EVALUATION OF AGROFORESTRY PRACTICES IN ODEDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluated predominant agroforestry practices in Odeda Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria. Specifically, it identified farmers' problems, their level of participation and benefits of agroforestry practices. Multistage sampling procedure was adopted in the selection of respondents. Structured questionnaires were used to collect information from two hundred and ten farmers selected in the study area. Simple descriptive, chi- square analysis, arithmetic mean and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data while correlation was used to establish the relationship between agroforestry practices, problems faced by the farmers, its benefits and the agroforestry systems. Majority (93.8%) of the farmers were male. About half (48.6%) of the respondent's mean age was 48 years. 40.5% of the farmers had no formal education, 48.1% of them acquired their land through inheritance, while 62.9% had family size of 4-6. Predominantly (97.1%) engaged in scattered trees on cropland and improved fallow (81.0%). Some of the trees retained on their farms were *Parkia biglobosa, Spondias mombin, Afzelia africana, Triplochiton scleroxylon* and *Albizia zygia.* Majority (99.5%) of the respondents were passively involved in agroforestry because of insufficient capital. All the farmers (100%) reported instability in market prices as a serious challenge while 64.3% of the farmers claimed that insufficient market centres were the major constraint to the adoption of agroforestry practices. Also, 47.6% of the farmers identified land acquisition as a limiting factor. The farmers' level of participation in all the identified agroforestry systems except aquaforestry and apiforestry was strong. Only farmers in Obantoko among others indicated that trees hinder the growth and yield of crops. The widely planted staple crops were cassava, yam and vegetables while animals reared were goats and sheep. There were no significant association between all the systems identified (agrosilvicultural, silvopastoral, agrisilvopastoral, aquaforestry and aquaforestry) and the demographic characteristics of the respondents. Their strength of the relationship was low and their demographic characteristics showed strong positive relationship, except for gender which showed strong negative relationship. Farmers prefer cultivation of arable crops to tree planting and animal rearing, and it was concluded that participation of farmers in agroforestry practices is low. It is therefore, recommended that farmers awareness should be on benefits of agroforestry practices.