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RATIONALE

- Irrespective of the rising demand for coffee globally, Nigerian farmers seem not to be tapping the potential as the produce has seen significant dip in its production. Many farms have been abandoned and some coffee plantations replanted to other crops.
- As the world coffee output continues to increase, Nigeria's production continues to dwindle, and there had been fluctuations in global demand and prices in the last six years, but coffee demand is on the rise. This study determined the factors that boost production of coffee in Kogi state, Nigeria a state that has high comparative advantage for the production of coffee.

METHODOLOGY

- Using well structured questionnaire, information were elicited from 120 coffee farmers in Kogi state using the multistage sampling technique. The first stage was the selection of two local government areas (LGAs) Kabba/bunu and Ijumu while second stage was selection of coffee farming villages/communities from each of the LGAs and the third stage was random selection of coffee farmers from the existing Agricultural Development Programme (ADP's) list of coffee farmers. This selection was done proportionate to the size of the village population. The study used the descriptive analysis and the multiple regression methods to achieve set objectives.

RESULTS

- The result shows that socio-economic characteristics and economic variables are determinants of production of coffee in the state; of all the coffee farmers interviewed, 67% of the farmers were male. The mean age of the farmers was 60 ± 5.96 years, mean household size of 8 ± 2 persons; majority of the coffee farmers are smallholders with the average farm size of 1.5 ± 0.8 ha of farmland with over 30years of coffee farming experience. The result of the regression analysis shows that six variables: age of farmer(x1), age of coffee bush(x2), coffee farming experience(x3), market access/channel(x4), coffee price (x5) and farm size (x6) were significant at 1% level on the production ability of coffee farmers in Kogi State, Nigeria.

CONCLUSIONS & PERSPECTIVES

- It was concluded that coffee production is viable in the area. Based on findings, this study recommends that more women and youths be encouraged to take up coffee cultivation as business in the state. Also, based on the findings that poor pricing and marketing channel contribute mainly to the abandonment of coffee farms which has multiplier effects on the production; It is recommended that government should intervene in the crisis of the coffee sector by creating appropriate marketing channel and putting in place price control system which will encourage new entrants and help old ones remain in business.