

Snail Farming as an Environment Friendly and Viable Enterprise in Ondo State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The study evaluated snail farming as an environment friendly and viable enterprise in Ondo State, Nigeria. Specifically it identified the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, determined profitability and examined productivity of snail farming in the study area. A multistage sampling technique was used to select 50 snail farmers and structured questionnaire administered on them. Descriptive statistics, budgetary and production function analyses were employed to analyse the data collected. The study revealed that 92% of the respondents belonged to the active segment of the population while the remaining 8% were aged. Analysis showed that 91.43% of the respondents reared both *Archachatina marginata* and *Archatina archatina*. The profitability analysis revealed that an average farmer incurred a total cost of N8347 but earned an average total revenue of N33798.82 per production cycle which indicates that an average farmer earned a net revenue of N25,452 per production period. The result of the production function postulated for snail farming in the study area reveals that the postulated regressors explained about 64.4% in the variation of the regressand. A Return to Scale (RTS) of 0.7336 suggests that snail production in the state fell in the rational stage (that is, stage II) of the production surface.