ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the determinants of increased maize production in Zimbabwe, with a case study of Bindura District. A sample size of 50 was taken from a population of 3776 farmers. This comprised of 3378 A1 farmers and 398 A2 farmers. The sample was selected using stratified random sampling and the respondents were put into groups and were randomly picked from the strata. Primary data was obtained through administering questionnaires and interviews while secondary data was obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development. The data was coded using Microsoft Excel and presented and analysed using graphs, pie charts and tables. The major finding from the research was that most of the farmers apply fertilisers below the recommended quantity because of the exorbitant price of fertilisers and in addition, the study found out that there is low producer price for maize. All these factors draws back the production of maize since the cost of producing maize is higher than the revenue realised. Moreover, the study shows that there is late payment by the Grain Marketing Board to the farmers for maize supplied and late disbursement of inputs. Apart from that, the study found out that the cost of borrowing from banks is very high and the minimum collateral security requirements blocks farmers from borrowing. The study recommends that, lenders should be able to give agricultural loans to farmers at concessional interest rates. Furthermore, the study recommends that there should be increase in producer price of maize, more capitalisation of the banks can improve the agricultural lending to farmers and the government to subsidise on fertiliser and other critical inputs like fuel and farming equipment.