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Introduction

- Information technology is an aspect of technologies needed by farmers to improve their production.
- In countries like Nigeria where most farmers are losing interest in coffee production because of no good market due to lack of appropriate processing techniques.
- Information technology is highly important for the farming households for improved production and market access.
- However there is a wide gap in the use of technology among coffee farmers in the study area.
- This study therefore seeks to examine the use of information technologies among coffee producing households in the North Central, Nigeria.

Materials/Methods:Data from 120 coffee farming households were sourced using well structured questionnaire. Information on socio-economic characteristics, such as age, marital status, educational level, household size, socio-economic group membership, farming experience; information and communication technologies, such as phone calls, text messages, whatsapp messages, e-mail, facebook, radio, television, newspaper and effect of the use of information and communication technologies on productivity. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics (mean, percentages and charts).

Conclusion/Perspectives:

The use of Information and communication technologies is prominent among coffee farming households in North Central, Nigeria and they affirmed the positive effect of the use of ICT on their productivity. Government and non-governmental organisations should educate farming households on the need to use information and communication technologies for their farming operations.

Table 1: Technologies used in Coffee production

S/N	Information and Communication Technologies	Level of use		
		low	Medium	high
1	Phone calls	X		
2	Text messages		X	
3	Whatsapp messages		X	
4	E-mail		X	
5	Facebook		X	
6	Radio		X	
7	Television			X
8	Newspaper			X

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Figure 1: Information and communication technologies used

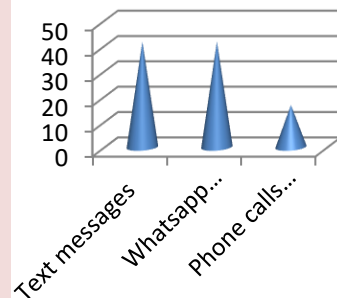
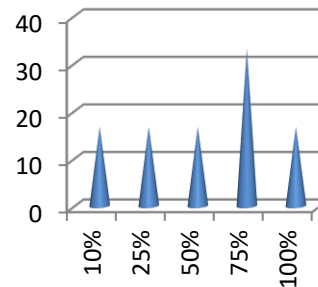


Figure 2: At what percentage has information technologies affected your productivity?



Results/ Discussion:Age and household size were 60.8±16.1 years and 7 ±5 persons, respectively. Most of the farmers were married (75.0%), while 54.2% had primary education, 83.3% belonged to socio economic association. The mean year of experience in farming was 28± 10years.

Information and communication technologies that were mostly used (high level of use) among the respondents were phone calls, the ones that were moderately used (medium level of use) were text messages, whatsapp messages, e mail, Facebook and radio.

The ones with low level of use were television and newspaper. Sixty seven percent of the entire farmers used information and communication technologies (ICT) for their farming activities. Forty two percent of the users of ICT used text messages and whatsapp messages to enhance coffee productivity. About fifty percent of the farmers agreed that information technologies affected their productivity at 10-50% and has improved their soil management skill and marketability of produce.