



Tropentag, September 17-19, 2018, Ghent

“Global food security and food safety:
The role of universities”

The Significance of Peri-Urban Agriculture in Sustainable Livelihoods in Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Despite the technological and mechanical advancements in food production, hunger and malnutrition remain central issues and poverty continues to be on the increase in many cities around most developing countries including Nigeria. Issues of food and livelihood security have wide reaching implications in such countries. Urban and peri-urban agriculture is used as a strategy by many urban dwellers to improve their livelihoods and overall well-being. Urban agriculture, farms on the urban fringe, and rooftop gardening are becoming increasingly popular and is believed to provide the urban poor with food, potential income, whilst improving the urban environment and reducing pressure on small available farmland.

This research applies a quantitative approach to measure and identify the determinants of Household Livelihood Security (HLS) status in poor urban settlements of two Local Government Areas of Oyo State, Nigeria. Indices were computed for five HLS domains (economic, food, health, education and empowerment) using a large set of socio-economic characteristics of the households. Each indicator representing a particular livelihood security domain is standardised, then the relevant household livelihood security index for the particular domain is constructed by averaging the standardised indicators. Once each HLS index is constructed, then the overall Livelihood Security (LS) index for the household is constructed using LS formula.

Using two-stage least square regression, the study indicates that all security variables (economic, food, health, education and empowerment) are significant determinants of household livelihood security (HLS). The positive coefficients are consistent with findings from previous studies such as Rahman and Akter (2014). Based on the findings of this research, economic, food and empowerment securities are on the average. It is therefore wise for policy makers to promote programs that will improve economic, food and empowerment securities as these would translate into higher livelihood outcomes. Age, level of education, religion, farm size and household size have negative effects on livelihood security. Lack of storage facilities and government support were identified as major constraint to development of peri-urban agriculture amongst many others.

Keywords: Agriculture, livelihood security, peri-urban, two-stage-least-square- regression