

Utilization of Traditional Medicine for Treatment of Selected Illnesses among Crop-Farming Households in Edo State, Nigeria

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Abstract : This study examines the use of traditional medicines for the treatment of selected illnesses among crop-farming households in Edo State, Nigeria. A sample size of ninety (90) households were randomly selected for the study. Data were collected with a structured questionnaire alongside focus group discussions (FGD). Result shows that the mean age was 50 years old, the majority (76.7%) of the sampled farmers were below 60 years old. The majority (80.0%) of the farmers were married, about (92.2%) had formal education. It exposes that the majority of the respondents (76.7%) had household size of between 1-10 persons, about 55.6% had spent 11 years and above in crop farming. malaria (8th), waist pains (7th), farm injuries (6th), cough (5th), acute headache(4th), skin infection (3rd), typhoid (2nd) and tuberculosis (1st) were the most and least treated illness. Respondents (80%) had spent N10,000.00 (\$27) and less on treatment of illnesses, 8.9% had spent N10,000.00-N20,000.00 (\$27-\$55) 4.4% had spent between N20,100-N30,000.00 (\$27-\$83) while 6.7% had spent more than N30,100.00 (\$83) on treatment of illnesses in the last one (1) year prior to the study. Age, years of farming, farm size, household size, level of income, cost of treatment, level of education, social network, and culture are some of the statistically significant factors influencing the utilization of traditional medicine. Farmers should be educated on methods of preventing illnesses, which is far cheaper than the curative.

Keywords : crop farming-households, selected illnesses, traditional medicines, Edo State

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