

# **Competencies of extension professionals to provide services for agricultural producers under COVID-19 restrictions in Oyo State, Nigeria**

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The world has been changing at a frenetic pace in recent years, and with the emergence of COVID-19, extension workers need to make changes to its advisory services delivery method and programming priorities to provide timely information to agricultural producers. Agricultural extension agents play a crucial role in the success of all related agricultural production activities. The ability of agricultural extension workers to perform their duties may be hindered by social and physical distance. There has been pressure on agricultural extension services to provide better services and contribute to an increased impact to agricultural growth. Little is known regarding the extent to which competent extension experts can provide for their customers' needs as they change and the setting in which they must do so. In order for management to successfully deploy their employees to complete extension responsibilities and be aware of their staff members' training and educational needs, it is essential to examine the capabilities of extension staff members. To better tailor training and education to the needs of extension professionals to carry out their duties, organisation in charge of extension needs to be aware of how much extension agents value their own skills and should have a go profile of their human resources. Using a competency-based assessment methodology, this research aims to evaluate Oyo State, Nigeria phase of covid-19 restrictions. Agriculture extension specialists who work for the government make up the majority of the population. 61 extension officials participated in online self-administered survey; it was carried out between 2021 to 2022. Instrument with three core competencies was created by the researcher. The three competencies entails 28 competency statements. The survey instrument's 28 competence statements were based on a literature study and recommendations from FAO research studies. This research illustrates Extension's capacity to adjust to an unforeseen occurrence and offers methodology for evaluating performance during the phase of COVID-19.

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