

ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION NEEDS OF RURAL YOUTHS ON GARDEN EGG PRODUCTION (*Solanum melongena*) IN ABIA STATE, NIGERIA¹Odoemelam, L. E. and ²Olojede, J. C.^{1,2}Department of Rural Sociology and Extension

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the information needs of garden egg farmers in Abia State, Nigeria. One hundred and twenty garden egg youth farmers who are registered member of the association were selected from Umuahia Agricultural zone (Isialangwa North and South Local Government Areas). Data for the study were collected through semi-structured interview descriptive, mean and inferential statistics. Major findings from the study show that majority of the youths relied mainly on friends/ radio with mean score of ($\bar{x} = 2.29$) on garden egg production respectively. The youths needed information on density/plant ($\bar{x} = 9.04$), nursery management ($\bar{x} = 8.54$), site selection ($\bar{x} = 8.03$), and fertilizer application ($\bar{x} = 8.01$) which they considered very important but which were relatively difficult for them to perform due to lack of sufficient and appropriate technical information. The study, therefore recommends that agriculture extension services which are saddled with the responsibility of disseminating timely, complete actionable information should be repositioned and strengthened to ensure that youth farmers access information, through appropriate channels and to shift the balance between success and failure of farmers.

Keywords: Garden-egg, Youth Farmers and Information Needs.