

Time Aspects of Food Security: The Case of Remote and Peri-Urban Farming Systems in Imo State Nigeria

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Problem Statement and Objective

Food insecurity is associated with specific periods in the farm family food production cycle but the shortfall specific periods is often not known. This study focused on isolating the quantity of food supplied to the household, the quantity of food required, and the periods during which short falls exist.

Research Methodology

The farming and rural systems approach was used. A total of 120 households were selected using a multi stage random sampling technique. The data were collected using structured questionnaires. A hierarchical clustering technique was used to classify the households into Remote and Peri-Urban Farming Systems. The data were analyzed using descriptive tools and by computing the food requirement index.

Results

Farm families in the remote farming systems experienced food shortfalls for a period of 8 months in a year and could not meet up their food requirements by both own and market supply.

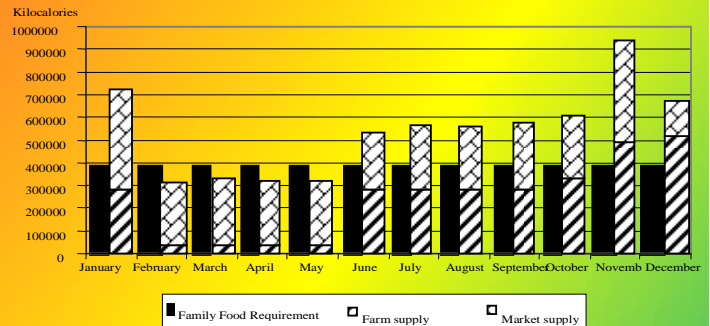


Figure 1: Deficits in monthly food supply of Peri-Urban Farming System in Imo State.

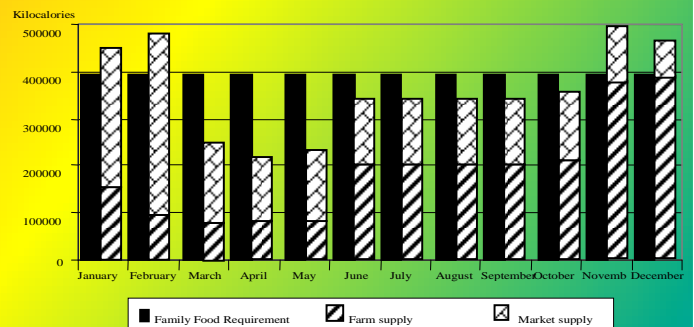


Figure 2: Deficits in monthly food supply of Remote Farming System in Imo State.

The households in the Peri-urban farming systems experienced food short falls for a period of 4 months in a year when own food produced and market supply are unable to meet the family food requirement (Figures 1 and 2)

Conclusion

The need for food preparation and preservation techniques as well as periodic food supply interventions using neglected species is pertinent, particularly in the remote farming systems.

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