

The role of animal protein in food security in the context of climate change/ variations in the villages of Njalobekoue, Bompello and Mboy II in the East region of Cameroon

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1. Global objective

Assess the impacts of climate change/variations on animal proteins in the villages of Njalobekoue, Bompello and Mboy II in the East region of Cameroon.

2. Specific objectives (SO)

SO 1: To identify the subsistence activities of the local population in village of Njalobekoue, Bompello and Mboy II in the context of climate change/climate variation in the East region of Cameroon.

SO 2: To assess the perception and experience of the local population concerning climate change/climate variations in the villages of Njalobekoue, Bompello and Mboy II in the East region of Cameroon.

SO 3: To investigate the impact of climate change / climate variations on food security (animal protein) in the villages of Njalobekoue, Bompello and Mboy II in the East region of Cameroon.

SO 4: To find out the strategies put in place by the local population and state to adapt to climate change /climate variation in the East region of Cameroon.

3. Main hypotheses

- Diverse climatic factors affect food (animal protein) in the village of Njalobekoue, Bompello and Mboy II in the East of region of Cameroon.

4 .Material and Method

- Data collection for this work was done in two phases
*Secondary data collection from written sources (scientific works in the internet) and
* Primary data collection from the field work (participant observation, administration of questionnaire).

- Study area

This study was carried out in the villages of Njalobekoue, Bompello and Mboy II in the east region of Cameroon.

5. Results

Result 1(R1)

Result 1.1: Households carry out diverse activities to ensure food security .These activities in order of importance are; agriculture, collection of Non Timber Forest Products, hunting, fishing and commerce.

Result 2(R2)

R2.1 : From 1980 to 2010 in the three villages, the respondents noted climate variations such as drought (65%), seasonal changes (20%), violent rains (5%) and violent winds (10%). All these environmental changes has affected animal protein intake adversely as households are concerned.

Result 3(R3)

R3.1: Climate change has a negative impact on animal protein. Drought periods are accompanied by increase temperatures, drying off of vegetation, increase in bush fires destroying the vegetal cover, affecting feeding of animals and destruction of their habitat forcing them to migrate in search of new habitat and food.

R3.2: This period is noted for low protein intake by households because drought period are not favorable for intensive hunting. Severe drought affects invertebrates like caterpillar for instance, they become smaller in size, do not appear in the expected period and at times caterpillar invasion (do not appear at all in season).As a result household protein intake drops automatically.

R3.3: During the long rainy season which is a good hunting period, at times violent winds and violent rains limits hunting thus causing a reduction in the quantity of animal protein intake by households.

Result 4(R4)

R4.1: In the study villages 70% of the population has increase hunting to access animal protein.

R4.2: In the study villages 75% of household were involved in buying of slices of meat known in the villages as “*coupe –coupe*.”

R4.3: The state through Ministry of Fishery, Livestock and Animal Husbandry (MINIPIA) adopted strategies like treatment of livestock diseases and giving loans to households interested to raise livestock production in the study villages and the region as a whole.

7. Discussion

Climate change/variations affected the activities of the local population. These environmental changes in the study villages have an impact on availability of animal protein, accessibility and to some extent the quality. There has been reduction in quantities of animals making it difficult for households to ensure animal protein intake. Animal protein consumption was periodical in relation to season. This indicated that protein intake changes in relation to seasons. In drought periods, animal protein intake dropped making households vulnerable to poor protein intake.

8. Recommendation

Creation of more fish ponds rich in fish and sensitization on sustainable fishing should be developed by the Ministry of fishery to solve the problem of protein insufficiencies in the study villages and the East region.

Keywords: *Food security, animal protein and climate change /variations.*

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