

*Abstract*

# Understanding the Geopolitical and Socio-Economic Factors Affecting the Food Supply Chain in Ukraine: An Exploratory Study <sup>†</sup>

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**Abstract:** This paper presents an ongoing study that explores the influence of geopolitical and socio-economic factors on the Ukrainian food supply chain and its implications for food security. Focusing on specific sectors within Ukraine, our research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the intricate dynamics between geopolitics, socio-economic conditions, and the functioning of the food supply chain. To collect data, we have employed focus groups as the primary methodology, engaging key stakeholders from various sectors, including farmers, distributors, retailers, policymakers, and consumers. These focus group discussions enable us to delve into their perspectives, experiences, and challenges in relation to the influence of geopolitical and socio-economic factors on the Ukrainian food supply chain. Preliminary literature review reveals several noteworthy insights, including the impact of trade policies and regional conflicts on the availability and accessibility of specific food products in targeted regions of Ukraine. Building upon these initial findings, our ongoing study aims to propose strategies to enhance the resilience and efficiency of Ukraine's food supply chain. By tailoring policies to address the specific needs of different regions and socio-economic groups, we anticipate mitigating the adverse effects of geopolitical dynamics on the food system. Moreover, fostering collaboration among stakeholders will be crucial in navigating the complexities and challenges inherent in managing the Ukrainian food supply chain.



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