

OIL PALM PESTS' MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The burning issues of Nigeria's national development have attracted much concern of management experts and practitioners alike. The present study's strategic interest in oil palm pests' management, oil palm development, and national agricultural development, are premised on the fact that Nigeria in the 1950s and early 1960s, derived greater part of the national economic development earnings from oil palm produce. Nigeria was then a celebrated world leader on oil palm produce, with strong national economy. The study fundamentally and empirically examined oil palm pests' management strategies, in relation to oil palm development and national agricultural development that will enhance national development in Nigeria. The study adopted documentary and cross-sectional research, and copies of Likert 5-type coded questionnaire were administered to 120 statistically selected managers/entomologists, drawn from selected oil palm development and related establishments in South–South and South–East areas of major oil palm belt of Nigeria. One hundred six copies of the questionnaire were found fit for use after data cleaning. Data generated were analyzed using Pearson's Correlation and Multiple regression techniques, with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Science. Findings of our study revealed positive correlation and strong statistical significant relationship between dimensions of oil palm pests' management strategies and national agricultural development. Based on our findings, we arrived at the proven fact that, effective oil palm pests' management will enhance oil palm productivity and national agricultural development in Nigeria. The study recommends amongst others, committed private and public sectors investments on oil palm development and productivity, for enhancement of effective national agricultural development, as applicable today in Malaysia.

KEYWORDS: Oil Palm Pests, Management Control Strategies, Oil Palm Development, National Agricultural Development, Nigeria

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