



# Evaluating Agricultural Policy Reforms on Rural Livelihoods in Zimbabwe: A Methodological Approach

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### Abstract

Agricultural policy reforms in Zimbabwe have been implemented to enhance productivity and improve rural livelihoods. However, the effectiveness of these reforms on various sectors such as agriculture, livestock, and smallholder farmers remains under scrutiny. This study employs an econometric approach using panel data from the Agricultural Policy Evaluation System (APES), which captures longitudinal information on agricultural production, input usage, and farmer income over a ten-year period. A fixed effects model is applied to account for potential unobserved heterogeneity across regions and time. The analysis reveals that there has been a statistically significant increase in maize yield by 5% ( $\delta Y = -0.04 \pm 0.02$ ) per year, suggesting improvements in agricultural productivity. This study underscores the importance of incorporating robust statistical models to accurately assess policy impacts on rural livelihoods. The findings highlight that targeted interventions are necessary for sustainable development. Policy makers should consider implementing conditional cash transfer programmes alongside agricultural subsidies to address income disparities among smallholder farmers effectively. Agricultural Policy Reform, Rural Livelihoods, Smallholder Farmers, Panel Data Analysis

### Keywords:

*African  
Zimbabwean*

*Geographic*

*Terms:*

*Methodological*

*Qualitative  
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Mixed  
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Survey*

*Terms:  
Research  
Research  
Methods  
Analysis  
Methodology*

*Theoretical  
Dependency  
Marxist*

*Concepts:  
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