

**DETERMINANTS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL  
PROJECTS IN TANZANIA: A CASE OF MALI-MBICHI MVIWATA  
SUPPORTED PROJECT IN MOROGORO DISTRICT**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN PROJECT  
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AGRICULTURE. MOROGORO, TANZANIA.**

## ABSTRACT

The study's main aim was to determine community participation in Mali-mbichi MVIWATA supported project in Morogoro District. The specific objectives of the study were to assess interventions done by MVIWATA in Mali-mbichi project, to assess community participation in Mali-mbichi project cycle and to determine factors affecting community participation in Mali-mbichi project. The study was conducted in two villages (Tandai and Kalundwa) in Kinole ward as the sole beneficiaries of the project. A cross-sectional research design was adopted whereby data was collected using a questionnaire from 120 beneficiaries of Mali-mbichi project. Moreover, there were 13 FGDs participants and 5 Key informants. The analysis of quantitative data was done using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) while content analysis was used to analyse qualitative data. It was found that Mali-mbichi members were well participated in interventions of the project. However, there were some factors affecting their participation such as lack of economic support, restrictions of husbands to wives, personal commitments, poor community leadership, conflict of interest, time consuming during implementation which led most of members not being able to participate fully during the project implementation. Moreover, inferential analysis indicated that all six identified factors have a significant statistical ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) with participation in the project. Among these six variables only five (lack of economic support, restrictions of husbands to wives, personal commitments, poor community leadership and time consuming) were found to contribute negatively to community participation in the project, and one variable (conflict of interest) was found to have positive influence. It is concluded that, in Mali-mbichi project there is good participation with poor impact on the result of participation. Therefore, it is recommended that MVIWATA and other NGOs should not only focus on participation but also consider the impact of their participation on whether members really benefit from participating in the project or not.

**DECLARATION**

I, MENNAS PETER KICHELERI, do hereby declare to the Senate of Sokoine University of Agriculture that this dissertation is my own original work done within the period of registration and that it has neither been submitted nor being concurrently submitted for a degree award in any other academic institution.

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Mennas Peter Kicheleri  
(MAPME Candidate)

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Date

The above declaration is confirmed by;

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Dr. John V. Msinde  
(Supervisor)

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Date

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my beloved mother Lucy Mennas Mkoma who laid down the foundation of my better future, and all members of my family who are the source of inspiration. Dedication also is extended to my father Peter Joseph Kicheleri who was hand in hand with me spiritually, materially and ambitiously to see I accomplish my Masters' degree in Project Management and Evaluation.

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATION**

CBO	Community Based Organisation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FAO	Food Agricultural Organisation
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IRD	Integrated Rural Development Program
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MVIWATA	<i>Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania</i>
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programmes
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
VEO	Village Executive Officer
WDC	Ward Development Committee

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background Information

Community participation is one of the important approaches adopted in development. In development activities community participation is defined as the process by which individuals, families or communities assume responsibility for their own welfare and develop a capacity to contribute to their own communities; it is an active process whereby beneficiaries influence the direction and execution of development (Oakley, 1999; Sisto, *et al.*, 2018; Toledo, 2019). The approach is more effective when local people are actively participating in all stages of development. Reid (2001) points out that if people at the grassroots are deeply participating in the work of community development they achieve more results that develop in a more holistic and beneficial way. Participation of the community in development projects leads to capacity building which enables the community to be more effective and efficient in the process of identifying, implementing, monitoring and evaluating of developmental projects (Davids *et al.*, 2009; Nankoris and Gakuo, 2018; Sally and Rosemary, 2019).

Guimaraes (2009) has argued that decrease of community participation is a result of unsuccessful approaches such as top down approach to rural development and poverty reduction efforts that did not involve the community, including the poor, and as a result were often misdirected and ill-informed. Top-down approach has some weaknesses including lack of respect for community knowledge where by project planners have difficulty thinking that a community, without any background in research, can significantly contribute to the overcoming barriers to effective community based participatory planning processes (Butler, 2015). This mindset clearly separates NGOs

from communities (Lemkau *et al.*, 2000). Also it has been argued that many development planners have viewed community members as objects of research (Muhammad *et al.*, 2015). This detached attitude toward communities has contributed to community members' reluctance to participate in projects development (Casswel, 2000; Snijder *et al.*, 2015).

Traditionally, participation was viewed as active, passive or interactive (Mikkelsen, 2005). Active participation is open and community members take part actively in all stages of the project. Decision making as well as other vital activities, such as management as well as monitoring and evaluation of the projects, are done by the people (Yi *et al.*, 2018). On the other hand, during passive participation, the community maintains a distance and never intervenes in the activities; they are told what is going to happen or what has happened already (Aga *et al.*, 2018). Interactive participation is when people take part in joint analysis as well as the planning process and the members of the target community improve their existing structures as well taking charge of their development process (Roodt, 2001; Sisto *et al.*, 2018).

In Tanzania community participation is historical phenomenon, according to Marsland (2006) argued that Tanzania discourse on local people participation is rooted in African socialism and self-reliance as advocated by Mwalimu Nyerere soon after independence in 1961.

Among development sectors that involve community participation is agricultural sector that is funded by NGOs, it should be noted that agriculture is the backbone of the Tanzanian economy. It is the major employer of the people, contributing about 24.7% to the Gross Domestic Product and brings about 74% of the country's total foreign exchange



earnings. Furthermore, food crop production in the country supports a population of more than 45 million of Tanzanians (NBS, 2012). To bring about rapid agricultural growth, the country has, since independence in 1961, embarked on various projects and programmes in agricultural development. However, despite government's investments and donor support in agricultural development projects, the agricultural sector has not shown significant improvement due to lack of participation between NGOs involved in agricultural projects and farmers.

Among NGOs dealing with agricultural activities is MVIWATA located in Morogoro municipality, which stands for *Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania*, as a national farmers organization which brings together smallholders farmers from all regions of Tanzania in order to have a common voice to defend economic, social, cultural and political interests of smallholder farmers. Founded in 1993, MVIWATA aspires to empower smallholder economically and socially farmers through capacity building and undertake lobbying and advocacy especially by strengthening their groups and networks, facilitating communication and learning so that they are capable of defending their interests (Nyamsande *et al.*, 2018).

MVIWATA has implemented the project named Mali-mbichi project from 2014 - 2018. It was a project working on promotion and development of spices and vegetable farming at Kinole ward, Mgeta and Matombo in Morogoro District. MVIWATA has devoted to work in developing and training farmers groups and producers associations, spices and vegetables productivity and facilitate markets linkage (MVIWATA, 2013).

Thus, the study was done to provide insights of the complex phenomenon of community participation by investigating its nature in agricultural projects developed by NGOs in

Morogoro district. The purpose of this study was to determine the community participation in Mali-mbichi project which is funded by MVIWATA in Morogoro district in order to understand how community participation has been incorporated in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Mali-mbichi project.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

A number of rural agricultural development projects including Mali-mbichi that have been facilitated by MVIWATA, a supporting NGO, have been implemented in Morogoro district with the aim of improving the livelihoods of the communities. Dagron (2002) explains that the nature of projects is usually decided without any form of dialogue with the community hence this entails little or no participation. When meetings are held at the communities, few people may attend these meetings because they are not given the opportunity to participate in the projects and let alone voice out their concerns about the projects being implemented. According to Israel *et al.* (2013), community involvement has been recognized as an essential component in the development process of the society since it increases the likelihood that the project will be conducted in a culturally appropriate context making the resulting program easily sustainable and reproducible.

In relation to the study, there are limited studies regarding the effectiveness of the approaches used by MVIWATA in addressing member's participation and the needs of local communities especially in Mali-mbichi project. In Mali-mbichi project community participation was not clearly studied specifically in integrating community with project development. This scenario creates a gap between MVIWATA as supportive NGO and target communities. Subsequently, MVIWATA side-line the development plans of the communities, and fails to value the opinions or the needs of the targeted people. Consequently, the communities do not fully participate, as they have no sense of ownership and control of the projects. Lack of community participation is a major

hindrance in promoting participatory development especially in Mali-mbichi project developed and supported by MVIWATA in Morogoro District.

Therefore, the study aimed to bridge the existing knowledge gap by bringing empirical evidences to serve as the platform for recommendation to different development stakeholders, including NGOs to ensure effective participation of communities to development projects in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their agricultural projects. There was a need of finding more information on community participation. Thus, this study was conducted for the aim of finding more information to fill the existing gap of knowledge on community participation in agricultural projects undertaken by MVIWATA, specifically on Mali-mbichi project.

### **1.3 Justification of the Study**

Community participation is a raising concern in agricultural development projects in developing countries (Aga *et al.*, 2018). According to literature, community participation must be involved in various stages of project cycle (Barakabitze *et al.*, 2017; Di Maddaloni and Davis, 2018; Temba, 2015). Community participation in project is very important as it determines the performance and sustainability of any project (Madon *et al.*, 2018; Aga *et al.*, 2018). Since it is important to include community participation in projects, it is also important to assess if that participation is well included in projects.

In agricultural development projects, participation has been considered but little is known about how it has been integrated in different projects. Therefore, there was a motivation of conducting a study to know how participation has been included in agricultural projects. Because of that motivation, this study was done to fill existing knowledge gap by bringing the empirical evidences to serve as the platform for recommendation to

different development stakeholders, agricultural NGOs including MVIWATA to ensure effective participation of communities to development projects in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their agricultural projects.

This study intends not only raising awareness to the rural communities on the importance of their views and decisions, but also could enable policy makers, development practitioners, agricultural NGOs and other stakeholders to review and transform their approaches to best suit and accommodate the voices of the communities especially in agricultural projects. The findings has potential contribution to increase the knowledge of participatory approaches both at the community level in non-governmental organizations and other development stakeholders in managing community-based projects. This will contribute to attainment of the Tanzania Development Vision (2025) which emphasize on transforming from a low productivity agricultural economy to a semi-industrialized one led by modernized and highly productive agricultural activities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) especially Goal number one which intended to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (SDGS, 2015).

## **1.4 Objectives**

### **1.4.1 General objective**

The general objective of this study was to determine community participation in Mali-mbichi MVIWATA supported project in Morogoro District.

### **1.4.2 Specific objectives**

Specifically the study aimed:

- i. To assess interventions done by MVIWATA in Mali-mbichi project;
- ii. To assess community participation in Mali-mbichi project cycle; and

- iii. To determine factors affecting community participation in Mali-mbichi project supported by MVIWATA.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following research questions:

- i. What are the interventions done by MVIWATA through Mali-mbichi project?
- ii. To what extent do community members participate in Mali-mbichi project initiated by MVIWATA?
- iii. What are the factors that determine community participation in Mali-mbichi project by MVIWATA?

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Definition of Key Concepts

##### 2.1.1 Community

The term “community” has been used by many writers especially on issues related to community participation. Though writers define it differently, still they retain the common meaning. Community is defined as a group of people with common interests, who are capable of taking collective decision and action for their common goal (Doe and Khan, 2004; Hoe *et al.*, 2018). According to Mvena (2008), community refers to individuals of the same origin, living in the same area or people with the same occupation that shares characteristic such as culture, language, tradition, law, geography, class, and race. In relation to the study, meaning that community has mixer of different origin in which people from different places may live in one geographical location establishing as a community.

##### 2.1.2 Community Participation

Community participation has also been defined by Nkonjera (2008) as an active process by which beneficiaries or client groups influence the direction and execution of a development project with a view of enhancing their well-being in terms of income, personal growth, and self-reliance over values they cherish.

Also community participation as a process of equitable and active involvement of all stakeholders in the formulation of development policies and strategies and in analysis, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development activities (Yahaya *et al.*, 2018). To allow for a more equitable development process, disadvantaged

stakeholders need to be empowered so as to increase their level of knowledge, influence and control over their own livelihoods, including development initiatives affecting them. Furthermore, (Jakariya, 2000; Bahiru, 2018) defines community participation as a central goal in any form of development activities. It generally denotes the involvement of a significant number of people in situations or actions that enhance their well-being, time, security or self-esteem.

In this study, community participation is referred to as the act of sharing in the activities of a group, that is taking part in contribution, partnership, involvement, assistance in community's development projects.

### **2.1.3 The concept of participation**

Participation is a social process whereby specific groups with shared needs and living in a defined geographic area actively pursue identification of their needs, take decisions and establish a mechanism of meeting these needs (Ong'ayo *et al.*, 2019; Freedman, 2009). According to Naika and Siddaramaiah (2006), participation includes management of skills, mobilization of community members, conflict resolution and institution building among extension personnel. People's participation increases the actual benefits to beneficiaries; it decreases people's dependence on government support and makes the public self-sustaining; it facilitates mobilization of local resources and simplifies implementation of the project at a micro level. According Hammock (2019), in rural development, people's participation in community projects varies widely; in most cases, women, men and farmers from different social- economic status do participate in different ways at different moments. In practice, there is no common agreement on what participation entails. For example, participation may be viewed as people's contribution of their labour and time to the implementation of a project. One major aspect of

ineffective farmer's participation and hence project failure is lack of a sense of ownership amongst the target beneficiaries (FAO, 2010). It can be virtually used by different authors to serve individual needs.

In this respect Carry and Lee (2007) have identified the following meanings to participation:-

- (i) *Passive participation* whereby people participate by being told what is going to happen or has already happened. It is a unilateral announcement by an administrator or project management without listening to people's responses. The information being shared belongs only to external professionals.
- (ii) *Participation in information giving* whereby people participate by answering questions passed by extractive researchers using questionnaires, surveys or similar approaches. People do not have the opportunity to influence proceedings, as the findings of the research are neither shared nor checked for accuracy.
- (iii) *Participation by consultation* whereby people participate by being consulted, and external people listen to their views. These external professionals define both problems and solutions, and may modify these in the light of people's responses. Such a consultative process does not concede any share in decision-making and professionals are under obligation to take on board people views;
- (iv) *Participation for material incentives* whereby people participate by providing resources, for example, labour in return for food, cash or other material incentives. Much of farm researches fall in this category as farmers provide the field but are not in the experimentation or the process of learning. It is very common to see this called participation, yet people have no stake in prolonging activities when the incentives end;



- (v) *Functional participation* whereby participation is seen as a means to achieve project goals, especially reduce costs. Their involvement may be interactive, but the major decisions tend to be made in advance by external agents;
- (vi) *Interactive participation* whereby people participate in joint analysis, development of action plans using local institutions. Participation is seen as their right (Joe, 2007). As people take control over local decisions and determine how available resources are used, so they have a stake in maintaining the structures or practices;
- (vii) *Self mobilization* whereby people participate by taking initiatives independent of external institutions to change systems. They develop contacts with external institutions for resources and technical advice they need, but retain control over how resources are used. Such self-initiated mobilization and collective action may or may not challenge existing inequitable distribution of wealth and power. These interpretations of participation outlined above have the weakness of being project oriented while others are a smoke screen to the community intended (Chambers, 1997). Listing information giving a passive participation denies the community the ability to decide, implement and responsibility. Community members become passive recipients of decisions made by others. Participation, therefore allows for more efficient use of the resources available to a project.
- (viii) *Secondary participation* increases the effectiveness of a project especially in rural areas. People see the project as theirs rather than something externally generated. Participation allows these people to have a voice in determining objectives, support project administration and make use of their local knowledge, skills and resources available. A major reason why many projects have not been effective in the past in achieving objectives is because local people were not involved.

These interpretations of participation outlined above have the weakness of being project oriented while others are a smoke screen to the community intended (Bartle, 2007). Interactive participation also promotes the spirit of self-reliance. Self-reliance refers to positive effects on rural people of participating in development projects (Cavet and Sloper, 2004). Participation helps to break the mentality of dependence that characteristics much development work and as a result promotes self-awareness and confidence causing rural people especially youths to examine their problems and to think positively about solutions (Sutton *et al.*, 2002). Participation is concerned with human development and increases people's sense of control over issues which affect their lives, helps them to learn to plan and implement their development activities. Another critical/crucial advantage of participation is the ability to increase sustainability of the project through awareness and possible ownership feelings (Oakley, 1999; Suleiman, 2018).

Watson (2018) cited three reasons on the need to promote community participation in projects: firstly, participation is assumed to lead to individual and community empowerment, as people gain skills in assessing needs, setting priorities and controlling their development; secondly, community involvement relies on the use of local knowledge, which offers complementary insight that should be considered alongside epidemiological approaches; and thirdly, participation fosters higher levels of motivation and enhances effectiveness of interventions.

In the context of this study, participation refers to the involvement of community members in various stages and activities, and in collaboration and interaction with external stakeholders. Indicators of participation include attendance to beneficiaries meetings, paying membership fees and annual subscription fees, active discussion, decision making, planning, implementation and evaluation of the project. This type of

participation will increase efficiency in the use of available resources. Participation can for example, help minimize misunderstanding or possible disagreements and thus time and energy, often spent by staffs explaining or convincing people of project benefits. Interactive participation is also cost effective since, if rural people are taking responsibility for a project less external resources will be required while highly paid professional staff will get tied down in the details of project administration.

#### **2.1.4 Levels of participation**

There are seven levels of participation as given by Pretty (1995) and Kumar (2005) namely; passive participation, participation in information giving, participation by consultation, participation for material incentives, functional participation, interactive participation and self-mobilization (Table 1).

Various writers and theorists of community participation provide some criteria to evaluate the level of people's participation in development projects (Mijnarends *et al.*, 2015; Checkoway *et al.*, 2003). Rowe and Frewer (2000) suggest two criteria to evaluate public participation process. The first criteria is *representativeness*, they recommend that people's participation must represent the sample of the affected population. *Independence* is another criterion; by independence simply mean that, people should participate in development process willingly without forces from external and not depend much from outsiders.

**Table 1: Levels and characteristics of participation**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
<b>1. Passive Participation</b>	People participate by being told what is going to happen or has already happened. It is a unilateral announcement by leaders or project management without listening to people's responses or even asking their opinion.
<b>2. Participation in Information Giving</b>	People participate by answering questions posed by extractive researchers using questionnaire surveys or similar approaches. People do not have opportunity to influence proceedings, as the findings of the research are neither shared nor checked for accuracy.
<b>3. Participation by Consultation</b>	People participate by being consulted, and external people listen to views. These external professionals define both problems and solutions, and may modify these in light of people's responses. Such a consultative process does not concede any share in decision-making, and professionals are under no obligation to take on board people's views.
<b>4. Participation for Material Incentives</b>	People participate by providing resources, for example labour, in return for food, cash or other material incentives. It is very common to see this called participation, yet people have no stake in prolonging activities when the incentives end.
<b>5. Functional Participation</b>	People participate by forming groups to meet predetermined objectives related to the project, which can involve the development or promotion of externally initiated social organization. Such involvement does not tend to occur at the early stages of project cycles or planning, but rather after major decisions have been made. These institutions tend to be dependent on external initiators and facilitators, but may become self-dependent.
<b>6. Interactive Participation</b>	People participate in joint analysis, which leads to action plans and the formation of new local institutions or the strengthening of existing ones. It tends to involve interdisciplinary methodologies that seek multiple perspectives and make use of systematic and structured learning processes. These groups take control over local decisions, and so people have a stake in maintaining structures or practices.
<b>7. Self-Mobilization</b>	People participate by taking initiatives independent of external institutions to change systems. They develop contacts with external institutions for resources and technical advice they need, but retain control over how resources are used. Such self-initiated mobilization and collective action may or may challenge existing inequitable distributions of wealth and power.

Source: Adapted from Pretty (1995) and Kumar (2005).

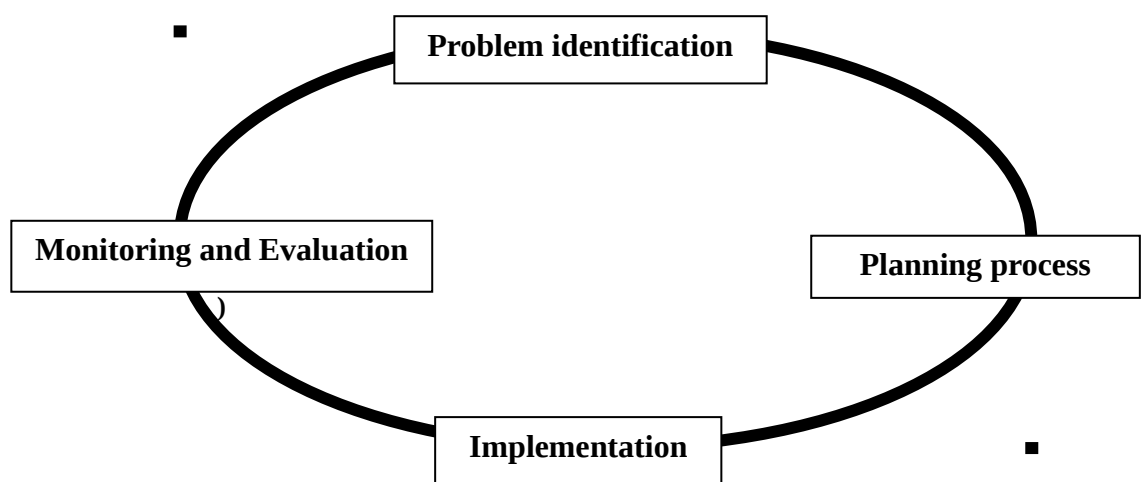
However, earlier involvement is recommended as people should be involved in development projects from early stages i.e. planning and design processes. Then, influencing people is required as people must have influence of the leaders during the planning and implementation. Finally, in implementing what is decided transparency is very important, that people must have information during planning and implementation phases, this will help them to know what is going on (Annie *et al.*, 2007).

### **2.1.5 Project**

A project is a series of activities (investments) that aim at solving particular problems within a given period and in a particular location (Kerzner, 2017). The investments include time, money, human and material resources. Before achieving the objectives, a project goes through several stages. Monitoring should take place at and be integrated into all stages of the project cycle. Basic stages of a projects is project planning (situation analysis, problem identification, definition of the goal, formulating strategies, designing a work plan, and budgeting); project implementation (mobilization, utilization and control of resources and project operation); and project evaluation (Bartle, 2007; Henjewele *et al.*, 2019). A project is a temporary endeavor, having a defined beginning and end (usually constrained by date, but can be by funding or deliverables), undertaken to meet unique goals and objectives, usually to bring about beneficial change or added value (Ireland, 2006). The temporary nature of projects stands in contrast to business as usual (or operations), which are repetitive, permanent or semi-permanent functional work to produce products or services. In practice, the management of these two systems is often found to be quite different, and as such requires the development of distinct technical skills and the adoption of separate management.

### 2.1.6 Project cycle

Project goes through certain process in order to deliver the product, service or the result for which the project is being undertaking. The cycle of a project is the series of phases or activities that the project passes through from the beginning to the end, which are usually sequential (Henjeweile *et al.*, 2019). This is the generic lifecycle of every project irrespective of size or complexity (PMI, 2013; Walker, 2015). As in Fig. 1, the initiation process which involves problem identification as it involves prioritizing problems that a community faces in order to establish a project by involving community members as a way of obtaining authorization to plan the project. Planning process as the establishment of the project scope, definition of the objectives, as well as the determination of the required actions that are needed to be taken to reach the objectives of the project. Implementation process involves all the activities that are performed to enable completion of the work defined in the planning stage. Monitoring and evaluation process involves the processes required to track, review, and regulate the progress and performance of the project; identify any areas in which changes to the plan are required; and initiate the corresponding changes (Bengesi *et al.*,2018).



**Figure 1: Project cycle**

**Source: (Bengesi *et al*, 2018)**

### **2.1.7 Agriculture**

Agriculture is broadly conceived as the set of activities that use land and other natural resources to produce food, fibre and animal products that can be for direct consumption (self consumption) or for sale, either as food or as input to the manufacturing industry (Cafiero, 2003; Yahaya *et al.*, 2018). Also agriculture is defined as that area of human activity involving all aspects of crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry (URT, 2006a). CIDA (2003) defines agriculture as the entire system that links producers and consumers of food and non food agricultural products. This system incorporates dimensions such as the production, storage, processing, trade and use of these products, the natural resource base and the policy and regulatory environment that supports the system.

Agriculture in Tanzania accounts for 25% of the GDP with the recent average growth rate of 4.8%, 60% of export earnings, and 82% of peoples' livelihoods. Constraints to rural growth are largely those of agriculture, and include low productivity, lack of inputs, limited irrigation, lack of capital and access to credit, inadequate extension services, poor rural infrastructure, pests and diseases and land degradation (URT, 2005; 2010).

Agriculture remains the largest sector in the economy and hence its performance has a significant effect on output and corresponding income and poverty levels. The sector accounting for about half of GDP up to 2005, and exports and its importance are amplified through backward and forward linkage effects (URT, 2006b).

In relation to the study, the importance of agricultural sector in the national economy cannot be overemphasized owing to its relationship between its performance and that of key economic indicators like GDP and employment. Since this relationship is there to stay

for some time to come, it justifies the argument that it is important for community to participate in agricultural projects such as Mali-mbichi project in order to improve living their living standards through given particular attention to increase production and productivity in the agricultural sector.

### **2.1.8 Agricultural project**

Agricultural project means the acquisition of stocks (including seeds or seedlings), and the preparation, planting, care and harvesting, whether on owned or leased real property, of crops for use as feedstock for any organization projects owned or intended to be acquired or developed by the company, together with any real or personal property necessary or appropriate for the administration thereof (World Bank, 2001).

In relation to the study agricultural project means a project relating to an activities relating to cultivation of crops as well as livestock keeping or aquaculture operations or capital improvements in farming. The agriculture project's objectives are to increase rural incomes and stimulate the rural economy through rural entrepreneurship.

### **2.1.9 Determinants**

Determinants are factors or a cause that makes something happen or leads directly to a decision. Understanding the factors that influence community participation in project is vital in developing a successful project.

### **2.1.10 Interventions**

Intervention refers to any interference that would modify a process or situation. In community work, interventions are intentionally implemented change strategies which



aim to impede or eradicate risk factors, activate and/or mobilize protective factors, reduce or eradicate harm, or introduce betterment beyond harm eradication (Sundell *et al.*, 2017).

#### **2.1.11 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)**

NGOs as “private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development (Wiarda, 2018).

There are many different types of NGOs and these include development organizations, religious groups and environmental agencies (Action Aid, 2003). These are seen as non-profit organizations that are always there to support both urban and rural communities with development or humanitarian aid. These organizations facilitate development projects and other programs in most rural areas, using different approaches to engage the local people in them. Participation is critical in that it ensures development projects are oriented to producing outcomes that meet the needs of the poor. These organizations exist as alternatives in being not “governmental” they constitute vehicles for people to participate in development and social change in ways that would not be possible through government programmes (Miltin *et al.*, 2005).

This study focused on MVIWATA as an NGO which stands for *Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima* Tanzania as a national farmers organization which brings together smallholders farmers from all regions of Tanzania in order to have a common voice to defend economic, social, cultural and political interests of smallholder farmers. Founded in 1993, MVIWATA aspires to empower smallholder economically and socially farmers through capacity building and undertake lobbying and advocacy especially by strengthening their groups and networks, facilitating communication and learning so that they are capable of defending their interests (Nyamsande *et al.*, 2018).

MVIWATA was founded by 22 innovative farmers from Dodoma, Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Morogoro, Tanga and Rukwa regions for the purpose of creating a farmer-to-farmer exchange forum as a means of enhancing communication among smallholder farmers. Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) through its Strengthening Communication Project (SUA-SCOM) guided the initial process in the formation of MVIWATA. Literally, MVIWATA is Swahili an acronym for the National Network of Small-Scale Farmers Groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA, 2013).

It was registered in 1995 under the Society Ordinance Act (Registration number SO 8612). In 2000 MVIWATA was registered as a Trust Fund under the Trustees Act of 1956. Following the introduction of the Non-governmental Act of 2002, MVIWATA received a compliance certificate in 2007. Under this Act, MVIWATA is a non-profit private organization. The national office of MVIWATA is situated in Morogoro town (MVIWATA, 2013)

MVIWATA works with small scale farmers (including all smallholder producers, whose livelihood depend on land such as pastoralists and fisher folks) in order to defend their interests and address together the challenges of farmers. MVIWATA has implemented the project named Mali-mbichi project. It was a project working on promotion and development of spices and vegetable farming at Kinole ward, Mgeta and Matombo in Morogoro Rural District. MVIWATA has devoted to work in developing and training farmers groups and producers associations, spices and vegetables productivity and facilitate markets linkage.

## **2.2 Empirical Works on Community Participation**

According to Kitetu (2006), the idea of using participatory planning in development projects seems to be well captured within the concept of farmer groups or community groups where rural people define and implement their own development projects.

Nabalarua (2002) and Ediriweera (2005) argued that participatory planning aims to empower local people in analyzing information about their livelihoods. It allows representation of the most marginalized groups (women and the poor) in sharing and formulating community objectives and plans, the course that enhances majority ownership and sustainability of the development projects (Rose, 2003; Brett, 2003 and Chambers, 2007). Bal *et al.* (2013) emphasize that failure of involving stakeholders in project development makes lack of ownership which lead to poor performance of the projects.

Despite being more effective in bringing stakeholders, participatory approaches are time consuming and too expensive as people must be engaged in all process. In relation to the study, Participatory planning, participatory monitoring and evaluation, and participatory analysis are the development methods being promoted in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There are good reasons for this emphasis on participation. Participation by project stakeholders, including beneficiaries, increases the odds that the project will meet local needs, will be culturally acceptable, will be able to mobilize adequate resources, and will be long-lived.

## **2.3 Factors Affecting Community Participation in Agricultural Development**

### **Projects**

There are many factors that may be seen as a hindrance to community participation. These factors include outcomes of NGOs approaches on community participation, socio-economic divisions and conflicts, effects of gender on community participation, education and information dissemination.

### **2.3.1 Outcomes of NGOs approaches on community participation**

One of the factors that affect community participation in development projects is the NGOs, and development facilitator's failure to realize the communities' potential. NGOs do not prioritize the needs of the local people. These organizations and development facilitators tend to make an impact on the donor and not the intended beneficiaries. Even though communities may participate, their contributions would be limited and minimal. Pretty (1995) argues that the dilemma for many development agencies is that they both need and fear community participation. They need people's agreements and support, but they also fear that this wider involvement is less controllable, less precise and so likely to slow down planning. Development agencies always show that they know every aspect of the current situation and they never assess the needs of the local people but just predict and implement (Ahmad *et al.*, 2011). NGOs have to shift the paradigms and have to see from the eyes of beneficiaries. Once they empathize with beneficiaries, they would know what exactly the local people want as part of their development projects.

### **2.3.2 Socio-economic classes and conflicts of interests**

Most rural communities have quite a number of people from different social and economic backgrounds. These people have different needs and interests. For example, what the poor people may deem necessary would not necessarily be an interest to the rich and elite people in the communities. A community project designed for the common good may in fact be divisive if it is seen as benefiting one section. There may be conflicts between individual and group interests (Ferron *et al.*, 2000). Hence, it is necessary in community participation that the designed project must benefit all members of a society.

### **2.3.3 Education**

According to URT (2000), education is the process or art of imparting knowledge, skills and judgment, either formally or informally. In this study, education is the process that helps community members to have the knowledge of solving problems and challenges which they face in the area of the project being implemented. That is, some rural people are not that literate and do not understand the importance of coming together as a community to participate in a project, thus it entails poor participation if there is no education concerning the importance of the proposed project.

### **2.3.4 Information dissemination**

Most rural people are not aware of the projects that are taking place in their communities due to the fact that most of them dwell in remote areas. People are not aware of a project in the community and are not informed about what it is about hence they are not bound to attend. This portrays that there has not been much information dissemination on the projects that are being implemented in most communities. It is essential for people to have access to information at all times concerning their community.

### **2.3.5 Gender biases on community participation**

Gender is a social construct that refers to relations between and among sexes, based on their relative roles. It encompasses the economic, political, and socio-cultural attributes, constraints, and opportunities associated with being a man or a woman. Though often confused with sex, which refers to universal biological characteristics that differentiate males and females, gender is socially constructed, is defined differently around the world, and changes over time. Although often used interchangeably, the terms women and gender are not the same (Manfre *et al.*, 2013).

Furthermore, gender refers to the set of socially constructed roles, behaviors, responsibilities and attributes a society considers appropriate for men and women (Ragasa *et al.*, 2011). Beside that the distribution of economic activity by type of employment is uneven indicating important gender gaps. Only 4% of employed women are in paid jobs, in either the formal or informal sector, compared with 9.8% of men and a scant 2% of Tanzania's business operating legally (Seebens, 2011).

Gender bias in participatory development projects may exist in the form of customs, beliefs, and attitudes that confine women to the domestic sphere: women's economic and domestic workloads that impose severe time burdens on them (World Bank, 2001). Oxfam (2001) argues that women are usually forgotten in development and they are treated as passive participants, women seem to have many tasks thrust upon them hence; their participation in development programs is limited. For example the rural water supply project in Tanzania showed that despite efforts to mobilize women to take an active part in all project activities, most women in the village water committee kept a low profile (Oakley, 1999).

#### **2.4 Theoretical Framework**

The study is anchored on the ladder of participation by Arnstein (1969), the theory was first explicated in the seminal theoretical work on the subject of community participation. The particular importance of Arnstein's work stems from the explicit recognition that there are different levels of participation, from manipulation or therapy of citizens, through to consultation, and to what we might now view as genuine participation, i.e. the levels of partnership and citizen. She stated that a number of factors, which comprises of power centers, processes issues, capacity, leadership, and attitudes of the participants influence participation in the community. However, there are criticisms of Arnstein's

Ladder of Citizen Participation. According to Collins and Ison (2006), Arnstein's ladder, with its focus on power, is insufficient for making sense of participation at a conceptual or practice level. Academics cite various limitations for Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation, such as the assumption that participation is hierarchical in nature with citizen control held up as the goal of participation an assumption that does not always align with participants 'own reasons for engaging in decision-making processes' (Collins & Ison, 2006). Additionally, the limitation that Arnstein herself cites, that each problem or decision is unique and can require different levels or types of participation that are not reflected in the broadness of the ladder. Under this theory, people are expected to be responsible for them and should, therefore, engage comprehensively in the decision-making processes particularly regarding the implementation of community projects.

This theory suits this study, as there are a number of factors that influenced community participation in the implementation of projects, which are related to the factors stipulated by Arnstein's theory of community participation.

## **2.5 Conceptual Framework**

A conceptual framework is a research tool intended to help a researcher to build up awareness and understanding of the situation under analysis and communicate. When clearly expressed, a conceptual framework has potential worth as a tool to help a researcher to construct meaning of subsequent findings (Tromp and Kombo, 2009). This study introduces the conceptual framework as described in Fig. 2 below;

By referring to the literature review of study, a researcher introduces the conceptual framework which illustrates the content and expected results of the study.

In the conceptual framework it is illustrated that community participation in the project is the product of the following independent variables.

With influence of demographic characteristics such as Age, Sex, Education level and occupation, interventions done by MVIWATA, community participation in project cycle and factors affecting community participation influence community participation in project.

Interventions done by the project; the conceptual framework illustrates that interventions done by the project particularly Mali-mbichi project by MVIWATA, may influence community to participate fully in the project. Community may be intervened with training on agricultural activities and provision of agricultural inputs, for the purpose of influencing them to participate in project Mali-mbichi project.

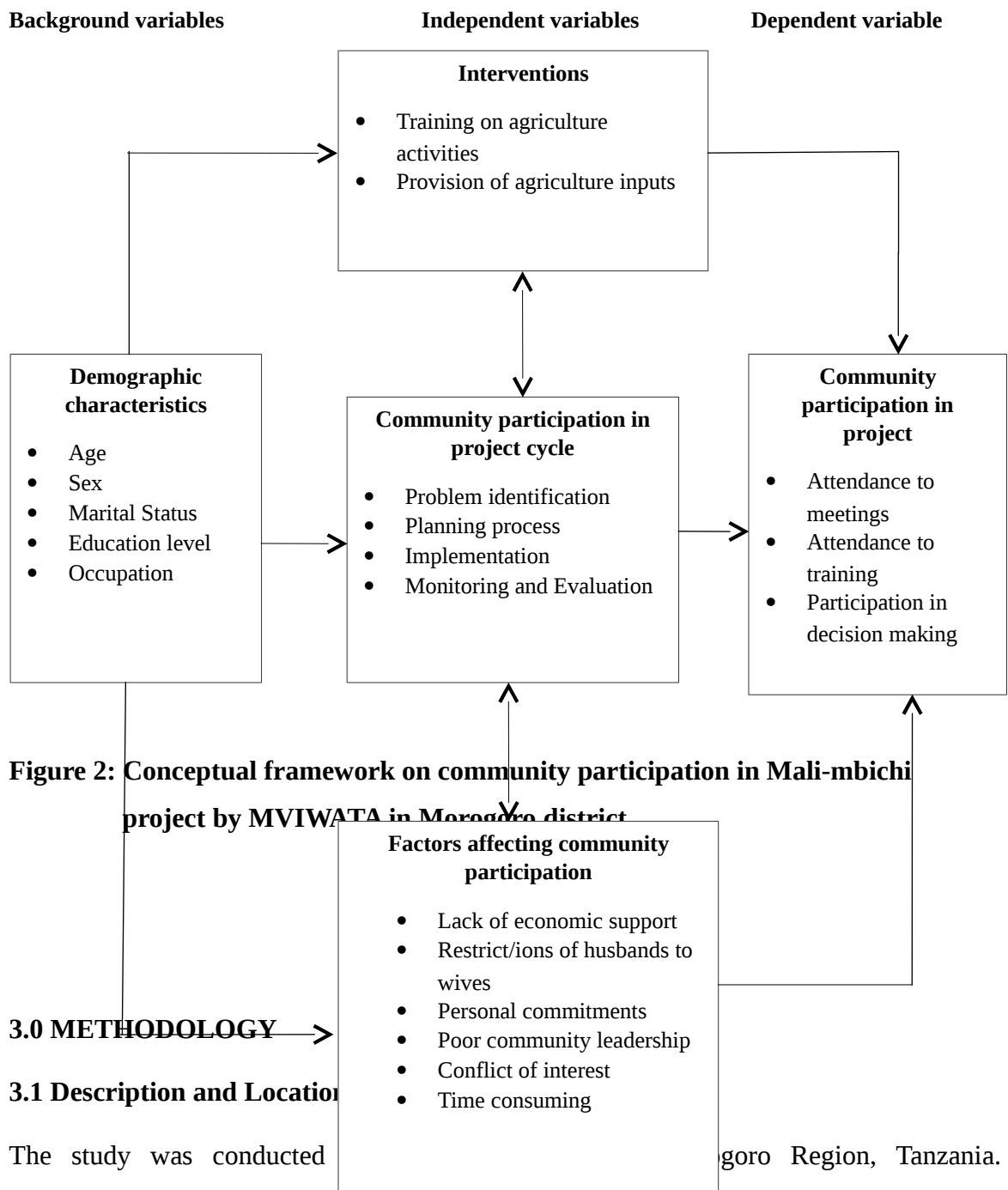
Community participation in project cycle; the conceptual framework also presumed that, involvement of community in project cycle may be among the factors for community participation in Mali-mbichi project. When communities get a chance to participate in project cycle i.e. problem identification, planning processes, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, they are also influenced to participate fully in the project i.e. Mali-mbichi project.

Factors affecting community participation; another determinant for community participation in Mali-mbichi project is factors affecting community participation. The conceptual framework indicates that, there are some factors which may act as obstacles for community to participate fully in Mali-mbichi project, these include; lack of economic



support, restrictions of husbands, personal commitments, poor community leadership, conflict of interest, and time consuming.

Finally, the conceptual framework shows indicators for effective community participation in Mali-mbichi project. These indicators include; attendance to meetings, attendance to training and participation in decision making.



**Figure 2: Conceptual framework on community participation in Mali-mbichi project by MVIWATA in Morogoro district**

latitudes 6° 54' 0" South of the Equator and between longitudes 37° 53' 59" East of the Greenwich Meridian. It is bordered to the North and East by the Pwani Region, to the South by Kilombero District, to the southwest by the Kilosa District and to the West by the Mvomero District and the Morogoro Urban District.

The study's interest was to determine community participation in Mali-mbichi project supported by MVIWATA. Therefore, MVIWATA as an agriculture-based organization was selected among other NGOs because of the experience in managing donor funded agricultural projects having existed for over 26 years. Thereafter, Mali-mbichi project, which was implemented from 2014 to 2018 selected from projects supported and implemented by MVIWATA organisation. MVIWATA support agriculture activities including training on new technologies, marketing and provisions of inputs such as manure to demo plots during implementation of Mali-mbichi project in Tandai and Kalundwa Villages in Kinole ward, which was the study area in which Mali-mbichi project was implemented in the production of spices and vegetables. The villages were purposefully selected because they were the sole villages that have accomplished the project implemented by MVIWATA.

### **3.2 Research Design**

The study used cross sectional research design (Creswell, 2003) whereby data were collected at one point in time. The design was employed due to its ability to collect data from a reasonably large population using fewer resources both in terms of money and time. Moreover, because of its ability to control large number of variables and its ability to study problem from multiple perspectives or using multiple concepts and theories (Cooper and Schindler, 2006; Saunders *et al.*, 2007; Spector, 2019).

### 3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

#### 3.4.1 Sample size

The sample size for this study was obtained using the formula proposed by Israel (2012) as follows;

Given that,

$$n = \frac{Z^2 \times pq}{e^2}$$

Where:

n= required sample size.

Z= confidence level at 95% (standard value of 1.96)

p= Estimated proportion of an attribute that is present in the population.

q= 1-p and

e= marginal of error at 5% (standard value of 0.05)

Therefore,

$$n = \frac{(1.96)^2 \times 0.1(1-0.1)}{0.05^2}$$

n= 138

Based on calculation, the sample size for this study supposed was 138 respondents. Saunders *et al.* (2007) emphasises that, a sampling intensity of 30 respondents is regarded to be a reasonable sample size usually used in social science study and statistically large enough to make scientific conclusion. Moreover, Matata *et al.* (2001) argued that having 80-120 respondents is adequate for social-economic studies in sub-Saharan African households.

However, the description of the sample size included 120 Mali-mbichi project beneficiaries for survey interview, 5 Key informants including 1 Project manager, 3 Village Executive Officers (VEOs), 1 extension officer and 13 focus group discussants divided in 2 groups of 6-8 discussants from two villages (Tandai and Kalundwa) were used.

### **3.4.2 Sampling procedure**

Based on availability of members, Purposive sampling was employed as the most appropriate non-probability sampling technique whereby; the extension officer, project staffs and project beneficiaries were purposively selected to collect more in-depth knowledge on the study objectives i.e 1 Project manager,3 Village Executive officers (VEOs),1 extension officer making a total of 5 Key informants. Purposive sampling was essential for the study because it allowed the researcher to find people/respondents who were willing to provide data/information by virtue of knowledge and experience (Bernard, 2002; Lewis and Sheppard, 2006). Furthermore, the procedure is used when a diverse sample is necessary or the opinion of experts in a particular field is the topic of interest (Martínez-Mesa *et al.*, 2016).

Snowball sampling was also used during the data collection to attain Mali-mbichi project beneficiaries of the study. This was because some of the beneficiaries had either moved to other places, died or have left the project. The questionnaires were asked on members who benefited from the project. With the method, the researcher was able to attain the required number of respondents.

### **3.5 Data Collection**

In the study, both qualitative and quantitative data were collected. In qualitative data, focus group discussion and in-depth interviews were used while in quantitative data a questionnaire was used.

#### **3.5.1 Techniques and instruments for data collection**

Data collection was done using three instruments which were; a structured questionnaire, a guide for Key informants (KIs) and a guide for Focus Group Discussion (FDG). These

instruments are attached in Appendices 1, 2, 3. These tools were particularly used to gather data on, interventions done by MVIWATA, the community participation in project and factors for participation of Mali-mbichi project members. A questionnaire was developed to collect quantitative information.

### **3.5.2 Focus group discussions**

Two (2) focused group discussions were held in two villages (one in each village Tandai and Kalundwa) which were composed 6 to 8 beneficiaries of Mali-mbichi project. Focused group discussions were done in order to capture qualitative information related to community participation as well as identifying factors influencing and factors affecting community participation.

### **3.5.3 Key informant interview**

This study involved key informant interview with 1 Project manager, 3 Village Executive officers (VEOs), 1 extension officer. The interview was done in order to capture information on contribution of community participation towards agricultural project especially on Mali-mbichi project.

### **3.5.4 Survey interview**

Quantitative data were collected using a structured questionnaire tool, whereby questionnaire was administered to beneficiaries of Mali-mbichi project. The questionnaire was used to obtain quantitative information on the interventions, challenges, factors and opportunities around community participation in Mali-mbichi project.

### **3.6 Data Processing and Analysis**

#### **3.6.1 Qualitative data analysis**

Qualitative information collected from KIIs and FGDs were summarized into themes. In this analysis technique, collected data were coded and the categories of codes were created. Thereafter, different themes from the coded categories were developed and used in analysis of participation of members of Mali-mbichi project and factors for their participation.

#### **3.6.2 Quantitative data analysis**

Quantitative data were sorted, coded, summarized and analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentages were used to determine, describe and present the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, interventions, participation of Mali-mbichi project beneficiaries and factors for their participation.

Furthermore, the multiple linear regressions were used to test the relationship between dependent and independent variables specifically for objective three. To make it clear, a test was established to find the statistical significant level between community participation (dependent variable) and factors affecting community participation (independent variables) i.e. lack economic support, restrictions of husbands to wives, personal commitment, poor community leadership, conflict of interest, and time consuming. As it is stipulated by Yin (2003) multiple linear regression analysis is a method designed to measure linear relationship between the dependent variable and two or more (multiple) independent variables or predictors. The regression model equation used is described below:

$$Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + \dots + b_nX_n$$

Where:

$Y$  = Dependent variable (community participation in Mali-mbichi project)

i.e. (0 = if not involved in activities identified in Table 1, 1 = if involved in activities identified in Table 1)

$X_s$  = Independent variables

$a$  =  $Y$  intercept, where the regression line crosses the  $Y$  axis

$b_1$  = the partial slope for  $X_1$  on  $Y$

$X_1$  = Lack of economic support (0 = No, 1 = Yes)

$X_2$  = Restrictions of husbands to wives (0 = No, 1 = Yes)

$X_3$  = Personal commitments (0 = No, 1 = Yes)

$X_4$  = Poor community leadership (0 = No, 1 = Yes)

$X_5$  = Conflict of interest (0 = No, 1 = Yes)

$X_6$  = Time consuming (0 = No, 1 = Yes)

### **3.7 Limitation of the Study**

One of the major limitations of the study was that, some respondents were not willing to provide information without knowing how the study will benefit them. Most of them became cooperative after the researcher's clarification of the study objectives.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter results and discussion are presented in line with specific research objectives. The study generally aimed to determine community participation in Mali-mbichi project by MVIWATA in Morogoro District. Specifically, it aimed to assess interventions done by MVIWATA in Mali-mbichi project, to assess community participation in Mali-mbichi project cycle and to determine factors for community participation in Mali-mbichi project initiated by MVIWATA. The chapter is divided into four sections as follows; the first section presents and discusses respondents' socio-economic and demographic characteristics. The second section presents interventions done by MVIWATA in Mali-mbichi project. The third section discusses community participation in Mali-mbichi project cycle. The last section presents factors for community participation in Mali-mbichi project.

#### 4.1 Respondents' Socio-economic and Demographic Characteristics

Socio-economic and demographic characteristics of respondents are important in research as they bring to light the sort of respondents who took part in the survey (Wang *et al.*, 2018). The respondents who were Mali-mbichi project beneficiaries provided some basic and personal information about themselves which was used to determine the influence of their participation in project. Socio-economic and demographic characteristics of respondents which were relevant to the study are presented on Table 2.

##### 4.1.1 Age of respondents

The age distribution of Mali-mbichi members varied between 18 to 61 years and above (Table 2). Majority (58.0%) of the respondents were within 18-28 age followed by



(32.0%) with 29-39 years, 25.5% were 40-50 years and 5.0% of respondents were 51-61 years. This depicts that most of the respondents were youths ranging between 18- 28 and 29-39 years who perhaps might have had a deeper insight of the projects because they are in the productive age. This is similar to the observation in the study done by Komba (2015) in which youth was the dominant age group mainly engaged in development project especially those with income generating activities such as agriculture.

#### **4.1.2 Sex of respondents**

From one hundred and twenty respondents who were interviewed as Mali-mbichi project beneficiaries, 47.5% of them were males and 52.5% were females (Table 2). This is also observed by Idris (2018), who explains that agriculture accounts for the largest share of employment in Tanzania where a greater proportion of women than men (69.9% versus 64.0%) work in agriculture. Thus, this study observed that there was greater percent of women participation in Mali-mbichi project as it was agricultural based project.

#### **4.1.3 Education level**

Education level of respondents was also examined. The study found that 67.5% of respondents had secondary education and above, 25.8% had primary education where few (6.7%) had informal education which is not deliberately organized to ensure learner's learning, the learner often does so unintentionally and normally takes place outside of the normal school, university or formal institution (Tudor, 2013) as shown in Table 2. This also testifies that majority of respondents were literate and therefore they could read and write. Therefore they were potentially trainable and could adopt technologies or run projects effectively. According to other studies (Bembridge, 1984; Literacy Foundation, 2019; Poussing, 2019) education is perceived as one of the factors, among others that influence individual's perception of a project before making decision of participation.

This study found that education level influenced the decision making process of an individual in relation to participation in community development projects. As quoted by one of the extension officer during key informant interview, “*education level of the respondents influences the ability to understand the message that being communicated especially in this particular project which involved training on modern farming which had a big effect on the performance of this project*”.

#### **4.1.4 Main occupation of respondents**

Respondents’ occupation may affect their participation. This subsection gives descriptive results of respondents’ occupation. The main occupation of the respondents was farming including spices and vegetables farming (65.0%) as indicated in Table 2. This means that majority of Mali-mbichi project members were farmers because it was agriculture based project. They participated in the project so that to improve their agricultural practices and productivity. Moreover, agriculture is the backbone for economic development among the organization members of MVIWATA (Khatib *et al.*, 2019). Apart from that, a great number (15.8%) of MVIWATA members were engaged in business as the project was dealing with marketing not only in production.

**Table 2: Social-demographic characteristics of the sample profile (n=120)**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Categories</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Age of respondents</b>	18-28	58	48.3
	29-39	32	26.7
	40-50	25	20.8
	51-61	5	4.2
<b>Sex of respondents</b>	Male	57	47.5
	Female	63	52.5
<b>Education level</b>	Primary	31	25.8
	Secondary and Above	81	67.5
	Informal Education	8	6.7
<b>Main occupation</b>	Farming	78	65.0
	Pastoralist	10	8.3
	Business	19	15.8
	Civil servant	7	5.8
	Others	6	5.0
<b>Marital status</b>	Single	57	47.5
	Married	54	45.0
	Divorced	3	2.5
	Widow/widower	6	5.0

#### **4.2 Interventions done by MVIWATA in Mali-mbichi project**

Mali-mbichi project involved mainly two interventions which were training on agriculture activities and provision of agricultural inputs. These interventions are discussed in detail as follows;

##### **4.2.1 Training on agricultural activities**

Training is a necessary step in development process. This is especially true for agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa, where agricultural productivity has been largely a back bone for economic development for many years (Leyaro and Joseph, 2019; Nakano *et al.*, 2013). This study found that 91.7% of Mali-mbichi project members received training on agriculture technology, training on modern agriculture practices and training on agriculture marketing during Mali-mbichi project implementation. This can

also mean that 91.7% of respondents participated in project implementation by receiving training. Types of training, methods as well as approaches and effectiveness of training are discussed below;

#### 4.2.1.1 Types of training

One of the roles of the project is to provide training. As presented on (Table 3), MVIWATA provided training during implementation of Mali-mbichi project where 28.3% of members received training on agriculture technology, 33.3% received training on modern agriculture practices and 29.2% received training on agriculture marketing. Similar result were observed in the study by Mwamakimbula (2014) where it shows that most of people are likely to participate in agricultural training because they can obtained knowledge and skills which they can apply in their activities.

**Table 3: Distribution of types of training**

<b>Types of Training</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Training on agriculture technology	34	28.3
Training on modern agriculture practices	40	33.3
Training on agriculture marketing	35	29.2

During training on agriculture technology aspects, farmers were trained on application of techniques to control growth and harvesting of spices and vegetables products. During training on modern agriculture practices farmers were trained on how to plant new seeds, proper use of manure and on good harvesting and storage of products. During training on agriculture marketing they were informed about value chain of spices and vegetables specifically on intermediary production, transformation, marketing and delivery to final consumers.

Moreover, results show that training as an intervention has an influence on participation than other interventions where for this study 91.7% of Mali-mbichi members participated in training intervention. These findings are in line with what has been reported by other studies including Joseph and Leyaro (2019); Mwamakimbula., (2014); Morales and Mongcopa (2008); Nakano *et al.* (2018); and Kimani and Kombo (2011) where training was reported to have an influence on community participation.

#### **4.2.1.2 Training methods and approaches employed by MVIWATA in engaging community members to participate**

The findings show that MVIWATA had different methods and approaches with the aim of increasing participation in training. Those methods and approaches are as presented on Table 4.

**Table 4: Training methods and approaches employed by MVIWATA**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Categories</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Training Methods used</b>	Farmer field school	42	35.0
	Workshops	22	18.3
	Field visit	35	29.2
	Mass media	10	8.3
<b>Approaches being employed</b>	MVIWATA members meeting	75	62.5
	Using influential people	26	21.7
	Through religious leaders	3	2.5
	Through broadcasting	15	12.5

35% of respondents received training from farmer field school. In farmer field school the project members was provided with practical training on modern agriculture practices like farm preparation planting, fertilizer application and harvesting. Respondents who were trained in workshops were 18.3%. In Workshops Mali-mbichi members attended seminars and shared insights and experience in agriculture issues. During field visits 29.2% of respondents participated, in field visits members were provided direct training and skills on specific problem arising in their farms. 8.3% of respondents received training through mass media. In mass media such as famers programs in radio, farmers were getting information on best seed varieties and best fertilizers as well as insecticides which they can use in their farms.

As for approaches, the study found that MVIWATA employed a number of different approaches on training including; members meeting (62.5%), using influential people (21.7%), using religious leaders (2.5%) and using broadcasting (12.5%). As shown on results (Table 4) the main approach used was members meetings. Members meetings were used as the main approach because it influenced participation of all members in training. Members met during farmer field school, workshops, field visit and other general

members meeting which were conducted every last Thursday of each month. Apart from meetings, MVIWATA used influential people and religious leaders to disseminate their information and to organize members. Moreover, MVIWATA used broadcasting as an approach of training in order to reach wide range of members where they used different radio agricultural programmes.

#### 4.2.1.3 Intention of training

The effectiveness of the training was judged based on its ability in creating awareness, improving farming practices and increasing agricultural outputs. Effectiveness of training is presented in Table 5.

**Table 5: Intention of trainings**

<b>Intention</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Increase awareness	115	95.8
Improves farming practices	57	47.5
Increase agricultural outputs	48	40.0
<b>Multiple responses</b>		

Results on Table 5 inform that 95.8% of MVIWATA members who participated in training increased their awareness, 47.5% improved their farming practices and 40% increased their agricultural outputs. This means that training was somehow effective as 95.8% of participants gain awareness where among those who gain awareness 47.5% improved their farming practices and among those who improved their practices 40% increased their agricultural outputs. Other studies show that training is effective as it has an impact on changing of practices (Roy *et al.*, 2018; Wuepper *et al.*, 2018).

#### 4.2.2 Provisions of agricultural inputs

This study found that inputs were only provided in demo plots through field practical training. MVIWATA organization provided seeds to be grown on demo plots so that Mali-

mbichi project members could adopt those varieties in their farms. One of the participants in the FGD was quoted saying that “*the inputs received were not enough in project implementation as not all members were provided with the input, they provided only in demo plots*”. However, Majority (91.7%) of Mali-mbichi project members received training while inputs were only provided in demo plots. This had an effect on the impact of training and its effectiveness since majority of Mali-mbichi project members received training but they were not given inputs during project implementation.

#### **4.2.3 Benefits of interventions done by MVIWATA in Mali-mbichi project**

All the respondents agreed to benefit from participation in agricultural project activities mostly spice farming especially to their household income and food supply. Benefits gained from participation in the project interventions are as presented in the Table 6.

**Table 6: Benefits gained from project interventions**

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Increase food supply	64	53.3
Increase of awareness and skills on agriculture production	105	87.5
Increase skills on agriculture marketing	38	31.6
Increasing of income	34	28.3
Create employment	28	23.3

As shown in Table 6, majority (87.5%) of Mali-mbichi project members said that they benefited from the project through increasing awareness and skills on agriculture production. This was because majority (91.7%) of members participated in training. Apart from that, 53.3% of members claimed that they benefited from the project intervention by increasing food supply to their household. Moreover, other benefits gained were increase skills on agriculture marketing (31.6%), increasing of Income (28.3%) and create employment (23.3%). Similar to the observation from other studies where training



resulted into changing of agriculture practices and increasing of productivity (Gramzow *et al.*, 2018; Roy *et al.*, 2018; Wuepper *et al.*, 2018). This means that Mali-mbichi project beneficiaries used skills that they acquired from training and apply in their agriculture activities.

### **4.3 Community Participation in Mali-mbichi project cycle**

According to other studies, participation in development project is very important as it determines the success or failure of the project as well as its sustainability (Hoe *et al.*, 2018; Masum, 2018; Toledo, 2019). This study found that there were different ways in which Mali-mbichi project beneficiaries participated in the project. Thus, the study describes members' participation in project cycle, Community Participation Index, Regression analysis and factors for participation in project as follow,

#### **4.3.1 Members' participation in project cycle**

The study revealed that there were different forms of members' involvement in the project cycle. Because of the varied nature and scope of project development activities undertaken by MVIWATA, results show that different members participate in different stages of Mali-mbichi project cycle. Member's participation in project cycle is as presented on Table 7.

**Table 7: Participation by stage of the project cycle**

<b>Participation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Problem identification	50	41.7
Planning process	33	27.5
Implementation	110	91.7
Monitoring and Evaluation	9	7.5

#### **4.3.1.1 Participation in problem identification**

Results (Table 7) show that 41.7% of Mali-mbichi project members reported they participated in problem identification through meetings. MVIWATA staffs in collaboration with Village Executive officers (VEOs) organized these meetings. In Mali-mbichi project, members collaborated with MVIWATA as supportive NGO in problem analysis. They found that the main problem was low spices and vegetables productivity as well as marketing for their products. They also found that there was an opportunity of increasing spices and vegetable productivity and improving their market. Thus, they decided to implement Mali-mbichi project. During key informant interview, Project manager argued; *“One of the crucial design principles in this project is that, local communities must play a key role in the identification of development activities”*. The same sort of argument was posed by Aga *et al.* (2018) in which local communities must participate in problem identification and development of activities.

Therefore, involvement of Mali-mbichi project members in problem identification in Mali-mbichi project development increase degree of trust to community and establish active local society participation in all future stages of the project.

#### **4.3.1.2 Members’ involvement in the planning process**

The study found that 27.5% of Mali-mbichi project members had participated in project planning process. This 27.5% was the representation of Mali-mbichi project members which included Village leaders and group representatives. Additionally, one Mali-mbichi

extension officer in Key informant interview at Kinole ward commented that: *“community members are represented in the planning session by village leaders and group’s leaders from community by signing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Village leaders and groups leaders makes decisions on their behalf and gives feedback to members on all decisions reached in the planning session”*.

Moreover, during FGD in Tandai village, one participant said: *“planning and decision making was done by the village councils, staff and group leaders from group network where we have our representatives”*. This suggests that participation in the planning and decision-making processes could be described as ‘representational participation’ through the staff and community leaders. According to other studies, project activity is also considered participatory when large numbers of people are represented by a relatively small group of participants (Aga *et al.*, 2018; Heravi *et al.*, 2015; Konsti-Laakso and Rantala, 2018; Schindler *et al.*, 2016). This is as observed by this study.

#### **4.3.1.3 Community involvement in Mali-mbichi project implementation**

Results show 91.7% of Mali-mbichi project members was involved in the project implementation where they were involved in different interventions such as training and provision of farm inputs. In training, 91.7% of members received different kinds of training such as training on agriculture technology, training on modern agriculture practices and training on agriculture marketing. Trainings were done during farmer field school, workshops, field visit and in Mass Media. Moreover, MVIWATA ensured that training reached a large number of members by employing different approaches such as; members meeting, through using influential people, religious leaders and broadcasting. In case of receiving of inputs, MVIWATA organization provided seeds to demo plots which were used in practical training of Mali-mbichi project members.

#### **4.3.1.4 Community involvement in monitoring and evaluation**

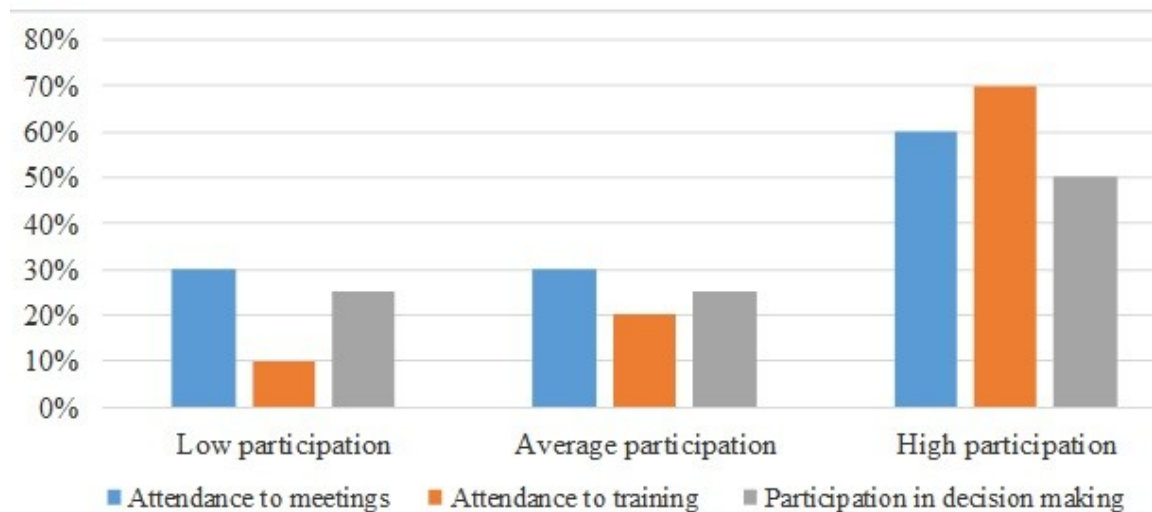
The study found that few (7.5%) of Mali-mbichi project members argued that they participated in monitoring and evaluation through group leaders' representation. They explained that monitoring of project activities was mainly done by project staffs, and group leaders who were providing feedback to other members of Mali-mbichi project. This was similar to the study done by Chapman *et al.* (2016) where they observed that in community development projects especially those with large numbers of members monitoring and evaluation is done by representatives of all participants.

Moreover, monitoring and evaluation involved surveys where all Mali-mbichi members participated mainly as a source of information. Therefore, all Mali-mbichi project members participated in monitoring and evaluation in a passive form of participation that involve information giving or consultation. This implies that the current MVIWATA monitoring and evaluation plan give enough space for their members to play an active role in these stages. That was why, members confirmed that in the monitoring and evaluation of the projects received reports from project officers, group leaders and other representatives during members' meetings.

#### **4.3.2 Community participation index**

The study measured participation of Mali-mbichi project members using community participation index. Community participation was also a variable. Index variable was constructed based on three items that promote community participation that included; attendance to meetings, attendance to training and participation in decision making. It was measured on 3-point rating scale that was applied, whereby score 3 was given for 'high participation' 2 for 'average participation' and 1 for 'low participation'. The highest

score was 9-12 for a respondent that was highly participation; 5-8 were moderate participation while for those who scored 1-4 were lowly participation in the project. A result on community participation index is presented on Fig. 3.



**Figure 3: Community participation index**

**Source: Researchers own conception, 2019**

As presented in Figure 3, on attendance to meeting and training as indicators of participation results show that majority (60% and 70% respectively) of respondents had high participation. This means that there was high participation in meetings and training. In case of participation in decision making 50% of respondents had high participation, 25% had average participation and 25% had low participation. This means that there was reasonably low participation in decision making compared to attendance to meetings and attendance to training.

#### **4.4 Regression Analysis on Community Participation and Factors Affecting**

##### **Participation**

The researcher decided to run a multiple linear regression to find the statistical significant level between community participation (dependent) and factors affecting community participation in project. Additionally, a researcher used six predictors for community

participation in project to establish the relationship between dependent and independent variables. These predictors included; lack of economic support (LES), restrictions of husbands to wives (RHW), personal commitments (PC), poor community leadership (PCL), conflict of interest and time consuming (TC).

However, the findings in Table 8 illustrate that all six predictors were found to be statistically significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) i.e. lack of economic support ( $p=0.000$ ), restrictions of husbands to wives (0.004), personal commitments (0.000), poor community leadership (0.000), conflict of interest (0.006) and time consuming (0.001). These findings imply that all six predictors have impacts to the community participation in Mali-mbichi project. Though, the findings in Table 8 show that all predictors have got impacts to community participation in Mali-mbichi project but only five (lack economic support, restrictions of husbands to wives, personal commitments, poor community leadership and time consuming) factors have seen to affect the level of participation negatively. These findings imply that the increase or change of one unit of the identified five predictors may lead to the decrease in the level community participation in the project. To make it clear, these factors affect the participation level to be low.

Apart from negative influence, the findings in Table 8 also indicate that one predictor (conflict of interest) has seen to have positive influence to community participation in the project. In addition, this implies that the increase of one unit of conflict of interest may lead to the increase of community participation in the project.

**Table 8: Regression analysis on community participation and factors affecting participation**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients			Collinearity Statistics	
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.	Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	0.162	0.377		0.430	0.000	0.892	1.122
LES	-0.300	0.180	-0.220	-1.669	0.003	0.831	1.203
RHW	-0.033	0.302	-0.037	-0.110	0.004	0.767	1.304
PC	-0.033	0.302	-0.014	-0.110	0.000	0.737	1.357
PCL	-0.605	0.384	-0.645	-1.574	0.000	0.778	1.285
CI	0.037	0.362	0.034	1.486	0.006	0.670	1.157
TC	-0.041	0.315	-0.016	-1.820	0.001	0.541	1.156

R<sup>2</sup> = 99.1%  
Adjusted R<sup>2</sup> = 99%

Dependent Variable: Community participation in Mali-mbichi project.

In addition, the results in Table 8 indicates  $R^2 = 99.1\%$ , this means that 99.1% of used variance was explained by all independent variables, while the remaining i.e. 0.9% was explained by other factors unknown to a researcher. Moreover, Table 8 illustrates that the Tolerance rate and Variance Inflating Factors (VIF) which was used to determine multi-collinearity statistics between explanatory. According to the Table, the degree of Tolerance of variables is greater than 0.1 and the VIF does not exceed 5 to 10. This reveals that there was no problem of co linearity statistics among explanatory variables. Therefore, the associated regression coefficients were clearly and reliable.

#### 4.5 Factors affecting community participation in Mali-mbichi project

These are some factors which hindered members to participate fully in the project. Those factors are as presented on Table 9.

**Table 9: Factors limiting Mali-mbichi project members to participate in the project**

Factors	Frequency	Percent
Lack of economic support	40	33.3

Restrictions of husbands to wives	8	6.7
Personal commitments	72	60.0
Poor community leadership	40	33.3
Conflict of interest	4	3.3
Time consuming	67	55.8

#### 4.5.1 Personal commitments

Result, show that 60% of respondents argued that personal commitment in their daily activities was the challenge for them to participate fully in the project. They say that they were not able to fully participate in the project due to other income generating activities and because project activities consume a lot of time. For example, during FGD one member argued that, *“Many times we are unable to fully engage in the project because of other roles. We are very interested in participating in the project but due to other responsibilities we cannot manage to participate in all project activities”*.

#### 4.5.2 Time consuming

Normally farming activities require much time from preparation to harvest. Results show that more than half (55.8%) of Mali-mbichi project members who participated in the project claimed that time consuming was among the challenge which hinder them to participate in the project activities. For instance other respondents suggested that they failed to participate fully in the project activities such as farm field school and workshops because those activities were consuming time so they could not manage to participate fully. This is the same as observed by Iddi and Nuhu (2018) where they found that time consuming is among of the reason why some community members do not full participate in the project.

#### 4.5.3 Lack of economic support

Result show that 33.3% respondents argued that they were failing to participate in the project because they lack economic support especially from MVIWATA, as supportive NGO, particularly on provision of inputs such as seeds and fertilizer. This was because



MVIWATA organization provided inputs only for demo plot and Mali-mbichi project members were required to buy inputs for their farms that are being researched in project demo plots. Moreover, they cannot afford to buy inputs and to adopt best agriculture practices that they learnt during training. Therefore, lack of economic support was a challenge for community participation in the project.

#### **4.5.4 Poor community leadership**

Typically, leadership has a great contribution to helping community members participate in various projects. Through leaders, community can communicate and engage in development activities including project activities (William, 2017). Poor leadership hampers the participation of community in the project. In this study 33.3% of Mali-mbichi project members argued that, poor leadership affected their full participation in the project. For example, they complained that they were not receiving information on time. For instance, not all members were timely informed about meetings and trainings. This was due to their geographical location and communication.

#### **4.5.5 Restrictions of husbands to wives**

The study found that 6.7% of members especially women were not able to participate fully, because their husbands prohibited them to participate in socio and economic issues including participation in projects. Because of that, their direct involvement in the project was limited. For example it was commented by one woman during Focus group discussion that, *“My husband does not want me to leave the house especially in the activities that involves many people”*. This was also observed in other studies including a study by Milazzo and Goldstein, (2019) and Monawer (2019). The reason many men prohibit their wives to participate in social and economic affair is that they think that their wives will be involved in other marital relation.

#### **4.5.6 Conflict of interest**

Results shows that 3.3% of respondents argued that conflict of interest was a challenge in full participation in the project as they had different perceptions and expectations about the project. Some argued that they could prefer kind of crops which could show impacts at short period of time rather than dealing with spices which take long time to see the impact. However, they participated in the project but not effectively compared to other members with no conflicts of interest. As observed by Iddi and Nuhu (2018) conflict of interest is among of reasons which hinder participation of community members in projects.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Conclusions

The study specifically aimed to assess interventions done by MVIWATA in Mali-mbichi project, to assess community participation in Mali-mbichi project cycle, to determine factors affecting community participation in Mali-mbichi project supported by MVIWATA.

In this study, there were two interventions involved in Mali-mbichi project. The first intervention was training on agriculture activities such as training on agriculture technology, modern practices and marketing. The second intervention was provision of agriculture inputs in demo plots provided by MVIWATA as supportive NGO. Although, the majority of Mali-mbichi project members participated in training but their participation was not effective because they received training but they were not able to apply their skills in their farms since they had no supply of inputs from MVIWATA as supportive NGO. Therefore, the study concludes that community participation in project interventions might be high but the effectiveness of participation might be low. Project members participated in training but they were not benefited directly as they were not able to apply skills gained during training in their farms as they lack farm inputs.

In case of participation of Mali-mbichi project members in project cycle, the study concludes that members mainly participated in problem identification as well as in project implementation and few members participated in planning process as well as monitoring and evaluation.

In third specific objective, some factors affected community participation in Mali-mbichi project including lack of economic support, restrictions of husbands to wives, personal commitments, poor community leadership, conflict of interest and time consuming. Due those factors, Mali-mbichi project members were not able to participate fully in the project because of those factors.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

Based on the study's findings and conclusion the following are some recommendations;

- i. For the benefit of beneficiaries, not only participation should be considered but also the effects or outcomes of that participation should be considered by MVIWATA as supportive NGO. MVIWATA and other community development NGOs should not only focused on participation of beneficiaries in their project but also the impact of their participation. This is because community participation in the project might be high but the actual benefit from that participation might be low if the project was not considering the impact of beneficiaries' participation.
- ii. MVIWATA and other NGOs that deal with agricultural development should consider provision of agriculture inputs as the part of their project interventions since it would increase application of the skills obtained during training. Inputs may be provided as loan to beneficiaries and then they will pay back after harvesting their agricultural products.
- iii. The study also recommend that there is a need of encouraging the community itself to participate in project stages especially in problem identification, implementation and monitoring as well as evaluation stages as it was revealed that an increase of participation in those stages has a potential of increasing participation in project in general.

- iv. Moreover, the study recommended that in order to increase participation of project members MVIWATA as an NGO has a need of considering factors such as lack of economic support, restrictions of husbands to women, personal commitments, poor community leadership, conflict of interest and time consuming. Because those factors may limit participation of project members in the project.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Sample questionnaire for beneficiaries of Mali-mbichi project

**Tick where appropriate**

#### PERSONAL PROFILE

Name of respondent (optional): .....

Type of NGO: MVIWATA.....

Village: ... ..

Sex: (1) Male ..... (2)Female .....

Main occupation: (1) Agriculture ..... (2) Pastoralist.... (3) Business..... (4) Civil servant..... (5) Others.....

Marital Status: (1)Single...(2)Married.....(3)Divorced.....(4) Widow/widower.....

Age of respondent: (1) 18- 28 ..... (2)29 – 39..... (3) 40 – 50 .... (4) 51 – 61.....

Education level: (1) Primary level..... (2) Secondary level..... (3) Informal Education.....

#### **A. To Assess Interventions done by Mviwata on Mali-Mbichi project.**

1. Do you participate in project? (a) YES..... (b) NO.....

If YES why.....

(a)It gives sense of project ownership

(b)It is the genuine opportunity to better their own lives

(c)It enhance mutual help

(d)Others

2. Have you received any trainings pertaining to the project?

(a) YES ..... (b) NO.....

3. Please state what type of trainings you have received.

- i. Technological training – it gives technological aspects of development projects e.g. how to plant new seed
- ii. Skills training – it gives proficiencies need to implement projects
- iii. Team training – develops cohesiveness among project members and stakeholders, it facilitates relationship building; improves decision making and problem solving.

4. How do you get these training?

- i. Farmer field school
- ii. Workshops
- iii. Field visit
- iv. Others

5. How have they been effective to your participation in project?

- i. Raising awareness
- ii. Improves farming
- iii. Increase agricultural outputs
- iv. Others

6. What are the approaches that are being employed by these NGOs in engaging community member to participate in agricultural development projects?

1-Village meeting

2-Influential people

3-Religion leaders

4-Broadcasting

7. Do you receive any inputs for agricultural activities?

- i. YES
- ii. NO

8. If YES what inputs have you received?

- i. Seeds
- ii. Fertilizers
- iii. Pesticides
- iv. Herbicides



**B. To assess community participation in Mali-Mbichi project cycle**

1. Who mostly is participating in development project in your community?

(a) Women ..... (b) Men ..... and WHY?

- i. Men concentrate more in other economic activities
- ii. Men don't participate in unpaid work
- iii. Women access resources and information that enable them to comply

2. At what stage your participation take place in the development of project and how?

- i. Problem identification ..... ( )
- ii. Planning process..... ( )
- iii. Implementation process ..... ( )
- iv. Monitoring and evaluation..... ( )

3. What types of activities undertaken in development project?

- i. Contribute resources e.g. money, time
- ii. Giving opinions
- iii. Provide manpower

4. Did participation in agricultural activities such as (spices and fruits farming) is beneficial to your household?

(a)Yes..... ( )      (b) No..... ( )

5. What benefit obtained from those project?

- i- Food security
- ii- Rise income
- iii-Increase GDP
- iv- Employment

**C. To determine factors affecting community participation in MALI-MBICHI**

**project supported by MVIWATA**

1. Community Participation index

	Scores
--	--------

Factors for community participation in project	High	Medium	Low
i. Attendance to meetings			
ii. Attendance to training			
iii. Participation in decision making			

1. Low 2. Medium 3. High

2. What factors affecting participation of your community in Mali-mbichi project?

- i. Lack of economic support
- ii. Restrictions of husbands to women
- iii. Personal commitments
- iv. Poor community leadership
- v. Conflict of interest
- vi. Time consuming
- vii. Other

3. What are the challenges that affect participation in your area?

- i. High levels of poverty for most community members.
- ii. Restrictions of husbands to their spouses/women
- iii. Exclusion due to age (children and elderly people)
- iv. Poor community leadership in some villages that does not give feedback to community members.

4. Solutions to the mentioned challenges.

.....

.....

.....

***Thank you for your cooperation***

**Appendix 2: In depth interview guide**

For key respondents: NGO staff members, Village Executive Officers (VEOs), Extension Officers

1. Can you give brief information about agricultural development project and how community was involved in project activities?
2. What are the reasons that made your organization to start up agricultural development projects?
3. At what time did you conduct village meetings for PRA and other project matters?
4. What are the participatory methodologies that you employ in engaging communities to participate in the project?
5. What are your views on the benefits of Community Participation?
6. Is the community involved in all the phases of these projects, which are from planning, decision making to implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages?
7. What age groups are more actively participating in agricultural development project in your community?
8. What other problems are you facing as an organization in implementing agricultural projects?
9. How is your organization addressing the challenges faced in carrying out Agricultural development projects in Morogoro Municipality?
10. Is there anything else you would like to share with me with regards to community participation in agricultural projects that your organization is undertaking?

***Thank you for your cooperation***