



Policy Evolution and Livelihood Dynamics in Rural Zimbabwe: A Longitudinal Analysis

Mafarayi Hove¹, Tshangara Ndebele^{2,3}, Chiweta Mupfumira^{1,4}, Gwidezi Mabhali^{4,5}

¹ Chinhoyi University of Technology

² Africa University

³ Department of Animal Science, Chinhoyi University of Technology

⁴ University of Zimbabwe, Harare

⁵ Midlands State University

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Correspondence: mhove@gmail.com

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Author notes

Mafarayi Hove is affiliated with Chinhoyi University of Technology and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Tshangara Ndebele is affiliated with Africa University and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Chiweta Mupfumira is affiliated with Chinhoyi University of Technology and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Gwidezi Mabhali is affiliated with Midlands State University and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Abstract

Rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe have been significantly influenced by agricultural policy reforms over the past decade. A longitudinal study employing mixed-methods approach including surveys, interviews, and secondary data analysis to track changes over time. There has been a notable increase (50%) in maize yields among smallholder farmers post-policy reforms, yet income disparity remains high with rural-urban divide widening. While policy-induced agricultural productivity improvements are evident, their equitable distribution is hindered by socio-economic inequalities. Enhanced social safety nets and targeted subsidies for low-income groups to mitigate adverse effects of declining rural incomes. Agricultural Policy, Rural Livelihoods, Smallholder Farmers, Zimbabwe, Longitudinal Study The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta}^{-} p X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: African geography, rural development, policy analysis, qualitative methods, quantitative methods, livelihood dynamics, agricultural economics

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