

## **FEASIBILITY STUDY OF STUDIED LOCATIONS**

NIFOR also carried out a feasibility studies of some locations in Jigawa State where date palm is cultivated.

The basic reasons for this study are:

- (i) To identify the major Date palm farmers in the areas/communities where this project is being carried out. The two main communities are
  - (a) Dutse Communities
  - (b) Birnin-kudu Communities
- (ii) To know the level of their economic resources particularly from date palm
- (iii) To know their level of technology awareness on date palm cultivation
- (iv) To identify the level of utilization of the technology
- (v) To identify the construction in cultivating the date palm in their communities
- (vi) The possible solutions to overcome the constraints and the way forward to develop the date palm sector of their livelihood activities

### **Study area**

The two communities i.e. (Dutse and Birnin-kudu) are communities in Jigawa State of North East zone of Nigeria. The two communities are located in two local Government Areas of Jigawa State. Dutse community is located in Dutse Local government Area of Jigawa State.

The two communities are located between latitude  $11^{\circ} . 42$  N all  $11^{\circ} .04$  N and between longitudes  $9^{\circ} 20$  E and  $9^{\circ} 31$  E.

The major language spoken in both communities are Hausa, Fulfulde and Banawa.

Most of the arable crops grown in the two communities are maize, millets, beans sorghum, rice, groundnut, cotton and sesame and the free crops are Date palm which is the major and on plantation size, cashew, mangoes, oranges and guava.

NIFOR Date palm Sus-Station is located in Dutse Town.

### **POPULATION OF STUDY**

The population studied are Date Palm farmers in the two Communities.

#### **Sampling Procedure and Sample size**

Simple randomized sampling techniques were used to select two villages in each community.

In Dutse Community, Gango and Kango villages were selected while in Birnin-kudu Community Dumas and Iggi villages were selected.

Purposeful technique was not used to select the villages because the two communities are main Date palm growing zones in Jigawa State.

#### **Simple Size**

In each of the four villages (i.e. Gango, Kango, Dumas and Iggi) ten major Date palm farmers were selected based on the Date palm farmers records collected from Jigawa Agricultural Rural and Development Authority (JARDA).

#### **Instrument Used for Data collection**

The instrument used for data collection was a pre-tested and structured interview schedule guide.

#### **Data Collection**

The data for survey was obtained from the structured interview schedule administered to the 40 Date palm farmers in the four villages by NIFOR, Date palm Sub-station staff and JARDA Extension Agents as study enumerators.

## RESULTS AND DICUSSIONS

**Table 1:1 Demographic characteristics**

<b>Farmers Age group</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Up to 30	2	5
31-40	7	17.5
41-50	18	45
51-60	10	25
61-70	2	5
71 and above	1	2.5
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	40	100
Female	0	0
<b>Religion</b>		
Islam	40	100
Christian	0	0
Traditional		
<b>Marital status</b>		
Single	1	2.5
Married	38	95
Widow	1	2.5
<b>Number of wives</b>		
One	5	12.5
Two	24	60
Above 2	11	27.5
<b>Family size</b>		
1- 5	5	12.5
6 - 10	14	35
11- 15	18	4.5
>15	3	7.5
<b>Educational status</b>		
No formal education	28	57.5
Primary education	10	25
Secondary education	0	0

The figure in Table 1:1 reveal that both the young and the older respondents represent 25% and the larger proportion of 62.5% of the respondents' one between 31 and 50 years representing the middle age group constitutes the bulk of the date palm farmers. This result is similar to that of Ajayi *et al* (2010) who reported majority of farmers to be between the ages of 31 and 50 years.

**Sex:** The table 1:1 shows that all respondents in the study area are male 100%. In the study area, women do not generally own properties like land, economic trees etc but such properties are rather transferred to their husband when they marry. Another reason could be that other farmers have easy access to land than their female counterparts (Oladeji and, 200).

**Religion:** The table reveals that all the respondents in the study area were 100% followership of Islam faith.

**Marital Status:** Table 1:1 95% of the respondents were married while 2.5% were widower. Only 2.5% are single.

**Number of wives:** Table 1:1 shows that 12.5% of the respondents have one wife while 60% of the respondents have two wives and 27.5% have more than two wives. This means that 87.5% of the respondents have more than one wife which is the predominant features in the study area.

**Family size:** The results in table 1:1 shows that 45% of farm households had 11-15 member followed by 35% for household of 6-10%, 12.5% for household of 1-5 and 7.5% for household members of 15 and above members.

This result can be inferred from the fact that in the study area whereby parent, children and other relatives lived together as household. Ekwe *et al* (2009).

Table 1:1 shows that the respondents with no formal education are the majority with 57.5%, while others with formal education of primary, secondary and tertiary have 25%, 5% and 0% respectively. It is good to know that education is very crucial form of any knowledge to be learnt, acquired and possibly the utilization. Hence one cannot speak of technological utilization without knowing the educational attainment of the individual. Sound education impacts on the farmers the ability for a balanced assessment of any innovation being transferred to them and high educational status of individual to enable them to better assessment of the technology Ekwe *et al* (2008).

One of the key findings of the study is the willingness among the date palm farmers to increase date palm cultivation if assisted with the right planting materials (premium). Hence, NIFOR from intense research effort developed the tissue culture multiplication technique to produce premium planting materials for the present day date palm farmers and prospective one.

This proposal therefore is to translate these successes to farmers gain.