

Factors Related to Continuity in Utilization of Soya Bean Products by Farm-Families in Abia State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The importance of Soya bean as a more affordable source of protein than animal sources and its health benefits cannot be over-emphasized. This study assessed the consistency in utilizing Soya bean products and factors related to discontinuity in utilization by farmers in Abia State, Nigeria. Data were generated with a 38-item interview schedule administered on a sample of 135 farmers. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistical method. Data analysis revealed that more than 70 percent of farmers have adopted a soya bean product in the past. Soya flour, soya milk, soya *moinmoin*, soya *akamu* and soya *akara* have the longest history of adoption while soya candies, soya meat, soya vegetable soup and soya snacks are relatively new to most farmers. Less than 60 percent of farmers remained consistent while others discontinued utilization. The major reasons offered for discontinuity include ignorance of health benefits of soya bean products and lack of time to prepare it. It was recommended that Extension Agents vigorously disseminate information about the health benefits and simple technologies for processing Soya bean at the farmers' home and at the village level.