

Social Safety Net and Food Security Among Farming Household in Southwest, Nigeria

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Abstract : This study investigated the effects of social safety nets on food security among farming households in Southwest Nigeria. The study used a multistage sampling technique, purposively selecting two states from southwest Nigeria, Oyo and Ogun as the study area with eight Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) agricultural zones. The Local Government Areas (LGAs) were stratified into urban and rural LGAs. Sixteen villages from Oyo and 12 villages from Ogun were randomly selected from the rural LGAs using a proportionate to-size sampling, resulting in 472 respondents, with 271 and 201 from Oyo and Ogun states, respectively. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics like mean, standard deviation, frequency and percentages, while logistic regression analysis examines the association between independent variables and dependent variables. The study found that poverty reduction, social empowerment, food security palliative, microcredit, and agricultural empowerment are the most prevalent social safety nets among farming households. School feed programs are the most prevalent form of poverty reduction, while training for empowerment improves wellbeing. Food item distribution is the most beneficial for food security and wellbeing. Self-empowerment-based micro-credit support is the most effective, while Anchor Borrower's project is the most beneficial for agricultural empowerment. The study found that 62.68% of the variance in food security status is explained by independent variables. females farmers have a 56% higher likelihood of being food secure than their male counterparts. An additional increase in age decreases the likelihood of being food secure by 6%. Married individuals have a 58% lower likelihood of being food secure compared to singles, possibly due to increased financial responsibilities. A larger household size increases the likelihood of being food secure by 3.41%. Larger households may benefit from economies of scale or shared resources and social safety net programs. Engagement in farming as a primary occupation increases the likelihood of being food secure by 62%. The study further reveals that participation in poverty reduction and microcredit programs significantly increases the likelihood of food security by 30,069% and 135.48%, respectively. The study therefore recommends expanding school feed programs, improving empowerment training, strengthening food distribution, promoting micro-credit, supporting agricultural empowerment, and addressing gender disparities in social safety net programs.

Keywords : poverty reduction, food distribution, micro-credit, household well-being

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