



Agricultural Policy Transitions and Livelihood Security in Zimbabwe: A Synthesis

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Abstract

This review article synthesizes recent agricultural policy transitions in Zimbabwe, focusing on their impacts on rural livelihoods and agricultural productivity. No empirical data or statistical models were used; instead, the article synthesizes existing literature on policy changes and their effects as reported by various stakeholders such as government officials, NGOs, and research institutions. There has been a notable shift towards more market-oriented agricultural policies, with some evidence suggesting an increase in crop diversification from maize-based systems to other crops like vegetables and fruits, although the proportion remains relatively low at around 20% of total farm areas. The review highlights that while there is progress towards better agronomic practices and market integration, persistent issues such as inadequate infrastructure for irrigation and limited access to credit continue to hinder full implementation of these reforms. To enhance the effectiveness of future agricultural policies, it is recommended that more resources be allocated to improving rural infrastructure and enhancing farmer training programmes focused on sustainable agriculture and market linkages. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta} p X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords:

African
Zimbabwean

Geographic

Terms:

Relevant
Agroecology
Policy
Rural
Sustainable

Concepts:

Instruments
Development
Agriculture

Livelihood

Dynamics

Methodological

Terms:

Qualitative

Analysis

Framework

Evaluation

Comparative Study

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