential or interrelated that jointly affected a phenomenon. For the purposes of this study, it referred to the agricultural value chain.

Subsidies: According to FAO report (2004), it referred to all those forms of government support or exemptions which were aimed at lowering the cost of an economic venture. For the purposes of this study, it referred to all those government actions which were geared towards supporting the coffee sector at farm level.

Auction: According to the Gemech & Struthers (2007)**,** it referred to the process of selling a commodity to the highest bidder, for the purposes of this study, it referred to that process of selling of coffee beans to the buyers, and usually it's the highest bidder who takes the commodity.

Cooperative Societies: According to the Sessional Paper No 6 of (1997) on Cooperatives, it referred to those organized groups of people who come together for the proposes of pulling the resources together so as to enhance their economic venture, for the purposes of this study, it referred to the organized societies of coffee farmers in Kenya and Uganda

Land Tenure System: According to Chege (2012), it refers to the system of land ownership, utilization of that land and transfer of that particular land in society. For the purposes of this study, it will refer to the systems of land use, land ownership and land transfer in Kenya and Uganda respectively.

2.10 The Conclusion

This section attempted to review a section of the relevant literature on the coffee sector. It reviewed these literatures from the global perspective to the regional perspective as well as from the local perspective. Therefore, at the end of this literature review, an overall research gap was established. It is this research gap that this study sought to fill in.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

3.0 Introduction

This section presented the methods in which the study was conducted, strategies in which the target population and the sample size was identified and arrived at. This enabled the researcher to respond to the study questions, respond to the study objectives and either confirmed or disconfirmed the hypothesis.

3.1 Research Design

On the methodology of the study, this study adopted a mixed method approach. This is whereby both the descriptive survey design and the case stsudy methods were used. The descriptive survey design as explained by Kothari (2014) whereby it was able to study a large group of people using a very small sample. The questionnaires were used to establish the quantitate set of data while the interview guide was relied on in getting the perceptions of the interviewees on certain subjects.

3.2 Methods of Data Collection

The study relied on both the Primary sources as well as the secondary sources of data collection. The primary sources included the use of the Questionnaires and the interview guide. While the secondary sources were through the use of books, Journal articles, publications and documentaries. These questionnaires were administered and collected through the aid of the research assistants who were well versed with the local language of Luganda and Lusoga. The researcher operationalized the interview guide by way of spending some time with the respondents in an interrogation process. The ideas generated from these two sets of data were merged, compared and interpreted through a script narration.

3.3 Target Population

The target population of this study were the officers at the department of crop production in the ministry of Agriculture in Kenya and Uganda, officers from the ministry of Agriculture in Uganda and Kenya, Managers at the coffee board of Kenya and the coffee board of Uganda, Coffee farmers in Kiambu, Murang'a and Nyeri counties in Kenya. In Uganda, the study concentrated on coffee farmers along the Kakira and Iganga areas. Officers from the East African Legislative assembly in charge of the Agricultural and livestock development committee, Ministry of Trade and industrialization from Kenya and Uganda, particularly those from the state department of the International Trade. The departments of Agriculture in the county governments of Kiambu, Murang'a and Nyeri were also included in the study, while the leadership of Jinja and Iganga sub counties will also be included in the study particularly their departments of Agriculture. The total number of the estimated Target population which was drawn out of the researcher's background check of these organization, it translated into 1350 respondents. It should be noted that because of the ongoing Corvid-19 pandemic, the researcher would have loved to travel to Uganda and engage with his Ugandan respondents, however due to the current travel restrictions, the researcher contacted his Ugandan respondents by way of Email address, WhatsApp chats and through phone calls. For the Kenyan respondents, the researcher will had physical contacts with all of them while at the same time maintaining social distancing and applying sanitizers everywhere he goes. Throughout the interactions with the respondents, the researcher always had his face mask on to prevent the spread of corvid-19 virus.

CATEGORY OF THE TARGET POPULATION	**ESTIMATED NUMBER**
department of crop production in Kenya & Uganda	48
officers from the ministry of Agriculture in Kenya & Uganda	84
Managers at the coffee boards of Kenya and Uganda	35
Coffee farmers in Kenya & Uganda	125
EALA members Agriculture committee	18
Ministry of Trade and industrialization(state departments of International trade)	46
departments of Agriculture in the county governments of Nyeri, Kiambu, Murang'a & the Leadership of Jinja and Iganga	86
TOTAL	**442 respondents**

Table 1.1 Target Population Source (Author 2020)

3.4 Sampling Size

The sample size of this study consisted of 10% of each category of the target population. This meant that the researcher interviewed 5 officers at the department of crop production in the ministry of Agriculture in Kenya and Uganda, 3 in Kenya and 2 in Uganda. 4 Managers at the coffee board of Kenya and the coffee board of Uganda 2 on each side, 13 Coffee farmers, 8 in Kenya and 5 in Uganda. 2 Officers from the East African Legislative assembly in charge of the Agricultural and livestock development committee,5 Ministry of Trade and industrialization, 3 from Kenya and 2 from Uganda, particularly those from the state department of the International Trade. The 9 officers from the departments of Agriculture. 5 from the Kenyan county governments of Kiambu, Murang'a and Nyeri and 4 from Uganda's Jinja Sub county and Kakira and Lugazi municipalities. The total number of the sample size is 46 respondents. This translates to 10% of the estimated target population.

CATEGORY OF THE TARGET POPULATION	**ESTIMATED NUMBER**	**SAMPLE SIZE(10% of the Target Population)**
department of crop production in Kenya & Uganda	48	5
officers from the ministry of Agriculture in Kenya & Uganda	84	8
Managers at the coffee boards of Kenya and Uganda	35	4
Coffee farmers in Kenya & Uganda	125	13
EALA members Agriculture committee	18	2
Ministry of Trade and industrialization(state departments of International trade)	46	5
departments of Agriculture in the county governments of Nyeri, Kiambu, Muranga & the Leadership of Jinja and Iganga	86	9
TOTAL	**442**	**46 respondents**

Table 1.2 Sample Size. Source (Author 2020)

3.5 Sampling Technique

The sampling technique which the study relied on was both the cluster and purposive sampling technics. This is for the reasons that first of all the researcher grouped his respondents into sets of groups which bore similar characteristics. AT the same time, when the researcher visited Uganda, he was privileged to visit some of the coffee farms and farmers. In his own judgment he was able to determine who was going to be of relevance to the study and who was not. The respondents were picked based on their deeper understanding of the details of coffee farming. This was greatly influenced by the fact that there was language barriers between the researcher and a section of his Ugandan respondent's majority of whom were speaking Luganda and Lusoga.

However, the researcher also sought the support of research assistants who were residents of Uganda and they greatly assisted in taking notes during the interviewing process.

3.6 Methods of data presentation

Data was presented inform of both the quantitative and qualitative methods, whereby raw data collected from the interviewers was summarized into an organized form. This quantitative data was presented inform of percentages, figures, tables, pie charts and bar graphs while qualitative data on the other hand was presented inform of explanation and script narration

3.7 Methods of Data Analysis

When it came to matters of data analysis, the qualitative set of data which is collected was analyzed through the use of content analysis, script narration and interpretations while the quantitative data was analyzed using quantitative methods such as the use of the descriptive statistics

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The major ethical considerations of this study was the issue of objectivity. Coffee growing is one of the hottest political subject in Kenya and Uganda. This was so because it's the largest exports that Kenya and Uganda makes in the international markets and a huge chunk of the Kenyan and the East African populations highly depends on the cash crop. Therefore, the researcher being a native of one of the coffee growing areas (Kiambu County) may be tempted in one way or the other to be influenced by his subjective ideas on this issue. As a result of this, the researcher tried as much as possible to shield himself from making any unsubstantiated claims and present any arguments which is not backed up by any factual and verified data. Secondly, the researcher is aware that this being an emotive subject, some respondents who work for the governments of

Kenya and Uganda may not wish to participate in the stay citing the issues of loyalty to their employers, However the researcher assured them of his confidentiality and assure them that the ideas they gave was only to be used for the purposes of this study and for any other purpose. Finally, the researcher sought the permission of his interviewees before interviewing them. For instance, the researcher send them the research instruments i.e. the questionnaire and the Interview guide a few days before the interview date. The researcher also explained to them everything about this study so that they can make an informed decision of where to participate in the study or not.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND DATA ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter constituted the information collected from the field and other documented sources in relation to the study problems, study questions, objectives and the hypotheses of this study. The chapter was also characterized by making of comparisons of various sources of information, critiquing of the existing sources as well as concurrence with the existing sources of information. At the end, the researcher gave meaning to every kind of information he obtained from the field. This enabled the researcher to derive findings of the study which was instrumental in responding to the research problem and addressing the set objectives.

4.1 Demographic Information

This section contained the information relating to the response rate, the respondents and their countries of origins, the respondents level of education, the respondents gender type as well as the respondents age bracket.

4.1.1 Response rate

The sample size of this study was meant to be 46 respondents. The researcher distributed the questionnaires to 36 respondents and supplied the interview guide to 10 respondents. Out of the 36 respondents who were given the questionnaires, 29 of them returned the filled questionnaires and out of the 10 respondent whom the researcher had intended to Interview, only 7 turned up for the interviews. Therefore the total number of respondents who actually participated in the study was 36 respondents. This constituted 78.2% of the sample size. This response rate can be regarded as excellent. If Mugenda and Mugenda's views (2003) is anything to go by. They argue that a response rate of between 50-60% is good, 60-70% is fair and above 70% is excellent.

Research Instrument	Distributed	Returned	Return rate
Questionnaire	36	29	
Interview Guide	10	7	
TOTAL	**46**	**36**	**78.2%**

Table 1.3 Response Rate

4.1.2 Country of Origin

Out of the 36 respondents interviewed. 14 of them were from Uganda while 22 of them were from Kenya. This means that 39% of the respondents were from Uganda while 61% of the respondents were from Kenya. This implies that there was some element of inclusion of respondents from both countries hence making the study to have that comparative image.

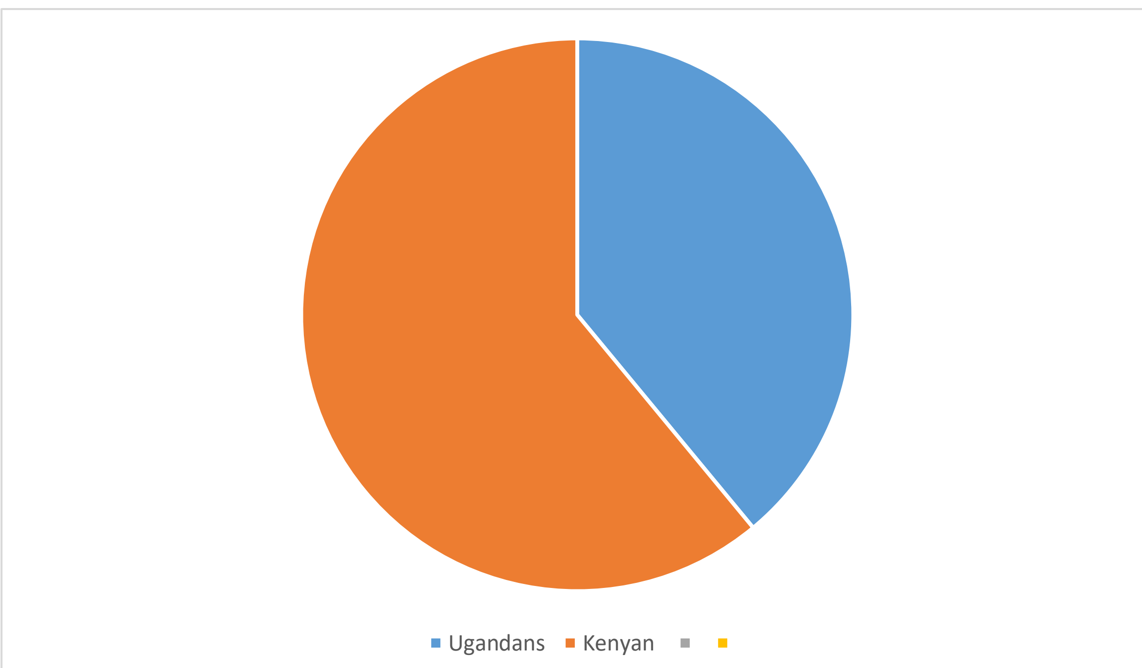


Figure 1.1 Respondents Country of origin

4.1.3 Age of the respondents.

Out of the 36 respondents who were engaged, 2 of them were aged between 20-29, 3 of them between 30-39, 11 between 40-49, 10 were between 50-59 while 10 of them were above 60 years.

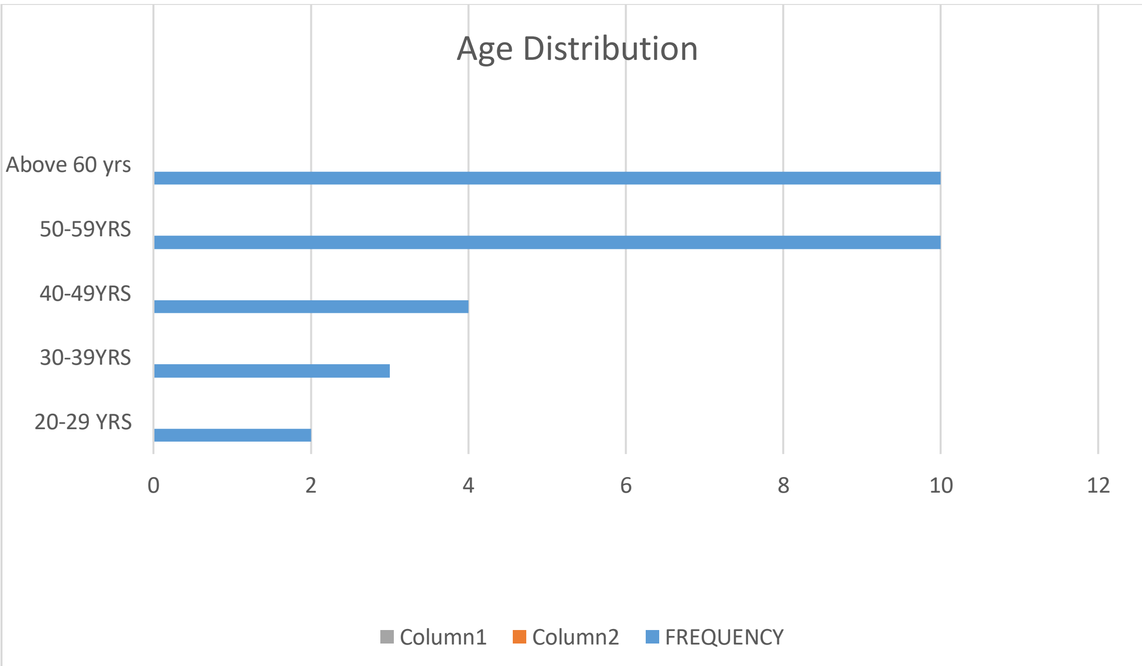


Figure 1.2 : Respondents Age Distribution

As it can be seen in the above bar graph, all the categories of age groups were represented. However, it was noted that most government officers and coffee were mostly above the age of 50 years. This implies that there is less representation of young people in the farming sector and in government offices. This requires further research on why the young people are not heavily involved in matters of coffee farming and occupancy of government positions.

4.1.4 Gender Distribution

Out of the 36 respondents. 23 of them were male while 13 of them were females. This means that 63.8% were males while 36.2% were females. This implies that there was some fair representation in terms of gender.

Gender	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Male	23	63.8
Female	13	36.2

Table 1.5 Respondents Gender Distribution

4.1.5 Level of Education

Respondents were asked to state their level of qualifications. Out of the 36 respondents. 10 had primary education, 12 had secondary education, 9 had college education while 5 had university education

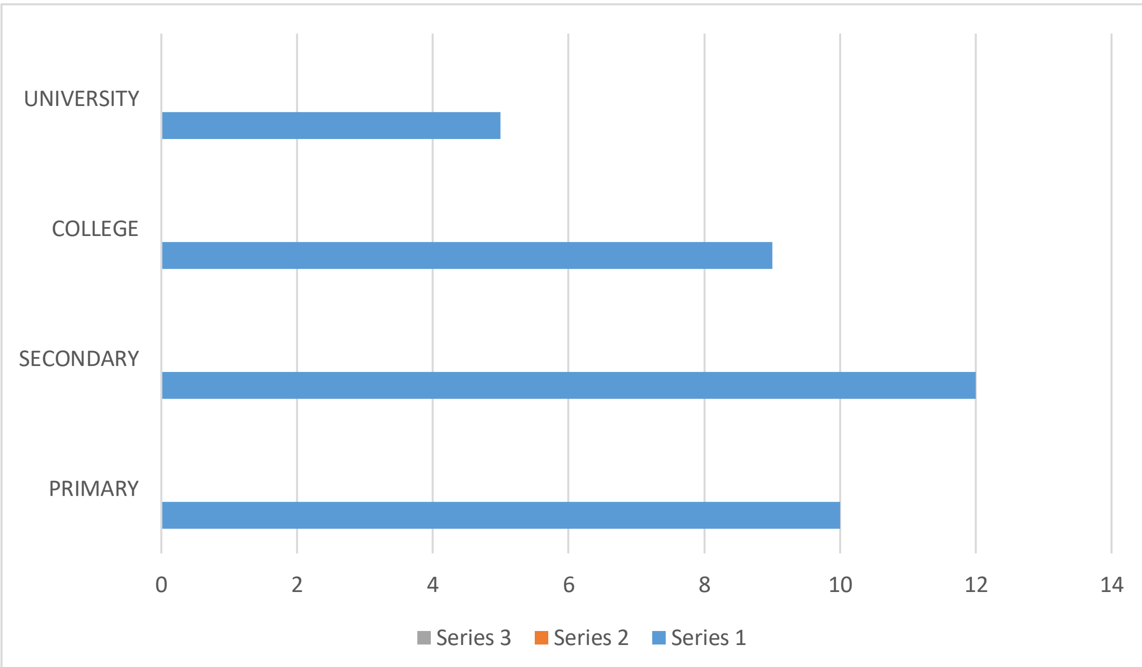


Figure 1.3 Respondents level of education

As it can be seen in the above bar graph, all the respondents had some form of education. However it was noted that majority of the respondents possessed very basic types of education, perhaps this could be a pointer as to why some of the factors affecting prices of coffee at farm level could be the way they are. Only a few of the respondents had higher education.

4.2 Value Chain Factors affecting Coffee prices at Farm level in Kenya and Uganda

The respondents were asked to explain how the following value chain factors affected coffee prices at the Farm level in their respective country.

4.2.1 Cost of Farm Inputs

Out of the 36 respondents, 28 felt that the cost of purchasing the farm inputs were higher hence negatively impacting on the coffee prices at the farm level while 8 respondents felt otherwise.

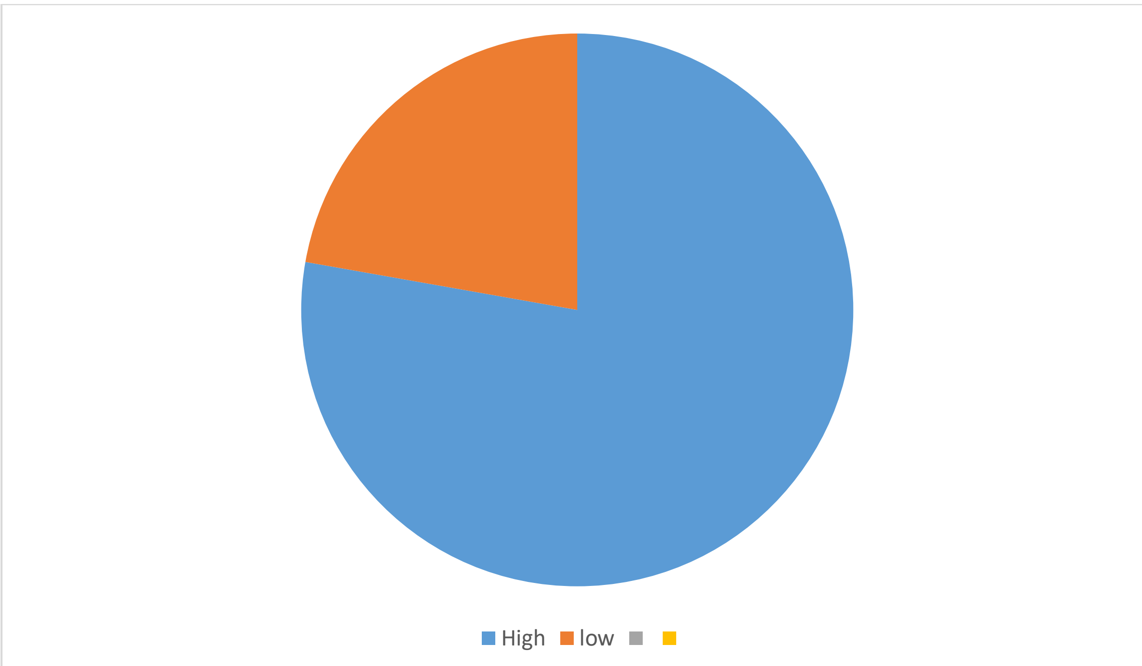


Figure 1.4 Respondents view on the cost of farm inputs

4.2.2 Land Tenure System

Respondents were asked to explain the effects of the land tenure system affected coffee prices at the arm level. From the responses, 20 respondents felt that land tenure system negative; affected coffee prices at the farm level while 16 felt otherwise. Surprisingly majority of those who felt that it negatively impacted on coffee prices were from Kenya, while majority of those who felt it didn't affect were from Uganda. Upon further inquiry it was noted that the land tenure system in Kenya was unitive to coffee farmers as opposed to that of Uganda which is favorable to coffee farmers.

Figure 1.5 Respondents view on the state of land tenure system

4.2.3 Farmers level of Education

Farmers were asked to comment on the state of education as a factor which affected coffee prices. 24 respondents felt that low levels of education had a negative impact on the state of coffee prices at the farm level, while 12 respondents felt low levels of education had no significant impact. It was established that the level of farmer's awareness of the details was very low. This was for the reasons that most farmers had very basic level of education and this in a way has an impact on how they conducted the coffee farming trade.

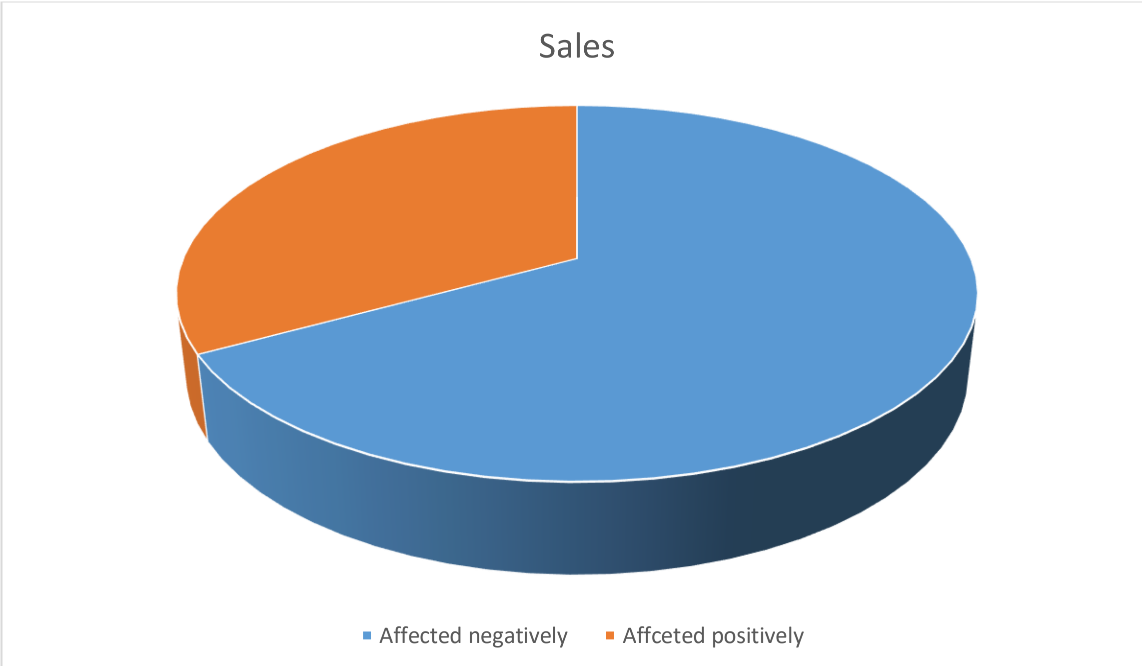


Figure 1.6 Respondents view on the level of farmer's level of education

4.2.4 Availability of Storage Facilities

The respondents were asked to state whether there were adequate storage facilities across the regions where coffee farming is prominent. Out of the 36 respondents who were contacted, 28 felt that there were less storage facilities to serve the demand. This was reflected both in Kenya and Uganda. Only 8 respondents felt otherwise. This implies that there was every little spread of the storage facilities in relation to the demand for those facilities.

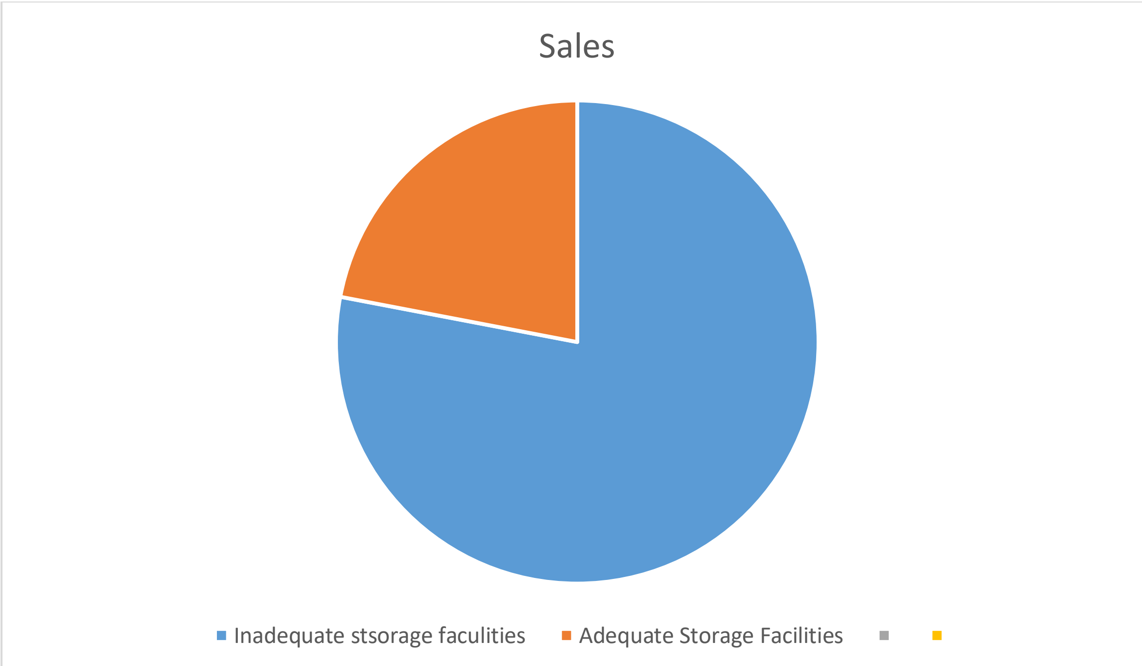


Figure 1.7 Respondents view on the availability of storage facilities

4.2.5 Level of Infrastructural Development

The respondents were asked to state whether there was adequate infrastructure to support coffee farming at the local level. 30 Respondents argued out that there was poor infrastructure at the local level. For instance they pointed out the poor state of the road network, absence of electricity as well as inadequate training and vocational institutes which the farmers can go to be trained on better coffee farming methods. This negatively affected coffee prices at the farm level. Its only 6 respondents who had a contrary opinion.

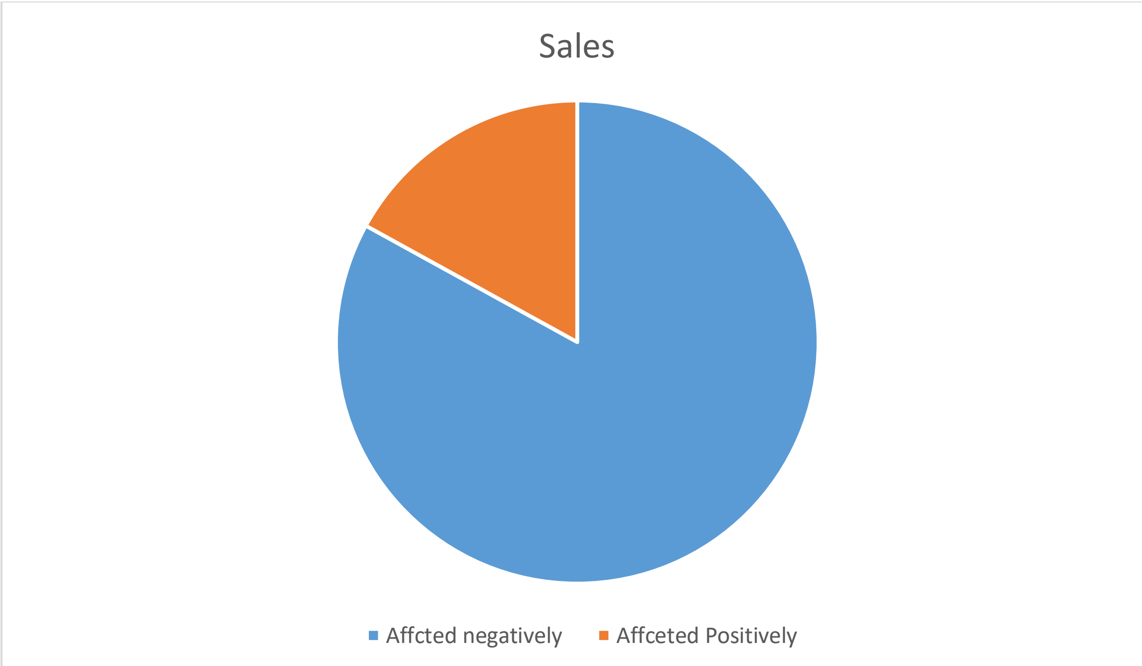


Figure 1.8 Respondents view on the state of infrastructural development

4.2.6 Efficient Cooperative Societies

The respondents were asked to say something about the state of cooperative societies in their regions and the role they played in shaping the coffee prices at the farm level. 34 respondents agreed that there was an existence of cooperative societies in their areas and they were positively shaping the coffee prices. However, they pointed out the problem of mismanagement which led to their poor performance in helping farmers better their trade. Only 2 respondents felt that cooperative societies negatively shaped the coffee prices at the farm level..

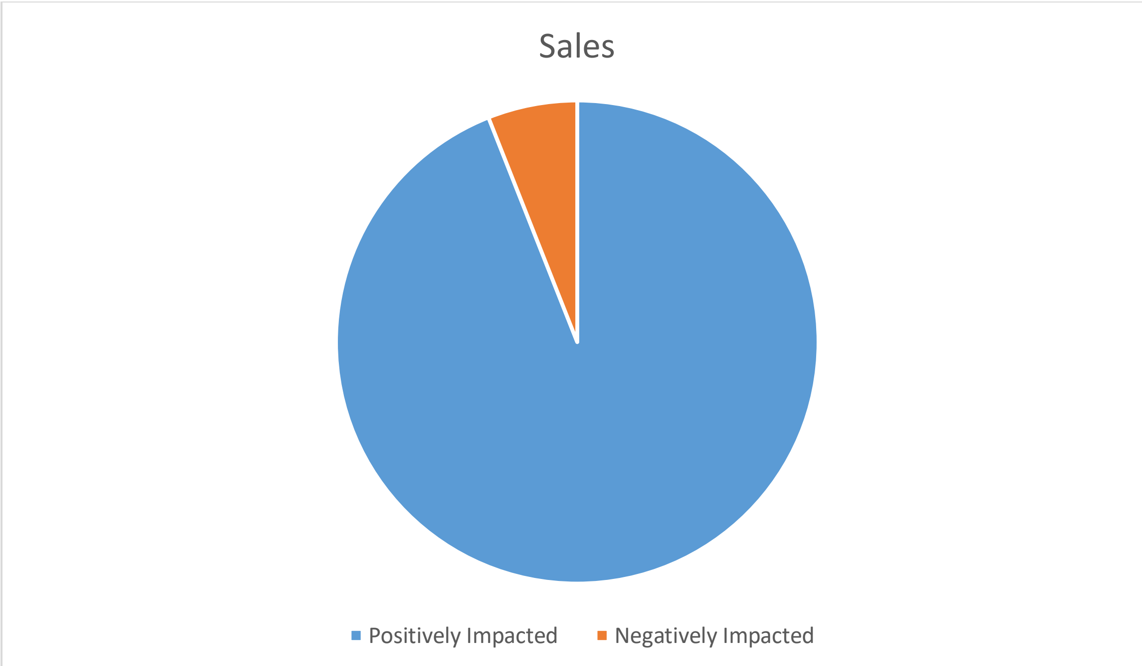


Figure 1.9 Respondents view on efficiency of the cooperative societies

4.2.7 Government policy on coffee farming

The respondents were asked to comment on the government policy towards coffee farming. Surprisingly, there was a split of the views depending on the country in which the respondents were coming from. The Kenyan respondents felt that the government policy has been punitive to coffee farmers until recently while the Ugandan respondents felt that the government policy towards coffee farming was favorable and it has been consistent over the years. 16 felt the government policy was favorable while 20 felt that It was not favorable, the 18 added to a pointer that of late it has started being favorable.

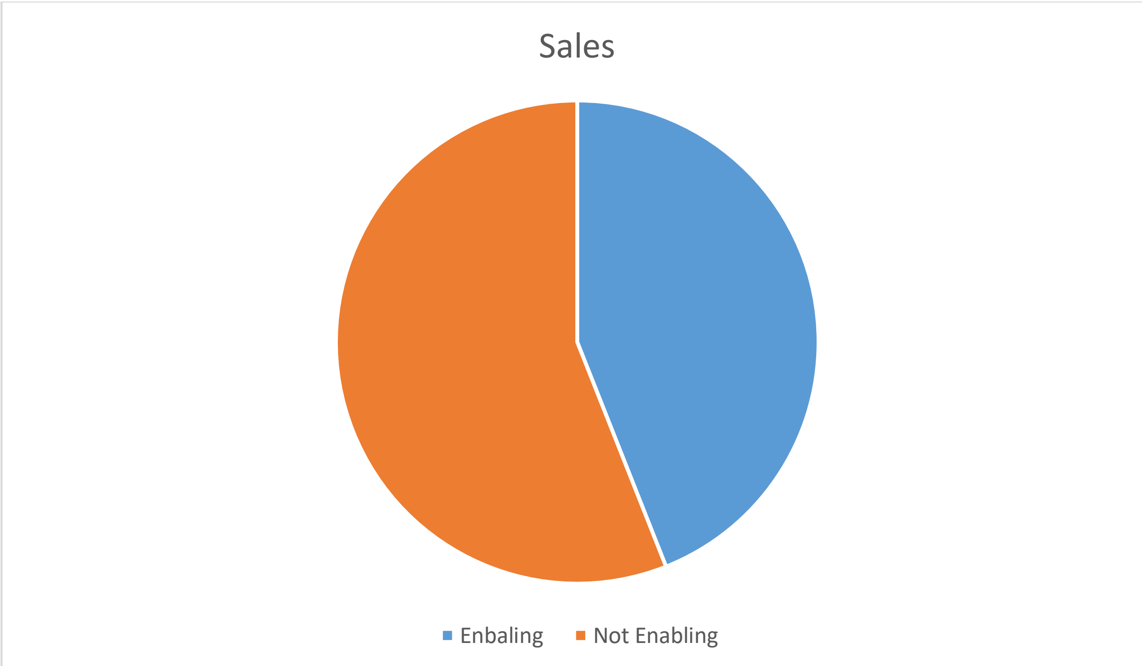


Figure 1.10 Responses view on Government policy towards Coffee farming.

4.2.8 Weather Patterns

Concerning the weather changes, majority of the respondents acknowledged that the changing weather patterns was responsible in shaping the trajectory in which coffee farming goes. 32 felt whether patterns affected negatively coffee prices while 4 felt it positively affected. The reasons cited by those who were in favor ranged from long periods of absence of rain, destruction of roads, inability to store the perishable good, just to mention but a few. However, a new issue came up. The inability of the meteorologists to give proper whether forecasting. The respondents felt that in most cases they were forecasting the opposite, and this made it very difficult for the farmers to take them serious.

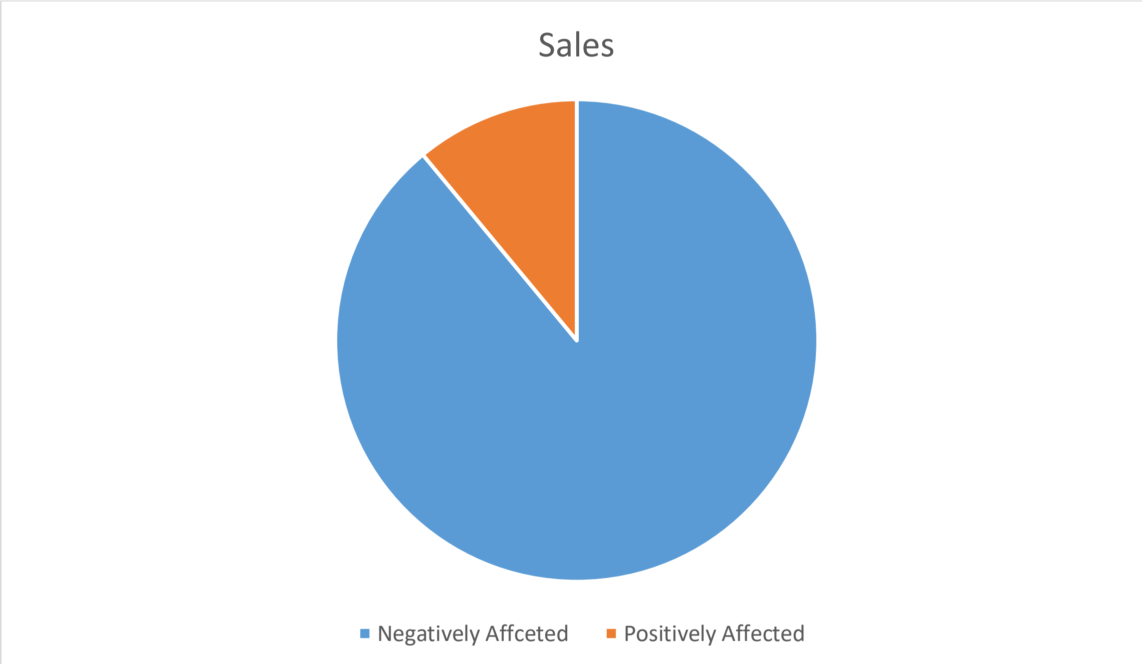


Figure1.11 Respondents view on weather patterns

4.3 Government efforts to address the Value chain factors

Respondents were asked to state what they felt about the government efforts in addressing the listed value chain factors that affected coffee prices at the farm level. Out of the 36 respondents who were engaged. 2 of them felt that the government was not putting in place adequate efforts in addressing all the listed value chain factors which affected coffee prices at the farm level, while 12 of them felt that there was some concerted effects by the governments to address the value factors. Those who sported the government argues that there are some factors such as the changing whether patterns which the government could not do anything over them. Similarly, the problem of illiteracy, they argued that it was a long term activity which the government is on course in addressing it. Those felt the government did every little argued that the poor state of road network, the inadequate storage facilities was the duty of the government to ensure they are put in place and in this case the government has slept on the job.

4.4 Alternative strategies of addressing the value chain factors

The respondents were asked to give suggestions on what needed to be done order to ensure that the value chain factors which affected coffee prices at that farm level are addressed. They gave numerous suggestions such as;

Strengthening devolution and empowering county governments in order to address the plight of farmers. Setting up of more technical and vocational training institutes to train farmers on modern ways of coffee farming, embracing of the right technology, putting in place adequate storage facilities in the coffee growing areas., setting in place a special fund that will either repair or maintain the existing road network around the coffee growing areas just to mention but a few. However, the interesting proposal had everything to do with the meteorological departments. Majority of the farmers argued that it was serving no purpose and hence it should be disbanded.

4.5 Role of the farmers in addressing the value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level.

The respondents were asked to state whether the farmers had any role to play in addressing the value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level. The responses were diverse. However, what stood out is that farmers were urged to be go getters, for instance they should strive to seek more knowledge on how they can better their coffee farming methods, and similarly, farmers were urged to elect competent leaders to head their cooperative societies. It’s this visionary leadership that will bring change. Also farmers were asked to spend their coffee bonuses wisely through reinvesting it or expanding on their lands. Famers were also discouraged from subdividing their already small lands.

4.6 Role of the Coffee Cooperative societies in addressing the Value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level.

The respondents were asked to explain what they thought the coffee cooperative societies should do in order to address the value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level. Respondents argued that the cooperative societies ought to be at the fore front in ensuring that coffee farmers benefit from their trade. They suggested that the coffee boards should work hand in hand with the government to improve on their state of infrastructure development in coffee growing areas, similarly they argued that Coffee boards and cooperative societies should be there to educate framers, to provide enough storage facilities to the farmers in conjunction with the government as well as to partner with the meteorological department to advice farmers.

4.7 The Role of the East African Community in addressing the value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level.

The respondents were asked to state what they thought of the East African community in shaping the value chain factors so as to positively affect coffee prices at the farm level. The respondents argued that since the East African region is globally known to have a comparative advantage in growing coffee. Then each partner state should come up with uniform ways of coffee farming methods the coffee boards and cooperative societies should be forced to adhere to the East African community guidelines. Similarly, they suggested that all the coffee produce from the East African community should be combined and sold jointly in the global markets. This will help in the stabilization of coffee prices. Alternatively, they argued that the EAC should force the governments of the partner states to ensure infrastructural developments in the coffee growing areas.

4.8 Findings of the study.

From the above data presentation and data analysis. This study found out the following things;

First, is that Coffee is the biggest cash crop grown in Kenya and Uganda. That coffee is the biggest commodity for export which Kenya and Uganda relies on for the foreign exchange earnings. Therefore the subject of coffee growing is at the heart of the Kenyan and Ugandan governments.

Secondly, that there are several value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level. These value chain factors includes but are not limited to the following; The level of infrastructural development in coffee growing areas, weather patterns in coffee growing areas, availability of storage facilities in coffee growing areas, the land tenure system, cost of farm inputs, the levels of efficiency of cooperative societies, as well as the government policy on coffee farming.

Thirdly, the stsudy found out that the question of land tenure system was the biggest value chain factor which negatively affected coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and not in Uganda. This was so because in Kenya land is owned privately and the government has got a very little say on how private and is utilized. In Uganda the story is quite different since the government has got a bigger say on how land is utilized. This makes it hard for coffee process to experience stability as compared to that of Uganda.

Fourthly, the stsudy has found out that the cost of farm inputs in Kenya and Uganda is just too high for the coffee growing farmers to afford. This is reflected in the cost of seedlings, cost of fertilizer, ploughing machines, harvesting machines just to mention but a few. This has led to coffee growing farmers to experience hardships in farming this important cash crop.

Fifth, the stsudy found out that most coffee growing famers are in rural areas and they possess very low levels of education. As such thus gives room for sheer exploitation by the middle men. Similarly, because of high levels of illiteracy, some of the decisions by coffee farmers continues to negatively impact on coffee process at the farm level for example the manner in which coffee farmers elect their leaders does not inspire any positive change in the coffee sector.

Sixth, the stsudy found out that due to the absence of enough coffee storage facilities across the coffee growing areas. It was difficult for coffee farmers to adequate store the ever perishable coffee berries. This led to the massive losses of the crop which farmer's experienced at the point of harvesting. As a results of this, it has led to the negative impact of coffee prices at farm level.

Seventh, the stsudy found out that due to the poor state of road network, absence of electricity connectivity in rural areas as well as absence of technical training and vocational training institutes in coffee growing areas. It's difficult for coffee prices to be stabilized at the farm level. A lot of coffee is being lost on the roads because of their impassability.

Eighth, the stsudy found out that most of the co-operative societies have greatly helped in fighting for the rights of the farmers, however, there is more that they need to do. The question of corruption and mismanagement was listed as the biggest challenge which affected the performance of the cooperative societies in the coffee sector. The genesis of this problem according to the stsudy findings lies in the general illiteracy levels among the coffee farmers and the manner in which the farmers elect their leaders to manage these cooperative societies.

Ninth, on the issue of government policy towards coffee growing It was found out that the governments of Uganda was more committed towards improving the coffee sector than the Kenyan government. In Kenya, for many years. Coffee faming was taken as a political tool to either reward or punish citizens depending on their political persuasions. However, of late, the respondent's appreciated that the Kenyan government was taking the coffee sector seriously and to better coffee prices at the farm level and the farmers are reaping huge benefits from the coffee sector.

Finally, the study found out that the constant changing weather patterns in Kenya and Uganda was responsible for price fluctuations coffee at the farm level. The explanation to this is that it has made it very difficult for the farmers to employ good timing of planting and harvesting this important cash crop. What has even worsened the situation is the manner in which the meteorological departments of the two countries have been giving whether forecasts reports that are inconsistent with what happens on the ground. This mismatch has led most coffee growing farmers to lose faith in the meteorological departments.

4.9 Conclusion

This chapter has presented the collected from the field. It has also analyzed the collected data from the field using both qualitative methods and quantitate methods. This chapter has concluded by drawing the stsudy findings from the collected data obtained from the fled.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF THE STSYD FINDINGS, CONCLUSISON AND RECOMENDATIONS.

5.0 Introduction.

This final chapter of the stsudy deals with the summary of the stsudy findings, it gives its conclusions and it will end up giving the various recommendations of this stsudy. The recommendations will be at the level of policy, literature and practice.

5.1 Summary of the study findings.

This stsudy sought to make a comparative analysis on the Agricultural value chain factors determining coffee prices at the farm level in East Africa between Kenya and Uganda. The stsudy set out the following objectives. To establish the local agricultural value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda. To establish the international value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the far level in Kenya and Uganda. The stsudy sought to subject the following hypothesis into test; there are local and international value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and in Uganda. The existing policies in Kenya and in Uganda are not sufficient in protecting the prices of coffee at the farm level.

The stsudy employed the descriptive survey design as its research desisgn.it relied on both the primary and secondary sources of data collection in which the questionnaire and the interview guide were the main primary methods of collecting data. The sample size of this study was 36 respondents and it was well representative of the target population as it was explained in chapter three. The stsudy adopted the cluster sampling technique in arriving at the sample size. The stsudy relied on tables, pie charts and bar graphs in the presentation and analysis of the collected data from the field. Among the ethical considerations of this stsudy is that it relied so much on the objectivity of the researcher since he also comes from the coffee growing counties, confidentiality of the respondents as well as explaining everything to the respondents and getting their consent before interviewing them.

The stsudy fund out that; Coffee is the biggest cash crop grown in Kenya and Uganda. That coffee is the biggest commodity for export which Kenya and Uganda relies on for the foreign exchange earnings. Therefore the subject of coffee growing is at the heart of the Kenyan and Ugandan governments.

That; there are several value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level. These value chain factors includes but are not limited to the following; The levels of infrastructural development in coffee growing areas, weather patterns in coffee growing areas, availability of storage facilities in coffee growing areas, the land tenure system, cost of farm inputs, the levels of efficiency of co-operative society, as well as the government policy on coffee farming.

That; the question of land tenure system was the biggest value chain factor which negatively affected coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and not in Uganda. This was so because in Kenya land is owned privately and the government has got a very little say on how private and is utilized. In Uganda the story is different since the government has got a bigger say on how land is utilized this makes it hard for coffee process to experience stability as compared to that of Uganda.

That; the cost of farm inputs in Kenya and Uganda is just too high for the coffee growing farmers to afford. This is reflected in the cost of seedlings, cost of fertilizer, ploughing machines, harvesting machines just to mention but a few. This has led to coffee growing farmers to experience hardships in farming this important cash crop.

That; most coffee growing famers are in rural areas and they possess very low levels of education. As such thus gives room for sheer exploitation by the middle men. Similarly, because of high levels of illiteracy, some of the actions by coffee farmers continues to negatively impact on coffee process at the farm level for example the manner in which coffee farmers elect their leaders does not inspire any positive change in the coffee sector.

That; due to the absence of enough coffee storage facilities across the coffee growing areas. It was difficult for coffee framers to adequately store the ever perishable coffee berries. This led to the massive losses of the crop which farmer’s experienced at the point of harvesting. As a results of this, it has led to the negative impact of coffee prices at farm level.

That; due to the poor state of road network, absence of electricity connectivity in rural areas as well as absence of technical training and vocational training institutes in coffee growing areas. It's difficult for coffee prices to be stabilized at the farm level. A lot of coffee is being lost on the roads because of their impassability.

That; most of the co-operative societies have greatly helped in fighting for the rights of the farmers, however, there is more that they need to do. The question of corruption and mismanagement was listed as the biggest challenge which affected the performance of the cooperative societies in the coffee sector. The genesis of this problem according to the study findings lies in the general illiteracy levels among the coffee farmers and the manner in which the farmers elect their leaders to manage these co-operative societies.

That; the government of Uganda was more committed towards improving the coffee sector than the Kenyan government. In Kenya, for many years. Coffee faming was taken as a political tool to either reward or punish citizens depending on their political persuasions. However, of late, the respondents appreciated that the Kenyan government was taking the coffee sector seriously and the effect is that coffee prices have been stabilized at the farm level and the farmers are reaping huge benefits from the coffee sector.

Finally, that the constant changing weather patterns in Kenya and Uganda was responsible for price fluctuations coffee at the farm level. The explanation to this is that it has made it very difficult for the farmers to employ good timing of planting and harvesting this is important cash crop. What has even worsened the situation is the manner in which the meteorological departments of the two countries have been giving whether forecasts reports that are inconsistent with what happens on the ground. This mismatch has led most coffee growing farmers to lose faith in the meteorological departments.

5.2 Conclusion of the study

From the above summary of the stsudy findings .This stsudy makes the following conclusions;

That, Coffee is the biggest cash crop grown in Kenya and Uganda. That coffee is the biggest commodity for export which Kenya and Uganda relies on for the foreign exchange earnings. Therefore the subject of coffee growing is at the heart of the Kenyan and Ugandan governments.

That; there are several value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level. These value chain factors includes but are not limited to the following; The levels of infrastructural development in coffee growing areas, weather patterns in coffee growing areas, availability of storage facilities in coffee growing areas, the land tenure system, cost of farm inputs, the levels of efficiency of co-operative society, as well as the government policy on coffee farming.

That; the question of land tenure system was the biggest value chain factor which negatively affected coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and not in Uganda. This was so because in Kenya land is owned privately and the government has got a very little say on how private and is utilized. In Uganda the story is different since the government has got a bigger say on how land is utilized this makes it hard for coffee process to experience stability as compared to that of Uganda.

That; the cost of farm inputs in Kenya and Uganda is just too high for the coffee growing farmers to afford. This is reflected in the cost of seedlings, cost of fertilizer, ploughing machines, harvesting machines just to mention but a few. This has led to coffee growing farmers to experience hardships in farming this important cash crop.

That; most coffee growing famers are in rural areas and they possess very low levels of education. As such thus gives room for sheer exploitation by the middle men. Similarly, because of high levels of illiteracy, some of the actions by coffee farmers continues to negatively impact on coffee process at the farm level for example the manner in which coffee farmers elect their leaders does not inspire any positive change in the coffee sector.

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That; most of the co-operative societies have greatly helped in fighting for the rights of the farmers, however, there is more that they need to do. The question of corruption and mismanagement was listed as the biggest challenge which affected the performance of the cooperative societies in the coffee sector. The genesis of this problem according to the study findings lies in the general illiteracy levels among the coffee farmers and the manner in which the farmers elect their leaders to manage these co-operative societies.

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5.3 Recommendations of the Study.

From the above stsudy findings and the concussion made by this stsudy. The study wishes to make the following recommendations.

1. The East Africa community should consider putting in place the harmonization of policies which guides and governs the coffee farming within the region. This will ensure that the cost of farm inputs are lowered and purchased uniformly, it will also ensure that the availability of storage facilities are properly spread across the coffee growing areas. This will help to stabilize coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and in Uganda.
2. The study recommends to the Kenyan government to hurry up in instituting land reforms. This will ensure that that fertile lands that can produce better quality coffee are not sub-divided aimlessly and converted into real estates or other uses that are note meant to enhance the coffee farming business. Secondly, the land reforms still give the government of Kenya more powers in deciding how different sets of land will be utilized so as to ensure that there is massive food security in the country.
3. The government of Kenya and Uganda should consider becoming more proactive in strengthening the coffee cooperatives societies so that they can better coffee framing,

4. The government of Kenya and Uganda should consider carrying out massive civic education and sensitization of coffee farmers on the best coffee framing methods. They can do this through construction of technical and vocational training institutes across the coffee growing areas. This will include the choices which they take in farming methods and in electing their representatives.

5. The governments of Kenya and Uganda should consider reorganizing their meteorological departments. This will ensure that it gives proper weather forecasting so as to guide the farmers on best farming methods. Similarly, the Government should ensure that the meteorological department is better equipped so as to facilitate its work.

6. Finally, the governments of Kenya and Uganda should urgently ensure that there is immediate lowering of the cost of farm inputs. They can do this by employing certain measures such as abolishing all the unnecessary taxations, giving tax breaks and tax

holidays to coffee farmers for a period of ten years. This will be necessary in the stabilization of coffee prices at the farm level.

7. On the issue of addressing the International value chain factors affecting the coffee prices. The East African community should be more proactive in engaging other international institutions such as UNCTAD, UNDP, and the UN General Assembly in getting the unfair trade policies such as import quotas, unfair currency exchange rates system and unfair trade agreements are received. This will help to stabilize coffee prices at the international markets.

5.4 Areas of Further Research.

This study recommends that a further research be done on this areas so as to strengthen this study. They include.

1. How the East African Community can be strengthen so as to ensure that all the partner states are made to adopt similar practices in coffee farming.
2. Strategies in which Coffee Boards and cooperative societies can be strengthen so as to champion the interests of coffee farmers at the grassroots.

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LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE.

This Questionnaire is purposefully designed for study purposes; the study tittle is "***The Politics Of Coffee Growing In The Third World Countries: Assessing The Agricultural Value Chain Factors Influencing Coffee Prices At The Farm Level: A Case Of Selected East African Countries."*** The views expressed in this Questionnaire will assist the researcher to conduct his study in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in International relations of the University of Nairobi. Therefore, you are kindly requested to respond to each question to enable the researcher complete his course. kindly fill all the given spaces appropriately if possible. **PLEASE DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME OR ANYTHING THAT CAN IDENTIFY YOU ANYWHERE IN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE!** Kindly be as objective as possible as you respond to this Questionnaire. Thank you!

N/B. Please tick where appropriate.

Section A. Demographic Information.

1. Country of origin.

( ).

2. Occupation. Company You Work For.

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3. Level of education.

Primary ( ) Secondary ( ) College ( ) University ( ).

4. Gender.

Male ( ) Female ( ).

5. Age.

Below 19 ( ) 20-29 ( ) 30-39 ( ) 40-49 ( ) 50-59 ( ) 60-69 ( ) 70-79 ( ) Above 80 ( ).

Section B: THE CONTRIBUTION OF VALUE CHAIN FACTORS IN AFFECTING COFFEE PRICES AT THE FARM LEVEL.

1. How have the following value chain factors at farm level affected coffee prices in your country? Please explain in details

a, Cost of farm inputs

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b, Land Tenure system

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c, Farmers level of education on coffee farming

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d, Availability of storage facilities

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e, Level of infrastructural developments

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f, Efficient cooperative societies and SACCOs

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………………………………………………………………………………………………………
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g, Government policy on coffee farming

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h, Weather patterns

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2. To what extent has your government put in efforts in ensuring the value chain factors do not adversely affect coffee prices at farm level in your country? Please rate each of the following factors by ticking on any three boxes available.

VALUE-CHAIN FACTOR	**Greater extent**	**Medium extent**	**Lesser extent**
Cost of farm inputs			
Land tenure system			
Famers level of education			
Storage facilities			
Levels of infrastructural development			
Efficiency of cooperate societies and SACCOS			
Weather patterns			
Government policy on coffee farming			

3. What other alternative strategies would you propose for the government to take in addressing value chain factors which may adversely affects coffee prices at the farm level?..
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4. Do you think the coffee farmers have any role to play in ensuring that the value chain factors which affect coffee prices at the farm level are addressed?

   Yes ( ) No ( )

   Please explain your answer……………………………………………………………………………………
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5. What role do you think the existing cooperative societies and SACCOS in the coffee sector should do in order to improve on the value chain factors which affects coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda?..
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6. In your view, are there any challenges you foresee that may negatively affect value chain factors which affects coffee prices at the farm level?

   Yes( ) No( )

   Please explain your answer………………………………………………………………………………………
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7. Given your answer and explanations, on (6) above, kindly suggest on what needs need to be done in order to improve the value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level…………………………………………………………………………………………
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8. Is there any contribution that the East African Community has made in improving the value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level which you know off?

   Yes ( ) No ( )

   Please explain your answer

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!!!!!!

APPENDIX 2: THE INTERVIEW GUIDE

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This Interview Guide is purposefully designed for study purposes; the study tittle is "***The Politics Of Coffee Growing In The Third World Countries: Assessing The Agricultural Value Chain Factors Influencing Coffee Prices At The Farm Level: A Case Of Selected East African Countries."*** The views expressed in this interview guide will assist the researcher to conduct his study in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in International relations of the University of Nairobi. Therefore, you are kindly requested to respond to each question to enable the researcher complete his course. kindly full all the given spaces appropriately if possible. **PLEASE DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME OR ANYTHING THAT CAN IDENTIFY YOU ANYWHERE IN THIS INTERVIEW GUIDE!** Kindly be as objective as possible as you respond to these questions. Thank you!

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR THE INTERVIEWS.

1 How have the following value chain factors at farm level affected coffee prices in your country? Please explain in details

a, Cost of farm inputs

b, Land Tenure system

c, Farmers level of education on coffee farming

d, Availability of storage facilities

e, Level of infrastructural developments

f, Efficient cooperative societies and SACCOs

g, Government policy on coffee farming

h, Weather patterns

2.To what extent has your government put in efforts in ensuring the there exists proper value chain factors that affect coffee prices at farm level in your country? Please say something about each of the following factors.

a, Cost of farm inputs

b, Land tenure system

c, Famers level of education

d, Storage facilities

f, Levels of infrastructural development

g, Efficiency of cooperate societies and SACCOS

h, Weather patterns

I, Government policy on coffee farming

3.What other alternative strategies would you propose for the governments to take in improving the value chain factors which affects coffee prices at the farm level?

4.Do you think the coffee farmers have any role to play in ensuring that the value chain factors which affect coffee prices at the farm level can be improved?

Yes ( ) No ( )

Please explain your answer

5.What role do you think the existing cooperative societies and Sacco's in the coffee sector should do in order to improve on the value chain factors which affects coffee prices at the farm level in Kenya and Uganda?

6.In your view, are there any challenges you foresee that may negatively affect value chain factors which affects coffee prices at the farm level

Yes ( ) No( )

Please explain your answer

7.Given your answer and explanations, on (6) above, kindly suggest on what needs need to be done in order to improve the value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level

8.Is there any contribution that the East African Community has made in improving the value chain factors affecting coffee prices at the farm level which you know off?

Yes (   )   No (   )

Please explain your answer

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!!!!!!