

# **Impacts of Globalisation on the Food System in the Southwest Province of Cameroon**

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Meeting the supply and needs of the food system in today's world of growing influence of globalisation is a very big challenge. Experience has shown that the impacts of globalisation on the food system has proven beyond doubt the most important issue facing both industrialized and less industrialized countries who depend solely on agriculture to increase their Gross Domestic Products (GDP). Moreover, environmental constraints, changes in government policies, structural adjustment programmes, free trade, movement of people across the border as well as socio-economic realities have presented new scenarios in the food system in the southwest province of Cameroon in recent years.

This study examines the present situation of the food system by presenting the food flows and the roles played by the various stakeholders in the food system. It also gives insight into the types of food produced, how it is produced, the effect of market price fluctuations on food production, where the food ends up, and the various methods of production and preservation. I have presented a brief discussion on the various farming practices of both the local and urban farmers.

The study also gives in detail the various methods and techniques used throughout the research work and its application to the food system. An explanation of the factors affecting food production has been examined by using SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) as an example. It also explores the level of communication, key issues, problems and possible action plans of food production. In addition, the notion of globalisation including its origin, claims and impacts on the food system is elucidated, and there is a discussion of the various implications of the processes of globalisation, including both positive and negative impacts and the actual driving forces that are bringing changes to the food system. In order to fully explain these driving forces, a conceptual framework has been designed to show the changes brought into the food system by globalisation.

The study concludes by stating the various action plans as a guideline which, when followed, can foster changes in the food system. Finally, the study finds that there is need for a common understanding and goal-sharing to develop the food system in Cameroon for coming generations.