



Socioeconomic Determinants of Rural Farmers’ Use of Ecosystem-based Adaptation Practices for Climate Change Adaptation in Anambra State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT:

The study analysed socioeconomic determinants of farmers’ use of ecosystem-based adaptation practices for climate change adaptation among rural farmers in Anambra State, Nigeria. A sample of 150 rural farmers participated in the study. Data were collected using structured questionnaire and analysed using mean, percentages and bar charts. It was found that about 93% of the farmers was aware of ecosystem-based adaptation practices; intercropping (96%), crop diversification (95%), manual weeding (88%), mulching (83%) and contour cropping across hills (83%) constituted the dominant ecosystem-based adaptation practices used. The practices were mainly effective in reducing loss of soil fertility (\bar{X} = 2.5), reducing soil degradation (\bar{X} = 2.5), reducing pest attack (\bar{X} = 2.4), increasing crop yields (\bar{X} = 2.3), reducing rate of evapotranspiration (\bar{X} = 2.3) and reducing rate of spoilage of agricultural produce (\bar{X} = 2.2). Multiple regression analysis result showed that at p-value ≤ 0.05 , $R^2 = 44$ and F-value = 6.816, age (p-value = 0.000) and monthly income (p-value = 0.001) determined the farmers’ use of ecosystem-based practices for climate change adaptation in the state. The use of the practices was constrained by poor extension coverage (\bar{X} = 4.9), inadequate capital (\bar{X} = 4.8), poor government policies (\bar{X} = 4.4) and limited information on ecosystem adaptation (\bar{X} = 3.9). The use of innovative strategies for agricultural extension delivery was recommended.



Biography:

Polycarp Chika Umunakwe is currently pursuing his PhD at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He has a Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Extension Administration from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and is a tutorial staff in Department of Agricultural Extension, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria. He has published over 20 papers in reputable journals.

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