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Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group**Anthropologist 29(1): 59-64 (2017)****DOI: 10.1080/09720073.2017.1352013**

Economic Analysis of Factors Responsible for the Attainment of Food Security Levels among Beneficiaries of Selected Agricultural Cooperatives in the Limpopo Province of South Africa

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KEYWORDS Intensity. Latent. Logit. Odds. Ordered. Temporal

ABSTRACT This study determined factors responsible for the determination of four levels of food security: never, seldom, sometimes and often or always among beneficiaries of two farmer cooperatives in the Limpopo Province of South Africa using the ordinal regression approach. A sample size of 178 respondents was used for the analysis. Respondents were purposively selected from beneficiaries of two cooperatives which had vegetable production as their main enterprise. Semi-structured questionnaires were used to collect information from respondents during the 2014/5 farming season. Data were analyzed using the SPSS version 22. Predictors which included, educational level, perceived high impact of cooperatives on food security, farming experience and ownership of equipment were identified as being positively associated with the odds of being food secure. It was recommended that for policy development and appropriate interventions in food security, factors identified to be positively associated with the attainment of high food security levels be considered as crucial.