



# Reforms and Rural Livelihoods in Zimbabwe: A Longitudinal Study of Agricultural Policy Impacts

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### Abstract

Agricultural reforms in Zimbabwe have been a focal point for policy makers aiming to improve rural livelihoods and agricultural productivity. A mixed-method approach combining quantitative data from surveys and qualitative insights through semi-structured interviews was employed to gather comprehensive information over a decade. Significant increases in maize yields were observed among smallholder farmers ( $Y = 0.5 X + 1.2, p < 0.05$ ), indicating the effectiveness of improved agricultural practices promoted by policy reforms. The study highlights the need for continued support to enhance resilience and productivity, particularly in regions with lower initial yields. Policy makers should prioritise extension services and market linkages to ensure that benefits from reform policies are equitably distributed among farmers. Agricultural Policy Reforms, Rural Livelihoods, Smallholder Farmers, Maize Yields, Extension Services

### Keywords:

*African  
Zimbabwean*

*Geographic*

*Terms:*

*Methodological/Tactical  
Case  
Longitudinal*

*Terms:  
Study  
Analysis*

*Theoretical  
Development  
Policy*

*Concepts:  
Economics  
Evaluation*

*Qualitative  
Rural Development Studies*

*Research*

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