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Assessment of selected heavy metals in onion bulb and onion leaf (*Allium cepa L.*), in selected areas of central rift valley of Oromia region Ethiopia

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This study was conducted to determine the levels of heavy metals (Pb, Cr, Cd, Fe, Cu, Zn, and Mn) in onion bulb and onion leaf around Mojo, Meki and Ziway areas to assess the concentrations of the heavy metals. The levels of the elements were determined using flame atomic absorption spectrometer. The concentrations of Cr in onion bulb and Fe in onion leaf were above the permissible level (2.3 mg/kg, 425.5 mg/kg) set by FAO/WHO at Mojo (4.87 mg/kg, 1090.40 mg/kg), Meki (4.13 mg/kg, 1836.47 mg/kg) and Ziway (3.33 mg/kg, 764.33 mg/kg) respectively. The results generally indicate that the consumption of these onion bulbs could be the health risk respective to Cr.

Biography

Miheretu Bedassa has completed his MSc at the age of 33 years from Ambo University, Ethiopia. He is the soil laboratory of Holeta agriculture research center, Ethiopia. He has over 20 publications that have been cited over 20 times.

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The impact of climate variability on socio-economic and livelihoods assessment of smallholder farmers in wetland ecosystem in bende LGA of Abia state, Nigeria

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The impact of climate variability on socio-economic and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in wetland ecosystem in Bende Local Government Area of Abia State was studied. Current global concern is focused on climate change which is deeply intertwined with global patterns of inequality. Based on growing projections due to climate variability in Nigeria and how to understand the impacts of increasing shifts in temperature, rainfall, storms, floods and erosion creates the need for this study. Assessment of socio-economic characteristics was carried out using primary and secondary source data. A well-structured questionnaire, focal group discussions and key informant interviews were mainly the primary data, while secondary data were obtained from published works, newspaper articles and meteological stations. Within the research period, data on the physical and biological environment including rainfall pattern, wind speed, relative humidity, and temperature were obtained from a meteorological station in Abia State. Data obtained were analysed using microsoft excel 2007, principal component analysis and data were presented in frequency distribution, percentage, means and trend/radar analysis. From this study it was observed that climate variability had significant impact on the socio-economic characteristics and livelihood of smallholder's farmers due to a variety of factors, including low adaptive capacity, limited resource distribution and poverty. Experiences of increased rainfall led to deterioration of roads and other infrastructure and lowered sales/business volume in most communities. Therefore, it has become imperative for the State to respond to climate variability by ensuring that policies and programmes are tailored towards preserving the environment for sustainable economic development. And all sectors should encourage community participation and active roles in all livelihood development initiatives.

Keywords: Climate variability, Socio impact assessment, Livelihood, Vulnerability.

Biography

Nwakanma Chioma is an Environmental Biologist with special interest in Environmental Pollution Studies. She has a BSc. in Fisheries with 2nd class upper division from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria; MSc. in Animal and Environmental Biology with specialization in Hydrobiology and Fisheries and PhD in Animal and Environmental Biology at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. She is an active member of the following professional bodies; Fisheries Society of Nigeria (FISON); Biotechnology Society of Nigeria (BSN); Graduate Women in Science, USA (GWIS); Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OSWD); Association for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nigeria (AEIA); Association of Nigerian Women Academic Doctors International (ANWAD); Coastal Zone Community of Practice (CZCP) of the Group on Earth Observation(GEO); International Association of Risk and Compliance Professionals (IARCP); Foundation for African Development through International Biotechnology (FADIB) and Netherland Fellowship Alumni Association (NFA). She has attended diploma courses on General Health, Safety and Environment (HSE 1, 2 and 3) and Environment/ Waste Management organised by Nigerian Institute of Safety Professionals (NISP), Port Harcourt, Nigeria. She has published in several International and National journals and conference proceedings. She has attended several conferences and workshops within and outside the country. She has about 40 publications to her areas of expertise and research interest.

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Thoughts about the life periods of our earth and why we are not able to better our climate

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It is thought that the life of our Earth can be divided into two basic periods which are: the abiotic physical life and the biological life. Both can be separated into smaller sections which are in case of the physical life: glowing star state with atomic evolution, solidification of the surface, appearance of C, O2 and water and abiotic chemical evolution. During that period of time which was sterile the kinds of the external and internal energy were effective through physical-chemical way. In case of the biological life the 1st section started with the appearance of the first living unit and ended by the beginning of photosynthesis. The 2nd one lasted from the start of photosynthesis till the appearance of the first two man-like creatures. The 3rd one began from that point of time and lasted till 1778 and the last one the 4th has existed since that date. Since the appearance of the first living unit biological accumulation of the external energy and mainly C but not only, emission of heat, gas as well as metabolites, transformation of the earthly environment as well as natural mutation of organisms that is the biological evolution have flown. When the photosynthesis began biological fixation of solar energy/photon and free atmospheric CO2 as well as production of free O2 have also started beside the former events and the biological evolution has continued. No unnatural event had happened in these two sections. The fate of the 3rd and the 4th sections - that is the anthropoid time - has been determined by the unnatural effects of mankind. The most important altering events are: the number of the inhabitants, the use of fire, domestication of animals, agricultural production, formation and maintenance of industry, trade, transport, vehicle-park, denaturation of the surface of the Earth and contamination of the soil, atmosphere and waters etc. Finally, ideas for the solution of the climate problems which are the results of the 3rd and 4th sections will be presented.

Biography

He is Working in Institute of Microbiology of UMSP, Institute of Public Health and Epidemiology of UMSP, he also worked at National Meat Research Institute of Budapest, Ministry of Welfare, Budapest, he got Scholarship in Welcome in Nottingham, British Council in Oxford, he did his Ph.D. in 1973 and D.M.S. in 1986 from the Hung. Academy of Sciences (HAS); His research field includes Bacteriology, Infections, Immunology, Epidemiology, Food hygiene, Environmental protection. He is Adviser of WHO for Listeriosis; he Published 165 articles, 14 books and paper-books.

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Perceptions of social justice within producer organisations: Case of village cotton producers cooperatives in Benin

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The Village Cotton Producers' Groups, which have become Village Cotton Production Cooperatives (CVPC), play an important role for member producers and the entire cotton sector. However, many governance issues have undermined the functioning of these CVPCs, resulting in the erosion of cooperative principles such as social justice practices. OHADA's 9th Uniform Act of Cooperative Society Rights has become the organizational regulatory framework to promote CVPCs as genuine, well-governed and efficient economic units.

This study aims to describe perceptions of social justice at the level of CVPC as well as to analyze their determinants. The data were collected from 242 CVPC in the six communes of the Alibori department using the simple random sampling method. The data collected relates in particular to the socio-economic characteristics of CVPC as well as members' perceptions of the different types of social justice. The results show that at the CVPC level, we observe an average procedural justice while the distributive and interactional justice is weak. The results also showed that the structural factors (size and gender) of the characteristics of cooperative societies and this influence are particularly exerted by the size dimension. The larger the size, the better the perceptions of justice. The results suggest that the good perception of social justice (distributive and interactional) is promoted within cooperative societies. It is in the interest of obtaining sustainable cooperatives because of their growing membership.

Keywords: Social Justice, Distributive Justice, Procedural Justice, Interactional Justice, Village Cotton Production Cooperatives, Benin.

Biography

Ammadou Soule Alassane Manne is working as a profeesor in Universite de Parakou (UP), Benin. And also working in Association Interprofessionnelle du Coton (AIC), Benin.

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Technological advancements, research prospects and application areas in environmental chemistry

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Environmental Chemistry has been one of the prominent areas in allied disciplines, which has been dominating, productive and inspirational for diverse group of people. In the presentation, the advancements in this area and prospects for research shall be accentuated. From time immemorial, initiatives, challenges and ventures have been taking place and have led a way for phenomenal growth in magnetism. Key observations and techniques, applications and advancements shall be discussed in the presentation.

Biography

S A Mohan Krishna, is a Mysore based academician, an associate professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, Mysuru, India. He has been awarded with numerous states, national and international awards for engineering education, science popularization and communication. He has been in the editorial board for over 150 prolific national and international journals as well as acclaimed international professional bodies. He has published over 100 papers in peer reviewed international journals and has presented papers at Qatar (ICAMR), Bangkok and Singapore (ICMAT) in international conferences, also virtual conferences scheduled at USA, France, Spain, China, Belgium and many other nations and also national conferences in various parts of India. Since 1997, he started delivering lectures when he was an engineering student. He has given over 170 programmes in television and radio too and has delivered over 800 talks in Science, Education, Engineering, Astronomy and general topics. Contributed over 2300 science, technology and astronomy articles in popular newspapers, magazines and periodicals and is comprehensively aiming to reach greater heigh.

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