Irregular Migration and Agricultural Production among Smallholder Farmers in Kasulu District, Tanzania

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1. INTRODUCTION

▪Tanzania borders eight surrounding states, all of which have at one point or the other experienced conflicts producing both refuges and irregular immigrants (IRMs)

▪Flow of IRMs has been easy due to Tanzania's border being highly porous and a high degree of cultural affinity within the Great Lakes region.

▪Irregular migration in Tanzania is a major concern for the government, local communities and the IRMs.

▪Generally, some of the IRMs have established their own homes, own or rent land, and are involved in farming as casual labourers, livestock keepers. Others are married to Tanzanians without legal documents that allow them to engage in the above-mentioned activities

2. OBJECTIVES

i.   to determine the driving factors of irregular migration,

ii. to compare agricultural related benefits among smallholder farmers,

iii. to identify factors affecting both IRMs and smallholder farmer interaction, and

iv. to assess smallholder farmers attitude towards irregular migrants.

3. METHODOLOGY

▪ A cross-sectional research design was adopted for the study in which simple random sampling, purposive and snowball sampling techniques were employed to select 120 respondents.

▪ Data were collected using;
- ▪ questionnaire survey,
- ▪key informant interviews,
- ▪focus group discussions (FGDs),
- ▪direct observation,
- ▪desk reviewing of secondary sources and tape recording.

▪Quantitative data were analysed using statistical package for social science (SPSS). In addition, gross margin analysis was determined for maize and beans.

▪ Qualitative data were analysed using content analysis

4. RESULTS

According to the household survey and focus group discussions the major driving forces for irregular migration were, land scarcity in their country of origin, incentives given by smallholder farmers in Kasulu and employment prospects as agricultural labourers as shown in Figure 1.
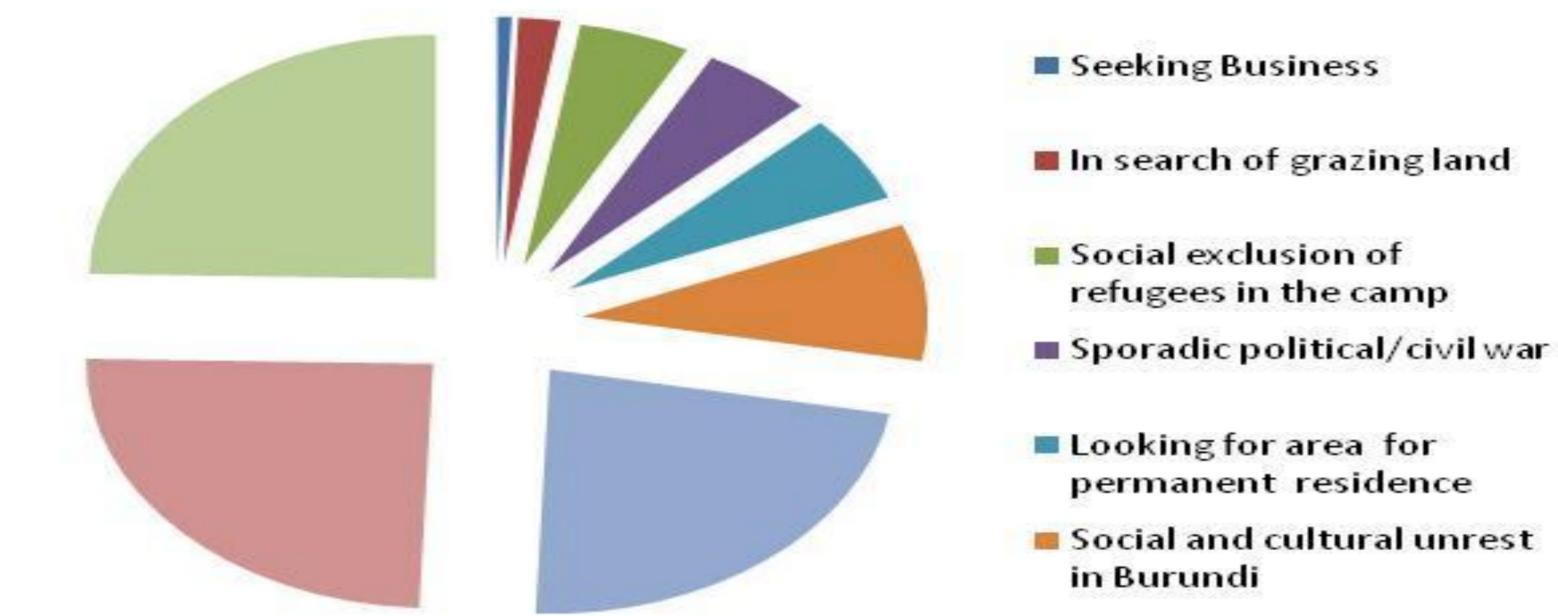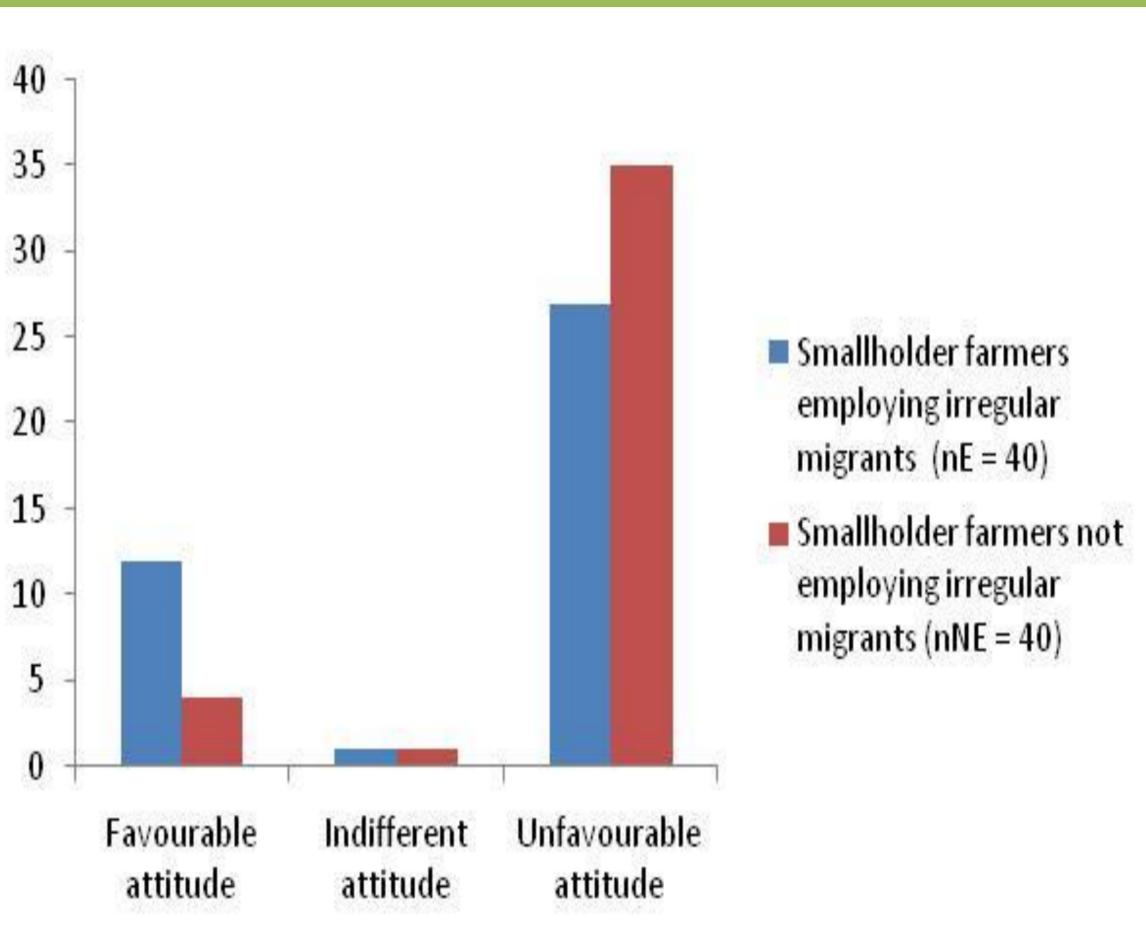

Figure 1: Main Farming Systems (n=506)

▪ According to results in Table 1, smallholder farmers employing IRM had a higher gross margin of 926 925 Tanzanian shillings (Tsh) for maize compared to 289,200 Tsh for those not employing IRMs.

▪ The results also show that the gross margin (924,375 Tsh) for smallholder farmers employing IRMs was higher than the 223,170 Tsh for those not employing IRMs.

Table 1: Profitability of household's crop production based on employment or non employment of IRMs (n=80)

Crop		Smallholder farmers employing IRMs ($n_E = 40$)		Smallholder farmers not employing IRMs ($n_{NE} = 40$)	
		Mean	Range	Mean	Range
Maize	Yield (Kg/ha)	3,238.50	1,000 - 5500	1,266.75	600-2,100
	Total cost (Tsh)	383,975	30,000 - 700,000	217,000	120,000 - 350,000
	Total revenue (Tsh)	1,310,900	400,000 - 2,200,000	506,200	240,000 - 840,000
	Gross margin (Tsh)	926,925	166,000 - 157,5000	289,200	40,000 - 610,000
Beans	Yield (Kg/ha)	1,937.5	600 - 4,000	636.75	100 - 1,200
	Total cost (Tsh)	238,125	100,000 - 520,000	158,700	20,000 - 290,000
	Total revenue (Tsh)	1,162,500	360,000 - 2,400,000	381,870	60,000 -720,000
	Gross margin (Tsh)	924,375	240,000 - 2,010,000	223,170	20,000 -500,000

▪Generally, results in Figure 2 show that the attitude of both the smallholder farmers employing IRMs and those not was rather negative.

▪ Reasons for the above included, accusations of theft (crops and cattle), destruction of crops such as maize, beans and cassava, grazing livestock on their farms and environmental degradation due to logging activities and charcoal making.

Figure 2: Main Farming Systems (n=506)

Problems arising due to interaction of local communities and IRMs

The major problems reported by more than half of the respondents were; theft and robbery committed by IRMs (77.5%), lack of grants/financial assistance (70%), farmers becoming lazy (70%) and lack of technical (65%). Other less mentioned ones were reduced labour market for locals and frequent arrests/detention of IRMs.

5. CONCLUSION

▪While results presented show a general negative attitude towards IRMs those employing them generally record a higher gross margins for both maize and been production.

▪Nonetheless, due to the negative attitude by most of the surveyed households, there is need for the relevant authorities to ensure the well-being of both the recipient communities and of the IRMs .

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