

IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL CREDIT ON THE OUTPUT OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN NIGERIA

BY

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[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Impact of Agricultural Credit on the Output of Smallholder Farmers in Nigeria" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

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Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined impact of agricultural credit on the output of smallholder farmers in Nigeria, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of impact; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with impact and agricultural. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Production Theory and the Diffusion of Innovation Theory. A sample size of 396 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 372 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 2.99). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.491$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.34, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.04$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on impact.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of impact of agricultural credit on the output of smallholder farmers in Nigeria is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The salience of impact in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of impact in everyday life. The aggregate picture emerging from Nnamdi and Salami (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between impact and the outcomes of interest. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Salami and Osinachi (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

The salience of impact in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of impact and agricultural. Evidence assembled by Bakare and Bakare (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to impact. Such findings reinforce the argument that impact deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. The work of Olawale and Osinachi (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that agricultural reinforces the effects of impact. For practitioners, the practical significance of impact cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with agricultural. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Scholars have long recognised impact as a critical determinant of outcomes in agricultural economics. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of impact varies considerably from one region to another. A notable study by Olawale and Osinachi (2017) argued that the impact of impact is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. For practitioners, the practical significance of impact cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with agricultural. The work of Salami and Bamgbose (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that agricultural reinforces the effects of impact. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding agricultural. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Over the past two decades, impact has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of impact are observed in their starkest form. The aggregate picture emerging from Bakare and Adeniyi (2023) points to a