



Evaluation Of Wild Animal Damages On Farmlands: A Case Study Of Odeda Local Government Area, Ogun State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper evaluates the economic value of wildlife damages to crops on Sampled Farmland in Odeda Local Government Area (OLGA) of Ogun State, Nigeria. The study also investigated and specified types of wild animals that caused damages to crop as well as the type of crop damaged in the study area. Primary data were used for the study. Data were collected through the administration of questionnaires to fifty farmers sampled randomly in each of the four administrative district of Odeda Local Government Area, namely Odeda, Ilugun, Opeji/Bode Olude and Obantoko. Examination of food content in the stomach of some wild animals was also done to ascertain responses. Wild Animals regarded as pest in the area are Squirrel *Protezerus srangerri*, Giant rat *Cricetomys gambainus*, Grasscutter *Thryonomys swinderianus*, Weaver bird *Ploceus cuculatus*, Porcupine *Altherus africanus*, Guinea fowl *Numida meliagreis*, Monkey *Erythrocebus patas* and Hare *Poelagus marjorita* by a respective representation of 7.2%, 14.8%, 22.4%, 0.7%, 3.4%, 5.2%, 2.1% and 9.0% of farmers. Prominent among crops that were affected in the study area includes Maize (*Zea mays*), Cassava (*Manihot esculentus*), Groundnut (*Arachis hypogale*), Plantain (*Musa paradiacal*), Rice (*Oriza sativa*), Spices (*Piper nigrum*), Vegetables (*Maranthus crudatus*) and Yam (*Discorea species*). A total mean values of 5195.07±667.72, 2116.67±116.67, 3000.00, 4848.03±376.13, 10000.00, 16166.67±1999.37, 4992.86±569.30, 4861.64±595.32, and 6728.13±973.69 worth of Cassava, Cocoyam, Groundnut, Maize, Plantain, Rice, Spice, Vegetable and Yam were respectively damaged on Farmlands in the Study area. Comparison of the means of Naira losses to various groups of wild animals revealed a significant difference ($p < 0.01$, $F = 4.874$) among them. The mean Naira value lost to Apes is greater and significantly different ($p < 0.05$) when compared with all other groups.

KEYWORDS: Wild animals, Damages, Crops, Costs, Farmlands