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THE INTERFACE BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD INSECURITY: THE CASE OF KENYA

Regina Muiyuro

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ABSTRACT

Purpose of the Study: The purpose of the study was to examine the interface between climate change and food insecurity in Kenya, analyzing the mechanisms by which climate change impacts food security, the current state of food insecurity in the country, and the adaptation strategies being employed to address these challenges.

Problem Statement: Food insecurity is a persistent and growing concern in Kenya, with millions of people lacking access to sufficient food for consumption. Kenya's agricultural sector remains highly vulnerable to climate shocks, with unpredictable rainfall patterns and recurring droughts significantly disrupting crop production and exacerbating food insecurity.

Methodology: The study was a literature-based review, synthesizing findings from various research papers, reports, and data sources. This comprehensive approach facilitated a holistic examination of the complex relationship between climate change and food insecurity in Kenya.

Results of the Study: The study found that climate change has both direct and indirect effects on food security in Kenya. Direct impacts include reduced crop yields due to changes in temperature and precipitation patterns, while indirect effects encompass impacts on household incomes, access to water, and overall health status. The research also underscored the importance of adaptation strategies and indigenous knowledge in mitigating the impacts of climate change on food security. However, it noted that current adaptation efforts may not be sufficient to fully address the escalating challenges posed by climate change.

Conclusion: The study concludes that addressing food insecurity in the face of climate change requires a comprehensive strategy that considers the specific needs and vulnerabilities of different regions in Kenya. It highlights the need for promoting resilient food systems and sustainable development practices to enhance food security in the country.

Recommendations: The study recommends a multifaceted approach to addressing the climate change-food insecurity nexus in Kenya. This includes integrating climate change adaptation strategies into national and local food security policies, strengthening the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities, enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration, and scaling up investment in both climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Furthermore, it emphasizes the need for continued research and monitoring to better understand the evolving dynamics of the climate change-food insecurity interface and to inform evidence-based policymaking.

Keywords: Climate change, food insecurity, Kenya

INTRODUCTION

Food insecurity is a persistent and growing global concern, with millions of people lacking access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for consumption (Wheeler & Von Braun, 2013). The magnitude and severity of acute food insecurity are projected to reach unprecedented levels in many regions, highlighting the urgent need for action to reduce food gaps, protect livelihoods, and address acute malnutrition (IPC analysis, 2024). Food insecurity is not merely a matter of food availability but encompasses issues of food access, utilization, and stability (Wheeler & Von Braun, 2013). It is shaped by multiple factors, including unemployment, lack of financial capital, and limited infrastructure support (Leonard, 2022). The challenge of food insecurity is further compounded by rapid population growth and urbanization, which place additional pressure on food production systems (Onyutha, 2019).

Addressing food insecurity requires a multifaceted approach, including efforts to increase crop yields, implement targeted safety nets, and promote household resilience (Dasgupta & Robinson, 2022). Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) practices and innovations, such as crop diversification, early planting, and adoption of drought-tolerant varieties, play a crucial role in enhancing agricultural productivity and food security (Ndalilo, Wekesa, & Mbuvi, 2020). However, despite various coping and adaptation strategies employed by farmers, food production in many regions continues to decline, indicating a need to further increase farmers' capacity to

adapt to changing conditions (Agesa et al., 2019). Climate change is manifesting through various environmental shifts, including alterations in temperature and precipitation patterns (Kogo, Kumar & Koech, 2021). Studies have shown high inter-annual rainfall variability and significant temperature increases over time in various regions (Obwocha, 2015). These changes have led to shifts in land use and vegetation patterns, directly impacting agricultural productivity (Obwocha, 2015).

Future projections indicate that climate variability will likely alter cropping patterns and yields in several regions (Kogo, Kumar & Koech, 2021). Climate change is not only affecting crop production but also impacting household water use and overall environmental conditions (Leonard, 2022). The effects of climate change extend beyond local impacts, with global patterns of climate change impacts on crop productivity having potential consequences for food availability worldwide (Wheeler & Von Braun, 2013). Climate change is expected to have varying impacts across different regions, with some areas potentially experiencing more severe consequences than others (Hasegawa et al., 2018). The relationship between climate change and food insecurity is complex and multifaceted. Climate change affects food security through impacts on food availability, accessibility, utilization, and affordability (Masipa, 2017). Research has shown that for every 1°C of temperature anomaly, severe global food insecurity increased by 1.4% in 2014 and 1.64% in 2019 (Dasgupta & Robinson, 2022).

Climate change has been responsible for reversing some of the improvements in food security that would otherwise have been realized, with the highest impact observed in certain regions (Dasgupta & Robinson, 2022). The impacts of climate change on food security are not limited to direct effects on crop productivity; they also include indirect effects on food access and utilization through impacts on household and individual incomes and access to drinking water and health (Wheeler & Von Braun, 2013). Climate variability and change are likely to exacerbate food insecurity in areas currently vulnerable to hunger and undernutrition (Wheeler & Von Braun, 2013). Studies have found that stringent climate mitigation policies, if implemented evenly across all sectors and regions, could potentially have a greater negative impact on global hunger and food consumption than the direct impacts of climate change (Hasegawa et al., 2018).

In Kenya, the impact of climate change on food security is particularly pronounced. Studies have found that climate change has negatively affected food production in various regions of the

country, leading to food shortages in households (Khisa, Oteng'i & Mikalitsa, 2014). The arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya are especially vulnerable, with climate change exacerbating existing challenges of food production and access (Kogo, Kumar & Koech, 2021). Research has shown that food security in Kenya responds positively to favorable agroecological zones, soil drainage and depth, and high population density, but these factors are increasingly under threat from climate change (Kabubo-Mariara & Kabara, 2018). Climate change-induced droughts have resulted in reduced household milk production, a key indicator of nutrition security in some regions (Cheruiyot et al., 2022). Farmers in Kenya are adopting various coping and adaptation strategies, such as early land preparation, planting early maturing crop varieties, and implementing water and soil conservation practices, but crop production in many regions continues to decline (Agesa et al., 2019).

The situation is further complicated by the projected increase in food insecurity, with over 5.4 million people expected to experience acute food insecurity in the near future (IPC analysis for Kenya, 2024). Therefore, the reason for studying food insecurity in Kenya came from the urgent need to tackle this serious problem as climate change continued to impact food availability. The findings of this study can contribute to the development of more effective strategies for adaptation and resilience-building, helping to ensure that all Kenyans have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food in the face of a changing climate. Ultimately, this research was motivated by the pressing need to develop targeted and efficient policies that consider local contexts to reduce food insecurity in Kenya, particularly in light of the projected increase in food insecurity affecting millions of people in the country.

KENYA'S FOOD SITUATION

Globally, food insecurity is a persistent and growing concern with millions of people lacking access to sufficient food for consumption. In Kenya, 7.9 million people in Kenya, corresponding to 15.4 percent of the country's population, were facing food insecurity according to Statista (2024), as of November 2024. The situation is projected to worsen, with the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for Kenya (2024) estimating that over 5.4 million people will experience acute food insecurity between March and June 2023. The arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) of Kenya are particularly vulnerable, with some counties experiencing extremely critical levels of acute malnutrition. The severity of food insecurity in Kenya is further

highlighted by data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which reveal that the rate of food insecurity in the country jumped from 15 percent between 2014 and 2016 to 19 percent between 2017 and 2019 (FAO, 2023). Malnutrition remains unacceptably high, with 29 percent of children in rural areas and 20 percent of those living in cities stunted.

In addition, significant vitamin and mineral deficiencies are a severe public health problem, and approximately 1.5 million people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) have their nutrition status undermined by their health condition (World Food Programme, 2024). While agriculture remains the main economic driver in Kenya, it is highly vulnerable to climate shocks. Unpredictable rainfall and recurring droughts contribute to the disruption of crops – 95 percent of which are rain-fed – and the erosion of soils. Moreover, inefficiencies in food systems lead to high prices and insufficient market supplies, limiting the availability of, and access to, food (World Food Programme, 2024). The motivation for the study came from the urgent need to address the serious issue of food insecurity in Kenya, particularly in the context of climate change. Ultimately, the findings of the study contributed to the development of more effective strategies for adaptation and resilience-building, helping to ensure that all Kenyans had access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food despite a changing climate.

LITERATURE ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON FOOD INSECURITY IN KENYA

The research methodology employed in this study was a literature based. The literature review approach enabled the study to consolidate and critically evaluate the existing body of knowledge on the impact of climate change on food security not only in Kenya but also in other regions as well. Thus, it facilitated the development of a comprehensive understanding of the complex relationships between climate change and food security in a bid to identify potential strategies for adaptation and mitigation. Given the nature of the challenge posed by climate change and food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa, the use of a literature review proved to be a valuable and appropriate approach for this study.

Kogo, Kumar and Koech (2021) examined the past and future crop production and food security in Kenya under variable climate. The study found that Kenya is already experiencing episodes of climate change, manifested by seasonal changes in precipitation and temperature, which negatively affect crop production and food security, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. Future projections also indicate that climate variability will likely alter cropping patterns and yields in several regions,

further exacerbating food insecurity. As Kenya faces a high population growth rate and rapid urbanization, the study emphasizes the need for crop production and food security systems to become more adaptive to the uncertainties of projected climate variability and change. The findings highlight the direct link between climate change and food insecurity, as changes in temperature, rainfall patterns, sea water level, and CO2 concentration in the atmosphere have devastating impacts on agricultural production, which is the primary source of food and livelihood for many Kenyans. The study underscores the importance of providing decision-makers and stakeholders with a detailed assessment of climate impacts and adaptation strategies to improve crop production and food security in the face of climate change.

Moreover, Obwocha (2015) assessed the impacts of climate change and variability on food security in West Pokot County, Kenya, for the period 1980-2012. The study used a mixed-methods approach, including household surveys, key informant interviews, analysis of rainfall and temperature data, and GIS methodologies. The results revealed high inter-annual rainfall variability, with years 1984 and 2000 experiencing the lowest precipitation. Temperatures increased by 1.25°C in the lowlands and 1.29°C in the highlands over the study period. The majority of respondents strongly believed that climate variability had occurred in the area, with the lowland experiencing the greatest effect on crop production. The study found that changes in land cover and land use, such as the 68% increase in cropland and 6% decrease in grassland, were driven by climate variability and population pressure. The analysis of vegetation greenness using the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) showed that changes in NDVI values were not solely caused by rainfall, indicating the influence of other factors like temperature and land use changes on vegetation health and, consequently, food security. The study emphasizes the need to integrate indigenous households' perceptions of climate variability and change with scientific data for better planning and targeting of interventions to address food insecurity in the face of climate change.

Furthermore, Onyutha (2019) explored the linkages among food insecurity, poverty, and climate change in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The study highlighted that the projected doubling of the African population to 2.48 billion by 2050 poses a serious challenge to increasing food supply to meet future demand, which is further compounded by the impacts of climate change on agriculture. The study emphasized the need to prioritize adaptation focused on poverty alleviation over mitigation in SSA, as poverty is a major contributor to household food insecurity. Onyutha (2019)

suggested that efforts should be directed towards yield gap closure, addressing food distribution challenges, promoting non-farm income-generating activities, and unifying government priorities in agriculture and food security. The study also stressed the importance of enhancing adaptive capacity at the household level, particularly through the empowerment of women. Additionally, the study called for global collaboration in science to achieve food security in SSA, as food insecurity and persistent poverty in the region are of direct relevance and concern at a global scale. The study underscores the complex interplay between climate change, poverty, and food insecurity, highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach to address these challenges in sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition, Hasegawa et al. (2018) conducted a multiple model assessment to investigate the combined effects of climate change and climate mitigation efforts on agricultural commodity prices, dietary energy availability, and the population at risk of hunger. The study found that by 2050, stringent climate mitigation policies, if implemented evenly across all sectors and regions, would have a greater negative impact on global hunger and food consumption than the direct impacts of climate change. These negative impacts would be most prevalent in vulnerable, low-income regions such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where food security problems are already acute. The study highlights the potential unintended consequences of climate mitigation efforts on food security, emphasizing the need for carefully designed policies that consider the specific needs and vulnerabilities of different regions.

Besides, Khisa, Oteng'i, and Mikalitsa (2014) examined the effect of climate change on food production and security among small-scale farmers in the semi-arid region of Kitui District, Kenya. The study employed various data collection methods, including structured questionnaires, oral interviews with key informants, focus group discussions, and direct observation. The results showed that most farmers had small land holdings, lacked alternative income sources, and experienced reduced agricultural production due to decreased rainfall. The study found a significant difference between farm size and land use, indicating that climate change has negatively affected food production in the district, with increasing temperatures, more frequent extreme climatic conditions, and reduced rainfall. Consequently, this has led to food shortages in households. The study recommends financial and technical assistance for small-scale farmers to help them employ coping strategies against the harmful effects of climate change on their agricultural activities.

Additionally, Kabubo-Mariara and Kabara (2018) investigated the effects of climate change on food security in Kenya using fixed and random effects regressions for food crop security. The study also simulated the expected impact of future climate change on food insecurity based on various emissions scenarios and global circulation models. Using county-level panel data for yields of four major crops and daily climate variables spanning over three decades, the results showed that climate variability and change will increase food insecurity. The study found that food security responds positively to favorable agroecological zones, soil drainage and depth, and high population density. The authors recommend strengthening policies on mitigation against and adaptation to climate change to address food insecurity in Kenya.

Moreover, Cheruiyot et al. (2022) described the effect of climate change-induced drought on food availability in Kilifi County, Kenya, and explored community experiences. The study found that Kilifi County has one of the highest rates of undernutrition in Kenya, with unpredictable rainfall in recent years resulting in reduced household milk production, a key indicator of nutrition security. Focus group discussions with community members and healthcare stakeholders revealed three major themes: lack of food variety, collapse of drought-mitigating projects, and increasing poverty levels. The authors suggest promoting culturally sensitive and adaptable dietary alternatives, ensuring continuity of agricultural and financial support projects, and improving local leadership and governance as potential solutions to these problems.

Furthermore, Huho and Mugalavai (2010) examined the effects of droughts on food security in Kenya, highlighting the vulnerability of the country to climate change impacts, particularly in the agricultural sector. The study emphasizes the need for effective adaptation and mitigation strategies to address the challenges posed by droughts and ensure food security in Kenya. In addition, Gebre, Amekawa, and Fikadu (2023) investigated factors influencing farmers' choice of climate change adaptation strategies and their effects on food security in Kenya. Using data from 540 farmers across six counties, the study employed multivariate probit, censored least absolute deviation (CLAD), and propensity score matching (PSM) models. The results showed that planting drought-tolerant crop varieties, growing diversified crops, growing early maturing crops, and diversifying household income sources were the four major adaptation strategies used by farmers. The adoption of these strategies was positively associated with younger farmers and those with higher education levels. The study found that farmers who adopt one or more adaptation strategies have higher food security status compared to those who do not, with the food security status

increasing as the number of adopted strategies increases. The findings highlight the positive impact of climate change adaptation practices on food security in Kenya.

Besides, Agesa et al. (2019) conducted a survey in two wards of Yatta sub-County, Kenya, to identify opportunities for building farmer capacity in dealing with climate variability. The results showed that farmers in the region were aware of climate change, with deforestation identified as the main cause. The major impacts on crop production included the introduction of drought-tolerant crops, reduced yields, and changes in planting time. Farmers adopted various coping and adaptation strategies, such as early land preparation using organic and inorganic fertilizers, planting early-maturing crop varieties, and implementing water and soil conservation practices. However, despite these efforts, crop production in the region continues to decline, indicating a need to further increase farmers' capacity to better adapt to the effects of climate change and ensure sustainable agricultural production and improved food security.

Moreover, Leonard (2022) examined how climate change affects food security and the challenges faced by residents in combating climate change and food insecurity in the Somkhele rural community of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The study used a questionnaire to ascertain the views of 424 households on the impacts of climate variability on food security, coping mechanisms, and challenges involved in securing livelihoods. The results indicated that climate change has affected agricultural productivity and household water use, particularly since 2015. Food security in the region is shaped by unemployment and a lack of financial capital, with limited assistance from local government in providing the necessary infrastructure to obtain water. The study highlights the need for good governance and reflexive approaches that consider household livelihood strategies and indigenous knowledge systems to ensure relevant support against the impacts of climate change on food security in the region.

Furthermore, Wheeler and Von Braun (2013) examined the impacts of climate change on global food security, focusing on crop productivity, food availability, and the stability of food systems. The study found a robust and coherent global pattern of climate change impacts on crop productivity, which could have consequences for food availability. While the potential impact is less clear at regional scales, the study suggests that climate variability and change will likely exacerbate food insecurity in areas currently vulnerable to hunger and undernutrition. The authors also discuss the indirect effects of climate change on food access and utilization through impacts

on household and individual incomes and access to drinking water and health. The study emphasizes the need for considerable investment in adaptation and mitigation actions toward a "climate-smart food system" that is more resilient to the influences of climate change on food security.

Additionally, Masipa (2017) examined the impact of climate change on food security in South Africa, focusing on current realities and future challenges. The study found that climate change, particularly global warming, affects food security through food availability, accessibility, utilization, and affordability. The author argues that South Africa's ability to adapt and protect its food items depends on understanding the risks and vulnerability of various food items to climate change. However, this poses a challenge in developing countries, including South Africa, due to weak institutions, limited access to technology, and a wide gap between the cost of adapting and the necessary financial support from the government. The study highlights the need for an integrated policy approach to protect arable land against global warming and invest in technologies that will resist risks to food systems.

In addition, Bedasa and Bedemo (2023) investigated the effects of climate change on food insecurity in the Horn of Africa using panel data and a dynamic panel model. The study found that food insecurity in the region is adversely affected by temperature, with a 1% increase in mean temperature resulting in a 0.357% increase in food insecurity. Additionally, a 1% increase in carbon dioxide emissions leads to a 0.026% increase in food insecurity, while a 1% increase in precipitation results in a 0.023% decrease in food insecurity. The study also found that cereal yield, food production index, and political stability significantly and negatively influenced food insecurity. The authors conclude that climate change results in food insecurity in the Horn of Africa and recommend adopting high-temperature and drought-resistant varieties of improved food crops to ensure food availability and security in the region.

Moreover, Dasgupta and Robinson (2022) investigated the extent to which current changes in food insecurity can be attributed to climate change using food insecurity data from the FAO food insecurity experience scale (FIES) and reanalyzed climate data from ERA5-Land. The study employed a panel data regression with time-varying coefficients and controlled for the Human Development Index and drought measured by the six-month Standardized Precipitation Index. The results showed that for every 1°C of temperature anomaly, severe global food insecurity increased

by 1.4% in 2014 and 1.64% in 2019. The impact was even higher for moderate to severe food insecurity, with a 1°C increase in temperature anomaly resulting in a 1.58% increase in 2014 and a 2.14% increase in 2019. The study suggests that climate change has been responsible for reversing some of the improvements in food security that would otherwise have been realized, with the highest impact in Africa. The authors emphasize the importance of targeted and efficient policies that consider local contexts to reduce food insecurity, such as efforts to increase crop yields, targeted safety nets, and behavioral programs to promote household resilience.

Furthermore, Connolly-Boutin and Smit (2016) developed a conceptual framework that integrates three bodies of scholarship: climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, food security, and sustainable livelihoods. The framework demonstrates how food security vulnerabilities are related to multiple stresses and adaptive capacities, reflecting access to assets. By applying this framework to synthesize findings from various studies in sub-Saharan Africa, the authors highlight the interconnections between climate change, food security, and livelihoods. The study emphasizes that climate change is commonly recognized as a major issue likely to have negative consequences on food security and livelihoods in the region, as sub-Saharan Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change due to multiple biophysical, political, and socioeconomic stresses that interact to increase the region's susceptibility and constrain its adaptive capacity. The study suggests that recognizing these interconnections can help in the development of more effective policies and programs to address food insecurity and climate change impacts on livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa. The framework provides a valuable tool for guiding empirical investigations and understanding the complex relationships between climate change, food security, and livelihoods in the context of sub-Saharan Africa.

Lastly, Ndalilo, Wekesa, and Mbuvi (2020) investigated the role of Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) practices and innovations in enhancing agricultural productivity and food security in the face of climate change in coastal Kenya. The study focused on five Mijikenda communities and used household surveys, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions to elicit information on local livelihoods, climate variability patterns, food security, and ILK practices. The findings reveal that the local communities widely use farming-related ILK practices and innovations, such as crop diversification, early planting, adoption of drought-tolerant and fast-growing local varieties, crop rotation, conservation tillage, and domestication of wild food and medicinal plants, to improve crop productivity and ensure food security in the face of climate

change. The study highlights the importance of these ILK practices in maintaining agrobiodiversity, which is crucial for food security, especially in areas severely affected by climate change. Despite some evidence of ILK erosion, the study found that local communities effectively mobilize their cultural values and customary resource management and governance systems to preserve and use these practices. The study emphasizes the urgent need to integrate ILK practices and innovations into relevant policies and climate change adaptation strategies at the local, national, and international levels to enhance livelihoods, food security, and agrobiodiversity conservation in the face of climate change.

INTERFACE BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD INSECURITY

Based on the reviewed studies, the study found that climate change and food insecurity are intricately linked, with climate change exacerbating existing food security challenges and creating new ones. The research indicates that changes in temperature and precipitation patterns have significant impacts on agricultural productivity, which directly affects food availability and accessibility. These changes manifest through seasonal shifts in weather patterns, negatively affecting crop production and food security, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. High inter-annual rainfall variability and significant temperature increases over time have led to shifts in land use and vegetation patterns that directly impact food production. These findings are consistent with the global pattern observed, where climate change impacts on crop productivity have significant consequences for food availability worldwide.

In addition, the interface between climate change and food insecurity is characterized by both direct and indirect effects. Direct effects include reduced crop yields due to changes in temperature and precipitation patterns, as well as increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods. Indirectly, climate change affects food security through impacts on household and individual incomes, access to drinking water, and health. Research has quantified this relationship, showing a clear correlation between temperature anomalies and increased global food insecurity. This demonstrates the growing impact of climate change on food insecurity over time. Furthermore, climate change has been responsible for reversing some of the improvements in food security that would otherwise have been realized, with the highest impact observed in Africa.

Besides these direct impacts, the reviewed literature also highlights the complex nature of the climate change-food insecurity nexus, emphasizing that it is not a simple cause-and-effect relationship but rather a multifaceted interaction influenced by various socio-economic and environmental factors. Food insecurity, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, is shaped not only by climate change but also by poverty, weak institutions, and limited access to technology. Complicating this picture further is the finding that stringent climate mitigation policies, if implemented evenly across all sectors and regions, could potentially have a greater negative impact on global hunger and food consumption than the direct impacts of climate change itself. This underscores the need for carefully designed policies that consider the specific needs and vulnerabilities of different regions when addressing the climate change-food insecurity interface.

Among other findings, adaptation strategies and local knowledge emerge as crucial factors in addressing the interface between climate change and food insecurity. Farmers who adopt one or more climate change adaptation strategies have higher food security status compared to those who do not. These strategies include planting drought-tolerant crop varieties, growing diversified crops, cultivating early maturing crops, and diversifying household income sources. Similarly, Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) practices play a significant role in enhancing agricultural productivity and food security in the face of climate change. These practices, such as crop diversification, early planting, and adoption of drought-tolerant varieties, are crucial in maintaining agrobiodiversity and ensuring food security, especially in areas severely affected by climate change. However, despite these adaptation efforts, the research indicates that in many regions, crop production continues to decline, suggesting that current adaptation strategies may not be sufficient to fully address the challenges posed by the climate change-food insecurity interface. This underscores the need for continued research and development of more effective and sustainable adaptation strategies to ensure food security in the face of ongoing climate change.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that climate change and food insecurity are closely connected, with climate change being a major cause of food insecurity worldwide, especially in vulnerable regions. The studies reviewed showed that changes in temperature and rainfall patterns, along with more frequent and intense extreme weather events, had significant effects on agricultural production and food systems. These effects were not the same across all regions, as some areas faced more severe

challenges than others. The link between climate change and food insecurity was made worse by socio-economic factors such as poverty, weak institutions, and limited access to technology, which increased the difficulties many communities faced in achieving food security. Furthermore, the study concludes that the relationship between climate change and food insecurity is dynamic and evolving. As climate change progresses, its impacts on food security are likely to intensify, potentially reversing gains made in reducing hunger and malnutrition in recent decades. The research highlights that for every degree Celsius increase in global temperature, there is a corresponding increase in food insecurity, with the effects being particularly pronounced in Africa and other vulnerable regions. This underscores the urgency of addressing climate change as a key component of global efforts to achieve food security and sustainable development.

The study also concludes that adaptation strategies and local knowledge play crucial roles in mitigating the impacts of climate change on food security. Farmers and communities that adopt climate-smart agricultural practices, diversify their crops and income sources, and utilize indigenous knowledge are better positioned to maintain food security in the face of changing climatic conditions. However, the research also indicates that current adaptation efforts may not be sufficient to fully address the challenges posed by the climate change-food insecurity nexus, particularly as climate change impacts intensify. This suggests a need for continued investment in research, development, and implementation of more effective and sustainable adaptation strategies.

Lastly, the study concludes that addressing the interface between climate change and food insecurity requires a multifaceted approach that integrates climate mitigation and adaptation efforts with broader sustainable development goals. This includes carefully designed policies that consider the specific needs and vulnerabilities of different regions, as well as the potential unintended consequences of climate mitigation strategies on food security. The study emphasizes the importance of strengthening institutional capacities, improving access to technology and resources, and promoting resilient food systems as key components of a comprehensive strategy to ensure food security in a changing climate. Moving forward, continued research and monitoring will be essential to better understand the evolving dynamics of the climate change-food insecurity interface and to inform effective policy responses at local, national, and global levels.

AREAS OF PRIORITY

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that policymakers and stakeholders prioritize the integration of climate change adaptation strategies into national and local food security policies. This should include the promotion of climate-smart agriculture practices, such as drought-resistant crop varieties, improved water management techniques, and sustainable land use practices. Additionally, there should be increased investment in agricultural research and development to enhance crop resilience and productivity in the face of changing climatic conditions. It is crucial to ensure that these strategies are context-specific and take into account local environmental conditions, socio-economic factors, and indigenous knowledge.

Furthermore, it is recommended that efforts be made to strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities, particularly smallholder farmers and those in arid and semi-arid regions. This can be achieved through improved access to climate information services, financial resources, and appropriate technologies. Capacity building programs should be implemented to enhance farmers' skills in climate-resilient agricultural practices and diversification of livelihoods. Moreover, the establishment of robust social protection systems and safety nets is crucial to help vulnerable populations cope with climate-related shocks and food insecurity.

The study also recommends enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination in addressing the climate change-food insecurity nexus. This includes fostering partnerships between government agencies, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to develop comprehensive and integrated solutions. It is essential to promote a systems approach that considers the interconnections between climate change, agriculture, water resources, health, and economic development. Additionally, there should be increased efforts to mainstream climate change and food security considerations into all relevant policy areas, including urban planning, infrastructure development, and energy policies.

Lastly, it is recommended that there be a significant scaling up of investment in climate change mitigation efforts alongside adaptation strategies. This includes accelerating the transition to renewable energy sources, promoting sustainable land use practices, and enhancing carbon sequestration in agricultural systems. However, it is crucial that these mitigation efforts are designed and implemented in a way that does not compromise food security, particularly in vulnerable regions. The study also recommends continued research and monitoring to better

understand the evolving dynamics of the climate change-food insecurity interface and to inform evidence-based policy making. This should include the development of improved climate models and impact assessment tools, as well as long-term studies on the effectiveness of various adaptation and mitigation strategies in different contexts.

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