

## Assessment of the Performance of the National Special Food Security Programme in Benue State, Nigeria

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**ABSTRACT** The study assessed the performance of the National Special Food Security Programme (NSFSP) in Benue State, Nigeria. A total of 100 respondents were selected using simple random sampling technique. Data were analyzed by use of percentage and mean statistic. The result of the analysis indicated that there was high performance in the following components: farm intensification, water management, diversification, fisheries, and group management based on performance indices while input distribution, credit and cost recovery and agro-processing recorded low performance. The study also indicated that respondents expressed satisfaction in the implementation of farm intensification, input distribution, diversification, group management, and agro-processing. About four problems were identified as serious to the successful implementation of the NSFSP in Benue. These problems were language barrier in the south-south cooperation, untimely release of funds, lack of means of transportation and untimely supply of inputs. It was recommended that the NSFSP should focus more attention on input distribution, agro-processing, credit and cost recovery.. Also the implementation rating could be improved if increased attention is given to water management, fisheries, and credit and cash recovery implementation. Finally, amelioration of the serious problems identified could improve the low performance indices found in some components. The NSFSP management should: (i) ensure that the expatriates selected to participate in the programme in the South-south cooperation should have a good command of both written and spoken English Language, (ii) funds for the projects should be released in time to procure inputs since agricultural programmes are time-bound and, finally (iii) means of transport should be provided to facilitate improved performance of project implementers.