

Climate Change and its impact on Agricultural Production (A Case of Ghana)

Solomon Kojo Kpodo

National University of Public Service

email: solomonkpodo2006@yahoo.com

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Abstract

The idea that many urban dwellers are high-income earners has been the major reason for the rural-urban migration in most countries of which Ghana is no exception. According to the 2010 Population and Housing Census of the Ghana Statistical Service, the country's capital – Accra is home to over 4,000,000 people and the number keeps increasing as more and more people want to find their way into the capital city. This shift (rural-urban migration) or internal migration has resulted in increased economic activities which come with some negative effects. In this paper, a holistic approach is presented in order to consider the effects of urbanization on the environment and on agricultural production required to support urban sustainability.

Food safety and understanding the supply chain from field to feed urban inhabitants of cities like Accra is important. There are many determinants that could either lead to food surplus or shortage, and that is why governments must pay attention to factors, including climate change, which may impact food supply and safety, and ultimately the health and survival of communities. Urban areas like Accra can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing food waste, and making the supply chain from field to table as safe and efficient as possible.

This paper will seek to shed some light on climate change as it relates to food safety and supply in Accra and similar urban areas, and will examine whether climate change denial is an obstacle in tackling these issues. Even though the paper has a tilt towards Accra, Ghana, some recommendations may be relevant for other urban areas and countries. There is a cyclic connection between urbanization, climate change and agriculture, which this study will examine.