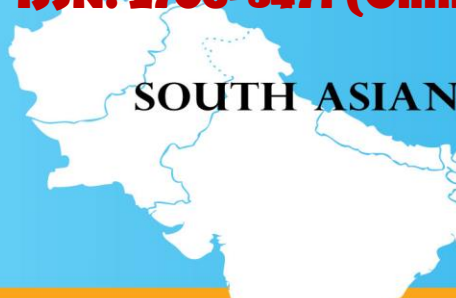


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THE NATURE OF RICE VALUE CHAIN PROGRAMME IN THE CENTRAL RIVER REGION, THE GAMBIA

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on the nature of the rice value chain programme in the Central River Region of The Gambia. The instruments used for data collection was Focus Group Discussion and in-depth interview. Simple random sampling was used to select sixteen (16) villages out of which three hundred and eighty-four (384) farmers were used for the study. The data collected were transcribed for all the focus group comments; the comments were rearranged to have answers grouped for each interview protocol. The main ideas were organized into themes to generate an idea or ideas and quotations were identified for each theme. The findings were written in a narrative to describe the themes with quotations. Regarding the quantitative analysis, simple descriptive statistics including frequency and percentages were used for the surveyed data collected from the rice farmers and key informants. However, challenges ranging from inadequate machinery, fertilizer, seeds and market structures were some of the problems reported. From these findings it is recommended that Non-Governmental Organizations and investors should supplement government efforts by providing sufficient and quality inputs (seed/fertilizer/machinery) and credit facilities to the rice farmers at a subsidized rate and on time and strengthen the linkages between farmer groups/cooperatives with buyers (Producer-Buyer linkage) for easy market access.



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