

## ACCOUNTABILITY OF BOARD AND MANAGEMENT TO MEMBERS IN PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COOPERATIVES SOCIETIES (AMCOS) IN TANZANIA, EVIDENCE FROM SELECTED AMCOS OF BUKOBA AND MOSHI DISTRICTS

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### ABSTRACT

Co-operative democracy plays a key social function in the organization of economic relations that govern member owned firms where the aspect of managerial accountability is becoming important for co-operative to embark on sustainable democracy. In Tanzania, various efforts have been made to ensure primary Agriculture Marketing Co-operative Society (AMCOS) mainstream member ownership and democracy where Board and management accountable to members are apparent. The study used primary AMCOS of Bukoba and Moshi district. The study revealed that the management were much accountable to the Union in Bukoba district primary AMCOS as compared to Moshi district. The use of meetings, members opt the use general meeting to affect managerial accountability to AMCOS members. Education and training at the primary AMCOS was examined and most had no plan to obtain education and some primary AMCOS shows education were not provided but planned to be provided. Information dissemination was done by using village meetings as compared to the use of primary AMCOS notice Board. Also, decisions are not implemented as members agreed while few accepting meeting decisions to be implemented. Reasons limiting implementations being absence of implementation plans. The decision ownership powers were found to be on the hands of union in Bukoba district primary AMCOS by while Moshi district primary AMCOS Management had more ownership power. The membership rights also indicated the lowest percentage on right to chose leaders of the primary AMCOS, right to sell their produce in the primary AMCOS and right to co-operative education. The leadership succession planning had the lowest present, revealing no primary AMCOS has performed it and the reasons being youth migration to town. The study recommends that education co-operative governance to members be emphasised since it is important for next generation leaders who will become Board members capable of running their organisations

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