Agricultural Policy Transitions and Rural Livelihood Dynamics in Zimbabwe,

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Abstract

This study examines the effects of agricultural policy transitions on rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe over a period from to . Data for analysis were sourced from official government records and surveys conducted in rural areas. A mixed-method approach was employed, combining qualitative interviews with quantitative household survey data to provide a comprehensive view of policy impacts. The findings indicate that while some policies aimed at increasing agricultural productivity showed significant increases in crop yields, the overall income stability for smallholder farmers remained below pre-transition levels, highlighting challenges in achieving intended benefits. Despite initial improvements, sustained support mechanisms are needed to ensure policy transitions lead to meaningful livelihood enhancements for rural communities. Further research is required to identify effective strategies. The government and development agencies should prioritise the implementation of targeted interventions that address income volatility and market access issues faced by smallholder farmers post-transition. The empirical specification follows $Y = \vec{\beta}_{0+\beta} \, p \, X + varepsilon$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: *Zimbabwean, Agricultural Policy Transitions, Livelihood Dynamics, Rural Development, Poverty Reduction Strategies, Institutional Change, Market Access Studies*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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