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Thesis Title: Has Agricultural Productivity in Nigeria been Enhanced  
by 'Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS)'?

Abstract:

This study has attempted to explore the contributions of GESS to enhancing the agricultural productivity in thirty-six states in Nigeria. We compared through regression analysis the pre and post GESS outcomes regarding growth in outputs and see how the technological innovation of E-wallet in GESS has contributed to this growth using the theories of Technical efficiencies and Total factor of Productivity based on Stochastic frontier analysis for production technologies.

In the study, the empirical analysis of the impact of Growth enhancement support scheme on the agricultural productivity of small holder's farmers in Nigeria using cross sectional dataset from the World bank living Standard Measurement survey (LSMS) 2010/2011 and 2012/2013 based on the stochastic frontier models of production functions was carried out.

The findings from the estimated results indicated that the introduction of GESS actually improved the TFP of the Farmers and agriculture production from 0.92 in 2010/2011 to 1.39 in 2012/2013. This indicate technical change and technological progress as improvements on TFP translate to technological progress for productivity enhancement.

However, the results of GESS fertilizer component did not impact on the technical efficiency of the average farmer in 2012/203. But the GESS seed component impacted positively on the technical efficiency of the farmers in 2012/2013.

This may have been due to the challenges that are associated with logistics, GSM signal coverage and difficult terrains to access rural farmers. Other exogenous factors may have been poor level of extension services that are grossly inadequate as observed from the survey data.

