

Assessment of Benefits Derived by Cocoa Farmers from Cocoa Development Unit Activities of Oyo State

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ABSTRACT The study was carried out to assess the benefits derived by Cocoa farmers from Cocoa Development Unit (CDU) of Oyo state. Structured and validated interview schedule was used to collect relevant information from Sixty Cocoa farmers randomly selected from four major cocoa producing areas. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages and Pearson Correlation was used as inferential statistical tool. Evidence from the data analyzed, the respondents had benefited from CDU activities ranging from skill improvement in cocoa production and economic gains. Empirically, age ($r = -0.269$), marital status ($r = -0.298$) shows negative and significant relationship with benefits from CDU activities while sex ($r = -0.018$) shows negative but non significant relationship. Education ($r = 0.331$) had positive and significant relationship with benefits derived from CDU activities and farming experience ($r = 0.022$) shows positive but non significant relationship with benefits derived from CDU activities. Based on the findings of the study, it is therefore recommended that training should be organized for Cocoa farmers in the state on various cocoa processing methods in order to have high quality grade of cocoa for export.