

Subsistence Farming's Contribution to Food Security in South Africa

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ABSTRACT- Food is obtained by poor families via the Markets, poverty agriculture, and governmental or various family subsidies are all options. Village people used to grow most of their own their, but current research show that even city and rural families are increasingly dependent on marketplace expenditures, with marketplace buying accounted for up to 90% of meal supplies in certain cases. Food costs may represent for as high as 60–80 % household income in certain parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, especially for low-income households. Sustenance farming has the ability to alleviate food insecurity in rural and urban regions, enhance livelihoods, and help temper high feed price inflation. To ensure long-term food security, subsistence/smallholder agriculture production must be significantly boosted. This may be done by pushing farmers to pursue long-term production improvement via the use of higher-quality inputs. This would necessitate a substantial rise in the usages of fertilizer, natural inputs, and preservation assets, as well as the establishment of well inlet and outlet markets to help farmers acquire and use enhanced input data, industry one's (surplus) output, and reduce contract costs and risks. Increased output, as well as the intensification of farmed land, will relieve pressure on crop-sensitive peripheral regions. Here is a necessity to find out how to discover cost-effective ways to enhance accessibility to supplies by, for illustration, boosting delivery and assisting farmers in generating money so that they can purchase supplies and engage in infrastructures, so improving food security.

KEYWORDS- Agrarianization, Security, Subsistence, Farming, Urbanization.

I. INTRODUCTION

Improved sustenance output has the ability to improve food security for poor households in rural and city areas by increasing food availability and reducing dependency on meal expenditures in the face of increasing meal prices[1]. This article examines how better agricultural inputs, as well as the availability of and access to them, may help subsistence/smallholder farmers increase household food production. The purpose of this review paper is to examine Sub-Saharan African and, if possible, African experiences will be used to decide[2].

To what extent do people cultivate themselves personal nutritional, and how important is it for their current food safety and wellbeing? Whatever can be achieved, and what can it be completed, to alleviate the scenario[3].

Would subsistence farming raise the value of available food? To put it another way, would people get more bang for their buck if they grew their own food? What data do you have to address this question[4].

Is low-external-input sustainable agriculture (LEISA) a viable option for self-sufficiency in marginal regions, with the potential to grow to generate marketable surplus[5].

There is widespread agreement that families get food primarily from three different sources Instances include marketplaces, primitive farming, and remittances from federal programmes or other families[6]. Interchange, manufacturing (barter or purchase), and transfers are the three types of sources that are referred to as entitlements[7]. Rural families traditionally generated the majority of their own food, while urban households bought the lion's share of their food According to recent studies, both city and country households are growing more dependent on marketplace expenditures. As a consequence, food costs may account for 60–80 percent of a low-income household's entire income[8].

In most of Sub-Saharan Africa, eating security impacts the urban poor particularly seriously since they are primarily dependent on the marketplace, as opposed to their rural colleagues who might use natural assets to produce food or generate money. In urban areas, the ability to produce financial income and the cost of food are two significant factors that influence family food security[9]. The effectiveness of advertising and delivery networks, family buying habits, capacity to generate personal meals, and availability to public transportation are few of the more significant elements determining the price of snacks, particularly for urban families. transfers[10].

While agriculture is certainly important to rural communities, many are looking for alternative methods to supplement and secure the income[11]. As a consequence, rural areas are seeing an increase in population. livelihoods are dependent on a wide range of activities and businesses, not only agriculture. The degree to which non-farm revenue sources are used varies by country and area. Evidence from a sample of Tanzanian rural communities indicates that crops and livestock provided half of family income, while non-farm wage work, self-employment, and remittances provided the other half[12]. Upper income groups had a greater percentage of non-farm income than lower income groups. As a result, Farming was more important to the lowest families.; however, as non-farm activities increased, this reliance decreased[13].

In most of Sub-Saharan Africa, eating security impacts the urban poor particularly seriously since they are primarily dependent on the market, as opposed to their rural colleagues who may use nature assets to generate meals or generate wealth. In urban settings, the capacity to store food and the ability to prepare food are two critical factors that influence family food security. make a monetary profit, and food prices[14]. The effectiveness of the Household buying habits, marketing and distribution networks, and the capacity to Access to governmental (food subsidies or food assistance) or private (trade with rural relatives) transfers, as well as the ability to grow one's own food, are some of the most important factors. Food costs are influenced by a number of variables, particularly in metropolitan areas. Reardon et al. (2001) showed that non-farm income accounted for 40% of rural family income in a survey of 11 Latin American nations[15]. Because non-farm revenue is used by many families to buy their staple grain, the degree to which households, particularly rural ones, are able to feed themselves is dependent on both non-farm income and their own agricultural output. As a result, subsistence agriculture must be understood in the context of many sources of income. Jayne et al. (1999) discovered that 61 percent of maize-growing families in Kenya are net purchasers of maize[16]. Lower food costs may be more appealing to such families than investments in increasing subsistence output. Surpluses from off-farm revenue, on the other hand, may provide farmers with the financial stability they need to pursue further on-farm innovation. This is mainly contingent on whether the families left agriculture owing to a lack of on-farm innovation possibilities or are taking advantage of a particularly strong demand for their labor off-farm [17]. Furthermore, when non-farm employment is short-term and the home farm is not ignored, on-farm investment is more probable. Based on a case study of seven nations, Bryceson concluded that they were all experiencing "de-agrarianizing" and "desensitization." Restriction of land access (South Africa), urbanisation (Congo-Brazzaville and Nigeria), and the elimination of agricultural subsidies with the implementation of structural adjustment programs in the other four nations were the main drivers[18]. Peasant agriculture, with its subsistence focus and poor yields, was discouraged at this time. While farming is still essential to rural families, individuals are searching for other ways to make money. seeking a variety of ways to boost and stabilize their earnings Therefore Rural livelihoods are built on a wide range of activities, not only agriculture. enterprises and activities. The degree of reliance The impact of non-farm income sources varies by country and area. Evidencefrom a sample of Tanzanian rural communities [19].

According to Tripp, half of a household's revenue comes from Crops and livestock provide half of the income, The remaining half comes from non paid jobs, consciousness, and transfers. Non-farm income accounted for a larger percentage of total income[20]. Those with higher incomes have more opportunities than those with lower incomes. The poorest of the poor as a result, families were increasingly dependent on agriculture; a dependence that non-farm activities grew, reducing agricultural output in favor of agro-industrial development. Despite the aforementioned developments, African rural people place

a high importance on farming as a result, food cultivation for subsistence is still a significant source of income in Sub-Saharan Africa. Because effective input packages have yet to be created, particularly for the drier areas of the region, the usage of better input packages is decreasing. In addition, to enhance labor returns, existing input packages for higher rainfall regions must be complemented by the development of intermediate and suitable technologies. Peasant farmers have the potential to make a significant contribution to decreasing the food shortage in Sub-Saharan Africa. Subsistence farming and/or small-scale farming may improve food supply and therefore protect families from price shocks, increasing family food security[21].

A. Certain information from South Africa's agriculture industries

The 3 largest common selling locations for small producers are fresh product markets, unofficial marketplaces, and retail networks. The Pretoria Freshly Product Marketplace (JFPM) is the largest fresh produce market in Southern Africa and a major avenue for small farmers from Mpumalanga and abroad. Smallholder farmers and informal merchants have been given access to the JFPM's trading facility. The JFPM is undertaking focused extensions officer education programs to enable them better transmit market information to farmers as far out as 300 kilometers away (such as price, packing, cleanliness, storage and delivery periods, marketing brokers, and so on). Smaller producers and informal shopkeepers are given visits of the JFPM facility on a regular basis, in order to have a better knowledge of what raw product marketplaces work and how they might benefit. More lately, the JFPM has teamed up with a variety of municipalities (notably the Vhembe Districts Municipality) to build distributed packaging house and sorting station infrastructure in attempt to effectively integrate small and emerging farmers into large fresh produce markets. Small farmers will be able to provide higher-quality product to the JFPM and enjoy the advantages as a result of these "remote" facilities, which will save them time and gas. Thanks to updated cold storage facilities, they will be able to offer higher-quality products to the JFPM[12].

Informal markets with a large variety of smaller traders are common all over the agro-food value chain. All the Tshakhuma and Khumbe unofficial industries in the Vhembe area deal largely in sub-tropical fruits, according to Nesamvuni et al. (n.d.). Women make up around 3 of the sellers, with females making up the remaining 30%. Fifty-six % of women respondents claimed their only source of income was commerce. Our study is mainly interested in the extent to that such unofficial traders depend on small farms as a supplier of supply. Smallholders grow a restricted variety of low fruit, as much as definite native varieties. The remainder of the fruits sold in the market, on the other hand, were bought in bulk from large-scale commercial producers in the Levubu Valley, and street vendors transported and delivered them to Tshakhuma and Khumbe. Smallholders and informal traders might enter into downstream contract arrangements, according to Nesamvuni et al. (n.d.), to improve the availability of fruits from small farmers to these markets. However, additional storage and shipping costs may be necessary to increase these informal

merchants' retention capability, as well as to reduce the rapid deterioration of merchandise on display, which forces dealers to sell at steep discounts and often at a loss. Because supermarkets appeal to a broad customer base, the present research focuses on smallholder farmers' downstream links with large retail networks. As a result of the rise of South African groceries and their spread into smaller rural settlements, the agriculture trade area has altered drastically. Rural poor households are increasingly become net food consumers rather than producers, and many choose to purchase at the expanding network of shops in nearby rural towns. These rising trends in local food purchases in cooperative settlements was viewed in Gauteng, the Eastern Region, and KwaZulu-Natal after 1994[22].

According to the 2005/2006 Income and Expenditure Survey (IES), 92 percent of rural black families buy grain from chain shops or other formal sector merchants. 39 percent, 94 percent, and 72 percent, respectively, for meat, dairy, and veggies. Because of the economies-of-scale benefits this kind of "networked merchant" has in procurement, supermarkets are able to provide goods at cheaper costs than informal sellers in local markets. Because they are unable to compete with the price of these big merchants, their rivals for local demand, particularly informal dealers, have often been pushed out of business. While the effects on consumers may seem to be favorable, the effects on smallholder farmers are, on the overall, detrimental. The assertion that the expansion of supermarkets has benefitted consumers is debatable. Consumers in South Africa have seen at least two cycles of fast food price increases over the time period covered by the study. It's possible that supermarkets' widespread presence has exacerbated rather than reduced food price inflation.

B. Access to the improved inputs and technologies

According to recent study, subsistence food production is becoming more important in certain nations, mostly as a backup against inflation and the proliferation of monetary demands. In Sub-Saharan Africa, rural family farmers continue to place a high priority on agricultural operations for domestic consumption. This is especially significant in South Africa, given the disparities in food prices between urban and rural families.

Based to North Africa study, the proportion of households that rely on poverty agricultural as their major supply of nutrition and money is declining, but the proportion of households who rely on poverty agriculture as a supplementary supply of sustenance is rising. However, agricultural supplies (especially communal land in erstwhile homeland areas) seem to be underused, suggesting that, in the face of growing food prices, tailored incentives in favorable circumstances may be used to boost agricultural productivity (e.g., with excellent soils and moisture) and market infrastructure.

The aforementioned may be accomplished through delivering better seed types, fertilisers, and other inputs, as well as targeted subsidies, in order to produce greater yields. This will lead to an increase in local staple food production, improving food security and reducing reliance on food imports. Low domestic food production, according to Bryceson (2002), has a detrimental effect on the

country's overall quality of life, therefore there is need to increase agricultural output. However, the productivity of basic food production remains poor, owing to a decrease in farming families' adoption of better input packages. This is due in part to the decrease in assistance for farmers who want to keep using the better input packages as a consequence of structural adjustment programs. By restoring certain 'smart or targeted' input subsidies, the usage of better input packages may be boosted. These inputs should be accessible at a reasonable cost and suited to the climate and soil characteristics in the area. It should be emphasized that in most areas of Sub-Saharan Africa, smallholder farmers depend largely on informal routes to get inputs. [23] On-farm seed saving, farmer-to-farmer exchange, and unregulated sales are some of these seed access routes. In Southern Africa, smallholder farmers have access to just 10% of their seeds through official markets. In order to enhance smallholder farmer access to inputs, informal or village markets are key routes that may need to be upgraded or created[24].

C. Small sustenance agriculture: limitations and opportunity

While subsistence agriculture has been proven to be essential for family food security, smallholder agricultural productivity is poor, which is often cited as a cause for both urban and rural families abandoning agricultural output and relying on non-farm sources of income. The non-use of high-yielding crop types that are extensively utilized in other areas of the globe, according to the Rockefeller Foundation (2006), is a major contributor. As a consequence, boosting yields is mostly dependent on expanding the planted area. Inefficiency and the danger of food shortages might be substantially decreased if improved seeds and technology could reach farmers. Bringing improved seeds, fertilisers, and technology to smallholder farmers, on the other hand, is a far more difficult task. The variety of climates, soils, and crops that may be grown there adds to the complexity[25]. Nonetheless, these better inputs can be delivered and farmers may be helped to utilize them more efficiently (Rockefeller Foundation, 2006).

II. DISCUSSION

The survey's research yielded A lot of findings have been reached. Several of our assumptions depending on the research were confirmed, like food producers were young and better educated than traditional farms. These findings back with the invention assumption, that claims that inventors and adopters are often youthful and extra informed than late users. This hypothesis may be applied to organic farmers in South Africa since the movement is still in its early stages, and it supports Anim's (1999:656) findings that better educated farmers embrace organic farming techniques faster than less educated farmers.

At the period of this study, the majority of the properties transformed in South Africa were horticulture properties, which are lower than conventional industrial farmers. These findings corroborate previous research. Large-scale farmers may be afraid of the dangers and issues connected with the conversion process because they perceive difficulty in applying organic techniques on a large-scale farm (Egri, 1999:65). Another factor may be the increased

financial strain that small-scale farmers frequently experience, encouraging them to undertake high-value agriculture ventures like green agriculture.

A number of reasons influenced the choice to switch to organic farming. Organic farmers were driven by environmental and soil fertility concerns rather than commercial considerations. Financial factors such as higher pricing or lower input costs had a small to average influence in the choice, which is consistent with results in the literature. Despite the fact that changing to natural agriculture "does not plan to be a remedy for the systemic troubles of agriculture in overall," the writings claims that the pledge of greater earnings, whilst also less essential than ecological worries, is at the frontline of the judgement procedure for growers in many nations.

III. CONCLUSION

Sustenance meal producing is the greatest readily available way to entitlements, either immediately to feed farmers and indirectly through decreased food prices, since eating insecurity is firstly and primarily a problem of accessibility to eat. This will reduce the dependence on and stress associated with buying meals at the marketplace, which accounted for the majority to 90% of all foods consumed by either rural and city households, with the remainder 10% originating through the remaining two primary suppliers (subsistence production and transfers). As a consequence, the proportion of household income spent on food has risen. In other countries, the proportion of reduced family members ranges from 60% to 80%, however in Southern Africa, the percentage is quite low, at just 37% of household revenue. The ability to earn monetary revenue and meal pricing are crucial for attaining family food security due to the industry's dependency on foodstuff. As a consequence, the efficiency of advertising and delivery systems, household purchasing patterns, the ability to grow one's own food, and accessibility to publicly or commercial transfer all has an influence on food expenses in both country and city households. Subsistence farming is crucial for boosting household food safety in the face of growing food prices. This would reduce dependency on marketplace expenditures, especially amongst the agricultural impoverished, because nature resources may be used for food or income. Moreover, agriculture operations for home use remain to be a priority for rural people. The amount of households in Southern African that rely on agriculture as their major supply of nutrition is declining, while the proportion of families who rely on sustenance agriculture to supplement market expenditures is rising. This indicates how important subsistence farming is to households as a supply of sustenance, lowering the motivation to work for a living. The efficiency of the smallholder/subsistence agriculture component, on the other hand, is well recognised to be low, and if the semi is to have a significant impact on food safety, it must significantly raise its output.

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