

CONSTRAINTS AFFECTING WOMEN FARMER'S PRODUCTIVITY IN ABIA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study examined constraints affecting women agricultural productivity in Abia State. Specifically the study examined the socio-economic characteristics of the women farmers, estimated farm size, identify estimated production level of the women and identified factors influencing their agricultural productivity. Five communities were chosen randomly and from each of these communities, thirty women farmers were randomly chosen, bringing the total to 150 respondents. Data were collected, collated and analyzed using relevant techniques such as means, and percentage distribution. The results showed that 42% of the women farmers cultivates between 0.5 – 0.9 hectares of land while only 8% cultivates between 4.0 – 4.9 hectares. It was also revealed that the laws of inheritance and increase in population led to the subdivision and fragmentation of existing farm land in such a manner that the farm size affects production. The result further revealed the production level of the women within the last 12 months. About 19% of the respondents produced upto 1000kg while only 2% produces up to 10000kg. On factors influencing their productivity, land was the major factor 27%, followed by inadequate extension and credit facilities 21%. Therefore, the study recommends the formulation of women cooperatives and imperative in farm land consolidation of the scattered farm holdings into economic size to encourage large scale operation and bulk input sourcing and procurement.

Keywords: Agricultural productivity, women farmers and farm size.