

FACTORS LEADING TO [INFLUENCING?] ADOPTION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES AMONG SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN TANZANIA: A CASE OF MBOGA NA MATUNDA PROJECT IN IRINGA DISTRICT.

ABSTRACT

Tomato is the most useful vegetables in the world and has been contributed smallholder farmers to household income. In Africa, tomato is the most useful vegetables. A study was conducted to assess factors influencing the adoption of modern technologies among smallholder farmers in the “mboga na matunda” project area, Iringa District, Tanzania. The data were collected through interview, focus group discussion, and questionnaire from 60 respondents and analyzed by using SPSS version 20, and deductive approach method. The findings show that 83.3% of respondents were male. Age of the smallholder tomato producers, 21-40 were 70% active age group. The education level of respondents primary education 51.7%, secondary education 33.3%, and post secondary education 15%. Household size 1-2 members is about 23.3%, 3-4 members is 66.7%, and above 4 is 10% of respondents, 61.7% did not accessed credit, and 38.3% accessed credit. 43.3% of respondents can not afford the price of technology and 56.7% afford the price of technology, the distance to market of the tomato products is not an issue to respondents about 96.67% agreed the presence of tomato market and 3.33% face the problem of market. Agricultural extension education is attained by respondents by 41.7% and 58.3% not attained, in information received, 75% were not connected with social network 25% are connected by social network. The study confirm that demographic factors including sex, age, education and household size influencing the decision making process of smallholder tomato producers of adoption of technologies. Economic factors including credit accessibility, distance to market, and price of technology. Social factors including, agricultural extension education, social network and membership to social groups. Institution factors such as agricultural extension services, and Agricultural Policies. There is a need to intensify extension through tailor-made trainings, peer support networks, encouraging knowledge sharing and mutual assistance.

Key words: Technological Adoption, Modern Agriculture, Modern Agricultural Technologies, Smallholder farmers, Mboga na Matunda, Iringa District.

Comment [u1]: Please sieve this information. It is too detailed for an abstract.

INTRODUCTION

The global context highlights the significant role of tomato farming in horticulture, with tomatoes being the third most produced horticultural crop worldwide by weight (FAOSTAT, 2020). China leads in tomato production, followed by India and Turkey. Tomato farming contributes to household incomes and employs smallholder farmers, with various modern agricultural technologies being introduced to improve production and address climate change impacts (FAO, 2019).

The tomato farming like other farming use Agricultural technologies to improve production, ~~the introduction of modern agricultural technologies in tomato farming is the one among the technologies to adopt~~ and build resilience to climate change effects. Producers have been using, on farm storage system to avoid post-harvest loss, drip Irrigation technology for inputs efficiency (monitoring of resources), and Improved Seeds technology this is development of new crop varieties that can tolerate climate changes and agricultural extension service that facilitate the transfer of knowledge and good practices to farmers (FAO, 2019).

Comment [u2]: I think these improved technologies need to be expounded wider, one by one.

In Africa, tomatoes are vital both in rural and urban areas, with governments investing in eco-friendly agricultural technologies to enhance tomato farming and mitigate climate change effects. Factors influencing the adoption of these technologies include local climate variability (Egypt being a leading producer in Africa, FAO, 2021) and the potential for poverty reduction and employment generation (Adenuga, 2013).

In Tanzania, tomato production is vital for smallholder farmers income and food security. The country ranks highly in tomato farming in Africa (FAO, 2021). Diverse agricultural technologies such as on-farm storage, efficient resource use, pest control, resilient crop varieties, drip irrigation, and extension services are utilized to adapt to climate variability and increase production (Sanga, 2016). Despite the importance of tomato farming, there's a need to explore why advanced technologies are not widely adopted by smallholder farmers. USAID's Feed the Future project aimed to improve food security in Tanzania through horticulture (USAID, 2018). A study on technology adoption in Tanzania revealed that factors like education, land size, and

Comment [u3]: What ranking?

rainfall patterns influenced adoption, indicating the role of climate change and variability (Mngumi, 2016).

In Tanzania, Iringa, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, and Mbeya are leading tomato production areas, contributing significantly to smallholder incomes. Understanding factors affecting tomato value chain development is essential for improving both production and market access (Iluz, *et al.*, 2017). The Southern Agriculture Growth Corridor of Tanzania (Morogoro, Iringa, Mbeya, and Songwe) has witnessed horticultural industry growth, with farmers adopting basic post-harvest and planting technologies. However, the adoption of a full technology package remains low (USAID/Tanzania, 2022).

The Feed for future initiative under USAID ran its “Mboga na Matunda” project at Ilula, Iringa District, which was initiated in 2017 and ended in 2021. The beneficiaries were smallholder farmers and medium enterprises. The activities of the project were to provide technical assistance, to identify agricultural technology based on cost and likelihood of adoption, use of demonstrations plots for training, capacity building to private and public sector service providers, assist loan application, and link farmers with financial institution such as SACCOS, and Farmer groups. ~~The project, implemented under USAID which spanned four years (2017 to 2021) in Iringa, Mbeya, Morogoro and Songwe region and targeted to medium and smallholder farmers.~~

Despite the commendable efforts, it was reported by the USAID monitoring and evaluation team that only 4% of the intended project beneficiaries had adopted modern agriculture technologies. ~~By “Feed for Future Mboga and Matunda” project's conclusion indicated that,~~ While the majority of farmers had received basic technological training, the adoption of a full technology package remained notably low (USAID, 2022). The repercussions of this low adoption are far-reaching, as evidenced by the persistently low adoption rates of modern agricultural technologies among tomato producers in Tanzania, standing at less than 6%, according to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (UNDP and URT, 2017). This research therefore intended to delve into the factors contributing to this low adoption of modern agricultural technologies.

The Diffusion of Innovation Theory (DIT), developed by Everett Rogers in 1962, seeks to explain how, why, and at what rate new ideas and technologies spread within a population or social system. This theory originated in the field of communication but has been widely applied

to various domains, including agriculture and technology adoption. The theory states that the adoption of innovations is influenced by five key elements: the innovation itself, adopters, communication channels, time, and the social system. Innovations are typically adopted by individuals who have a certain degree of social capital and who are exposed to information about the innovation through various communication channels over time.

DIT is highly applicable to the study of factors leading to low adoption of modern agricultural technologies among smallholder tomato producers. It provides a framework for understanding how and why these farmers may or may not adopt new farming practices and technologies. The theory allows researchers to analyze the role of demographics, social networks, communication channels, economic factors, and institutional influences on technology adoption within this specific context. Several scholars have applied the Diffusion of Innovation Theory in their research. For instance, Klerx & Leeuwis (2018) used the theory to analyze the dynamics of innovation networks in agriculture, emphasizing the role of social networks and knowledge exchange in technology adoption. Jones (2015) applied it to analyze the spread of sustainable farming technologies. Wang (2018) employed the theory to investigate the adoption of precision agriculture tools. Patel (2019) utilized the theory to understand the adoption of biotechnology in agriculture.

Comment [u4]: The last two paras should move to literature review

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Researchers also explore mixed-method approaches that combine quantitative and qualitative data to provide a comprehensive view of technology adoption among smallholder farmers. In the study of factors leading adoption of modern agricultural technologies among smallholder tomato producers, the Diffusion of Innovation Theory was employed by considering demographic factors, economic conditions, social networks, and individual influences adoption decisions. The theory help researcher to get better understanding and address the challenges faced by smallholder farmers in adopting modern agricultural technologies. This comprehensive approach helped better understand the low adoption of modern agricultural technologies among specifics and contribute to addressing the challenges they face in adopting innovations

Meinzen *et al.*, (2010).Gender led to the empowerment of rural farmers, but also important for adoption of modern agricultural technologies and increasing food supply for overall economic development . Gender influences adoption decisions through differential access to resources and information (Fischer et al., 2021).According to Abdulai & Huffman (2014).Gender differences in agricultural sector arising from socio – economic, cultural and institutional factors impose real costs on society in terms of untapped potential in increasing agricultural productivity financial and adoption of agricultural modern technology.

Mwangi and Kairuki (2015) found that the active age group are characterized by less risk and are keener to try new technology than the older farmers. Younger farmers still have the potency to risk, grow more crops and search for modern agricultural technologies. Age is the factor related to willingness to adopt technology that could be impacted by age. The study of Berkowsky (2018) hypothesized that the perceived value of technology involved older adults would be a strong predictor of adoption. Sharit, (2021). Age is the factor that believed influencing the willingness to adopt technology. Type of future rewards increased discounting with age, which is consistent with economic perspectives on aging and discounting found that older adults discounted less with increasing age when rewards consisted of attaining greater skills on technologies.

Melenhorst,(2022). The reduction of age in meta-cognitive beliefs concerning cognitive capability. Older adult learn new material more slowly than young adults. The possible requirement for a greater investment of mental effort for older adults to learn the technology

Comment [u5]: Is literature review necessary in a scientific paper? Not sure, unless it is an academic thesis. I suggest the whole chapter is sieved and incorporated as "general discussion" under Results and discussion.

inhibit their willingness to learn new things which is related to the trait and construct technology readiness influence the willingness to adopt technology .

Adenuga *et al.*, (2013). Education is social factor that play a great role in determining one's

ability to comprehend and analyze issues before taking any action. Education level is useful in technology adoption for crop production increment. An increase in educational status of farmers positively influence the adoption of modern technologies and practices. Farmers with better education equipped for making more informed decision for lives and for their communities as well as becoming active participant in economic, social, and cultural dimensions of development .

Sosina *et al.*, (2014)Factors affecting adoption of improved varieties in Somalia Region of Ethiopia the study found that more educated farmers are more likely to adopt improved sorghum varieties in the study area. Other studies, found household heads level of education enhance awareness and decision making, which was likely to increase the probability of adoption. Abdulai & Huffman,(2014).Good education increases adoption through a better ability to interpret technical knowledge and allocate resources. Household size is a proxy for labor availability studies show larger households are more likely to adopt improved agricultural technologies.

Grabowski *et al.*(2016). Household size is often considered as a proxy for labour availability, it is suggested that adoption of labour-intensive technologies and, to some extent, improved varieties.The use quantitative and qualitative data from Zambian smallholdersto show that labour availability is the primary constraint in adoption of labour-intensive hand-hoe planting basins, while capital constraints limit the use of the more expensive ox-ripper.

Balana *et al.*,(2020). Limited access to credit and financing options remain significant challenges to agricultural technologies' adoption among rural farmers. Access to credit and were unique determinants for adoption because, the acquisition was not open to negotiated arrangements.Kreyling, (2010). Credit access in some countries where female-headed households are discriminated against by credit institutions, prevent women who are into agriculture from adopting yield-raising technologies. Kafle, (2015). Conformed that farmers who have access to credit service had more probability to adopt the agricultural new technologies than

otherwise confirm access to credit can increase the probability of adoption of agricultural new technologies by offsetting the financial shortfall of the households.

Adebayo *et al.*, (2018)The concept of poverty, which denotes a state in which individuals or households lack the financial resources and essentials necessary for a minimum standard of living, plays a significant role in the adoption of agricultural technology, particularly in the context of pure tomato value addition technology. When the price of technology increases, it can have a profound effect on the probability of smallholder farmers utilizing this technology.

Bekele, (2015)The negative relationship between distance of the residence from an all-weather road and fertilizer adoption reported by other studies. The study found that distance to market centers was negatively and significantly related to adoption of fertilizer. Decreasing of the distance from the market decreased the transportation cost of agricultural inputs. Hence market distance and use of inorganic fertilizer had a negative relationship.

A study by Qaim and Kouser (2013). Investigated the awareness and adoption of digital agriculture technologies among smallholder farmers in developing countries. They found that lack of awareness was a significant barrier to technology adoption, highlighting the need for targeted awareness campaigns and training. Ali *et al.*, (2019) explored the impact of agricultural extension services on farmers' awareness and adoption of modern technologies. The study found that well-designed extension programs significantly improved technology awareness among farmers. Arora *et al.*, (2015) examined the use of mobile technology for agricultural information dissemination and its impact on farmers' awareness and decision-making in Nigeria. The findings demonstrated the effectiveness of mobile-based approaches in increasing technology awareness among farmers. Kiconco,(2020). Different sources of information (family/friends and media) available to individuals separately affect their decision to adopt technology the network of family and friends, as well as other sources of information such as media and mobile, increases the probability of adoption and use of technology in Uganda. Mukong, (2017). The source of awareness or social ties is an important determinant of technological adoption. Sseguya et al., (2021). Farmer groups are important sources of credit and technology access. Some groups organize around the village-based community banking model. Others operate informal rotating savings and credit accounts and are platforms for farmer learning and consolidated inputs acquisition, which might encourage the adoption of technologies on a case-to-case basis.

Wachira, (2012). Institutional factors influencing extension services, credit and market management. Abdulai & Huffman, (2014). Extension contact could increase farm productivity

by directly adopting high-yielding grain seed and a new variety of chemical fertilizers or indirectly by contact farmers spread knowledge to non-contact farmers enhancing farmers' application ability. Other farm and system-level factors, including experience of production shocks, and contact with extension.

Sanga, (2013). Agricultural extension services in Tanzania has been and still remains almost entirely financed by the public sector represented by the government through the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Cooperatives (MAFC). Prior to decentralization, MAFC had the mandate to provide extension services to the whole country. Agricultural extension service facilitates the transfer of knowledge and good practices to farmers. The traditional agricultural extension is mainly done by an extension officer visiting a farmer or farmer field schools.

Sofoluwe, (2015). Provision and availability of technological innovations are not as important as adoption of such innovations by the expected people. The Study examined the drivers of technological innovations in rural areas. Institutional factors include access to credit, land ownership and acquisition in addition to government and non-governmental influence in the life of the rural people. Smith *et al.*, (2013). Insurance regulations, is the new design of institution to address risks and uncertainty. This regulation provide guide for peasant or farmers to join insurance scheme. The institution develops mechanism that ensures farmers have insurance against extreme events. Farmers tend to under subscribed to insurance scheme.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Approach

~~The research approach is the procedure selected by the study to collect, analyze, and interpret data.~~ The study used qualitative and quantitative approach in collecting, analyzing and interpreting data related to the factors influencing smallholder tomato producers to adopt modern agricultural technologies. The researcher used qualitative research design. This is the arrangement of the condition for data collection, analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure (Osuagwu, 2020).

This study used Interview, Focus Group Discussion and observation to collect qualitative data. It enables the researcher to collect views/opinion from smallholder tomato producers on factors influencing them to adopt modern agricultural technology. This used quantitative so as to simplify analysis by using cross tabulation this involves numbers and calculation such as percentage (Bhattarjee, 2012). The quantitative data in this study collected by using questionnaires.

The Study Design

This study employed a cross-sectional or one time research design. This allow the researcher to collect data at one time. The study design helped to minimize the limitation of time and cost. The design has high degree of accuracy and precision, quick, easy, and cheap to perform (Bhattarjee, 2012).

Sample size and Sampling Technique

Sample Size

~~Sample size refers to the number of participants or elements selected from the target population to be included in a study. It is crucial for researchers to carefully determine the appropriate sample size that will yield sufficient data to effectively address the research question (Herman, 2018). Kothari (2014) defines the sample as a representative portion of the larger population under study.~~ In the context of this study, the sample size consisted of 60 smallholder tomato producers drawn from Ilula Ward, which encompasses three distinct villages: Ikokoto (20 participants), Ilula-Itunda (20 participants), and Masukanzi (20 participants). It is worth noting that the selection of respondents from each village was proportionate, with an equal representation from each village. The sample size was calculated by using Yamane 1967 formula. According to Feed for Future had identified a total of 150 tomato producers in

Masukanzi village within the Ilula ward as its target population. The sample was based on the following formula.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

n = Sample size

N = Sample Population (150)

e = marginal error represent (10% = 0.1)

$$n = \frac{150}{1 + 150(0.1)^2} = 60$$

Sampling Technique

Purposive Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling technique used in the study because the researcher involved only smallholder of tomato producers because they possessed important information for the study the study also used simple random sampling in selecting sample unit. The study also included District agricultural extension officer, District business officer, Community development officer, Ward executive officer and village executive officer as Key Informants.

Comment [u6]: Are purposive and simple random sampling the same thing?

Data collection Methods

In this study data was collected by using interviews, documentary review, questionnaire and focus group discussion.

Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a list of questions or items used to gather data from respondents about their attitudes, experiences, or opinions. Questionnaires can be used to collect quantitative and/or qualitative information. Questionnaires have advantages over some other types of survey tools in that they are cheap, do not require as much effort from the questioner as verbal or telephone surveys, and often have standardized answers that make it simple to compile data

Interview

Interview is a primary data collection technique. Primary data are those that collected a fresh for the first time and thus happen to be original in the character for example through observation and personal interview. The interview method of data involved presentation of oral-verbal stimuli

and replies in terms of oral verbal responses (Kothari, 2004). In this study, the open-ended questions used in interview. Interviews were conducted to eight key informants included one district agricultural extension service officer, one district business officer, one district community development officer, one ward executive officer, three village executive officers and one ward agricultural extension service officer. The researcher used diary to record data from key informants

Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)

FGDs can be defined as the group of individuals selected and assembled by the researcher to discuss and comment on, from personal experience the topic that is subject of the research. FGD refers to a number of people asked to come together in a group to discuss a certain issue. FGDs used one group consist 9 respondents three (3) from each villages. Herman (2018) defined FGD as the very essence of the group a technique lies in tapping the unexpected findings that result from the interaction session between the members of the group. Focus group should usually compose homogeneous member for the targeted population. In this study FGDs were formed by picking randomly members from villages that is Ikokoto, Ilula -Itunda, and Masukanzi for the discussions. The methods that were used to get participant is purposive methods because the researcher intended to have sample depending on their knowledge and experiences about tomato and adoption of modern agricultural technologies.

Data Analysis

This is the process of evaluating data using analytical and logical reasoning to examine each component of the data provided. ~~Data from various sources is gathered, reviewed, and then analyzed to form some sort of finding or conclusion. In qualitative data deductive approach used in analyzing data that is summarizing the data provided by respondent and avoiding repetition of recording information.~~ The SPSS statistical package was used in this work, whereby frequencies and percentages were generated to determine the relative importance of the quality dimensions as viewed by respondents. For descriptive analysis of quantitative data Microsoft excel was used. Tabulation is a part of the technical procedure where classified data are put in the form of tables.

Validity

Comment [u7]: Sieve this, or remove it. You are writing to scientists who know all this.

Validity refers to the quality that an instrument used in research is accurate, correct, true and meaningful and right (Bordens & Abbott, 2015). The term validity seeks to address the question as to whether a study truly measures what it is supposed to measure; therefore, the validity of this study was rooted in the close alignment of research questions, the design and purpose of the question administered. To ensure research validity, pilot testing was conducted where by a sample of questions was tested before going to the field directly to collect the data required.

To enhance validity, the researcher meticulously selected an appropriate sample size and utilized a variety of data collection tools. This careful selection aimed to minimize errors and capture a diverse range of perspectives. By combining both qualitative and quantitative methods, the study sought to gather a rich array of data, enriching the validity of the research. Also, to assess the validity of data collection tools, such as questionnaires, interview guidelines, and group discussion guidelines, a rigorous pre-testing phase was undertaken. This process aimed to confirm the appropriateness of these tools for gathering the required information. Any necessary adjustments were made to ensure the tools were reliable in eliciting accurate data.

Reliability

For a research to be reliable it must demonstrate that if it were carried out on a similar group of respondents in a similar context then similar results to be found (Bordens & Abbott, 2015). Reliability is a measure of how consistent the results from a test are and in order to ensure the reliability of these research findings. Therefore, the researcher designed the questionnaires in a simple, short and hence not boring format and questionnaire structured in a simple language so as to avoid respondent confusion.

To bolster the reliability of data collection, the researcher opted for experienced moderators such as ward executive officers, ward agricultural officers, and village executive officers. These individuals were chosen because of their familiarity with the subject matter and their capacity to mitigate personal biases and expectations. Importantly, the moderators openly disclosed their perspectives and biases during data reporting, fostering transparency and trustworthiness in the research process.

The strategy of triangulation was employed to enhance both the reliability and validity of the research. By collecting data from multiple sources and viewpoints, the study aimed to corroborate findings and minimize the risk of errors or inconsistencies. This involved the use of several moderators, conducting research in diverse locations, and engaging multiple individuals

in the analysis of the same data set. Reliability was further reinforced by ensuring that responses remained consistent across a large number of samples. This consistency not only contributed to the reliability of the data but also aided in the measurement of the phenomena under study.

Ethical Consideration

Research ethics were guiding the researcher to prosper and acceptable ways in which permission from the recognized bodies as well as confidentiality was maintained. The research designs and procedures that fail to meet standards by not treating subjects with respects are likely to cause misleading results which are not conclusive and sometimes be found biased. The researcher because dealing with human being participants, were based to the ethical code of conduct. The researcher was disclosed fully his identity, background the aims and also the procedures of this research was fully explained .To protect the participants rights and to avoid causing them any harm, researcher assured that the collected data is strictly confidential and anonymous. Also, participants were informed that their participation in the interview is entirely voluntary, and that they are free to withdraw at the time.

The ethical research were considered in the study before going to the field, researcher obtained a research letter from Iringa University, which was introducing researcher to Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) who provided the letter to researcher which was introducing researcher to Kilolo District Executive Director (DED). The DED of Kilolo provided a letter of introduction to Ilula Ward executive Officer (WEO). With these documents the researcher went to the field and commences data collection activities. As this study seeking opinion and experiences from interviewee, the researcher informed the participants that they are free to decide to participate or not. Also, the researcher informed the participants that they are free to respond or not to some questions.

Comment [u8]: Sieve or remove. Most of it is known stuff to scientists.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Respondents' general characteristics

The section presents general characteristics of representations that include sex, age, education level and household size. These variables were analyzed and discussed in sub section as follows;

Sex of respondents

Respondents' sex involved in the study is shown in Table 1. The results show that 83.3% of the respondents were male and only 16.7% were female. In the study it shows that women have low participation in agricultural activities and those who are engaging are active by 50% in using modern agricultural technology. Therefore, gender equity among respondent who were participated in this study was not achieved because number of males who are engaging in tomato farming were more than number of females. In the study area it shows that the culture has influence on in the distribution of work on the basis of sex that led to low involvement of female to tomato farming.

Comment [u9]: Aren't you a bit biased here? Remember, farming is a family business and, as long as there is a father, he automatically becomes the spokesperson. Were your female respondents not widows?

Table 1 Demographic characteristics of respondents

Variables	Frequency (n=60)	Percent (%)
Sex of respondents		
Male	50	83.3
Female	10	16.7
Total	60	100.0
Household size		
1-2	14	23.3
3-4	40	66.7
4>	6	10
Total	60	100.0
Education of Respondent		
Primary	31	51.7
Secondary	20	33.3
Post secondary	9	15.0
Total	60	100.0
Age of Respondent		
18-20	1	1.7
21-40	42	70.0
40>	17	28.3
Total	60	100.0

In order to find relationship between sex and adoption of technology cross tabulation applied in Table 2 the findings show that the male respondents are more likely to adopt improved seeds by 80% but female are likely to adopt improved seeds by 70%.Also, in chemical fertilizer male adopted by 84% and female adopted chemical fertilizer by 70%. The results are show that male are more likely to adopt modern technology compared to female.

Table 2: The relationship between Sex and technological adoption

Sex of Respondent		Improved Seeds Technology		Total
		Yes	No	
Male	Frequency (n=50)	40	10	50
	Percent within Sex of Respondent	80.0	20.0	100.0%
Female	Frequency (n=10)	7	3	10
	Percent within Sex of Respondents	70.0	30.0	100.0
Frequency (n=60)		47	13	60
Percent within Sex of Respondents		78.3	21.7	100.0
Chemical Fertilizer Technology				
Male	Frequency (n=50)	42	8	50
	Percent within Sex of Respondents	84.0	16.0	100.0
Female	Frequency (n=10)	7	3	10
	Percent within Sex of Respondents	70.0	30.0	100.0
Frequency (n=60)		49	11	60
Total (%)		81.7	18.3	100.0

Age of Respondents

The findings in Table 1 show the age of the smallholder tomato producers,1.7% of respondent fell within 18-20 respondents,70% of them fell within the middle age of 21-40 years. This show

that the majority of respondents were within their economically active age and this enhances their productivity. The study is in line with most studies on adoption of modern agricultural technology such as Keelan (2014); Mwangi and Kariuki (2015) who found that farmers socio-economic characteristics had an influence on the adoption of technologies. However, the present study found that farmers marital status, household size, indigenous knowledge and household assets were not significant.

Comment [u10]: Refer my comment above.

The results of this study are supported by Mwangi and Kairuki (2015) who found that the active age group are characterized by less risk and are keener to try new technology than the older farmers. Younger farmers still have the potency to risk, grow more crops and search for modern agricultural technologies. The findings in Table 1 show that the old age group (greater than 40) had the lowest impact in farm work with 28.3% contributing to active farming among the sampled population. The results reveals that 70% of farmers who participated in the study belongs to active age group and still have strength to cultivate more and use modern agricultural technologies.

In order to find relationship between age and adoption of technology cross tabulation applied in Table 3 which show that the respondents with active age 21-40 are more likely to adopt improved seeds by 78.6% also the aged above 40 are likely to adopt improved seeds by 82.4% also in chemical fertilizer it show that the respondents aged 21-40 adopted by 81% and aged above 40 adopted by 88.2% this is because of the characteristics of late majority that they adopted technology due to experience of many years so they fail to adopt new invented technology. The results are shown in the Table 3 below But On farm storage system and drip irrigation did not adopt at all by the respondents in the area of the study and pesticides technology adopted by all respondents in the area of the study.

Table 3: Age against adoption

Age of Respondent		Improved Seeds Technology		Total
		Yes	No	
18-20	Frequency (n=1)	0	1	1
	Percent within Age of Respondents	0.0	100.0	100.0
21-40	Frequency (n=42)	33	9	42
	Percent within Age of Respondents	78.6	21.4	100.0
40>	Frequency (n=17)	14	3	17
	Percent within Age of Respondents	82.4	17.6	100.0
Frequency (n=60)		47	13	60
Total % of respondents		78.3	21.7	100.0
Chemical Fertilizer Technology				
18-20	Frequency (n=1)	0	1	1
	Percent within Age of Respondents	0.0	100.0	100.0
21-40	Frequency (n=42)	34	8	42
	Percent within Age of Respondents	81.0	19.0	100.0
40>	Frequency (n=17)	15	2	17
	Percent within Age of Respondents	88.2	11.8	100.0
Frequency (n=60)		49	11	60
Total (%)		81.7	18.3	100.0

Education Level

The findings in Table 1 show that educationally 51.7% of respondents had acquired primary education, while 33.3% had secondary education. Only 15% of respondents possessed higher education. This suggests that the respondents in the area of study obtained the basic education required for better understanding and ability to embrace new technologies especially the adoption of modern agricultural technology. In addition, it is thought that level of education enhances the ability to comprehend and adopt relevant agricultural information, which is in

conformity. The study observed that most educated people do not engage in agricultural activities this may be a cause of low adoption of modern agricultural technologies. Due to the bases of experience and most respondent have basic education.

Comment [u11]: Not sure if I understand this.

In order to find relationship between education and adoption of technology cross tabulation applied the findings in Table 4 show education against adoption of technology, it shows that education have influence on adoption of technology; for example, in improved seeds and chemical fertilizer, the increased level of education also increased the rate of adoption. Respondents with primary education adopted chemical fertilizers by 74.2% and Improved seeds technology by 74.2% while those with secondary education adopted by 75% and those with post-secondary education by 100%. This implies that education influences adoption of technology even though all respondents irrespective of their level of education adopted pesticides and none adopted drip irrigation technology or on farm storage system.

Table 4: Education against adoptions

Comment [u12]: You may consider appending this large tables.

Education of Respondent		Improved Seeds Technology		Total
		Yes	No	
Primary	Frequency (n=31)	23	8	31
	Percent within Education of Respondents	74.2	25.8	100.0
Secondary	Frequency (n=20)	15	5	20
	Percent within Education of Respondent	75.0	25.0	100.0
Collage/University	Frequency (n=9)	9	0	9
	Percent within Education of Respondents	100.0	0.0	100.0
Frequency (n=60)		47	13	60
Percent of Total		78.3	21.7	100.0
Chemical Fertilizer Technology				
Primary	Frequency (n=31)	23	8	31
	Percent within Education of Respondents	74.2	25.8	100.0
Secondary	Frequency (n=20)	17	3	20
	Percent within Education of Respondents	85.0	15.0	100.0
Post secondary	Frequency (n=9)	9	0	9
	Percent within Education of Respondents	100.0	0.0	100.0
Frequency (n=60)		49	11	60
Total (%)		81.7%	18.3%	100.0%

4.2.4 Household Size

Findings in Table 1 show that households with 1-2 members are 23.3%, those with 3-4 members are 66.7%, while 10% of respondents reported over 4 members. The study observed that most of the respondents who engage in agriculture are those with large number of family member who constitute the working labour force. As such, labor within household of the respondents had been exposed as one of the factors influencing the adoption of modern agricultural technology among smallholder tomato producers.

The use of household labour for several activities was very common in the study area with activities such as harrowing, planting, weeding and irrigation activities and harvesting. In the same vein, large household may also help to access more agricultural information. In this study it shows that most SHTPs are those with large number of people in the family, this indicate that number of family act as the labor this influence them to engage in agricultural activities. On the other hand, the size of household may delay them to adopt modern labour-saving technologies such as drip irrigation because labour is plenty.

In order to find relationship between household size and adoption of technology cross tabulation applied in Table 5 show that family member have influence on adoption of modern technology. For example, in chemical fertilizer technology family with 1-2 member are willing to adopt by 85.7%, 3-4 members by 77.5% and more than 4 members by 100%. In the improved seed technology 1-2 members adopted by 71.4% ,3-4 adopted by 82.5% and the family with more than 4 members adopted by 66.7%. On farm storage system and drip irrigation were not adopted at all by the respondents in the area of the study, whereas pesticides technology was adopted by all respondents. Due to that finding, there are no relationship between household size and adoption of technology.

Table5: Household Size against Technologies

Household size		Improved Seeds Technology		Total
		Yes	No	
1-2	Frequency (n=14)	10	4	14
	Percent within Household size	71.4	28.6	100.0
3-4	Frequency (n=40)	33	7	40
	Percent within Household size	82.5	17.5	100.0
4>	Frequency (n=6)	4	2	6
	Percent within Household size	66.7	33.3	100.0
Frequency (n=60)		47	13	60
Total (%)		78.3	21.7	100.0
Chemical Fertilizer Technology				
1-2	Frequency (n=14)	12	2	14
	Percent within Household size	85.7	14.3	100.0
3-4	Frequency (n=40)	31	9	40
	Percent within Household size	77.5	22.5	100.0
4>	Frequency (n=6)	6	0	6
	Percent within Household size	100.0	0.0	100.0
Total Frequency (n=60)		49	11	60
Total (%)		81.7%	18.3%	100.0%

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

The study confirms that demographic factors, including age, education, and household size, significantly influence the decision-making process of smallholder tomato producers regarding the adoption of modern agricultural technology. Understanding these demographic characteristics is crucial for designing targeted interventions to enhance technology adoption rates.

Recommendations for Actions

There is a need to develop targeted educational programs and awareness campaigns on modern agricultural technologies tailored to the specific demographics of smallholder tomato producers in the study area, even after the project. These programs should consider the varying needs and preferences of different sex, age groups, educational backgrounds, and household sizes. There is also a need to establish mentoring or peer-to-peer support networks that connect experienced adopters of technology with those who are less inclined to adopt, encouraging knowledge sharing and mutual assistance.

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