Coping Strategies of Agrarian Households

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the household-specific accounts of the coping strategies agrarian households employ to mitigate food insecurity and the role household characteristics play in these choices. The study fills the knowledge gap in the nexus between household characteristics and food coping strategy preferences using data from in-depth interviews from 17 households and two gendered focus groups. For agrarian communities with common-pool resources, ad-hoc food management strategies remain the widely used food coping strategies, while the household location and income as the main determinants of household coping strategies. Furthermore, the study identified dog trade as an emerging, inexpensive, profitable, and less-laborious alternative livelihood, with significant potential in promoting household food security. Social and civic capitals like churches and the justice system are emerging as avenues that promote food security in agrarian communities through donations and avenues to seek redress, respectively.

**Keywords:** Household characteristics, food coping strategies, food insecurity, agriculture.