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## Assessment of the Contribution of Cashew Nut Production to the Income Generation of Farmers in Nigeria

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### Abstract

Nigeria is one of the main cashew producing countries in the world in 2014–2015 (Rabany et.al., 2015). Cashew production comes from over 20 States in Nigeria and these include: Kogi, Kwara, Oyo, Edo, Ondo, Anambra, Enugu, Benue, Cross River, Imo, Sokoto, Nassarawa, Ogun, Osun, Plateau and Kebbi among others (Ezeagu, 2002). The increased awareness of the economic benefits of the crop has led to astronomical increase and renewed interest in the agri-business of the crop (Hammed and Anikwe, 2008). This study was carried out to assess the contribution of cashew nut production to the income generation of farmers in Kogi state, Nigeria. It specifically determined the profitability of cashew nut production. A multi stage sampling technique was used to select 90 cashew nut producers. Budgetary analysis was used to analyse the data collected. The mean age of the respondents was 51 years. The mean household size was 8 persons. About 92.3 % of the respondents were literate. Budgetary analysis result of profitability of cashew nut production was ₦7,590,520; this indicated that cashew nut production is profitable in the study area. About 60 % of variation in cashew nut income could be explained by the explanatory variables stated in the regression model. There is a significant relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and income from cashew nut sales. From the findings, the study concluded that cashew nut production is a viable and profitable business and has provided a means of livelihood for the producers.

Key words: cashew nuts, income and farmers.

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