A Socio-Economic Analysis of Livestock Pilferage in Rural and Urban Areas of Benue State, Nigeria

I. Anonguku, C.P.O. Obinne and S. Daudu

Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria

KEYWORDS Pilfering; livestock; rural and urban areas

ABSTRACT A survey study was conducted in 2005 to assess the level of pilfering in livestock industry in Benue State, Nigeria. A 4-stage stratified random sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 120 livestock farmers. Primary data were garnered using a well-structured questionnaire, and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as mean, frequencies and percentages. It was found that Poverty (50%) and unemployment (41.67%) accounted for livestock pilferage in urban areas and the same poverty (46.67%) and unemployment (34.92%) accounted for livestock pilferage in rural areas of Benue State. It was also found that livestock farmers in the state suffered 68% financial losses and many farmers lost between 1-5 (73.68%) animals to pilfering. Recommendations made included improvement in working conditions, improved economy, provision of employment opportunities, legislation against pilfering activities and formation of Vigilante Groups to check the trend.