SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF SAWMILLING AND SAWMILL WASTES FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN ABEOKUTA, Ogun State, Nigeria.

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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%. The5lpled respondents expressed willingness to plant trees and also contribute towards a forestation programmers 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) fot afforestation; was found 'to be NI,175.00:whilethe 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 contribiJted to the revenue earnings of the sawmills with a value found to be N2,666 per lorry load. The most ptominent species converted on the mills were indigenous species which include'Milicia excelsa (Iroko), Terminalia sp (Afara), Cola gigantea (Oporoporo) and Mansonia altisima (Manson). 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 socia-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, sod(J-economic, willingness to plan, Gross Profit.