Title of Article: An Econometric Investigation of the Determinant of Food Shortage in Nigeria

Author(s): Ogun, T.P. and P.O. Alege


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Abstract: Food is not only essential to life itself, but adequate and properly balanced diets are needed if people are to be healthy, productive and enjoy long life. Considering the detrimental effect of food shortage, this study empirically examined the basic factors responsible for food shortage in the Nigerian economy. In carrying out this study, a model of demand for, and supply of food was specified. Our econometric methodology follows the general-to-specific error correction modeling. In estimating the model, secondary data covering 1970-2002 were collected and analyzed. The time series properties were examined and the results of the error correction model confirm the existence of long-run relationship between food imports and other explanatory variables employed. The study found three main factors to be quite responsible for the current food situation in Nigeria.