

The Contribution of the Livestock Marketing Programme in Improving Household Food Security in Communal Areas of Umzimkhulu Local Municipality, Kwa-Zulu Natal

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Abstract : The study investigates the impact of the National Red Meat Development Programme on household food security in rural areas of uMzimkhulu. Self-administered questionnaires were employed to gather data from 77 smallholder beef farmers participating in the St. Paul feedlot project. Data analysis utilized the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) developed by USAID to assess the household food security status of St. Paul feedlot beneficiaries, with descriptive statistics employed for result analysis. Findings indicate that the majority (80.50%) of beneficiaries experienced food insecurity, while (19.50%) were classified as food secure, with most participants falling within the category of moderate food insecurity. Food insecurity predominantly stemmed from challenges faced by farmers unable to sell their cattle or whose cattle were not market-ready due to bureaucratic obstacles hindering the programme. Farmers identified feed shortages as the primary constraint, resulting in missed income opportunities. These findings underscore the critical need to address feed challenges and bureaucratic barriers to enhance the efficacy of the National Red Meat Development Programme in promoting household food security in rural areas.

Keywords : National Red Meat Development, household food security, St. Paul feedlot

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