

The impact of commercialization of food crops on peasant production
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This study seeks to examine the effects of commercialization of food crops on the peasant producers particularly women and children within the peasant household socio-economic system. The bulk of the work is therefore devoted to an analysis of various problems the peasant producers face in such a socio-economic process. Ngara district has been chosen as the area of study# This is because of its historical, geographical location and its socio-cultural set up* These features have influenced the district f's economic dimension - the abandonment of cash crop production in favour of food crop production* This have compelled the peasants in this district to commercialize the food crops to earn cash necessary for other basic needs. Chapter One lays the basis for the discussion of the subject matter in that it provides a general survey of the nature of the problem. Since the subject falls within the general area of household economy of the district; a discussion has been made to explore the nature of household economy of the district. Chapter Two addresses itself to the exposition of various literatures. The adequacies and inadequacies of some literatures on household economy and peasant production at large have been discussed. The intention here was to try to locate the peasant producers - women and children at the proper perspective in the household economy. Chapter Three presents the Methodological procedures used in data collection. Both area and population samples are analysed. Besides, problems encountered in the field during data collection and the solutions to overcome such problems ore clearly expressed. Chapter Four exposes the form and essence for which women and children are involved in the peasant economy. This is illustrated by the historical perspective of food crop production in which women and children have been greatly participating. Chapter Five provides statistical and argumental exposition of the process of commercialization of food crops. Above all it examines how women and children are affected by this socio-economic process. Chapter Six contains the conclusion and suggestions on what can be done both in the short term and long term to counter this disadvantaged social unit of production and reproduction.