

PDF - EFFECT OF FOREST RESOURCES EXPLOITATION ON ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF FARMING HOUSEHOLDS - researchcub.info

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 Research Methodology

3.1 Study Area

This study will be carried out in Delta State. The state is blessed with fertile soil and favourable climate which make it an important producer of food and cash crops. Delta state is an oil production state of Nigeria situated in the region known as the Niger Delta, south-south geopolitical zone with a population of 4,098,291 (Federal Republic of Nigeria official gazette, 2007). The state presented covers a landmass of about 18,050 km² of which more than 60% is land. The state has approximately between longitude 50.00 and 60.45 east and latitude 50.00 and 60.30 North. It is bounded in the north by Edo state, the east by Anambra State, South-East by Bayelsa. The state has a wide coated belt inter-lace with rivulets, which form part of the Niger Delta. Delta state was carved out of the former Bendel state on August 27th 1991. It consists of twenty-five (25) local government areas grouped into three agricultural zones which are; The Delta North, Delta South and Delta Central. The Delta North (Delta Ibo) comprises of Aniocha, Ika, Oshimili, Ukwani, Ndokwa region while Delta South and Delta central are made up of Urhobo, Ijaw, Isoko and Itsekiri. The state enjoys tropical climate with two distinct seasons. These are the rainy season (April-October) and the dry season (November – March). The rainfall is heaviest in July. The temperature ranges between 20°C and 34°C with annual rainfall in the coastal areas is about 2557 mm and 1905 mm in the North.

The natural vegetation of the state varies from the mangrove swamps along the coast to every green forest in the fresh water zone and derived savannah in the north. Farming and fishing are the main occupation of the indigenes of the state. Major food crops and cash crops produced in the state include yam, maize, cassava, plantain, vegetables e.g (green, pumpkin, bitterleaf, saint leaf, water leaf, etc) fruits e.g (orange, banana, mango, pineapple, pawpaw, guava etc) rubber, oil palm etc. They also engage in livestock farming such as pigs, goats, fisheries, poultry bird etc.

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