

Title: Associations between maternal participation in agricultural decision-making and child nutrition in semi-arid Kenya

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Abstract

This study explores the associations between childhood growth measures and maternal participation in agricultural decision-making in chronically food-insecure semi-arid Kenya. We collected anthropometric measures from 221 mother and child pairs. Maternal participation in agricultural decision-making was measured in a follow-up study. Using Kruskal-Wallis H test and Dunn's pairwise comparison, we find a statistically significant positive association between child growth and maternal participation in agricultural decision-making. Similar associations are found when controlled for social-demographic variables, particularly among poor households, male-headed households, daughters, children six to 16 months old, and mothers with normal body mass index. The research contributes to our understanding in the nexus of agriculture, gender dynamics, and childhood undernutrition in rural African contexts.

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