

## SMALL FARMERS' PERCEPTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS EFFECTS ON THEIR LIVELIHOODS ASSESTS IN JIGAWA STATE, NORTHERN NIGERIA

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### Abstract

*This study examined the perception of small holder's farmers on climate change, its pattern of change and how it affects their livelihoods in Jigawa State, Northern Nigeria. A survey research design was employed using semi structured questionnaire. Four hundred (400) respondents were selected randomly from the selected 24 villages from seven local government areas in the state. The data obtained was analyzed using descriptive statistic in the SPSS version 20.0. The study revealed that smallholders' farmers in the area have very good knowledge on climate change, its pattern of change and effects on livelihood. The study further revealed that the existence of climate change due to its effects on agricultural activities in the area makes farmers to have a positive perception on the changing pattern of climate change and their effects on livelihood. Also, the study established that the farmers' positive perception on the presence of changing pattern of climatic variables in the area affects the growth of agricultural inputs and the outputs. The result of the study established that cash, saving, availability of credit, wages, liquid assets (livestock, poultry, and jewelry), pensions and remittances play an essential role in cushioning households against drought-related livelihood insecurity. The study recommends that Jigawa state government and non-governmental organizations should motivate the farmers to actively adopt mitigating measures of climate change for sustainable farming system and sustenance of livelihood options in the area. The farmers' association and the agric department of the local government in collaboration with government at both state and federal levels should put more efforts in providing drought resistance seedling to farmers and adopt effective mitigation measures through early warning to control loss of farm products during harvesting. Creating awareness on effects of climate change and crop management practices to control dreadful crop loss in the area is also recommended.*

**Keywords:** Climate Change, Crop yield, Small holders Farmers, Perception and Livelihoods