STAGE D

DATA STORYTELLING

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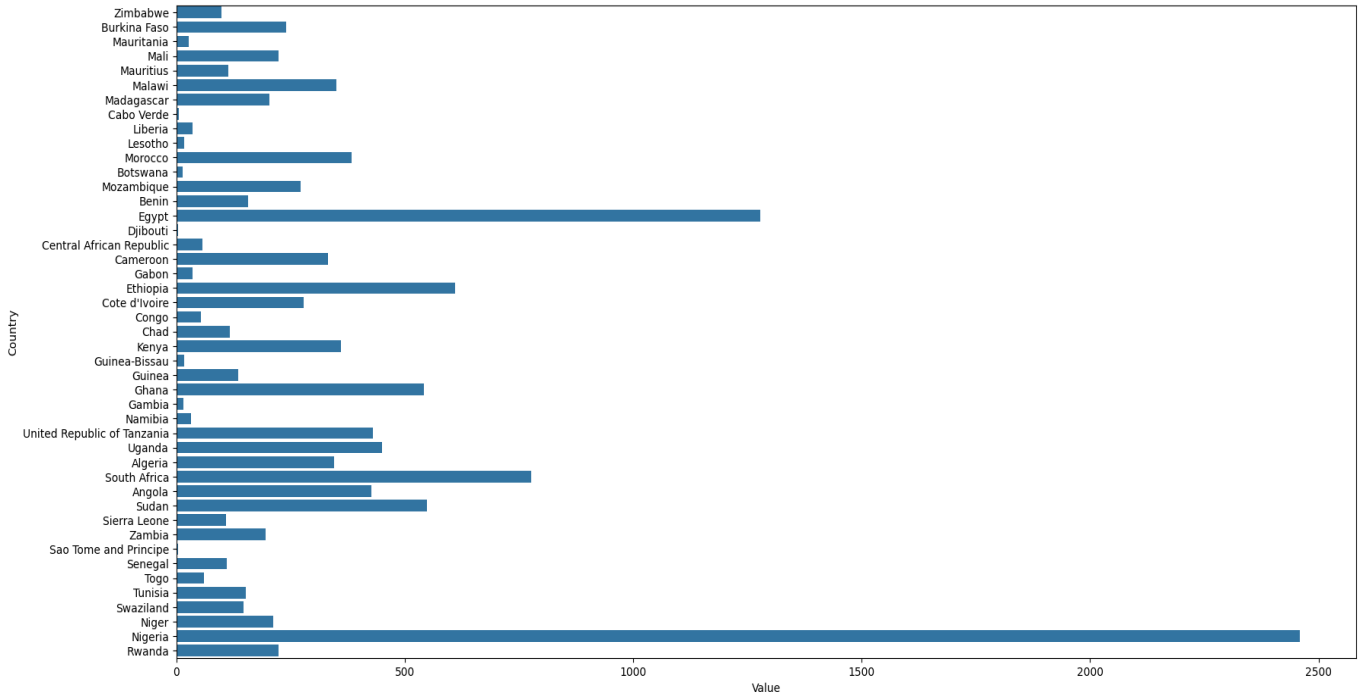
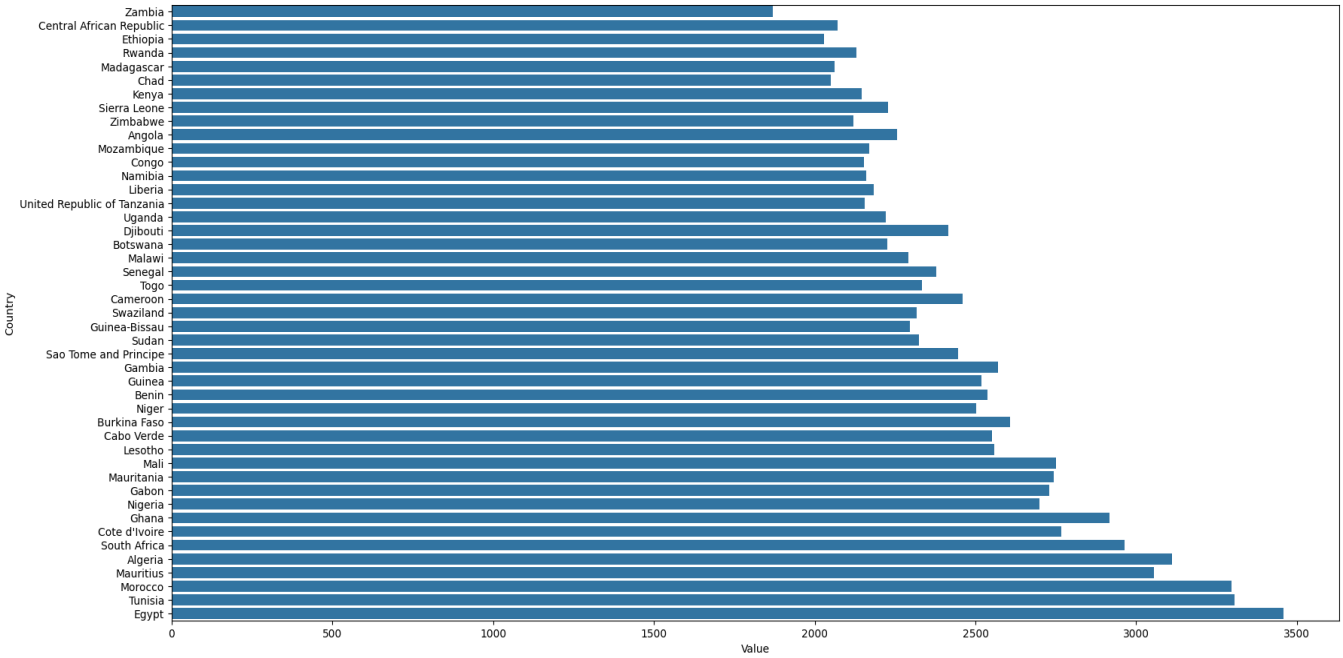
Interpretation

The data related to African Food Production of 94 items of 45 different countries. The time period was from 2004 to 2013. The data is plotted here:

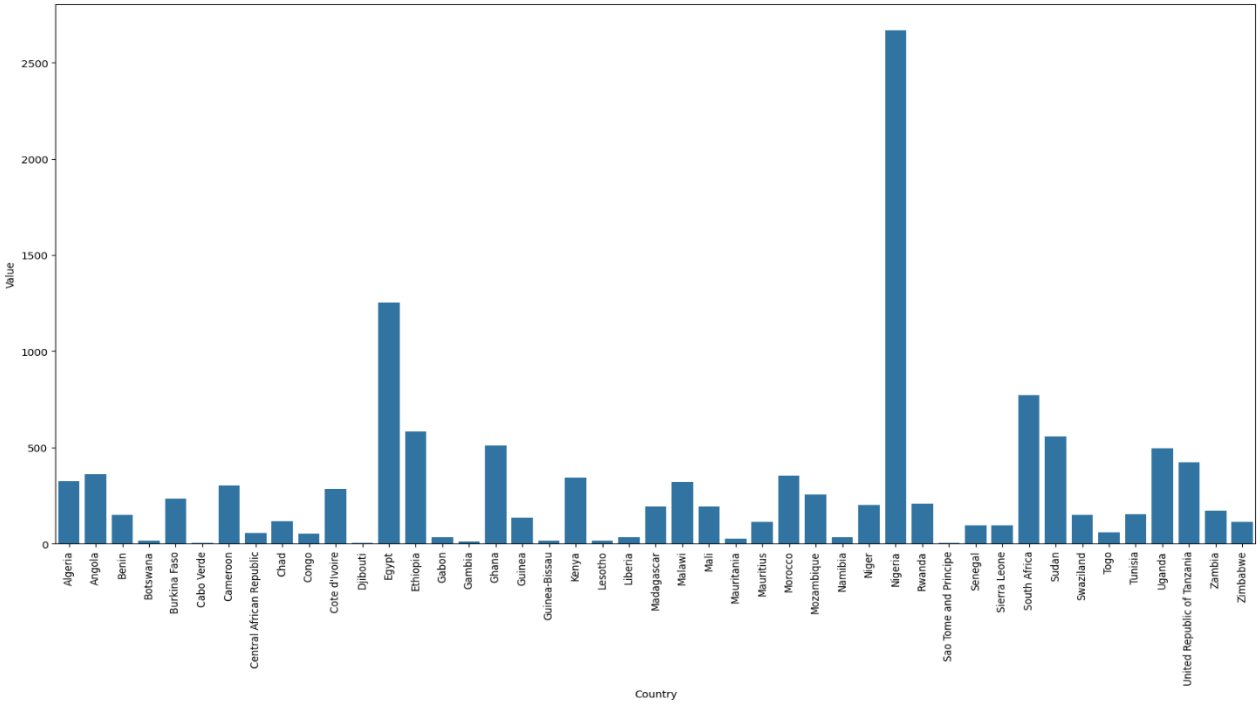


From this plotting, it is clearly visible that Nigeria tops the chart in crop production in Africa followed by Egypt and South Africa.

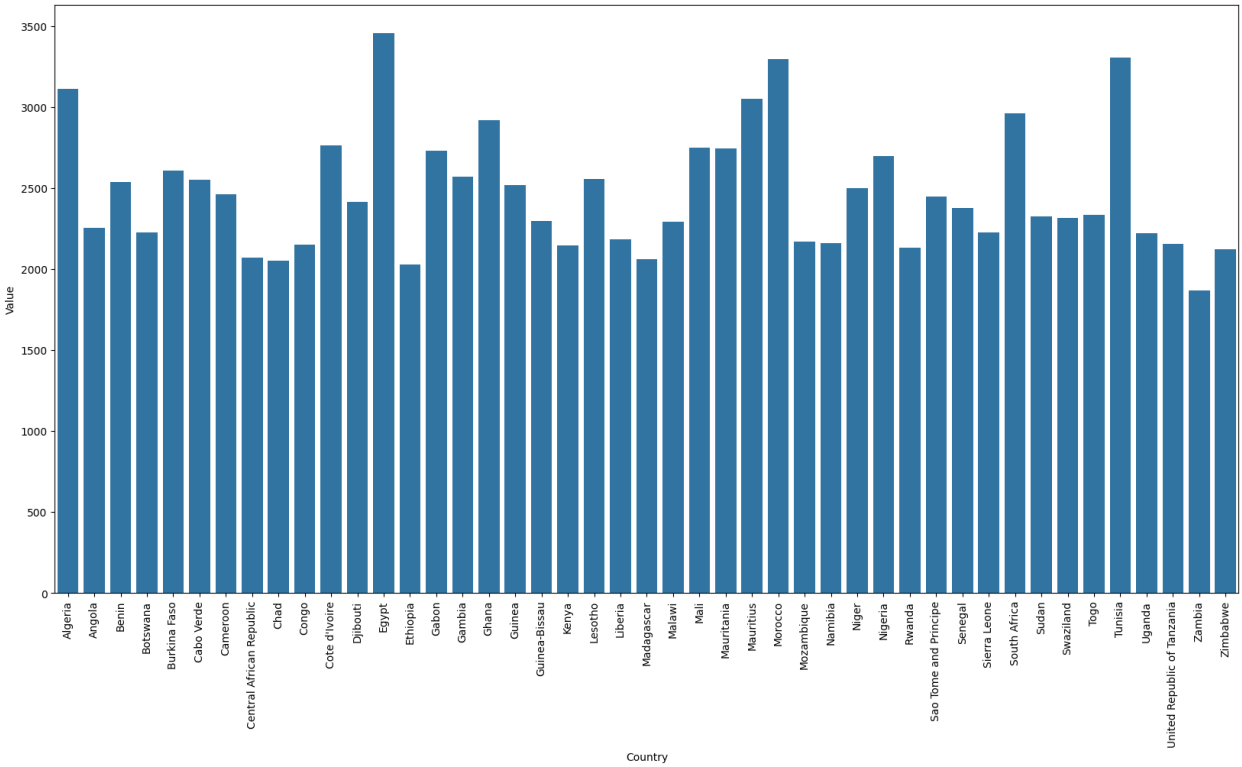
Then comes the Food supply data of Africa. Here is a bar graph of the total food supply of all countries in Africa. Here Egypt is the front runner backed by Tunisia and Morocco.



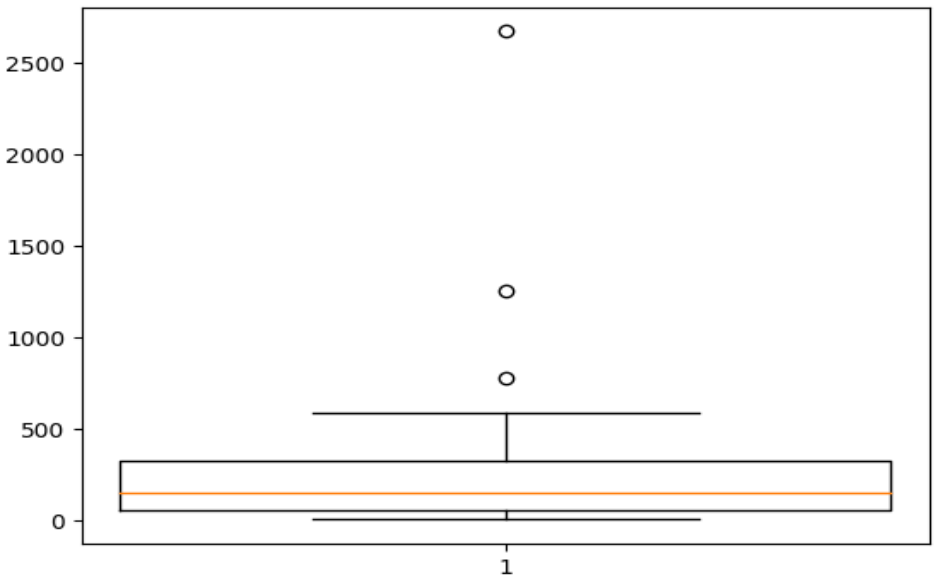
The mean amount of crops produced are calculated and plotted and as expected Nigeria stands apart.



Also there is a mean of Food Supply in Africa plotted in graph. It is clear that average Food Supply of almost all countries is above 2000 units.

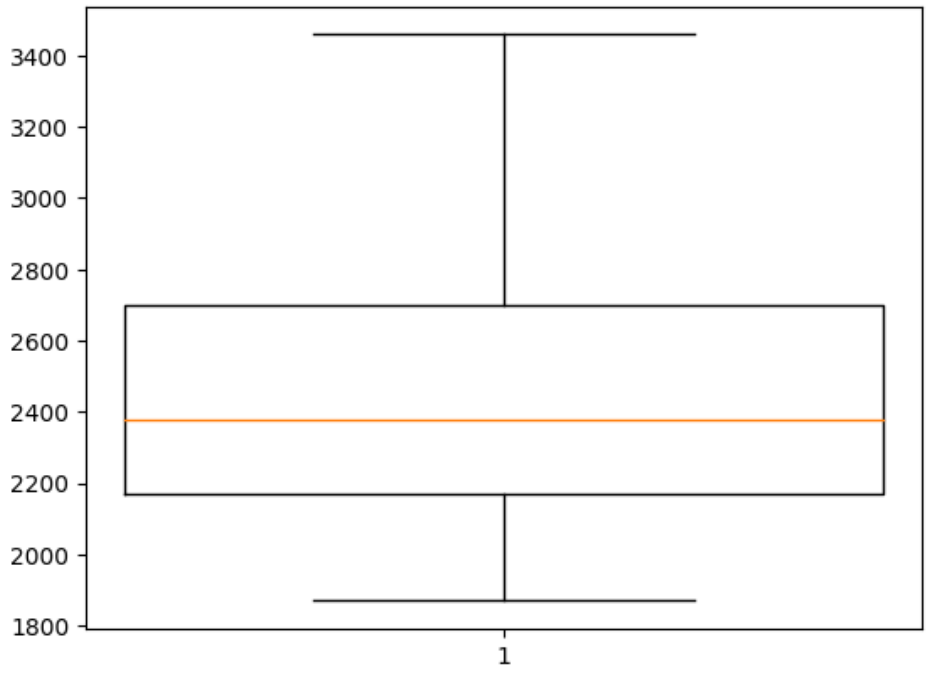


Here is also a boxplot to visualise the data in another way.



From the boxplot, it is clearly visible that data mainly lies below 500 units. Also, there are 3 outliers which are Nigeria, Egypt and South Africa.

The boxplot of Supplies Food in Africa is also here:



Now we are interested to find why crop production of Nigeria so much higher than the rest of the African nations.

NIGERIA: A SUPER POWER IN CROP PRODUCTION

Agricultural sustainability in Northern Nigeria requires flexibility in both ecological management as well as economic activity. The population densities of the rural area in this region climbed from 243 to 348 people per square kilo meter between 1962 and 1991, but the land area under permanent cultivation remained approximately the same. Increasing population results in high food demand among urban and rural dwellers, areas of cultivation, and reduced soil fertility. However, there are instances where frequent agricultural practices is not associated with degradation such as in Kano and neighbouring region. Even though poverty and insufficient food exists in the region, it does not affect crop

yield owing to sustained efforts to produce food in response to its high demand.

Rainfall occurs seasonally – and there is a pronounced dry season – but is often intensive when it does come, making it necessary for farmers to employ soil moisture conservation techniques. The bulk crops are grown during the rainy season which begins in June or July, when the temperature is warm. The soils in the region are reddish brown or brown soils of the pH range of 6.0 – 7.0. The main crops grown in the region are millet, sorghum, and cowpea, while groundnut and sesame are significant minor crops. Wild foods also serve as an important supplement to the diet, especially during times of food shortage. The bulk crops are grown during the rainy season which begins in June or July, when the temperature is warm. In this region, there are sedentary Farmers made up of the Manga and Hausa people, and the nomadic pastoralists known as Fulani.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

The evolution has involved shifting roles of industry versus agriculture and that of government and the public sector versus markets and the private sector. Government intervention in favor of industrialization in the 1960s and 1970s resulted in the neglect of agriculture, poor growth performance, and a productivity-reducing structural transformation, characterized by an increasing concentration of low productivity labor in the informal service sector. The chapter suggests a move away from the dual economy to a three-dimensional model that pays greater attention to the large informal segment of the service sector. A successful transformation will require accelerated agricultural productivity growth, a modernized informal service sector, and effective industrialization strategies, with balanced roles for government, markets, and the private sector, all supported by country-led, evidence-based strategies.