

IMPACT OF WEST AFRICAN SOY LIMITED (WASIL) ON MAIZE FARMERS PRODUCTIVITY IN KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA

Ebenehi, O.

Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Federal University, Dutsin-Ma, Nigeria

Corresponding Author's email: ebenehi.o@gmail.com



Abstract

Small scale farmers in Nigeria greatly depend on handouts both in cash and/or in kind to boost their agricultural production and also improve their livelihoods. Such assistance is usually made possible to them by public and/ or private organizations. In this article, the impact of the West African Soy Limited Maize Farmers Intervention Scheme on maize farmers' productivity was investigated. The study employed a farm budgeting technique Gross Margin Analysis and Net Farm Income to net out the impact of the programme on the maize productivity of the beneficiaries. Two hundred and twenty-three household heads who benefitted from the programme were purposively and proportionately selected while another 223 non-beneficiaries' households were randomly selected and used as the control group. The return per naira invested is N9.83K/ha which means that for every N1.00 invested in maize production by the beneficiaries of WMIP, they get a profit of N9.8k/ha increase while the return on every N1.00 invested is N7.609K/ha which means that for every N1.00 increase the non-beneficiaries make a profit of N7.60K/ha. it can thus be concluded that the beneficiaries make more profit from maize production in the study area than the non-beneficiaries. The programme, though a private sector initiative is such that has the potential of ensuring increased income for the poor resource smallholder farmers in the rural areas of Katsina State, Nigeria. The study therefore recommends that female household heads need to be encouraged to key into the programme to improve their income base. And there is the need for increased and rigorous capacity building for the farmers by extension agents of the programme to sustain the gains.

Keywords: Farm budgetary technique, Gross Margin Analysis, Net Farm Income, Farming households, WASIL