

## Factors Affecting Adoption of Improved Cassava Varieties in Kaduna State, Nigeria

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### Abstract

This study assessed factors that affect adoption of improved cassava varieties in Kaduna State. To this end, 150 cassava farmers were randomly selected. Primary data were collected using structured questionnaire and interview schedule. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics and logit regression model. Result revealed that majority (59.3%) of the farmers were within their active age of 31-50 years and mean of 38 years. Also most (60.0%) of the farmers were married and majority (60.0%) of the farmers has household size of 6-15 persons. Furthermore, more than half (61.3%) of the farmers were aware of the existence of improved cassava varieties. Most (50.7%) of the farmers still cultivate local varieties. The logit regression analysis revealed age ( $X_1$ ) and marital status ( $X_3$ ) significantly affect the adoption of improved cassava varieties ( $p < 0.05$ ); Educational status ( $X_4$ ) and extension contact ( $X_5$ ) significantly affect the adoption of improved cassava varieties ( $p < 0.01$ ). Meanwhile, farm size ( $X_9$ ) and cost of improved varieties ( $X_{11}$ ) significantly affect adoption of improved cassava varieties ( $p < 0.01$ ). Based on the findings of this study it could be stated that, there was low adoption of improved cassava varieties in the study area and this could be attributed to high cost of production inputs and inadequate capital. Therefore, the study recommended that farmers should be provided with cassava production inputs at subsidized rate and also they should be given agricultural grants or credits to boost their capital base.

**Keywords:** Improved cassava varieties, Cassava farmers, Adoption