

FLOODING AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY: THE COPING STRATEGIES OF FARMERS IN RINGIM, NORTHERN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Flood is a natural phenomenon that is manifesting in Ringim and its environs which needs to be investigated. The study determined flood effects on agricultural productivity in the study area. Five study sites were purposively sampled based on the previous records of flood events in the areas. Judgmental sampling was used in selecting respondents. Survey research method involving the use of observation, questionnaire and interview were adopted in data collection. Descriptive statistics, t test and Likert scale were employed in data analysis. The finding revealed that flood disaster has serious effect on agricultural productivity with 93.0%. Results shows that farm lands damage is higher in Ringim mean index (MI) 2.48 and mean deviation (MD) 0.1. Highest degree of crop damage is recorded in Kyrama with MI and MD 1.6(-5.27). Findings also indicated that there is no significant difference among the areas in terms of flood effects on crop types ($P=0.99$). The level of flood damage on animal habitat is higher in Dabi with MI and MD of 2.43(0.49). The degree of damage of animals' sources of food is higher in Ringim with MI and MD of 1.74 (0.20). The result further revealed that, flood reduced crop yield with 88.75%. Hence, farmers are faced with insufficient farm investments after flood and they commonly adopted selling of household livestock as their coping strategies. Therefore there is the need to educate the community members on more flood prevention, mitigation and coping strategies for effective agriculture in the area.

Keywords: Flood, Farmers, Coping-strategies, Crop-yield, Ringim