



UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES "KING MIHAI I" FROM TIMISOARA

"YOUNG PEOPLE AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN APPLIED LIFE SCIENCES"



"Young people and multidisciplinary research in applied life sciences"

21-22 November 2024

PARTICULARITIES OF KENYAN AGRICULTURE IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

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Abstract: Agricultural practices in Kenya are profoundly influenced by a myriad of factors, including climate, geography, and socio-cultural dynamics, which collectively render the sector both vibrant and complex. The interplay of these elements shapes not only the livelihoods of countless individuals but also the nation's economy at large. The agricultural sector is a cornerstone of Kenyan society, contributing significantly to both employment and GDP, while its unique challenges—ranging from climate variability to market access—underscore the necessity of adaptive strategies that enhance resilience. Moreover, as global agricultural trends evolve, understanding the particularities of Kenyan agriculture in a global context becomes imperative. This examination will not only illuminate the distinct characteristics inherent to Kenyan farming systems but will also highlight the crucial role that local practices must play in global discussions regarding sustainable development and food security. Thus, a comprehensive exploration of these themes is essential for appreciating the intricate tapestry of Kenyan agriculture.

Introduction

Agriculture in Kenya represents a vital sector that not only sustains the livelihoods of a substantial portion of its population but also contributes significantly to the national economy. Comprising approximately 33% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employing over 40% of the workforce, agricultural activities range from subsistence farming to commercial agribusiness, reflecting both the historical reliance on traditional practices and the growing trends towards modernisation and diversification. The distinct climatic zones across the country allow for the cultivation of a variety of crops, including coffee, tea, horticultural exports, and staple foods like maize and beans, making Kenya a key player in both regional and international markets (Christopher B. Barrett et al.). Furthermore, the sector's significance extends beyond economic metrics, as it plays a crucial role in ensuring food security and fostering rural development, addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change, population growth, and global food demands.



Material and method

As a student at the Faculty of Agriculture here, in Romania, coming from Kenya, knowing the agriculture there and all the methods, I used the comparative method and also the analysis one, because I know the system there and now I am aware of several differences between it and the rest of the world, studying for more than one year here, in Romania. In the context of this research essay, form the first official monitor of Kenya, for crops, for example, a thorough exploration of Kenyan agriculture's unique characteristics will serve as a critical lens through which to examine its positioning within the global agricultural landscape. The investigation primarily aims to elucidate the multifaceted factors that shape agricultural practices in Kenya, such as climate variability, socio-economic dynamics, and governmental policies. By dissecting these elements, the essay seeks to highlight not only the inherent challenges faced by Kenyan farmers but also the innovative strategies they employ to adapt and thrive in an increasingly competitive global market. Furthermore, the study endeavours to place Kenyan agriculture within broader discussions of food security, sustainability, and economic development, thus underscoring its significance on both a regional and international scale. Ultimately, the research anticipates contributing to a more nuanced understanding of agricultural practices in Kenya, prompting policymakers and stakeholders to reevaluate existing frameworks and support systems.

Results and discussions

Kenya's agricultural landscape is increasingly shaped by the demands of global markets, with export crops playing a pivotal role in driving economic growth and enhancing livelihoods. Among these crops, tea, coffee, and horticultural products, such as flowers and vegetables, stand out as significant contributors to both local income and national export revenues. The cultivation of these crops not only supports thousands of smallholder farmers but also fosters job creation in ancillary sectors, including transport and processing. Moreover, Kenya's strategic positioning within major trade networks has enabled the country to tap into lucrative markets in Europe and North America, thus reinforcing its status as a vital player in international agriculture (Andreas Gemählich). Consequently, the emphasis on export crops not only accentuates their importance in Kenya's economy but also highlights the interdependence of local agricultural practices and global market trends.



Conclusions

In synthesising the complex dynamics of Kenyan agriculture, it becomes evident that this sector operates at the nexus of local practices and global imperatives. The interplay of traditional methods with modern agricultural techniques underlines the resilience of Kenyan farmers in adapting to challenges posed by climate change and market fluctuations. Furthermore, the integration of technology in agricultural processes not only enhances productivity but also opens up avenues for international trade, thereby securing a vital role for Kenya in global supply chains. However, the sustainability of this agricultural framework remains contingent upon addressing socio-economic disparities and environmental concerns. Ultimately, a holistic approach is required, one that balances economic growth with ecological stewardship, ensuring that Kenya's agricultural sector not only thrives in the global context but also uplifts local communities and preserves the rich biodiversity that characterises the nation.

