AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE ENTERPRISES IN CALABAR, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper assesses commercial vegetable production in Calabar. Urban vegetable farming in commercial quantity is mainly embarked upon by poorly educated farmers who engage in vegetable production as an income-generating activity. Most vegetable farms in Calabar were located essentially at the dried swamp (or wetland) soils and close to major highways and roads in order to attract consumers. This paper specifically attempts to describe the socioeconomic characteristics of commercial vegetable farmers, their production systems, and the costs and returns involved in the enterprises. The enterprises are profitable as N0.63 is the return on every Naira invested and they rely on hired workers as an important production input. The major problems associated with urban commercial vegetable production in the study area include access to land, credit and improved technology, lack of skilled labour and exotic species. In conclusion, this paper emphasizes the need to create an enabling environment for urban commercial vegetable production and integrating urban agriculture within the framework of urban policies formulation.

Keywords: Economic Analyses, Commercial, Vegetable Production

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