



Socioeconomic Factors Influencing Pig Production among Smallholder Farmers in Eastern DRC: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

Pig farming is a significant component of smallholder agricultural economies in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), contributing to food security and income generation. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including structured interviews with 150 randomly selected smallholder farmers and a secondary data analysis of government agricultural records from to . Statistical models were used for predictive analyses. Education levels significantly correlate with pig productivity ($r = 0.43$, $p < 0.05$), indicating that education enhances farmers' knowledge and skills in managing pigs effectively. Access to credit also plays a crucial role in reducing financial constraints (mean reduction: \$200 per month, CI [180-220]). The study underscores the importance of enhancing educational programmes and improving access to microfinance services as key strategies for boosting pig production among smallholder farmers. Government policies should prioritise funding for agricultural extension services targeting education and financial literacy. Microcredit schemes need to be expanded to support more farmers in accessing necessary resources. Pig Production, Smallholders, Eastern DRC, Agricultural Economics, Mixed-Methods

Keywords: *African, Smallholder, Livestock, Economics, Gender, Sustainability, Methodology*

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