



Sustaining Food Security through Women Farmers' Strategies in Benin's Gambier Region: An Ethnographic Exploration

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Abstract

Benin's Gambier Region is known for its vibrant agricultural sector, with women farmers playing a crucial role in sustaining food security through diverse and resilient farming practices. The research employs ethnographic methods including participant observation, semi-structured interviews with key informants, focus group discussions, and document analysis of local agricultural extension services. Data collection took place over a period of six months in . Women farmers reported that collective farming initiatives, such as cooperatives and community-based organizations, have significantly enhanced their resilience to climate shocks, with over 75% participating in at least one cooperative activity. The findings underscore the importance of supporting women's agricultural collectives for fostering sustainable food security in the Gambier Region of Benin. Policy makers should prioritise capacity building and financial support for women farmers' cooperatives to amplify their impact on food security.

Keywords: *Benin, Agricultural Geography, Smallholder Studies, Women Farmers, Gendered Approaches, Ethnography, Community-Based Studies*

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