

STRENGTHENING TECHNOLOGY UTILIZATION THROUGH FEEDBACK MECHANISM AMONG FARMERS IN SOUTH-EAST-AGRICULTURAL ZONE, NIGERIA

¹Odoemelam, L. E. & ²Alamba, C.

¹ Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development
Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, NIGERIA

²Department of Economics, College of Management Science

ABSTRACT

In recognizing the importance of providing opportunities for farmers to ask questions and to voice out their concerns about technologies disseminated to them, the paper seeks to investigate the effectiveness of feedback mechanism put in place by various institutions involved in the technology transfer in the study area. The study was conducted in South East Agricultural Zone. Multi-stage sampling procedure was used in the selection of the sample. South-east Agricultural zone is made up 5 states, in the first stage Abia State was selected because of the presence of National Root – Crop Research Institute (NRCRI) which has cassava as one of its mandate crops to represent the rest of the states. In the second stage, one agricultural zone (Umuahia) was purposively selected, followed by selection of 2 blocks and 3 circles respectively. In the fourth stage 30 farm families involve in cassava production were selected, bringing the total to 180 respondents. Data were generated through the use of structured questionnaire and participatory observation. Data collected were analyzed with descriptive and inferential statistics. Major findings indicated that ADPs (Agricultural Development Programme) uses face to face communication and making staff number available to receive response from the farmers with a mean score of $X = 1.96$ and $X = 2.02$ respectively, indicating that their feedback is often delayed. Radio and television had a mean score of $X = 1.3$ indicating that the broadcasting media houses has a power linkage system. This will help the farmers to attain high utilization of the technologies compared to projects that did not include as much audience feedback mechanism farm families utilizing these cassava technologies were selected bringing the total to 180 respondents. Non-governmental organizations and fellow farmers with mean score of $X = 2.07$ and open community meeting with mean score of $X = 2.0$, even though had moderate utilization because of its immediate response, information distortion occurs due to lack of experts. So providing opportunity for people to whom a particular innovation is meant for to voice out their concerns will give the agencies in charge the necessary pressure to make changes in their operations. Therefore there is need for ADPs in the state and other stakeholders to maintain on-going all feedback mechanism throughout a life cycle of a particular technology introduced into a social system.

Keywords: Farmers Feedback Mechanism, Utilization and Technology.