

Wage labor in agri-food systems—Insights from the evolving tomato value chain in Nigeria

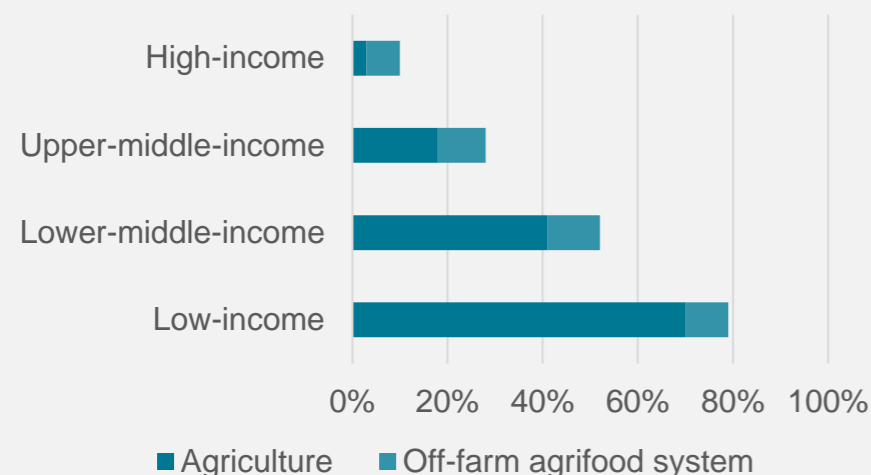
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Motivation

- Agri-food workers are vital to food systems
- Yet agri-food workers are often employed in precarious working conditions (ILO, 2014)
- Labor shortages exist in lower-income countries (Kubik, 2022) but are overlooked
- Little evidence of the employment effects of technology despite rapid innovations
- We contribute new insights by focusing on three understudied and interlinked topics

Share of Population in Agri-food Employment



Source: Adapted from Thurlow (2020)

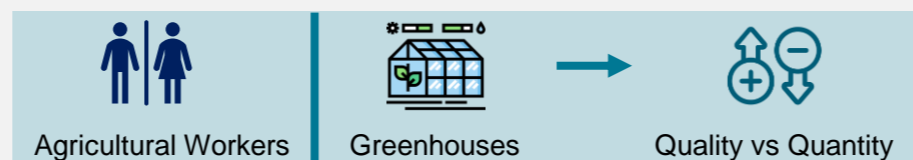
Objectives and Hypothesis

We investigate how recruitment strategies of and technology (greenhouse) adoption by agri-food employers affect employment and labor-matching processes while considering the implications on agri-food workers' health.

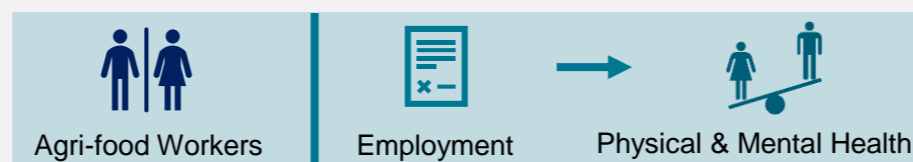
Paper 1: Recruitment Strategies and Labor Shortages



Paper 2: Technology and Employment



Paper 3: Gender Health Gaps

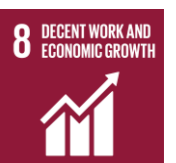


Data and Methods

Case study: We focus on Nigeria's tomato value chain (open-field farms, greenhouses, and processing firms), given its rapid growth, (seasonal) labor-intensive nature, and rise in the adoption of greenhouses for tomato cultivation.

Data: Primary survey data (panel) from 220 employers, 800 low-skilled wage workers and 12 labor contractors.

Methods: Fixed-effects, decomposition model, instrumental variables.



References

- International Labour Organization. (2014). *World of Work Report 2014: Developing with jobs*. Geneva: International Labour Office.
 Kubik, Z. (2022). *The challenges of rural youth employment in Africa*. 56. <https://doi.org/10.48565/BONND0C-22>.

Local Partner: University of Ibadan (Nigeria)

