

# **SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF SAWMILLING AND SAWMILL WASTES FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.**

**Aina, O.M and Adekunle, M.F**

Dept. of Forestry and Wildlife Management, College of Environmental Resources Management, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. Nigeria.

## **Abstract**

Some Sawmilling enterprises were investigated in Abeokuta with the aim of providing the much needed information on some of the socio-economic indices underlying the ventures in the study area. This was revealed through a mean gross profit (GP) of about N343,521/month and a rate of return (ROR) of 188.42%. The 51 implied respondents expressed willingness to plant trees and also contribute towards a forestation programme in the state to sustain the continuous availability of raw materials and also to enhance quality of the environment. The mean willingness to pay (WTP) for afforestation; was found to be N1,175.00 while the mean number of hectares (ha) the respondents were willing to plant per annum was about 2 ha. The bulk of the waste generated in the mills include slabs, off cuts, sawdust, shavings and bark. The major uses that the sawmill wastes are put into include fencing, shed construction, poultry bedding and medicinal uses. Sawmill wastes contributed to the revenue earnings of the sawmills with a value found to be N2,666 per lorry load. The most prominent species converted on the mills were indigenous species which include *Milicia excelsa* (Iroko), *Terminalia* sp (Afara), *Cola gigantea* (Oporoporo) and *Mansonia altissima* (Mansonia). The conclusion reached was that wastes generated from sawmills are not "wastes" in the real sense. What is lacking is the potential use values of these wastes. This study also concluded that as the mills rely mainly on indigenous species and many of them represented by one family should the species be extended due to pressure, most of the mills might close down. Hence, they would not be able to perform their socio-economic roles to the people. It was suggested that since the respondents were willing to contribute towards afforestation both in cash and in kind, government should provide the appropriate enabling environment to make this willingness possible.

**Keywords:** Conversion, sawmilling, wastes, logs, socio-economic, willingness to plant, Gross Profit.