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Climate Change Training Needs of Extension Agents in Southwest Nigeria: The Role of Universities

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Abstract

The study focussed on the, identification of the training needs of extension agents in climate change management in South west Nigeria. The population of the study comprised of 396 extension agents in the Agricultural Development Project (ADP) of three purposively selected states from the six states found in the region. A structured and pre-tested questionnaire was used to elicit information from the respondents and only 287 questionnaires were properly filled, returned and used for analysis. The study established the pre-ponderance of males in extension activities (73.2%), a young active work force (mean = 41.3 years), majority married (88.9%) with first degree certificates (80.9%). The mean annual income of the respondents was N410, 587.00. The findings revealed that respondents had noticed a significant effect of climate change in the study area (mean = 2.12). The training needs identified were: New knowledge and skills in climate risk management, knowledge of strategies of communicating climate change weather forecasts. Findings also showed that most of the respondents (78.7%) had never attended any climate change training but were willing to attend in the future. The constraints to climate change management were inadequate funding, incorrect prediction of weather forecasts and lack of in-service training. Analysis of Variance revealed significant differences in the perceived effect of climate change across the states ($F = 56.732, p < 0.05$) and constraints to climate change management ($F = 23.947, p < 0.05$). The study therefore recommended that there should be collaboration between universities, research institutions, and extension organisations to organised in-service training on the identified needs.

Keywords: Change, climate, management, needs, training