

THE LOCATION AND STRUCTURE
OF
KENYA'S AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates location and structure of Kenya's agricultural processing industries. Under location, composite patterns of agricultural food and non-food processing industries are examined, and a generalised pattern evolved. Historical evolution of this pattern is then studied, thus revealing location factors, which are then classified.

Industrial structure is examined by individual industries, and by composite groups into which the industries fall. Employment significance of various establishment size-groups and that of mechanized establishments are studied. Furthermore, assessments of Kenya's industrial diversification are made.

Main location conclusions are that: Kenya's discontinuous industrial belt stretches from Uganda border to the southeast coast; it is characterised by higher concentrations near and within principal towns; during 1964, Nairobi, Thika and Mombasa districts jointly employed over 50% of manufactural operatives, ten of the 41 districts employing over 75% of the operatives; industries are generally market or material orientated.

Leading location factors are: transportation costs; historical and ecological influences; joint personal

considerations, processing costs, and raw materials influences; and combined market and industrial interdependence influences. Transportation costs and personal considerations are, generally, most influential.

Principal structural findings are that: 1.1% of Kenya's 9,000,000 inhabitants were manufactural operatives during 1964; agricultural processing employed 58.4% of the operatives; agricultural food processing was more profitable than non-food processing or non-agricultural manufacturing; mechanized establishments, (comprising 86.1% of the 2747 establishments), employed 96.3% of the operatives; 14.2% of establishments (having (50-100+) operatives), employed 64.2% of the operatives; establishments with (1-4) operatives were unimportant; diversification in agricultural processing industries was much above the national average for all manufacturing, and was greater in urban than in rural areas.

Besides their contribution to work in industrial geography, the findings facilitated Kenya's division into: sounder natural regions; and industrial development zones. The latter are for future planning, with emphasis on industrial decentralization to rural areas to alleviate unemployment.