TACKLING FOOD SHORTAGE PROBLEM IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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A person holding a bunch of corn

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The total population of Africa as of 2022 is approximately 1.40 billion and the growth rate is 2.42%. Over the years, Somalia has been known for food insecurity and shortage alongside other African countries like Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, and Sudan. In this study of food shortage in African countries, 45 countries were selected, while 94 food items were assessed in total. As deduced from the chart below, Nigeria, Egypt and South Africa had consistent respectively high value in kilotons (kt) of food production over the period of 2004-2013.

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Fig. 1: Food Production in African Countries over the period of 2004 - 2013

In addition, the rate of food consumed in kcal/person/day as shown in the graph below, illustrate how African countries like Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco leads in terms of food consumption from 2004-2013.

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Fig. 2: Food Consumption in African Countries over the period of 2004 - 2013

It is obvious that more of the food products in Africa, ranges from grains or seeds to several kind of fruits, meats and aquatic foods, and the proportion of this food items varies from one African country to the other because of the soil/land type due to the weather/climatic condition and access to the water space for aquatic animals.

Therefore, this issue of food crisis lingers and prominent in some countries than in other part of Africa. Consequently, the growth rate in the food production being low compared to that of population growth in African countries has also contributed to this challenge. Also, the food production has been impeded recently by some factors which include changing and unpredictable weather patterns, aftershock of COVID-19, and financial crisis, just to mention but a few.

To better address these issues of food shortage, a test was done using the Pearson Correlation test and results shows that there is high correlation between the value of the food produced and the population of the country.

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Fig. 3: The Correlation Test

This implies that to solve this pending matter, there is need to increase the value in kilotons of farm produce to cater for the increase in population as the year advances.

However, the effect of food shortage is numerous and possesses high capability to lead the country to a downward steep movement in the aspect of economical development. Therefore, the government of African countries need to explore innovative options and processes in tackling the food shortage problem faced by their country.