

**SURVEY OF FOREST PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN HOMEGARDENS IN  
OLUYOLE ESTATE, IBADAN**

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## ABSTRACT

A survey of forest plants and animals in homegardens was carried out at Oluyole estate, Ibadan. The survey was aimed at providing wider knowledge base on the forest resources especially plants and animals and their socio-economic values in the homegardens. Pretested questionnaire were administered on respondents with homegardens in both the high and low density areas of Oluyole Estate in Ibadan. The questionnaires were one hundred (100) in number i.e. 50 in each sample area. They were administered interpersonally using interview schedules. The questionnaires were divided into two parts. Part 'A' was used to collect the personal data of the respondents while part 'B' focused on issues concerning the plant species, their life forms, revenue from sales, importance of homegardens, problems facing homegardens and suggestions on how to solve the problems. The data were analysed using descriptive statistical tools such as frequency, mean, media and mode. The Chi Square Statistical analysis was also employed to ascertain the relationship between Ownership of homegardens and some selected socio- economic variables. The results from the high density areas showed that half of the homegardens were owned privately(50%) while 26% of them were inherited by the respondents. In low density area, 64% of homegardens were owned privately while 12% of them were inherited. Educationally, 68% of the respondents were educated up to post graduate level in the low density area while 50% of the respondents were educated up to post graduate level in the high density area. The marital status shows that 72% of respondents are married in the high density area while 64% of the respondents are married in the low density area. This shows that ownership of homegardens can be transferred to the incoming generation. The predominating age group observed(high and low density) is between 41- 50 years and falls within the working age of the adults which accounts to 90% of the total respondents. A total number of 48 species representing 38 different families were recorded in homegardens in high density areas with 54% of the plants exotic( Examples are *Euphorbia milli*, *Rosa chinensis*, *Tectona grandis*, *Abies concolor* and *Bougainvillea lateritca*), the remaining 46% are indigenous ( Examples are *Citrus sinensis*, *Carica papaya*, *Anacardium occidentale*, *Elaeis guinensis* and *Cochorus olitorus*).The proceed from plants sales ranges from ₦3,000 - ₦15,000. The part of plants mainly exploited are the leafs, fruits, stem, bark. Examples of the plant species whose produce are used in high density areas are *Citrus sinensis*, *Carica papaya*, *Chrysophyllum albidum*, *Spondias mombin*, *Anarcardium occidentale*, and *Mangifera indica*. In the low density areas, 50 species of plants were recorded representing 33 different families, 64% of the plants are exotic (Examples are *Hibiscus rosa – sinensis*, *Roystonia regia*, *Nerium oleander*, *Helianthus annus* and *Rosa chinesis*), the remaining 36% are indigenous (Examples are *Carica papaya*, *Citrus sinensis*, *Spondias mombin*, *Vernonia amygdalina* and *Musa accuminata*) . The proceed from plants sale ranges from ₦2,000 - ₦20,000. The part of the plants mainly expoilted are the whole plant, leafs, fruits, stem and bark. The result further showed that the plants parts are also used as food, for beautification of the environment,

provision of shade, fuel-wood, as medicinal and provision of income for the respondents. The result further showed that some livestock and domestic pets were among the homegarden ecosystem. A total number of animals recorded in the studied areas include Dogs (*Canis familiaris*) within the family Canidae. They are used for security purposes. Other animals found are the livestock, Rabbit, Cats, Ducks, Snails, Canerat, Fish, Mona monkey, Pigs and Cow. The different part of the animals exploited are flesh, skin, bones, feathers which are used for different purposes. These include foods, as medicinal, cultural and house hold materials. The result of the Chi- square statistical analysis shows that two of the Socio- economic variables in the high density areas i.e; age and age of building are strongly associated with the ownership of homegardens while in the low density areas, household size and education are strongly associated with the ownership of homegardens. It can be concluded from this study that homegardens in the study area is very diverse in terms of species composition of both plants and animals. The study further confirmed that homegardens is a model of Agro forestry i.e. the planting of trees, food crops and rearing of animals in the same piece of land. The provision of off season income to the owners by the plants and animals parts on sale was equally noted. Finally, homegardens could be contributing to food security and income of the people. Plants and animals observed in homegardens provide important nutrient-rich supplements for rural household and urban poor. The study further showed that the respondents value the socio-economic importance of trees and animals in homes to the extent that they are willing to spare parts of the land for the cultivation of plants and rearing of animals.