



**Factors Influencing Potato Growing by Maasai
Agropastoralists of Kenya: Influence of Selected
Factors on Irish Potato Production Among Maasai
Agro-pastoralists of Olokurto Ward, Narok
County, Kenya**

Josephat Kereto

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The Maasai of Kenya derive their livelihood from livestock. Faced with livestock diseases, over population and reduced pastureland, food security is an emerging issue. Through agro-pastoralism, food security could be improved by growing Irish potatoes. Despite their proximity to farmers and efforts made by extension providers, production was low. Factors influencing this are unknown. The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of the factors on potato production. The design used was descriptive survey. Maasai households growing the crop formed the target and accessible populations respectively. Sampling was used to identify the strata and 120 households. Data collection was by an interview schedule. $\alpha = 0.05$ through a SPSS was used for data analysis. Findings showed production potential was high. Culture, low prices, credit and inputs had a significant influence on the crop production. Extension, market access, herd size, manure use, farmers' age, income and education had no significant influence on production. With infrastructure improved, inputs and credit supplied, agro-pastoralism is the means the Maasai can employ to be food secure and sell excess for income.

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