



Sustainable Soil Conservation Practices among Smallholder Farmers in Zimbabwe's Midlands Province: An Empirical Study

Nyamu Mawire^{1,2}, Gumbi Mushape^{3,4}, Moyo Dube^{1,5}, Chiwengwa Madziva⁶

¹ Africa University

² Department of Agricultural Economics, Great Zimbabwe University

³ National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Bulawayo

⁴ Great Zimbabwe University

⁵ Department of Animal Science, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Bulawayo

⁶ Department of Agricultural Economics, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Bulawayo

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Correspondence: nmawire@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Nyamu Mawire is affiliated with Africa University and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Gumbi Mushape is affiliated with National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Bulawayo and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Moyo Dube is affiliated with Department of Animal Science, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Bulawayo and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Chiwengwa Madziva is affiliated with Department of Agricultural Economics, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Bulawayo and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

Abstract

Soil degradation is a significant challenge in smallholder farming systems, particularly in resource-limited contexts such as Zimbabwe's Midlands Province. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including surveys ($n=120$) and focus group discussions with randomly selected farmers. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis. Among the surveyed farmers, 65% reported implementing at least one sustainable soil conservation practice, with terracing being the most common intervention (37%). Sustainable soil conservation practices are widely adopted by smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe's Midlands Province, though their effectiveness varies. Policy makers should encourage the promotion of integrated soil fertility management and agroforestry systems to enhance soil health sustainably.

Keywords: African Soil Degradation, Conservation Agriculture, Terracing, Crop Rotation, Zoning Systems, Participatory Extension, Geographical Information Systems

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