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A Case Study

Poverty determinant among rural farming household in Niger State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT : The near failure of various programmes and strategies by successive governments in Nigeria has been linked to the improper diagnosis of poverty as a static concept. There are growing concerns that poverty is not reducing due to the lack of understanding of its dynamic nature and vulnerability to poverty. About two-thirds of rural households in Nigeria are engaged in crop and livestock production as their main source of livelihood with most of these households vulnerable to chronic poverty. This study attempts a proper empirical identification of their poverty status and the reasons for their poverty, through a profile of poverty incidence, manifestations and causes of rural poverty in Niger State, Nigeria. Multi-stage sampling technique was employed in enumerating sixty farming household from four communities via administration of pre-tested questionnaire; viz., Kuta, Gwada, Mutum-Daya. Data collected were analysed using both Descriptive, Foster-Greer-Thorbecke (FGT) model and probit regression model. For poor farmers, results indicated that the incidence of poverty was more among older farmers, and less among younger farmers. Results of the analysis of the FGT model showed that 36.6 per cent of the farming households were poor. Based on the indices of the poverty depth, poor farmers required N 39.86 to escape poverty. However, there were some socio-economic factors which exacerbate poverty. Since livelihood status remained below the required levels for large parts of the rural populace during this research, identified poor households should be targeted for safety nets. Furthermore, the study therefore suggests that poverty alleviation programs must focus on those factors which aggravate poverty, in order to employ several specialized approaches to tackle these multifarious problems.

KEY WORDS : Poverty, Vulnerability, Food security, Niger state, Nigeria

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