

The Level of Farmers Participation in the National Special Programme for Food Security

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ABSTRACT The research was carried out in Kastina Ala, Katsina Ala Local Government Area and MU in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. The target population is benefiting farmers, a total of 600 farmers were included, 240 farmers were purposively selected from two sites katsina Ala and Makurdi Local Government Area. Data analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics and multiple regression analysis. The study was carried out to investigate the impact of National Special Program for Food Security amongst rural out to determine the levels of participation of farmers in the National Special programme for food security. The research also sought to ascertain strategies for improving farmers' livelihood and evaluate the effect of the program on benefitting farmers' income. Results from the research indicated that greater proportion of about 73% of the participants were involved in crop intensification techniques such as improved varieties of crops, adequate supply of fertilizers and improved agro processing techniques of gari processing. The results indicated that participants under age 30-49 were actively involved in the Food security programs. The income of 33% participants earn between ₦ 30,000- ₦ 69,000, for 20% it was between ₦ 70,000- ₦ 109,000, for 30% was ₦ 110,000- ₦ 149,000 while 16% recorded ₦ 150,000 and above per year. The study suggested that farmer's effort should be encouraged more by government, in the provision of training, input supply to enhance improved livelihood and increase food security.