

## **A History of mechanization in the tea labour sections in Tanzania: A case of Mufindi Tanzania, 1950s-2020**

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The history of tea plantation in Tanzania goes back to 1902 when few tea seed plants were introduced at Kyimbila Lutheran Church Mission in Rungwe district in Mbeya region. From here tea planting spread to other areas in Tanzania such as Mufindi and Tanga. Tea was described as a labour-intensive crop from the very beginning. Because of labour intensiveness, it attracted many labourers. As a consequence, tea farming in form of plantations in Tanzania opted for migrant labour. Migrant labourers demanded wage increase almost every year. To solve the problem of increased wage bill in tea plantations the employer's opted mechanization of some key sectors which initially employed many labourers. Therefore, this paper, uses tea plantations to historicize the nature of mechanization in the tea industry by using a case of Mufindi tea plantations. Above using archival sources, the paper will be enriched by interviews to be administered in Mufindi especially on the response of the peoples on their responses on introduction of machines in the sectors they used to work before mechanization.

Key words: Iringa, Mufindi, labour migration, Tea plantations, mechanization and plucking