



Technological Adoption Among Smallholder Irrigators in Eastern Zimbabwe: An Action Research Study

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Abstract

In Eastern Zimbabwe, smallholder irrigators face significant challenges in adopting new technologies to improve their agricultural productivity and income stability. An action research approach was employed, involving interviews with 50 smallholder farmers, focus group discussions, and a survey questionnaire. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis. Approximately 60% of the surveyed participants reported receiving financial incentives from government schemes that positively impacted their decision to adopt new irrigation technologies. The study underscores the importance of integrating economic support mechanisms with community engagement strategies for effective technology diffusion among smallholder irrigators in Eastern Zimbabwe. Local authorities and development partners should prioritise the design of incentive programmes tailored to specific needs, complemented by targeted awareness campaigns about available technologies. smallholder irrigation, technological adoption, incentives, action research, community support

Keywords: *Geographical, Smallholder Agriculture, Technological Change, Participatory Action Research, Rural Development, Community-Based Approaches, Indigenous Knowledge Systems*

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