



Assessing Agricultural Extension Services on Crop Yields in Eastern Nigerian States: A Two-Year Study

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Abstract

Agricultural extension services play a crucial role in enhancing crop yields among smallholder farmers in Nigeria's Eastern states. Despite their importance, there is limited empirical evidence on their effectiveness over extended periods. A mixed-methods approach was employed, incorporating both quantitative data from yield assessments and qualitative insights through farmer interviews. The sample covered a diverse range of farming communities in three Eastern Nigerian states. Initial findings suggest an average increase in maize yields by 15% and 20% for cassava crops among participants who received regular extension support compared to those not receiving such services. The results highlight the potential benefits of sustained agricultural extension efforts, particularly in improving crop productivity. However, further research is needed to explore long-term sustainability and cost-effectiveness. Policy makers should prioritise funding for continuous agricultural extension programmes to support smallholder farmers' needs and ensure sustainable yield increases.

Keywords: *African geography, smallholder farming, extension efficacy, yield assessment, resource allocation, participatory approaches, sustainable agriculture*

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