

ERABILITY OF FARMERS TO FLOODING IN , KOGI STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Climate change constitutes a very serious threat to sustainable agricultural production and food security in many parts of the world. This research work assessed the vulnerability of farmers to flooding in Lokoja, Kogi State, Nigeria with a view to proffering lasting solutions to farmers' vulnerability to flooding. The objectives of the study were to: assess the factors that accelerate farmers' vulnerability to flood disaster; assess the effect of flood on the farm produce and to assess their indigenous coping strategies. Kupa has a population of 33,785 with a total household of 3,754 and five percent (5%) of the total household was sampled. A total of one hundred and eighty-eight (188) copies of questionnaire were administered using systematic random sampling in administering questionnaires to the respondents with an interval of every twenty (20) houses. 58.6% of the respondents indicated that flood occurred in their area twice in a year and the major causes are farming on flood water ways followed by torrential rainfall. Also, about 53% of the respondents indicated that their community is highly vulnerable to flooding due to the nature of their sources of livelihood which is farming/fishing. Rice, maize and guinea corn are the major farm produce that were affected by the flood disaster, it was accounted by 42% of the respondents. 52.5% of the respondents claimed they lost farm produce worth 100,000 and above to flooding. 42% of respondents revealed that poverty and topography of farm are the factors that accelerated the farmers' vulnerability to flood disaster. 43.5% and 32.4% of the farmers in Kupa Community adopted crop diversification and planting cover cropping respectively as flood indigenous coping strategies. The study finally revealed that, lack of capital affects the farmers flood indigenous coping strategies. Therefore, the study recommends that residents/farmers in Kupa community should avoid farming on flood plains in order to reduce further occurrences. Government should provide capital or credit facilities to farmers so as to improve their adaptation capacity to the problem of flood disaster. Kogi State Ministry of Agriculture should create awareness among the Kupa farmers on crop diversifications and planting cover cropping to reduce the impact of flood disaster in the study area.



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