

Determinants of the involvement of extension agents in the dissemination of climate smart agriculture initiatives Implication for scaling up

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Abstract: Globally, the role of extension agents in scaling up the utilization of climate smart agriculture initiatives CSAI by farmers remains very crucial. This study examined the determinants of the involvement of extension agents in the dissemination of CSAI to farmers. A two-staged random sampling technique was used to elicit information from 277 extension agents in South West Nigeria using a structured questionnaire. Data were analysed using frequency count, percentage and linear regression analysis. The findings revealed that prominent initiatives the extension agents were involved in disseminating were cover crops planting, minimum tillage practices among others. However, extension agents had low involvement in the dissemination of irrigation practices, use of soil amendments and Agro-forestry initiatives which are also very crucial for adapting and mitigating the effect of climate change in the study area. Significant factors influencing extension agents involvement in the dissemination of CSAI are their educational level, years of experience, job level and numbers of community covered. The study concludes that although extension agents are involved in the dissemination of some CSAI, there are still a wide range of initiatives that are not adequately disseminated to the farmer. It was therefore recommended that extension agents should be trained especially on CSAI thus enhancing sustainable agricultural productivity and food security for all.