

# Effect of Mixed Cropping on Socio-Economic Welfare of Farmers in Uasin Gishu County, Kenya

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## Abstract

One of the biggest challenge currently facing humanity and farmers across the globe is the actual consequence of reduced agricultural diversity. This study considers the consequence of reduced agricultural diversity on global health, income and food security and thus the greatest way out of these problems is by diversifying crops and this has been considered as the best solution globally regionally and locally. The purpose of this study is to establish the effect of mixed cropping on the socioeconomic welfare of farmers in Uasin Gishu County. This study was guided by human capability approach. This study focused on 34,692 households in Ainabkoi, Uasin Gishu County. The target population consisted of small holder rural farmers in Kapsoya, Kaptagat and Ainabkoi/Olare wards. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. Sample size was determined using sample size determination formulae by Yamane (1967). 395 farmers and 10 key informants were interviewed and were distributed proportionally across 3 wards in Uasin Gishu County. The data was collected using questionnaires and an interview guide. The study established a positive and significant correlation between mixed-cropping and socio-economic welfare of farmers in Uasin Gishu County. Results further indicate that a unit change in mixed-cropping leads to 44.3% change in socio-economic welfare of farmers in the study area ( $R^2 = 0.443$ ). First, agricultural transformative policies should strengthen extension services with a special focus on cropping systems, viable crop enterprises, return from the different type of crops, needs and access to credit and irrigation facilities. There is also need to promote capacity building for certification of production systems according to internationally accredited systems that can provide possibilities for diversification within the traditional crop. Farmers need to form producer groups so that they can galvanize their resources and promote collaborations for sustainable development in the agricultural sector. The study will be beneficial to the farmers in Uasin Gishu County who consistently suffer from issues related to food security . It will further be beneficial to Counties, NGOs in food security amongst other stakeholders.

**Key Words:** Farmers, Mixed Cropping, Socio-Economic Welfare, Uasin Gishu County