



Adoption Dynamics and Yield-Income Outcomes of Bt Cotton among Smallholder Farmers in Eastern Zimbabwe: A Theoretical Framework

Joshua Nhaka¹

¹ Great Zimbabwe University

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Correspondence: jnhaka@aol.com

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Author notes

Joshua Nhaka is affiliated with Great Zimbabwe University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Adoption of genetically modified (GM) crops like Bt cotton has become a focal point in agricultural development strategies across Africa, particularly in regions with significant smallholder farming communities. Eastern Zimbabwe exemplifies this trend as it seeks to enhance productivity and income stability through the introduction of GM technologies. The study employs a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data analysis from farmer surveys conducted across selected districts in Eastern Zimbabwe. Data collection spans the period of Bt cotton introduction and subsequent years, capturing both immediate and sustained effects. The theoretical framework established in this study provides insights into the complex interplay of socio-economic and ecological factors affecting Bt cotton adoption among smallholder farmers in Eastern Zimbabwe. It highlights the importance of context-specific interventions to maximise benefits from GM crop technologies. Policy recommendations include targeted extension services tailored to local conditions, enhanced market linkages for smallholders, and research into sustainable cultivation practices to mitigate risks associated with continuous use of Bt cotton.

Keywords: *African geography, smallholder farming, yield analysis, income inequality, structural adjustment policies, agricultural development, biotechnology adoption*

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