

Comparative Economic Analysis of Improved and Local Cassava Varieties in Selected Local Government Areas of Taraba State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The study was carried out in some selected local government areas of Taraba State. The result revealed that the elasticity of output with respect to land (0.2013 and 0.0912), hired labour (0.5444 and 0.2555) were significant at 1% level for the improved and locals varieties respectively, while family labour (0.1597 and 0.1629), fertilizer (0.2314 and 0.1766), stem cutting (0.1944 and 0.3291) and land preparation (0.3416 and 0.1090) were significant at 5% level respectively. It was also revealed that the level of technical efficiencies varied widely across farms with 88% and 81% been the mean technical efficiency of the improved and local varieties. The result revealed further that on the average, the output of cassava fell by 12.64% and 18.72% from the maximum level due to inefficiency of the improved and local cassava varieties. The analysis also shows that the gross farm margin and net farm profit were ₦26, 384.62 per hectare and ₦21, 908.87 per hectare and ₦19, 399.72 per hectare and ₦15, 515.73 per hectare for the improved and local cassava varieties. The study concluded that it is more profitable to venture into the business of farming improved varieties than the local varieties.