**Introduction**

Problem statement:
- Africa remains the most food insecure continent and has the highest prevalence of undernourishment. This scenario has been found to be worsening in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in the recent past.
- Though most countries in SSA are agricultural based, the region is a net importer of food and agricultural products.
- Government has a joint goal of achieving favourable balance of trade and food security.

Objective:
To investigate the effect of the quality of governance on food net import dependency in SSA

**Methodology**

Data:
- The study used panel data for 25 SSA countries for the period 1995-2015.
- Data was collected from World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistical Database (FAOSTAT) and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

IDR=import dependency:
- Food IDR was computed using data on total agriculture which includes cultivation of crops for food and feed, cash crops, livestock production plus forestry, hunting, and fishing as described by FAO. It was calculated as follows:

\[
\text{IDR} = \frac{\text{Imports}}{\text{Production + Imports}} \times 100
\]

Impact of governance:
- Principal component analysis was employed to develop a composite governance index based on the six worldwide governance indicators.
- A multivariate panel vector error correction framework was applied to infer causality in the short and long-run.

Estimated models:
\[
NIDR = \alpha + \beta X + \gamma + \epsilon
\]

\[
NIDR = \theta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{K} \theta_{1i} NIDR_{t-1} + \sum_{i=2}^{K} \theta_{2i} NIDR_{t-K} + \lambda \gamma + \epsilon
\]

\[
NIDR = \theta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{K} \theta_{1i} NIDR_{t-1} + \sum_{i=2}^{K} \theta_{2i} NIDR_{t-K} + \lambda \gamma + \epsilon
\]

\[
\text{VARIABLES} = \text{IDR}, \text{Lgovindex}, \text{VARIABLES2}
\]

**Results and Discussion**

Table 1: Regression results for net import dependency and the composite governance index in different country groups

Table 2: Regression results for net import dependency and the composite governance index in different country groups

Table 3: Regression results for net import dependency and the composite governance index in different country groups

Table 4: Regression results for net import dependency and the composite governance index in different country groups

**Conclusion**

- Governments in SSA should employ measures to improve governance dimensions in order to promote agricultural international trade for food and nutritional security in the region.
- Good governance creates conducive climate for agricultural investment while poor governance strengthens the grabbing hand, hinders agricultural development and leads to food insecurity.
- Agricultural productivity creates supply deficit as population and demand for food rises.
- Increasing governance quality could support reduced net import dependency on food and agricultural products through promoting agricultural production, exports, and consequently reduced import dependency in SSA in the long-run.
- Therefore, Government reforms considerations in SSA are pivotal for sustainable agriculture, and agricultural trade aimed at promoting food and nutrition security.