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Food Security and Safety: The Role of Knowledge Coproduction and Sustainable Food Production in Africa

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Abstract

Food insecurity remains a scar on the conscience of humanity given that approximately one billion people on earth suffer from malnutrition and hunger with Africa bearing this brunt. The myriad challenges associated with attaining food security have been the impetus for formulating Goal 2 of the UN SDGs. In keeping with the desired goal of zero hunger by 2030, the need to both support and enlist the expertise of small-scale farmers in knowledge coproduction is paramount. This chapter examines avenues for knowledge coproduction between small-scale food crop growers and agro-technocrats for sustainable food production in Africa by curating and synthesizing relevant tertiary literature from online repositories. Findings show that food security is hindered by government policy support for cash crop production to the neglect of perishable food crops. Other challenges identified were prevalence of pests, postharvest losses and lack of access to land given that landless farmers had to give two-thirds of their harvest to landlords. The chapter therefore recommends instilling knowledge coproduction among agro-technocrats and recalibrating land laws in favour of the food-poor in the study areas.

Keywords

Food security and safety, Sustainable food production, Knowledge coproduction, Sustainable Development Goal 2, Africa.

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