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Trend analysis of coffee production and productivity in Tanzania

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Introduction:

Tanzania produced 81,365 MT of coffee in 2023/24, exporting 75,669 MT for an annual value of USD 378 million[1]. Global demand for coffee is growing by 2.2% and the top producers being Brazil (38%), Vietnam (17%), Colombia (7%), Indonesia (6%) and Ethiopia (5%) while Tanzania contributing less than 1%. The country's coffee sector is supported by several policies, such as the Tanzania Agenda 10/30, Vision 2025, ASDP II, and various coffee industry regulations[2]. The study mentioned aimed to evaluate the impact of these interventions on coffee production and productivity.

Figure 1: Data collection from smallholder farmers

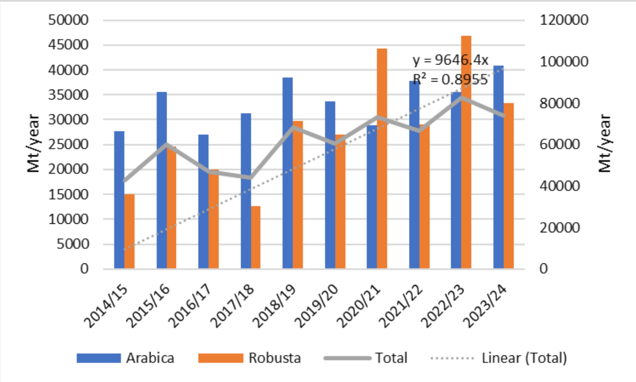

Figure 2: Trend of coffee production. Source TCB (2025)

Materials/Methods

The study used time series data from 2015/16 to 2024/25 obtained from Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB). Primary data were collected from 184 smallholder farmers in Mbinga, Mbozi and Mbeya districts using semi-structured questionnaire, personal observations (Fig.1), focus group discussion and interview with key informants. The primary data focused on key interventions such, farm characteristics, farm management (pruning, canopy management, pests and disease control, weeding, soil moisture conservation), use of improved varieties, farm rehabilitation, post-harvest handling practices, access to extension services, and coffee marketing. The primary data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency and percentage). The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), version 22.0 and Stata were used in data analysis.

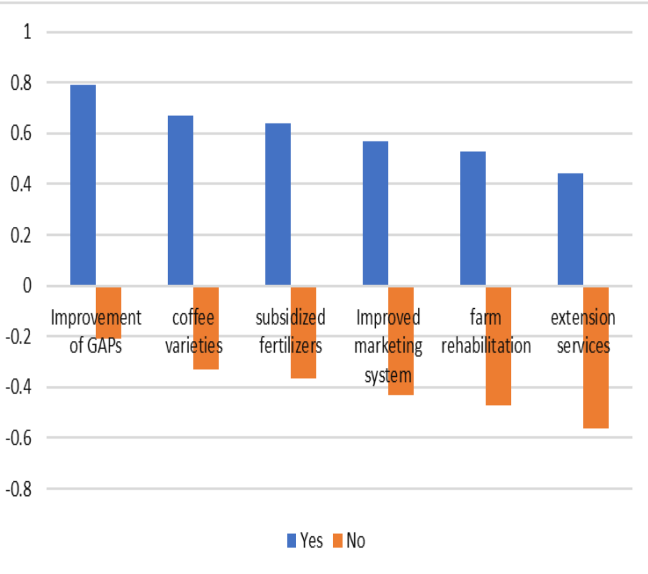

Figure 3: Factor influence coffee productivity

Results/Discussion:

The coffee sector has shown substantial progress over the last decade (Fig.2), with average production increasing by 37% from 59,318 metric tons (MT) in 2015/16 to 81,365 MT in 2024/25. The linear trend line $y=9646.4x$, $R^2=0.8955$ indicates a consistent and strong upward trajectory in production. This growth is paralleled by a significant rise in productivity, which has doubled from 0.23 MT per hectare to 0.46 MT/Ha over the same period. This expansion was driven by a combination of government strategies and on-the-ground interventions (Fig.3) such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) cited by 79% of respondents, Other key drivers include the adoption of new, higher-yielding coffee varieties (67%), the provision of subsidized fertilizers (64%), enhancements to the marketing system (57%), targeted efforts in farm rehabilitation (53%) and better extension services (44%).

Conclusion/Perspectives

The data clearly indicates a positive and notable trend in coffee production and productivity, driven by a combination of strategic interventions stipulated in policies and strategies. Future growth will depend on scaling these successful interventions to further address obstacles like inadequate input use, continued enhancement of marketing systems, and broader access to extension services.

References:

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