

Problems and Prospects of Rice Production in Central District of Edo State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT This paper examined the problems and prospects of rice production in the Central District of Edo State, Nigeria. The methods of study involved the administration of questionnaire and oral interview. Ageing and illiterate people dominate Rice farming. The farming system is characterized by the use of crude implements, small farm holdings and subsistency. There are no extension workers and farmers are unaware of new varieties of rice seedlings. Fertilizers are very expensive and unaffordable to the local farmers. Rice production is plagued by myriad of problems including; attack from pests like birds, rodents and diseases. Yield per farm is low and financial return is correspondingly low, the prospect of rice production is low as many farmers are shifting to cassava farming. It is recommended that government should subsidize farm inputs and send extension worker to the farming communities. Also, credit facilities with minimum collateral security as well as improving socio-economic facilities will encourage the local farmers to continue his business.