

## Abstract

The importance of bananas cannot be underestimated worldwide. A survey was conducted to determine the socio-economic factors affecting adoption of tissue culture (Tc) bananas in Kalawa, Thaana and Kithimani clusters using a total of 176 respondents randomly selected. The sample size for each region was as follows:- Thaana cluster- 68, Kalawa cluster- 72 and Kithimani cluster 60. The data collected was analyzed using the SPSS version 17. The results showed that the major socio-economic factors affecting adoption of Tc bananas were: gender ( $p=0.0150$ ); education ( $p=0.0380$ ); total land size ( $p=0.0110$ ); farmer's experience ( $p=0.0168$ ); Tc bananas knowledge ( $p=0.0100$ ) and Tc bananas market ( $p=0.0030$ ). Others included access to either public or private extension services reported by 35 percent of the respondents; Tc multiplication by government or other development stakeholders within the clusters was mentioned by 77 percent; awareness and acquisition of credit services for farm activities from the financial services was important for 64 percent. The study recommended the need to improve and access extension services; ways of making available the Tc bananas plantlets closer to farmers ; new policy framework to reduce the effect of wild life on Tc bananas farms; enhanced farmers' education and general capacity building on Tc banana growing and more opportunities of irrigation for use in Tc banana growing.