

ABSTRACT

Economic gain and social acceptance can be the reasons for organising. However, the organisational level in rural areas is unsatisfactory, but farmers are known to be unwilling to address this issue. However, the perception of organising farmers should be known in order to understand why farmers are not organised. Hence, this study set to determine the perception of farmers on services provided by Farmer Based Organisations in promoting pigeon pea enterprise in Mulanje District, Malawi, using a sample of 200 members and 200 non-members of Farmer Based Organisations in Mulanje District, Malawi. The data was collected and analysed using a semi-structured questionnaire, descriptive and inferential statistics for the Likert scale on perceptions. Farmers that were members of Farmer Based Organisations were found to be older, more educated and travelled longer distances to markets as compared to farmers that were not members. On perception towards agribusiness service delivery, farmers agreed Farmer Based Organisations help in improving access to production, marketing, advisory and financial services that are required to promote the pigeon pea enterprise. However, the study results indicate that there is great disparity in perceptions of farmers on services provided by Farmer Based Organisations in promoting pigeon pea enterprise in Mulanje district between members and non-members. In this regard, there is need to improve delivery of agribusiness development services to enhance collective action among pigeon peas farmers in Malawi. Therefore, policy makers need to provide more capacity building initiatives to promote good governance and awareness on the importance of Farmer Based Organisations in agribusiness services delivery to farmers for agricultural development in Malawi.