

Environment- Productivity Relationship in the South West Nigeria's Agriculture

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ABSTRACT The growth rates in the industrialized nations have been impressive most especially in the area of job creations. This has had impact on economic development. It is very essential for the third world countries to industrialize if they must be freed from poverty and underdevelopment. But since most of these countries have primary resources, their focus should be on those industries that use more of these resources as inputs. Nigeria's weakness in regional planning, for instance, encourages locating farmlands and manufacturing industries in the same area. Such is the case of Ewekoro- a small and all rural community in the south- west, Nigeria. This community harbours a cement factory sitting side by side with a farming community. Respondents for the study were drawn from the staff of the factory and the Ewekoro farmers. The goal was to determine the extent of the community's development, the degree of environmental degradation and the impact of both on agricultural output in the area. To some extent the activities of the cement factory affect agricultural output through environmental degradation. The study shows how all this have occurred. It then points to how economic growth can be facilitated with lesser impact on the environment.