

Construction of a Socio-economic Status Scale for Heads of Rural Farm Families in the North Agricultural Zone of Delta State, Nigeria

B. O. Ovwigho

*Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Delta State University
Asaba Campus, Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria*

KEYWORDS Socio-economic Status. Indicators. Standardisation. Construct Validity. Concurrent Validity. Social Stratification

ABSTRACT The main objective of the study was to construct a socio-economic status scale to measure the socio-economic status of heads of rural farm families in the Delta north agricultural zone of Delta State, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to standardise validated socio-economic status indicators into a scale, determine the construct and concurrent validity of the scale, and ascertain the reliability of the scale. Stratified and multi-stage simple random sampling techniques were used in selecting the towns and respondents. Twelve percent (12%) of the heads of farm families in Aniocha South (41), Ika South (47), Ndokwa West (55) and Oshimili North (31) were sampled. This gave a sample size of 174 heads of farm families. Data were collected by the use of structured interview schedule. The variables were measured by the use of sigma scoring method and analysed by the use of Pearson Product Moment Correlation and t-test. Sixty-nine (69) valid items were standardized into a socio-economic status scale. There was a significant and positive correlation between socio-economic status and adoption ($r=0.76, P<0.01$); there was a statistically significant difference between high and low socio-economic status heads of farm families ($t=78.82, P<0.01$). A Pearson r ($r=0.89, P<0.01$) showed that the scale was reliable. The scale is therefore recommended to development intervention agencies for measuring the socio-economic status of heads of farm families in the study area.