**Implication of agricultural land-use and management practices on food insecurity among rural households in south-west states, Nigeria.**

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**Abstract**

The challenge of food insecurity can be addressed through effective transformation of agricultural practices, as many literatures recognize agricultural food system as one of important measures in promoting food security. This study analyzed the effect of agricultural land-use and its management practices on food insecurity among rural households in southwest states, Nigeria. The study designed a multistage sampling for the selection of 340 rural household heads and cross-section data were collected during 2022 crop production season through structured questionnaire. Descriptive statistics, food security line and probit regression model were employed as analytical techniques. The major findings revealed that 67% of farm household heads were male and the average age of 47.11years signified that most of them are still youths. Exactly 81% of the household heads were married, the mean household size was about 6 persons, most of them acquired secondary education and experienced in farming. The farm size cultivated was 2.63ha on the average. Total monthly expenditure for all farm households was N322424.9 while their food security index was 0.479412. The result also showed that more than average (53%) of household heads is food insecure while the rest (47%) are food secure. The study further identified that the prevalent land management practices were crop rotation, organic manure, minimum tillage and fertilizer application while arable cropping system dominated among food insecure land users, and the majority of food secure land users specialized on the cash cropping practice. The analysis of probit model found that on-farm income, arable cropping, cash cropping system, mixed farming, fertilizer application and land management measure were significantly influenced food insecurity. The study therefore suggests arable cropping, cash cropping and mixed farming as essential agricultural land-use that driven food insecurity. Also, fertilizer application and other land management measures like crop rotation, organic manure, and minimum tillage are recommended for improving agricultural food production. Policy intervention therefore should enlighten the agricultural stakeholders on the huge contributions of agricultural land-use patterns and its sustainable management towards food insecurity reduction.

**Keywords:** agricultural land-use, land management practices, food insecurity, household heads, southwest states, Nigeria