



Climate Resilient Agricultural Innovations in Congo Basin Smallholder Farming: Comparative Analysis with South African Case Studies

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Abstract

Climate change is increasingly affecting agricultural productivity in both the Congo Basin and South Africa. Smallholder farmers are particularly vulnerable to these impacts. The research employs a comparative case-study approach, analysing data from multiple years of field trials conducted in both regions. Quantitative methods are used to measure outcomes such as crop yields and farmer participation rates. A notable finding is that smallholder farmers in South Africa adapted more quickly to climate-resilient practices, with a 20% higher adoption rate compared to their counterparts in the Congo Basin over three years of study. This trend was consistent across different farming systems. The comparative analysis reveals significant differences in adaptation strategies and outcomes between the two regions, highlighting South Africa's faster progress despite initial challenges. Policy makers should prioritise climate-resilient agricultural innovations that are specifically tailored to local conditions. Encouraging farmer-led initiatives is recommended as a key strategy for successful adoption. climate change, smallholder farmers, agricultural innovation, adaptation strategies, Congo Basin, South Africa

Keywords: *Congo Basin, Smallholder Agriculture, Climate Change Adaptation, Agricultural Innovation Systems, Participatory Research Approach*

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