**COLONIAL SUGAR PRODUCTION IN NYANZA: (KIBOS/MUHORONI) THE ASIAN INITIATIVE, THE GENESIS, AND DEVELOPMENT OF KENYA’S SUGAR INDUSTRY,**

**1903-1963**

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For over a century the Asian community played, and continues to play, a significant economic role in Kenya. The development of the sugar industry in Kenya is inextricably linked to the history of Asian agricultural settlement in the country. However, both the colonial state and independent Kenya ignored their contribution. Therefore it is worth examining the extent of their economic role in agriculture, especially in cane production, given the fact that sugar is an essential food commodity. Unfortunately, it has not received much consideration in scholarly works like other crops such as tea, coffee, cotton, etc., especially its production in the colonial period and any socio-economic development that ensued, as a result of this initiative. This neglect could be due to the erroneous assumption that Asians were not farmers.

Thus the main question will be to investigate how the Asian cane production came into play in an initially predominantly settler dominated agriculture and later in a Kenya emphasizing peasant farming. Contrary to the belief which linked the poor Asian agricultural performance to