

**ANALYSIS OF TRAINING NEEDS BY LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN BENUE STATE,  
NIGERIA****Okwoche, V.A<sup>1</sup>; Abu, O<sup>2</sup> and Hon, F.A<sup>1</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication<sup>2</sup>Department of Agricultural Economics

University of Agriculture, P.M.B. 2373

Makurdi, Benue State, **NIGERIA****ABSTRACT**

Livestock farming is an important part of the Nigerian agricultural sector. The demand for livestock products in Nigeria is on the rise owing to growing population, changes in income and food preferences. However, despite several efforts by Government and Non-Governmental Organizations to increase efficiency and boost production, the desired result is yet to be achieved, because most of the agricultural and rural development programmes have centered only on increased productivity rather than the training needs of the farmers. In order to increase the efficiency of livestock farmers, training is indispensable. It is against this backdrop that this study examined the training needs of livestock farmers in Benue State, Nigeria. One hundred and fifty respondents were randomly selected from the three agricultural zones of Benue State, Nigeria, using structured questionnaire. Data were analyzed using Likert Scale and logit regression analysis. Findings show that farmers had high interest in educational training programmes that deals with health and diseases ( $\bar{x} = 3.27$ ), feeds and feeding ( $\bar{x} = 3.23$ ), financial planning ( $\bar{x} = 3.10$ ) agricultural credit ( $\bar{x} = 3.08$ ) and marketing ( $\bar{x} = 3.01$ ). The training needs of the livestock farmers were significantly influenced by factors such as age, educational level and livestock size. The major problems of livestock production are funds and low access to agricultural credit. To achieve the desired change in the livestock sector, the training needs identified by the farmers must be holistically re-examined as it is the crucial steps towards recognizing the areas of farmer's interest. Consequently, curriculum that best suit the existing real conditions of the farmers should be designed and developed.

**Keywords:** Training needs, livestock, farmers, agricultural sector.