

**Economic Efficiency of Small Scale Food Crop Production in
Nigeria: A Stochastic Frontier Approach**

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ABSTRACT This paper examines the overall efficiency of small holder croppers in Nigeria with a view to examine the productive efficiency of in food crop production in the country. Data were collected from 200 farmers' selected using multi-stage sampling technique and analysed using descriptive statistics, stochastic frontier production and cost function models. The return to scale (RTS) for the production function revealed that the farmers operated in the irrational zone (stage I) of the production surface having RTS of 1.113. The mean technical, allocative and economic efficiency of 0.733, 0.872 and 0.684 respectively were obtained from the data analysis, indicating that the sample farmers were relatively very efficient in allocating their limited resources with AE appears to be more significant than TE as a source of gains in EE. The result of the analysis indicate that presence of technical inefficiency and allocative inefficiency had effects in the food crop production as depicted by the significant estimated gamma coefficient of each model, the generalized likelihood ratio test and the predicted technical and allocative efficiencies within the farmers.