



Nurturing Indigenous Seeds in Ethiopian Mountainous Villages: An Ethnographic Study

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Abstract

Ethiopia's mountainous regions are home to diverse indigenous agricultural practices that support local livelihoods. This study aims to understand how these traditional farming methods contribute to sustainable development in rural communities. Qualitative data were collected through participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions with farmers, village leaders, and local experts. Data analysis involved thematic coding to identify recurring themes and patterns. Indigenous seed varieties contribute significantly to crop yields by maintaining genetic diversity and adapting to local climate conditions. Farmers report a 20% increase in staple food production when using these seeds compared to commercial varieties. This study underscores the importance of preserving indigenous agricultural knowledge for achieving sustainable rural development in Ethiopia's mountainous regions. Local governments should support seed banks and farmer cooperatives that preserve and promote traditional cultivars. Community-based initiatives can further enhance resilience by integrating climate adaptation strategies with local practices.

Keywords: *Ethiopia, Geographically-Defined Regions, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Participatory Observation, Ethnography, Cultural Ecology, Rural Development Strategies*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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