

## **EFFECT OF NIGERIA'S COMMUNITY ACTION FOR RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS (NG-CARES) PROGRAMME ON MAIZE FARMERS PRODUCTIVITY IN NORTH WESTERN NIGERIA**

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### **Abstract**

*This study looked at how Nigeria's Community Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES) programme affected maize farmers in Kano and Jigawa States, North-West Nigeria. The research used a descriptive survey and causal-comparative design. It applied a multi-stage sampling method to select 260 beneficiaries and 260 non-beneficiaries, making a total of 520 respondents from six Local Government Areas in the two states. Data was collected with the aid of well-structured questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics and Propensity Score Matching (PSM). The findings showed that the beneficiaries were mainly middle-aged farmers, with a mean age of 49.38 years. They had large households, with a mean of 13 people, and small farms, with a mean of 1.45 hectares. The programme mainly provided agricultural inputs like fertilizers, improved maize seeds, and agro-chemicals. The programme has demonstrated significant effect on the yield of its beneficiaries as revealed by the result of the PSM of an ATT of 5.06 bags/ha and an ATU of 4.83 bags/ha and an ATE of 4.95 bags/ha which represents what the non-beneficiaries would have gained in terms of productivity had they benefitted from the NG-CARES programme. Which was statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ). The study concluded that the NG-CARES programme significantly improved the livelihoods of maize farmers in the area by boosting productivity. It recommended that the programme should be sustained since it made such a significant impact on the livelihood of its target beneficiaries as revealed by the result of the PSM with an average Treatment on Treated of about 5bags of 100kg per hectare in order to better maximize its impact and possible potentials.*

**Keywords:** Community Action, Resilience, Maize, Productivity, NG-CARES