



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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**TITLE: AFRICAN FOOD SECURITY IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION:
THE CASE OF THE KOM FONDOM OF THE CAMEROON GRASSLANDS**

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ABSTRACT: Africa inherited from the colonial interregnum, an economy that was outward looking in orientation and cared less about its indigenous population. Since independence, its leadership has not changed the situation but has instead aggravated it by perpetuating political instability, corruption, nepotism and selfish leadership. This puts Africa in a very poor shape making its survival doubtful in the global village of the 21st century.

In the context of a case study of food production in the Kom village of the grasslands of the West African country of Cameroon, this paper investigates the origins of the limping food producing sectors of economies of contemporary Africa and makes suggestions as to how this could be redressed to make the continent a viable and competitive partner in the world global market. In essence, the paper hinges on two fundamental questions: how have the people of an African village harnessed their traditional methods in improving their food production; and how can this success story be insurance for Africa's food security in a global world in which the future of food security is very bleak?

The paper concludes that Africa's weak economy puts her at a disadvantageous position in today's world economic order. Insisting that food producers in traditional African societies are efficient, it recommends that African leadership should encourage more of food crop production against cash crops and mineral exportation. This could be achieved by improving on some of its indigenous practices bearing in mind that Africa cannot progress by ignoring itself but by borrowing what is useful of the experiences of other societies and drafting it onto its local structures. This will ensure food security and curb hunger, today, the source of most conflicts in the continent in a global world. It is further observed that the Structural Adjustment Program recommended by the World Bank as a solution to Africa's economic ailment does not tie with the continent's local values as it encourages solutions from without, opening up its natural and human resources for uncontrolled exploitation by the west.

To arrive at these conclusions, the researcher has combined firsthand personal observations acquired from a case study of food production in a Cameroonian community, a plethora of oral interviews, archival material, and data from secondary sources.

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