

# SHIFTING FROM SUBSISTENCE FARMING IN RWANDA : COMMERCIALIZATION AND EFFECT ON FOOD ACCESS

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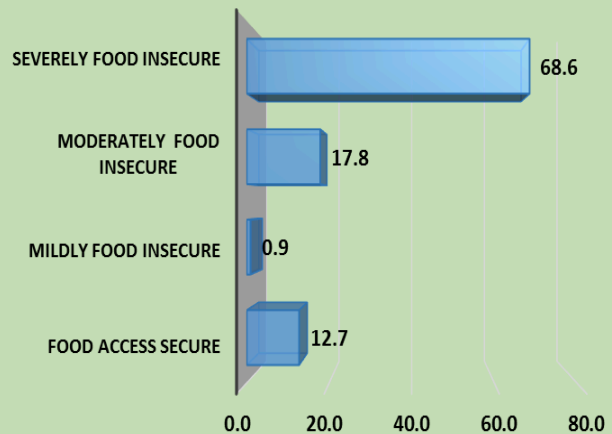
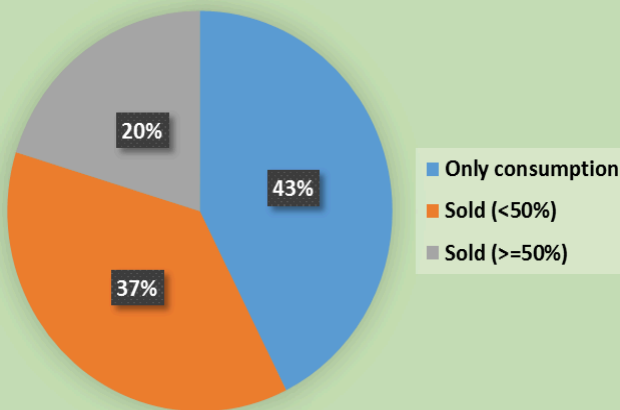
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Since 2000, Rwanda is promoting the transformation from subsistence to market oriented farming. As smallholder farmers shift to the new production system, there are concerns about their risks to food insecurity. Recent studies show an increase of food availability but also an increase in farmers' dependency on food markets. The question is whether output commercialization would improve or worsen households' access to food and consequently affect their food security. This study analyzed the effect of commercialization on food access among 331 smallholder farmers in the Northern Province. Household Commercialization Index (HCI) and the Household Food Insecurity Access Score (HFIAS) were used.

## Commercialization level (HCI)

## Food access (HFIAS)



**Estimation of the Ordered Logit model; food access insecurity reduces with:**

- ✓ Output commercialization
- ✓ Land size
- ✓ Gender (Female headed hh: more vulnerable)
- ✓ Credit
- ✓ Distance to the border/market

**Further research:**

1. Effect on Nutrition security
2. Comprehensive gender analysis

