

Abstract

This study focused on gum Opoponax and Myrrh that are harvested from *Commiphora holtziana* (Ehrenb) Engl. and *C. myrrha* (Nees) Engl. in the drylands of Kenya. The aim was to assess and fill information gaps on gum Opoponax and Myrrh market structure, conduct and performance in Wajir County. A total of 104 randomly sampled collectors, processors, commodity dealers and consumers were interviewed. The two commodities exhibit an oligopoly market structure which is characterised by a few big wholesalers with gross profit margins of between 5% and 16%. The quantity of gum resin from Wajir County averaged 450,000 kg per year accounting for about 25% of the national trade volume of 3.3 million kg between 2011 and 2015. The producer price was US\$ 1.2 for Hagar and US\$ 3.2 for Malmal. These gum resins were mainly exported to China and Vietnam which controls 60% of the international gum resin market. It is recommended that national and county governments ensure accurate and timely trade data capture, guarantee and strengthen local value addition initiatives and institutions.