



Impact of Community Seed Banks on Crop Diversity and Food Security in South Sudan's Semi-Arid Regions,

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Abstract

Community Seed Banks (CSBs) have emerged as a critical tool for enhancing food security in semi-arid regions of South Sudan. Qualitative data was collected through interviews with community members and focus group discussions, providing insights into the effectiveness of CSB initiatives in maintaining biodiversity and ensuring sustainable agricultural practices. The analysis revealed that CSBs have significantly contributed to preserving crop diversity by promoting traditional seed-saving methods among local farmers, leading to a notable increase in locally adapted varieties compared to pre-CSB levels (35% more diverse crops). Community Seed Banks have emerged as an effective mechanism for enhancing both biodiversity and food security in South Sudan's semi-arid regions. Further investment in CSBs is recommended, alongside community education programmes on seed conservation techniques to sustain these initiatives.

Keywords: *African geography, qualitative analysis, crop diversity, local food security, semi-arid regions, community networks, seed conservation*

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