

CREDIT ACCESSIBILITY AND PRODUCTIVE EFFICIENCY OF ARABLE CROP FARMERS: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM EKITI STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated resource use efficiency of yam production by credit using yam farmers in Ekiti State. Data were collected from 78 credit users and 38 non-credit users in the study area with the aid of structured questionnaire. Descriptive statistics, logit regression and production function analysis were used for data analysis. Findings showed that farm size, annual income from yam farming, loan interest rate, cost of labour and associational membership were the determinants of agricultural credit accessibility. Results of resource use efficiency revealed that Credit was over utilized by the credit users while labour was over utilized by both categories of yam farmers. Fertilizer was over utilized by the credit users and underutilized by the non-credit users. The use of production inputs by both category of farmers called for more effective extension services and formulation of relevant policies that would increase credit accessibility to increase yam farmers' productivity in the study area.