

Use of Agricultural Science Teachers as a Means of Poverty Reduction Among Farmers in Ijebu Ode Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT Poverty as the root cause of hunger is a global reality. The influence of Extension officers in the farming areas in Ogun State has not been felt as expected due to the inadequacy of these professionals. To this end, the study focused its attention on the use of Agricultural Science Teachers as a means of poverty reduction through Agricultural information Dissemination to farmers in Ogun State. This step will boost the efforts of the Agricultural Extension officers in reducing poverty among farmers. The instrument used was the questionnaire and ten schools were randomly selected from the twenty-two schools, which constituted the population. Percentages, standard Deviation and Chi-square (χ^2) were used for the analysis of the Research Questions and hypotheses stated respectively.

Some of the findings revealed that:

- (i) Agricultural Science Teachers Motivated the farmers to adopt innovations through their activities in schools.
- (ii) They passed agricultural information to parent farmers through their children from school. The hypothesis tested revealed that there was no significant relationship in the nature of agricultural information disseminated to farmers. ($\chi^2=21.67$, $P<0.05$). It was recommended among others that, efforts should be made by the Government and other Non-Governmental Organizations to support the efforts of the Agricultural Science Teachers in all ramifications in their move to reduce poverty level of the practising farmers.