



Agricultural Policy Transitions and Rural Livelihood Dynamics in Zimbabwe,

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Abstract

The agricultural sector in Zimbabwe has undergone significant policy transitions since , including land reform and economic stabilization efforts. The analysis employs econometric techniques to model the impact of agricultural policies on household income, using data from the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) conducted annually between and . Cash crop yields per hectare increased by 5% in policy-reformed areas compared to pre-policy years, while livestock numbers stabilised at a 3% decline rate across all regions. The findings suggest that agricultural policy reforms have had mixed effects on rural livelihoods, with some sectors experiencing growth and others facing challenges. Policy makers should continue supporting cash crop production through improved infrastructure and market access while addressing the declining livestock sector by implementing targeted interventions. Agricultural Policies, Rural Livelihoods, Zimbabwe, Econometrics, Cash Crops, Livestock The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta} p X + varepsilon$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: *African geography, agricultural policy reforms, livelihood dynamics, econometrics, land reform, rural development, Zimbabwean economy*

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