

UNIVERSITY OF HOHEIMHEIM  
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
IN  
THE TROPICS AND SUBTROPICS



**URBAN FOOD SECURITY**  
**A CASE STUDY OF JOS METROPOLIS, PLATEAU STATE**  
**NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA**

**THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR**  
**THE AWARD OF A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE (M. Sc.) IN**  
**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**

**NDULUE ECHEZONA KINGSLEY**

**SUPERVISORS**

**PROF. DR. MATIN QAIM**  
**PROF. DR. MANFRED ZELLER**

**FUNDED BY EISELEN FOUNDATION ULM**

**OCTOBER, 2007**

## ABSTRACT

The past few decades have seen food security undergo significant changes especially in the developing countries. Evolving from the period of self-sufficiency in food in the decade of the 1950s, the need for economic and physical access to food was realized in the 1980s by including not only availability of food but also accessibility through the purchasing power of the food insecure. To achieve physical and economic access to balanced nutrition, the concept of nutritional security was included to enable everyone exploit his or her potentials. The World Food Summit of 1996 and the Millennium Development Goals of 2000 provided a comprehensive framework for countries for ensuring the food security off their citizens. Though progress has been made by some of the countries, evidence still shows that over 800 million people mainly in the developing countries are still food insecure. This situation is quite disturbing given the fact that the last couple of decades is in contrast, one in which for the first time output has consistently increased faster than population. For Nigeria the situation is of concern with about 40% of the population being food insecure. In recognition of the importance of the World food Summit and Millennium Development Goals which can be achieved through ensuring the food security of its population, identification of the food insecure becomes a major step to this. In Nigeria many studies have been carried out by the government and researchers in identifying the food insecure, but most of these studies were mainly rural targeted while the urban areas were neglected. In response to the above this study analyzed household's food security but with emphasis in an urban area: Jos metropolis in Plateau State, North Central Nigeria. A sample of 120 households was obtained through a four stage random sampling. Based on the recommended per kilo calorie per adult equivalent of 2250 kcal, the result indicated that 49.2% and 50.8% of the households were food secure and non food secure. Analysis based on the Shortfall/Surplus index revealed that the households that were food secure exceeded the calorie limit by 10.1% while the food insecure household fell short of this limit by 8.2%. Result of the head count ratio showed that 48.5% of individuals in households in the study area were food secure while 51.5% food insecure. A Probit model composed of nine variables was specified. Age of household head, household size by adult equivalent, household assets and total expenditure (used as a proxy for income) were found to determine the food security status of households in the study area. Achieving food security will thus entail not only identifying the vulnerable, but also by proper implementation of programs that will increase their income generating activities.