ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF RICE PROCESSING IN BASSA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KOGI STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study was on assessment of rice processing in Bassa Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria. The study described the socio-economic characteristics of rice processors, identified the methods of rice processing, determined the net return from rice processing, determined the factors affecting the net return, and identified the major problems of rice processing in the study area. A multistage random sampling method was used. First, three districts were selected. Secondly, two major rice processing communities were randomly selected. Finally, fifteen rice processors were randomly selected from each of the communities making a total of 90 respondents. Data were gathered through questionnaire administration. Descriptive statistics, net return model, multiple regression, and mean score were used for data analysis. The result showed that rice processing was profitable and viable with a net return of ₦ 1 061. Income, educational status, household size, distance and sex were significant at 1 percent in influencing the net return on rice processing. The major problems affecting rice processing are inadequate capital, price fluctuation, and high cost of transportation. The study recommends that price regulatory agencies should be strengthen and enlightened on the need to stabilize the price of rice. Also, agencies involved in the construction of roads should extend such to the localities where rice is produced.

Keywords: Processing, Assessment, Net Return.