

The Impact of the HIV Epidemic on Rural Agricultural Producers in Three Regions of Namibia

Themes

- Dynamic
- Ability to cope differs
- Different types of intervention required

Background

- Take advantage of NHIES in 2003/04
- Provided control sample for comparison
- Allowed larger sample over three regions with limited funds

Study Areas

- Kavango, Oshana and Oshikoto Regions
- Obtained assistance from HIV support groups

Dynamics

- The epidemic
- Responses by affected populations

Dynamics of the Epidemic

- Sentinel Survey Results in the three regions
- Took a historical view of individual sites
- Aside from a national decline patterns emerge

Dynamics: Response of People

- Households merging: high rates of “other relatives” in sample
- Kavango very high incidence,
- Oshana moderate incidence
- Oshikoto a very low incidence

Differing Ability to Cope

- Three groupings
- Based on staple crop production (millet)
- Are people growing enough to meet daily caloric needs?
- 86% of 144 HH did not.

Severe Crisis

- Produce less than 750 kg of millet
 - 78% of households (113 total)
 - 11 HH did not produce a crop
 - Livestock herds are low:
 - 29 HH have cattle, 15 have 11 head or less
 - 43 HH have goats, 22 have below 15 head

Crisis Households

- Produce 751 – 1500 kg of millet
 - 16% of sample (23 HH) growing crops but not successfully
 - Livestock ownership low:
 - 13 HH have cattle, 7 below 15 head
 - 14 HH have goats, 7 below 15

Near Crisis Households

- Produce over 1501 kg of millet
 - 6% of sample (8 HH)
 - Livestock ownership moderate:
 - 8 HH have cattle, range 6 - 40
 - 8 HH have goats, range 9 - 63

Appropriate Interventions

- **Severe Crisis, Crisis:** Need financial assistance, transfers, BIG, HIV disability, orphan assistance.
- **Near Crisis:** Need financial assistance
Also have capacity to absorb preventative interventions (less labor intensive crops)

Summary

- We have to understand more
 - Pace of the epidemic
 - People's responses to it
 - Responses in other Regions with different farming systems
 - Integrate with national surveys (NHIES)