AN EVALUATION OF FARMERS' ADOPTION OF YAM MINI-SETT TECHNIQUE IN CROSS - RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

Agbarevo, M.N. Benjamin
Department of Rural Sociology and Extension, Michael Okpara
University of Agriculture, Umudike, Umuahia, **NIGERIA**

ABSTRACT

Yam (Dioscorea spp) is a staple food in Nigeria. Nigeria is also the world's largest producer of the crop. Efforts aimed at increasing its production should be given greater emphasis as Nigeria is yet to optimize its potentials in producing the crop. The development of the yam mini-sett technology is one of the efforts aimed at boosting the production the crop. Considering the fact that the tuber is the planting material as well as the edible part, the mini-sett technology provides planting material so that the farmer would not worry about what to plant the next season. The study was, therefore, conducted to find out the level of adoption of this technology in Cross-River State, which is a major yam producing area in Nigeria. In conducting the study, 180 yam farmers were randomly selected through multi-stage stratified sampling technique. The state was divided into the three Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) zones. Three blocks were selected from each zone, and two cells from each of the nine blocks selected, giving a total of eighteen cells. Ten farmers were randomly selected from each cell, giving a sample size of 180 farmers. The data used for the study was collected with the use of a structured questionnaire. The researchers were assisted in the distribution and collection of the copies of the questionnaire by the Agricultural Development Programme staff and enumerators. The data on adoption of the technology was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics, the mean and student t-test. The mean was used to determine the level of adoption , while the t-test was used to test the significance of difference between the population and sample means. The study found that the yam mini-sett technique recorded low adoption level among the farmers. It also found no significant difference between the sample and population means. The null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the sample and population means was accepted at 0.05 level of significance, while the alternative hypothesis was rejected. The paper recommended, among others, vigorous sensitization of farmers on the benefits of the yam mini-sett technology to increase adoption

Keywords: Evaluation, farmers, adoption, yam, mini-sett, technique.