



# Close the Gaps!-losses in Local Food Systems: Evidence from Smallholder Vegetable Farmers in Southwest Nigeria



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## Introduction

The demand for richer and better quality diets in Africa is increasing with the emergence of a larger middle class.

This puts pressure on current production practices to deliver outputs sustainably.

Therefore, the current local food systems and supply chains support the increase in production that could occur?

The vegetable supply chain in Oyo state was examined with a focus on the production node; output was assessed against Post-Harvest Loss (PHL)

## Materials and Methods

A two-stage sampling technique was used to select 120 vegetable farmers in peri-urban communities of Oyo state

Data were collected through oral interviews with the aid of a structured questionnaire.

The data were analysed using descriptive statistics, Foster-Greer-Thorbecke Index, gross margin and regression analyses.

The PHL value was computed and its effect on the poverty status of farmers was examined.



Fig 1: Residence of the Farmers



Fig 2: Myself Collecting Data through Oral Interview

## Conclusions

PHL was likely to worsen the poverty status of farmers.

intensive training of farmers on harvesting and postharvest handling techniques; and the need for technology in processing and preservation techniques.

## Results

The node was dominated by men (94 %).

The mean age was 44 years and average farm size was 3 hectares.

Almost all (96 %) depend on vegetable production as the only source of income.

At least 50 percent of the farmers experienced High-Post Harvest Loss (over 40 percent of output).

Tab 1: Gender Distribution of the Respondents

Sex	Frequencies	Percentage
Male	113	94.17
Female	7	5.83
Total	120	100

Tab 2: Distribution of the Respondents by Job with highest Income

Job with highest Income	Frequencies	Percentage
Farming	115	95.83
Trader	2	2.50
Civil Servants	3	1.67
Total	120	100

Tab 3: Distribution of the Respondents by Level of PHL

Level of Post Harvest Loss	Frequencies	Percentage
Low	55	45.83
High	65	54.17
Total	120	100



Fig 3: Myself Collecting Data through Oral Interview