

Review of: "Socioeconomic Drivers of Food Insecurity Among Rural Households: Evidence from Participating Farmers in the Integrated Rice-Fish System in Ebonyi State, Nigeria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article titled "Socioeconomic Drivers of Food Insecurity among Rural Households: Evidence from Participating Farmers in Integrated Rice-Fish System in Ebonyi State, Nigeria" examines the factors contributing to food insecurity among smallholder rice farmers in Ebonyi State. The significance of addressing food insecurity is emphasized in relation to the health, development, and welfare of the population. The study brings important insights to this critical issue. However, there are a few areas where the study could be strengthened for more comprehensive results:

1. The study is limited to Ebonyi State, which has unique agricultural and socioeconomic characteristics. While this focus is valuable, it may limit the generalizability of the findings. A discussion on how the results might differ in other regions of Nigeria or sub-Saharan Africa with different agroecological and economic conditions would improve the applicability of your conclusions.
2. The authors should delete this part from the abstract because it is not really needed: "Primary data was collected under the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish (Integrated rice-fish farming system) funded by USAID through a three-stage sampling technique. Foster–Greer–Thorbecke (FGT) and the Endogenous Switching Regression model were applied in the data analysis."
3. In the introduction, the authors should rephrase this for clarity: "To this end, achieving food security by an individual (rice farmer/households), region, or country requires adequate good nutrition and food consumption and maintaining this level at low risk over time."
4. The study primarily uses data from farmers participating in the integrated rice-fish farming system, which could introduce a selection bias. These participants may already be in a more advantageous position than non-participants, skewing the results. The authors should acknowledge and discuss the potential bias of selecting participants from a specific farming intervention. Additionally, including a comparison group of non-participating farmers or a broader cross-section of the population would make the findings more robust and representative.