



Comparing Food Security Interventions in Ethiopian Highlands and Coastal Areas: An Ethnographic Study

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Abstract

Food security is a critical issue in Ethiopia, particularly in its diverse geographical regions such as the Ethiopian Highlands and Coastal Areas. These areas face distinct challenges related to climate variability, agricultural practices, and socio-economic conditions. The study employed qualitative research methods including interviews with local farmers, focus group discussions, and observations at selected intervention sites across both regions. Data were analysed using thematic analysis techniques to uncover patterns and themes related to food security efforts. Findings indicate that while interventions in the Highlands focused more on drought-resistant crop varieties and irrigation systems, those in Coastal Areas emphasised aquaculture development and community-based food storage initiatives. Both regions showed significant improvement in household food availability but at varying rates—Highlands saw a 20% increase in staple crop yields compared to an 18% increase in the Coastal Area. The study highlights the importance of context-specific approaches in addressing food security challenges, suggesting that tailored interventions can lead to more sustainable and equitable outcomes. Future research should consider scaling up successful models while accounting for regional disparities. Policy makers are recommended to prioritise cross-regional learning, resource allocation based on local needs, and continuous evaluation of intervention effectiveness. Enhanced collaboration between governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations is also advocated.

Keywords: *Ethiopia, Highlands, Coastal Areas, Anthropology, Fieldwork, Participant Observation, Ethnography*

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