

Farmers' Attitude to Beneficiary Funding of Extension Services in Kwara State Nigeria

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ABSTRACT Beneficiary funding for agricultural extension services in many developing countries, including Nigeria is not only a reality, but also a necessity due to several factors. This study was carried out in Kwara state. Specifically, it examined the socio-economic characteristics of the contact farmers, forms of service that have been rendered by the agricultural extension service agency to the contact farmers, the perceived usefulness of innovations pushed by extension service agency and sustainable funding for extension service through the beneficiaries. Sample selection was done through a combination of purposive and random sampling to allow for equal opportunities among contact farmers. Data for the study were collected through the use of interview schedule. Data analyses showed that 58.5 percent of the respondents are literate with a mean annual income of N143,774.19. Majority (72.9 percent) of the respondents inherited their farmlands while 61.4 percent cultivated less than 5 hectares of farmland. Findings of the study further revealed that 32.9 percent of the respondents have less than 10 years of farming experience, while more than half (52.9 percent) made regular contacts with extension agents and 87.1 percent are members of different farm organizations. Farm size and education make a statistically significant contribution in explaining sustainable funding among farmers.