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Impact of Field Day on Oil Palm Farmers Knowledge

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ABSTRACT This study evaluated the field day planning, execution and knowledge gained by farmers who attended the field day organized for oil palm farmers in Edo State. From a total of 132 participants, a sample of 64 farmers, representing about 50% of the invited farmers from different states was randomly selected for evaluating the planning and execution of the field day out of which 34 farmers (about 25% of invited farmers) was also randomly selected for the measurement of the field day impact based on gain in knowledge. Data were collected for the evaluation of planning, characteristics of booth leaders and farmers and the field day impact on the participating farmers. The t-test (paired observation formula) was used to determine any significant difference between the pre and post exposure knowledge scores of the participating farmers. The results showed that most of the farmers at the field day were middle age, between 30-50 years with about 82% of them being literate. Less than half of these farmers (40%) possessed an average of 4-19 hectares of farm size. Distances the farmers covered to the field day venue ranged from zero to 1000 kilometres. Certain aspects of the organization of the field day rated as satisfactory include the selection of the participants, time of the year the field day came up and transportation. However, food and publicity aspects were rated unsatisfactory. This study also showed that there was significant difference in the knowledge scores on oil palm cultivation of farmers before and after participation in the field day.