ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENT WOOD SPECIES IN MAJOR SAWMILLS IN ABEOKUTA OGUN STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study examine the economic analysis of different wood species in major sawmills in Abeokuta Ogun state. The objectives of the study were aimed to identify the timber species that are most common in the saw mills, to identify the girth sizes of timbers that were available at the saw mills and to determine the economic valuation of timber species in the study area. In achieving this, twenty-four saw mills were randomly selected from three Local Government (Abeokuta North, Abeokuta South and Odeda Local Government), purposively because of high concentration of sawmills. Descriptive analysis and Cost and Returns were used in the data analysis. The result obtained shows that 62.5% were male engaged in the business, 81.7% are in age group between 31-50 years old, 48.3% had no formal education, and 88.3% entered into the business through apprenticeship and are mostly full-time. The result also reveals that 95.83% of the saw millers or plank sellers obtain their timber from the private forest and they mostly buy per species i.e. per tree. Moreover, the result also shows the timber species that are common in the saw mill at present, Albizia coriaria (ayinre) has the highest percentage frequency of 66.7%, Anogeissus leiocarpus (orin dudu) with 44.2%, Cleistopholis sp. (okedo) 32.5% and Musanga cecropioides (aga) 1.7% with the least percentage frequency. Furthermore, the result also shows that the average girth size of timber species in the sawmill at present, ranges between 3.00cm- 5.60cm and the average number of plank ranges between 6-29. The business could be seen has being profitable has the cost analysis reveals the average profit for each sawmill, Taofeek Adeniyi sawmill (Lafenwa), Okewumi sawmill (Lafenwa) both in Abeokuta North Local Government and wande sawmill (Odeda Local Government) has the highest profit (№1,005,330.00, №960,457.5 and №790,083.524) respectively whereas Olorunkewa sawmill (Odeda Local Government) and Ramilowo-oluwa sawmill (Lafenwa) Abeokuta North Local Government has the lowest profit (₦262,646.666 and ₦254,342.997) respectively. In conclusion, forests are fixed resources whereas human population is increasing; this has led to loss of forest resources in Nigeria through deforestation for urbanization, commercial logging, *i.e.* logging for construction, furniture purposes or for export, illegal felling and over exploitation of the best timber species in the forest. If this should continue it will have a greater effect on the environment and all living creatures on the earth surface. It is therefore recommended that government policy should be review against illegal felling and over exploitation of timber by imposing/enacting stiffer penalty or law to illegal feller. Government policy should also favour plantation establishment. World environmental day should focus in plantation establishment and not just planting tree in front of government house alone.