

Assessing the Effect of Land Tenure System on Climate Change Adaptation Practices Among Rice Farmers in North-West Nigeria

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This study was conducted to assess the effect of land tenure system on climate change adaptation practices among rice farmers in North-West Nigeria. It specifically described the land tenure system of the farmers, their use of climate change adaptation practices and the relationship between land tenure system and use of climate change adaptation practices by the farmers. The study covered Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States in North-West, Nigeria. A multistage sampling procedure involving a purposive selection of 9 Local Government areas, 16 villages and finally a random selection of 522 farmers was used for the study. Data were obtained with the aid of structured questionnaire from August, 2016 to January, 2017. The data were analyzed using both descriptive (frequency counts, percentages, ranges and means) and inferential (Tobit regression analysis) statistics. Results of the study revealed that majority (93 %) of the farmers acquired land through inheritance, owned 1-4 ha (86 %) of which less than 0.1 ha was cultivated for rice production (62 %). Result of the Tobit regression analysis showed that both purchased and rented land had positive and significant ($P < 0.01$) influence on the farmers' use of climate change adaptation practices which was measured by development of a Composite Index (CI). It was concluded that use of climate change adaptation practices by rice farmers in North-West Nigeria is largely influenced by land tenure systems in the region. Land tenure by inheritance particularly, has a negative influence on use of climate change adaptation practices in the area. The implication is that unless the current land tenure system (inheritance) for rice production is reformed, land might not be readily available for rent or purchase especially to non members of community who are more willing to use the climate change adaptation practices for increased productivity.

Keywords: Adaptation, Climate change, Land tenure system, North-West Nigeria, Rice farmers