

ANALYSIS OF USE OF INTERNET FOR EXTENSION COMMUNICATION BY EXTENSION AGENTS IN KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study examined the use of internet for extension communication by agricultural extension agents in Katsina State, Nigeria. A two-stage sampling technique was used to collect primary data through the aid of a well-structured questionnaire from 108 extension agents in the study area. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. Result showed that majority of the extension agents (73.1%) had access to internet facilities while most of them (57.4%) had effective internet services. Majority of the extension agents (94.4%), (85.2%) and (81.5%) did not have access to internet in their offices, cyber cafes and modems respectively. The finding also showed that majority (60.2%) of the respondents use internet facilities for the purpose of accessing information for personal development. The frequency of internet usage showed that the extension workers that used Social network for knowledge update and to seek information were in the majority with a mean score of 1.68 while online public access catalogue was the least used internet facilities in the study area with a mean score of 0.48. Lack of access to internet network connectivity in rural areas, inadequate internet facilities and difficulty in subscription with mean scores of 2.08, 1.8 and 1.80 respectively were the major constraints to internet usage in the study area. The study concluded that internet usage among the extension agents in the study area is very low. The study recommends that government should formulate policies that will stimulate the enabling working environment to enhance internet usage by the extension agent.

Keywords: Extension Communication, Extension Agents, Internet Use and Analysis