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Technical Efficiency Analysis of Small-holder Farmers in Rural and Peri-urban Areas of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT This study analysed technical efficiency of small-holder farmers in rural and peri-urban areas of Nigeria using 224 rural farmers and 393 peri-urban farmers in Benue State. The stochastic frontier production function was used to analyse data. The study showed technical efficiency among the respondents in the rural areas varied substantially ranging between 0.00 and 1.00, with a mean technical efficiency of 0.11. In the peri-urban areas, technical efficiency among the respondents varied widely ranging between 0.00 and 0.83, with a mean technical efficiency of 0.30. High levels of technical inefficiency are highly attributable to the low availability of extension services and information about technical aspects of crop technologies. Revamping the productivity of smallholder farmers therefore requires a sustained effort to improve farmers' access to technological information, quality productive farm labour and product markets and to lower the risks they face.