Analysis of Income, Food Consumption and Expenditure Pattern in Kaura L.G.A of Kaduna State, Nigeria.

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*Abstract*

*This paper seeks to analyze the income, food consumption and expenditure pattern of rural households. The paper aims to compare the income of households whose primary occupation is farming (primary farmers) with those whose primary occupation is other jobs (secondary farmers), examine the expenditure pattern among the rural households and analyze the factors influencing the consumption pattern of rural households. A total of 150 households were selected through multistage sampling procedure. Primary data was used which was collected using a structured questionnaire. Descriptive statistics involving frequencies, mean, standard deviation and percentages were used. Similarly, t-test, ANOVA and Duncan range test were carried out. The result showed that of the 150 households studied,74.5% had farming as primary occupation while 25.5% had other occupations as primary occupation. The t-test showed that the income earned by these two groups was not significant at 5% probability. Comparing the income and expenditure of both groups showed that there was significant difference suggesting that the households spent more than their declared incomes. This could mean that other sources of income might have not been captured. Looking at the spending habit of the households, the results showed that at 5% probability, there was a significant difference between the expenditure in the different categories of food, social, education ,house maintenance, transportation, farm, health and miscellaneous. The Duncan Range Multiple test showed that the highest expenditure was on food followed by education, transport, farm, house maintenance , health, miscellaneous and social. Overall, on the average 29.6 % and 59.7% of the income of the primary farmers and secondary farmers was spent on food though not significant at 10% probability. The differences in the expenditure on education, social, health and farm were significant at 1% probability. We conclude that farming is lucrative since the income from farming and the income from other jobs was not significant at 5% probability. We recommend that finding markets for agricultural products in other States of Nigeria, the West African region and other parts of the world would further enhance farm incomes.*

***Key words: Income, Expenditure, Households, Food Consumption, Primary Farmers and Secondary Farmers***