THE IMPACT OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION ON AGRICULTURE

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ABSTRACT

The high population increase in Ghana's metropolitan regions has been related to migration. Rural-to-urban migration and the agricultural output of the areas where it originates are examined in this article. In other words, it takes into consideration the overall impact on agricultural productivity of different migration techniques (such as temporary and permanent migration). The GLSS 5 collected data from 200 homes across 15 villages to study the differences in socioeconomic status among households with and without migrants, temporary migrants, and permanent migrants. Migration and agricultural output were linked using a Cobb Douglas production function and a two-stage least squares regression model. Temporary migration lowered farm productivity considerably, but permanent migration had no effect. These were the conclusions of this study. That migration facilitates investment and acts as insurance against the risks connected with these investments at the point of migration's inception is a fallacious assumption. For both forms of migration, the loss of labour at the source of movement tends to impede households from escaping the poverty trap. Rural-to-urban migration may be reduced by raising the per capita income in rural regions by investing in agriculture, according to this article.

Keywords: Agricultural Production; Permanent Migration; Temporary Migration

I. Introduction

Migration as a developmental problem or strategy

However, Revathy, 2020 gives a diverse view of migration by discriminating between non-migration, temporary migration, and permanent migration, which has been examined in other literary works. A comparison of temporary and permanent migration based on Australian empirical data found both parallels and differences in the flow composition and functioning, showing that temporary migration can work as a complement or as a substitute or as a precursor of permanent migration (Revathy, 2020). In industrialised nations and developing countries alike, migration out of agriculture is considered as a subsistence strategy that has been around for a long time, and it is still very much in evidence today. As a result, it will inexorably have an impact on economic growth. Distinct migration tactics may be susceptible to different selecting behaviours as well as varying repercussions for the farm family at the origin of the move. Since migration is a major factor in agricultural productivity, this study provides a strong basis for studying the impact of different types of household members' movement (temporary and long-term). There are a number of theories and hypotheses floating about concerning how migration affects the development of both the countries of origin and the countries of destination. Only a few studies have shown evidence that migration boosts wages and employment, despite the fact that migration theoretically increases investment, commerce, and technology adoption through knowledge transmission (Oginni, 2019). Migrants' remittances, as well as their absence from the home, have a significant impact on
migrant families. Remittances have the capacity to reduce the constraints of credit in production and to absorb any risk events that may arise in household production. Having to compete for human capital owing to the loss of family members through migration may have a detrimental impact on the household’s ability to invest in high productivity. Despite the fact that remittances to households in Burkina Faso, a nation in West Africa, offered some money, profitable agricultural investments were not made. It shows that remittances alone aren’t enough to boost agricultural productivity if rural families choose to leave the region because of a lack of investment options.

II. Literature Review

Migration flows in Ghana

More over half of all migrants are short-term visitors, whereas the number of permanent migrants is smaller. Statistics reveal that persons in their late twenties and early thirties are more likely to move about than older people. Because they have children in school and are financially reliant, elderly individuals are less inclined to relocate (Johnson, & Taylor, 2019). Most men migrate permanently between the ages of 10 and 24, although most women do so for a shorter period of time, often between the ages of 20 and 34. More than two-thirds of Ghanaian migrants choose to leave the country for family reasons, followed by employment reasons (22 percent), religious and political reasons (14 percent), natural catastrophes (13 percent), and conflict (11 percent) (Chen, et al. 2020). More educated people, unmarried people, inhabitants of metropolitan areas, and past migrants had a greater likelihood of interregional movement in Ghana based on event history logit models applied to primary data from individuals on the coast of Ghana. Those who have more than one child in school also appear to be less likely to relocate, according to the study. Rural-to-urban migration is encouraged by the expansion of road networks and communication networks in rural areas, which helps people compare their social and economic deprivations to make decisions about migration because people are always looking for better wages and a better life in accordance with the principle of comparative advantage (Zhao, & Jiang, 2022). These research also demonstrated that urban policies, such as food regulations, which tend to discriminate against agricultural and rural regions, encourage rural to urban migrations to be exposed in the future.

Migration and agricultural production

Migration and agricultural production are linked, as evidenced by a few notable outcomes. Remittances from migrants might assist alleviate financial limitations and increase agricultural productivity by reducing the labour shortage (Cho, et al. 2019). In terms of agricultural revenue, these two factors may have a positive or negative impact, or they may even cancel each other out. When it comes to agricultural productivity, either a positive or negative impact would suggest that migration enhances rather than diminishes the output of the farm.

III. Methods

Data sampling and source

A nationwide household survey of 8,687 homes from each of Ghana’s ten (10) administrative regions, undertaken by the Ghana Statistical Service between September 2005 and September 2006, formed the basis of the empirical study. Health, education, housing, household income, consumption, and savings were among the
many topics covered in the survey. Also included were data on employment, agriculture, and emigration and remittances. There were 400 houses in the Northern region studied for this study. GLSS 5 only included a sample size of 200 rural families in the Northern area, therefore only around 60% of the 400 rural households in the Northern region were included. Demographic information on households, agricultural output, migration, and remittances are all included in the study.

Method of data analysis

There is a two stage least squares regression model used to evaluate the influence of household migration on agricultural productivity in the Northern Region of Ghana (Zhang, et al. 2021). This is due to the fact that a basic OLS regression may not produce consistent estimates to evaluate causality or simultaneity bias in the data. The Cobb Douglas production function is used to specify the model since it is the most frequent in the literature.

IV. Effect of migration categories on agricultural production

The study's findings show that different forms of rural-to-urban migration have varying effects on the agricultural productivity of families at the point of migration. There is a 55.4 percent decrease in productivity when a member of a household is temporarily relocated, but there is an 8.8 percent rise when a member is permanently relocated. This confirms the study's claim that agricultural output suffers as a result of labour shortages.

V. Effect of household characteristics on agricultural production

When all other factors are equal, a 100 percent increase in household size results in an 18.9 percent increase in agricultural productivity. This suggests that agricultural policy alternatives should be targeted toward coping mechanisms for the loss of labour. " It is possible to save the expense of employing labour by using agricultural machinery to prepare the ground and herbicides to manage weeds, one of the farm chores that is labour demanding (Shi, 2018). An important deterrent to additional temporary migration is the rise in per capita income that comes along with an increase in agricultural productivity. The amount of a household's farmland has a positive and statistically significant impact on agricultural productivity. According to the model, increasing a household's agricultural land resources by 100% will result in a 51.8% rise in productivity. About 42.4% of the country's agricultural land remains uncultivated, yet farmers still face issues with land access, inadequate land administration, and inefficient land markets, according to the latest estimates. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture will use this information when negotiating for agricultural lands as grants or franchises in order to make it easier for farmers to acquire more land for farming. The literature shows that boosting a household's land resource is a factor that minimises permanent migration, hence this would considerably reduce permanent migration.

VI. Conclusions

The agricultural sector in Ghana holds the key to growth since it generates roughly a third of the GDP and employs around 60% of the Ghanaian people, according to a substantial body of literature. This study shows that agricultural production suffers as a result of increased rural-urban mobility following fast urbanizations. The findings point to strategies for boosting agricultural output in support of the country's long-term policy aim of
agricultural growth (Ge, et al. 2020). Consideration is given to the length of time that people spend moving between rural and urban areas, and the results classify people as either being on a temporary or permanent move. Rural-to-urban migration in Ghana's northern area has a significant influence on agricultural productivity, as shown by this study's examination of the socioeconomic features of migrant families. Half of the families studied included at least one migrant, according to the findings of a study of their socioeconomic makeup. Remittances were received by less than half of the migrant families. Permanent migration increased agricultural productivity slightly but not dramatically, according to the study's estimations of the impact on rural-to-urban migratory flows. The remittances received by the migrant family also had no substantial impact on the household's productivity. The study's premise, that rural-to-urban migration reduces agricultural output in Ghana's northern area, is supported by these data. According to these findings, the national policy aim of agricultural growth necessitates an investment in agricultural machinery, herbicides and finance in the form of input supplies as coping methods for the loss of labour. In order to increase farmers' bargaining, purchasing, and procurement power, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture might promote the development of farmer-based groups from the local to the national level. Rural per capita income rises as a result of increased agricultural productivity. This will encourage more young people in rural regions to pursue a career in agriculture, and it will serve as a deterrent to people from moving elsewhere for short periods.
VI. References


