

ABSTRACT

In Kenya, over the past four decades there has been inadequate access to agricultural land and a decline in the average farm sizes leading to over sub-division of land into uneconomic units and low productivity. Agricultural land use practices such as cultivation of crops and rearing of livestock influences food security at household level. For example, most high agricultural potential regions in Kenya such as Bureti have exceeded their population density and have been associated with sharp decline in farm productivity, total household income and asset wealth. The study focused on changes on household agricultural land use practises between 2005 and 2015 in Bureti Sub-county. To achieve the objectives, the study used mixed research design that involved qualitative and quantitative approaches. Multi-stage sampling was used to identify respondents in the study area. The main research instruments were questionnaires for households and key informants. The results from the study show that there was an increase in household farming activities for food crop (13.8%), mixed farming (3.6%) and cash crops cultivation (1%) while livestock reduced by 5.4% between 2006 and 2015. Further, there was an increased household land for food crop (51.4%) and cash crops cultivation (52.8%). The study recommends that there should be intensive household mixed farming, more agricultural extension services and formulation of policies favouring small scale farming.

Keywords: Household, Agricultural land use, Recent changes