

**Economic Performance of Small Scale Private Irrigation Scheme:
A Case Study of the Tin Mining Ponds of the
Jos Plateau, Nigeria**

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ABSTRACT Increasing the crop water productivity in smallholder farming is important since the productivity is often low but has the largest potential to be enhanced. In Nigeria, tomato and pepper forms a very important component of many households' diet. Their production is mainly a smallholder activity characterized with low productivity compared to the world average. In explaining the low productivities of the farmers, it is necessary to look into the profitability of their farm enterprise to show the close links existing between productivity and farm income. This study estimates the profitability of tomato and pepper production using the gross margin analysis to determine the farm income on smallholder farms of tin mining ponds of the Jos-Plateau. Empirical result indicates that tomato and pepper production are profitable. The average rate of return to a naira invested in tomato and pepper production were ₦0.87k and ₦1.49 respectively. To fully tap the potential of increase productivity and farm income, the study recommends that expanded access to improved technologies for tomato and pepper production should be extended to the farmers through extension services. Implications for policy are discussed.