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Household Food Security, Dietary Diversity and Coping Strategies amongst Irrigators in Nqamakwe, Eastern Cape

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ABSTRACT This study assessed food access in order to identify coping strategies used by farming households of Nqamakwe in South Africa. A stratified random sample of 100 farmers were interviewed face to face to find out consumption patterns and food coping strategies. The analysis was done using descriptive statistics and propensity score matching. The results specified that irrigation agriculture contributes meaningfully to domestic food production through enhanced food accessibility and nutritional variety. Assessments of usual treatment of the preserved (ATT) suggested that irrigation is able to impact on farmer's income by R1 245 and R1 254 by means of the Nearest Neighbor and Kernel matching methods respectively.