



Assessment of the Adoption of Yam Minisett Technology in Lafia Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the adoption of yam minisett technology among rural farmers in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. A random sampling technique was employed, in the selection of respondent. A total of 120 yam farmers were randomly selected and administered questionnaire. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used in analyzing data generated from the study. Results of the study reveal that respondents had moderate awareness of yam minisett technology with an overall awareness percentage of 61. Age, farm size, irregular extension visits, high costs of technology were some factors that influenced adoption of the minisett technology. The effects of the adoption of minisett technology include increased income, skills, knowledge, productivity; reduction in cost of production and sustained food security. Radio and extension agents were the major sources of information. Awareness in the technology should be created among the farmers through the use of campaign, demonstration and small plot adoption trails (SPAT). Also farm credits should be granted to yam farmers to enhance their adoption of the technology were some of the recommendations proffered.

INTRODUCTION

Yam (*Dioscorea spp*) is a staple food in Nigeria. Nigeria is also the world's largest producer of the crop. In fact, it has been observed that Yam production in Nigeria is declining substantially due to many factors, especially cost of planting materials and labour, which account for about 50% and 40% of the cost of production respectively (Nweke et al. cited in Okoro, 2008).

Efforts aimed at increasing its production should be given greater emphasis as Nigeria is yet to optimize its potentials in producing the crop. The development of the yam mini-sett technology is one of the efforts aimed at boosting the production of the crop. Considering the fact that the tuber is the planting material as well as the edible part, the mini-sett technology provides planting material so that the farmer would not worry about what to plant the next season. Yam minisett technology was developed by National Root Crop Research Institute, Umudike in 1982 to address the problem of access to quality seed yam and improved productivity of yam farmers.

Madukwe et al. (2000) identified activities in yam minisett technology to include the following nine technology items:

- I. size of tuber for cutting: select healthy tubers without bruises. Use yam tubers of 20-25 cm length and 2.5 cm girth (500-750 g). Avoid tubers with bigger girth.
- II. Cutting into minisett: cut each of the yam tubers into horizontal sections (discs), 2 cm thick. Secondly, vertically cut each 2 cm thick disc into 2, 3 or 4 pieces such that each minisett weighs 25-30 g;
- III. Air drying: allow an interval of 4-5 minutes for ambient air to reduce mucilage on the cut surface to avoid the sett from absorbing the minisett dust;
- IV. Application of minisett dust or insecticides: put the minisett into a container with lid or in a polythene bag. Add the minisett dust (Apron plus or

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