



**Gender Differences in Household Resource Allocation and its impact
on Food Security: A Case Study of Kwara State, Nigeria**

BY

GBENGA MATHEW OWOTOKI

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN
THE TROPICS AND SUBTROPICS

SUPERVISORS

PROF. DR. DR. h.c.F. HEIDHUES

PD. DR. GERTRUD BUCHENRIEDER (NEE SHRIEDER)

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ABSTRACT

While women play important roles as producers of food, managers of natural resources, income earners and caretakers of household food and nutritional security they continue to face enormous social, cultural and economic constraints.

This study was done to assess gender-based inequality in allocation of resources and their impact on household food security. The study employed a three-stage sampling procedure to select 60 rural households from the study area. Univariate analysis (chi-square and T-tests) on descriptive statistics was done to assess the gender differentials in resource allocation. In all cases, a significance level of $P \leq 0.05$ or else otherwise stated was measured. To determine the impact of gender differentials in resource allocation on food security, multivariate analysis based on econometric methods was used. This involved the identification and prioritization of the determinants of vulnerability of households to food insecurity. The weighted sum reflecting frequency and severity of household coping strategies was adopted as a proxy for the vulnerability of households to food insecurity.

Findings showed that household became more vulnerable to food insecurity as the age of household head, household size, and dependency ratio and susceptibility of household head to sickness increased. On the other hand, the household became less vulnerable to household food insecurity as the education level of household head, total off farm income, access to extension services, total annual value of crops produced, amount spent on food, size of land operated and number of labor hours increased. However, the key issues that influenced vulnerability of household to food insecurity in the study area were allocation of resources, gender of household head and access to formal and informal (extension)