

Assessment of Food Loss among Arable Crop Farmers in Nigeria

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Introduction



Food loss refers to a decrease in the quantity & quality of edible food (FAO, 2011).

It occurs between the production and distribution phases of the value chain (FAO, 2019).



In developing countries, substantial losses of arable crops such as rice, and maize, occur during these stages (Xue et al., 2017).



In Nigeria, food loss has worsened significantly, leading to food scarcity and hunger (Global Report on Food Crises, 2022).



based on a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) conducted by authors.

- **There are only a few qualitative studies on the topic.**
Implication: Under-representation of (farmers) actors' perspectives.
- **There is a lack of context-specific data:**
Implication: Lack of data to plan sustainable interventions.

Evidence from the SLR also suggests that social dynamics among actors in the Food System contribute to Food Loss.

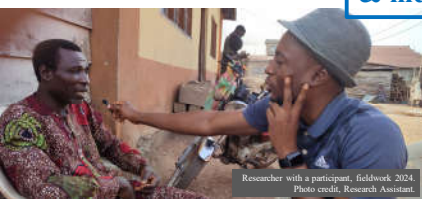
Therefore, this study *focuses on rice, maize & cassava*, and *uses qualitative research methods* to address the research question:



What is the role of social dynamics among arable crop farmers and other stakeholders in reducing food loss in Nigeria?

Methods

- Key informant interviews **agronomist & gov't agents**
 - Group discussions **arable farmers & extension agents**
 - Participant interviews **arable farmers, extension agents & media agencies**
- Participants= 22**
- Data collection: October 2023 – March 2024**
- Method of analysis **Thematic Analysis**



Researcher with a participant, fieldwork 2024. Photo credit: Research Assistant

Results

Theme 1:
Evidence of knowledge gap among farmers due to limited contact with extension

Researcher: ... So, doesn't the ministry representative visit?
Farmer 6: ...extensions[agents]...used to come regularly... but in the past 3-4 years, we have stopped seeing them.

- **Knowledge gap: Testament from an expert:**
“[Because of] lack of the knowledge of agronomy practices, [farmers] ... do all manner of multiple cropping, combining all manner of crops together ... your choice of crop combination is ... critical [to productivity].” **Agronomist 1**
- **Due to a lack of benefits from the government, farmers withhold information leading to insufficient data to plan interventions**
“when it comes to data collection, the farmers are not happy. Anytime we come to them to ... collect data, they will say, we have been coming to them often and often without giving them anything. So, they don't want to release information...” **Statistician 2.**

Conclusion

