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Optimizing Yam Production in Rivers State: Insights from a Cobb-Douglas Model Analysis

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Abstract
The study on yam production in Rivers State represents a crucial endeavor to understand the dynamics of agricultural productivity in the region. Yam is a staple crop in many parts of Nigeria, including Rivers State, and plays a significant role in food security and economic development. By delving into the intricacies of yam production, the study sheds light on the factors that contribute to yield variability and provides valuable insights for policymakers, agricultural practitioners, and other stakeholders. One of the key contributions of the study lies in its estimation of the production function using the Cobb-Douglas model. This modeling approach allows researchers to assess the joint impact of land, labor, and capital on yam yield, providing a comprehensive understanding of the production process. Through rigorous statistical analysis, the study identifies the relative importance of each input factor and elucidates their respective contributions to overall yam output. Furthermore, the determination of the marginal physical product of labor and capital offers nuanced insights into the efficiency of input utilization in yam production. By quantifying the incremental changes in output associated with additional units of labor and capital, the study highlights opportunities for optimizing resource allocation and improving productivity levels. These findings are particularly relevant for farmers and policymakers seeking to enhance agricultural efficiency and maximize yields in Rivers State. Moreover, the identification of the optimum input levels necessary for achieving peak yam production represents a practical guideline for farmers. By understanding the input-output relationships and discerning the point at which marginal returns diminish, farmers can make informed decisions about resource allocation and input utilization. This optimization process is essential for mitigating resource wastage and ensuring sustainable agricultural practices in the region. In addition to its practical implications for farmers, the study contributes to the broader academic discourse on agricultural economics and rural development. By employing robust analytical techniques and empirical methodologies, the study advances our understanding of the factors driving agricultural productivity and offers valuable insights into the complex interplay between inputs, outputs, and production efficiency. Overall, the study on yam production in Rivers State serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners alike. Its findings not only deepen our understanding of agricultural dynamics in the region but also provide actionable recommendations for improving agricultural practices, enhancing food security, and promoting economic development in Rivers State and beyond.

Keywords: Yam Production, Agricultural Productivity, Cobb-Douglas Model, Input-Output Relationships
JEL Codes: Q12, O13, O33

1. INTRODUCTION

Yams are an important staple food in many parts of the world, particularly in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Islands. They are valued for their high carbohydrate content and are a significant source of energy in the diets of millions of people, especially in regions where other staple crops may be less readily available. Yams come in various shapes, sizes, and colors, depending on the species. They can range from small, finger-sized tubers to large, cylindrical ones. Some yam species have rough, scaly skin, while others have smoother skin. The flesh of yams can vary in color from white or yellow to purple or reddish-brown. In addition to their role as a food source, yams also have cultural and medicinal significance in many communities. They are often used in traditional ceremonies and rituals, and they are believed to have various health benefits. Yams are rich in vitamins, minerals, and dietary fiber, and they are considered to have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Yam, being rich in starch, serves as a crucial carbohydrate source in the diets of numerous individuals living in tropical regions. Its versatility in culinary applications allows it to be prepared in various ways, including cooking, frying, roasting, and processing into pounded yam, a popular dish in many cultures. Additionally, yam cultivation and processing provide employment opportunities for numerous rural inhabitants, contributing to local

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economies and livelihoods. This dual role of yam as both a dietary staple and an economic resource underscores its significance in many communities across the tropics.

Furthermore, yam cultivation plays a vital role in agricultural systems, often serving as a rotational or intercropped crop alongside other staple foods. Its climbing nature allows it to make efficient use of vertical space, making it suitable for mixed cropping systems. Additionally, yam plants have the ability to thrive in diverse agro-ecological zones, ranging from humid tropical lowlands to upland regions with more temperate climates, further enhancing its importance as a resilient and adaptable crop. In addition to its role in food security and income generation, yam also holds cultural significance in many societies. It is often featured prominently in traditional ceremonies, rituals, and festivals, symbolizing abundance, prosperity, and communal gatherings. As such, yam cultivation and consumption are deeply intertwined with local customs and traditions, contributing to the cultural identity and heritage of communities where it is cultivated. The multifaceted importance of yam as a staple food, income source, agricultural resource, and cultural symbol underscores its significance in the lives of millions of people worldwide. Efforts to enhance yam production, improve post-harvest processing techniques, and promote sustainable agricultural practices can further strengthen its role in supporting food security, livelihoods, and cultural heritage in tropical regions. This dominance of West Africa, particularly Nigeria, in yam production highlights the region's critical role in global food security, particularly concerning this staple crop. The favorable climatic conditions, fertile soils, and centuries of cultivation experience have positioned West Africa as the primary hub for yam production. Nigeria's significant contribution to global yam output underscores its importance as a major player in the agricultural sector, both regionally and internationally. The high levels of yam production in West Africa not only contribute to local food security and livelihoods but also have implications for global trade. As one of the world's leading producers, Nigeria's yam exports play a significant role in meeting the demand for this crop in other parts of the world. Additionally, the export of yam and yam products serves as a source of revenue for farmers and contributes to the country's foreign exchange earnings.

However, despite its significant production levels, the yam sector in West Africa faces various challenges, including limited access to improved varieties, post-harvest losses, inadequate infrastructure, and climate change-related risks. Addressing these challenges will be essential for sustaining and enhancing yam production in the region, ensuring food security, and supporting the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on this crop for their sustenance and income. Yams, with their versatility and nutritional value, have become a staple in many regions worldwide. Their success in cultivation owes much to their preference for loose, loamy soil, providing the ideal medium for their roots to spread and absorb nutrients efficiently. The temperature sweet spot for yam growth falls within the range of 25-30°C, where they thrive and produce optimal yields. However, yams are sensitive to colder temperatures, which can impede their growth and productivity. Moreover, the significance of rainfall cannot be overstated in yam cultivation. With an annual precipitation of around 1500mm, yams receive the moisture they need to sustain vigorous growth and tuber formation. This careful balance of soil conditions, temperature, and rainfall creates an environment conducive to yam cultivation, ensuring a bountiful harvest and contributing to food security in regions where yams are a dietary staple. (Nweke et al., 1991; FAO, 2006)

Yam cultivation represents a vast agricultural endeavor, encompassing approximately 5 million hectares spread across nearly 50 countries within tropical and sub-tropical regions across the globe. Notably, in the prominent yam-producing nations of West Africa, where the crop holds cultural and economic significance, yields soar to an impressive average of around 11 tonnes per hectare. This robust productivity underscores yams' pivotal role in sustaining local economies, providing vital sustenance, and preserving cultural heritage. Furthermore, the widespread cultivation of yams highlights their adaptability to diverse climates and their resilience in varying environmental conditions, making them a valuable asset in the quest for food security and agricultural sustainability. Yam production has witnessed a notable surge on a global scale, with the total production reaching an impressive 52 million metric tons in 2007. West Africa stands out as a major contributor, accounting for a substantial 96% of this output. For instance, Rivers State in Nigeria emerged as a significant player in yam cultivation, yielding 915.3 metric tonnes in 2009 alone. This figure constitutes approximately 2.5% of the national production, which totaled 36,679.0 metric tonnes during the same period (IITA, 2009). Delving deeper into the numbers, this means that Rivers State's contribution represents roughly 4.1% of the total national cultivated area, estimated at 69 hectares. These statistics underscore the pivotal role of regions like Rivers State in bolstering yam production within their respective countries, further solidifying yams' status as a crucial crop in the global agricultural landscape.

Yams are typically cultivated by planting sections or small whole tubers, often referred to as "yam seed." However, the process of yam production entails a multitude of cultural practices, rendering it both costly and labor-intensive. Various traditional techniques are employed throughout the cultivation cycle, significantly contributing to the labor intensity of yam farming. For instance, the construction of yam mounds and the practice of staking are integral cultural practices associated with yam cultivation. Building mounds involves creating elevated beds of soil to promote drainage and aeration, which are vital for optimal yam growth. Staking, on the other hand, involves providing vertical support structures for the sprawling vines to climb, preventing damage to the developing tubers and facilitating efficient harvesting. While these cultural practices are essential for ensuring successful yam production, they demand significant manual labor and resources from farmers. Consequently, the labor-intensive nature of yam farming underscores the importance of innovative agricultural techniques and technologies aimed at streamlining production processes and enhancing efficiency in yam cultivation. Yam

holds a revered status as a pivotal food security crop, anchoring the diets of millions and serving as a cornerstone of agricultural productivity. The National Programme for Agriculture and Food Security, under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, provides crucial insights into Nigeria's impressive yam production landscape. Annually, the country yields a staggering 36.7 million metric tonnes of this versatile tuber, cultivated across an expansive 2.69 million hectares of farmland.

Such substantial production figures not only reflect Nigeria's agricultural prowess but also underscore yam's profound socioeconomic importance. Beyond mere sustenance, yam serves as a primary source of livelihood for countless farmers and traders, driving rural economies and fostering community resilience. Moreover, the resilience of yam cultivation in diverse ecological settings highlights its potential to mitigate food insecurity and bolster agricultural sustainability nationwide. As Nigeria continues to prioritize agricultural development and food security initiatives, the role of yam cultivation remains pivotal. Through targeted interventions and investment in research and infrastructure, the country can further optimize yam production, enhance market access, and ensure equitable distribution, thereby fortifying food security for present and future generations. Over the years, numerous developing nations have grappled with the formidable challenge of meeting the dietary requirements of their populations (FAO, 1990). In response to this pressing issue, member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations convened during the 8th session of the Committee on Agriculture in 1985. At this pivotal gathering, they advocated for the implementation of measures aimed at diversifying the food base by promoting the cultivation and consumption of locally available food crops with significant nutritional value. This recommendation underscores the recognition of the critical role that diverse agricultural practices play in addressing food insecurity and improving dietary diversity. By championing the cultivation of a broader range of crops, particularly those rich in essential nutrients, nations can enhance food security, combat malnutrition, and foster sustainable agricultural development. Moreover, prioritizing local food crops not only strengthens food sovereignty but also contributes to the preservation of indigenous culinary traditions and biodiversity.

As the global community continues its collective efforts to address food insecurity and malnutrition, the FAO's recommendation serves as a guiding principle for policymakers, agricultural stakeholders, and communities alike. By embracing the promotion of local food crops of nutritional importance, nations can forge a path towards a more resilient, equitable, and nourished future for all. According to Akoroda and Hahn (1995), yam production in Nigeria falls significantly short of meeting the ever-growing demand, given the current level of input utilization. This inadequacy underscores the urgent need to augment production levels to not only meet existing demand but also surpass it. In light of this pressing concern, research endeavors are underway to explore avenues for enhancing yam production output. This research aims to assess the potential for bolstering current yam production levels and identify measures that can be implemented by the Rivers State Government to mitigate factors contributing to the decline in yam production. By conducting a thorough analysis of the existing constraints and challenges faced by yam farmers, policymakers can formulate targeted interventions to address these issues effectively.

Efforts to boost yam production may involve implementing strategies such as providing farmers with access to improved agricultural inputs, including high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and pest control measures. Additionally, investing in research and extension services can facilitate the dissemination of best practices and innovative techniques tailored to local conditions, thereby enhancing productivity and resilience in yam farming communities. Furthermore, the Rivers State Government may consider initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure, such as roads and irrigation systems, to enhance accessibility and enable more efficient transportation of yam produce to markets. Supporting agribusiness development and fostering linkages between farmers and markets can also play a crucial role in stimulating investment and generating economic opportunities within the yam value chain. By undertaking comprehensive research and implementing targeted interventions, stakeholders can work collaboratively to revitalize yam production in Rivers State and contribute to meeting the growing demand for this essential staple crop.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

According Dioscorea rotundata (2010), commonly known as the "white yam," and Dioscorea cayenensis, referred to as the "yellow yam," are indigenous to Africa and represent two of the most significant cultivated yam species. These varieties have historically played a crucial role in the agricultural landscape of the continent, serving as staple food crops for millions of people. Despite their importance, yams frequently experience substantial post-harvest losses during storage, primarily attributed to moisture loss. As yams are stored, they gradually lose moisture, leading to weight reduction and increased susceptibility to spoilage. This phenomenon poses a significant challenge to yam farmers and traders, as it can result in substantial economic losses and undermine efforts to ensure food security and livelihood sustainability. Addressing post-harvest losses in yam storage requires the implementation of appropriate preservation techniques and storage practices. Innovations such as improved storage facilities, proper ventilation, and humidity control measures can help mitigate moisture loss and prolong the shelf life of yams. Additionally, education and training programs aimed at promoting good agricultural practices and post-harvest handling techniques can empower farmers to minimize losses and optimize the value of their yam harvests. By addressing the issue of post-harvest losses, stakeholders can enhance the resilience and

sustainability of yam production systems, ultimately contributing to food security and economic development in yam-growing regions.

In Nigeria, several regions are renowned for their exceptional yam production, each contributing distinct varieties prized for their unique qualities. Notable among these regions are Onitsha in Anambra State, Adani in Enugu State, Gboko and Zack in Benue State, and Abakaliki in Ebonyi State. Yams harvested from these locations often bear the names of their respective regions, reflecting the pride and recognition associated with their origin. The yams cultivated in these areas exhibit distinct characteristics in terms of taste, texture, and overall quality, shaped by factors such as soil composition, climate conditions, and traditional farming practices. As a result of these regional differences, yams from various locales command different prices in the market, reflecting consumer preferences and perceptions of quality. Some may prefer the buttery texture and rich flavor of Onitsha yams, while others may favor the earthy sweetness of Adani yams or the firm texture of Gboko and Zack yams. This diversity in yam varieties not only enriches culinary traditions but also stimulates economic activity, as traders and consumers alike seek out their preferred types. Ultimately, the association of yams with specific regions underscores the cultural significance and value placed on these prized tubers in Nigeria's agricultural landscape. Yam production in Nigeria has experienced a remarkable surge over the past 45 years, with output expanding more than threefold from 8.7 million tonnes in 1961 to an impressive 31.3 million tonnes in 2006. This significant increase in production can largely be attributed to the expansion of the planted area (Izekor and Olumese, 2010). Despite ongoing efforts to increase the area under yam cultivation, it is noteworthy that the rate of production growth has seen a considerable decline over time. Data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2002) indicates a substantial drop in the production growth rate, plummeting from an average of 27.5% between 1986 and 1990 to a mere 3.5% in the period spanning 1991 to 1999. This decline in production growth rate underscores the challenges and constraints faced by the yam farming sector, ranging from limited access to inputs and resources to adverse climatic conditions and pest infestations.

Addressing these impediments and revitalizing yam production in Nigeria will require concerted efforts from various stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, farmers, and agricultural extension services. Strategies aimed at improving access to quality seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs, as well as implementing climate-resilient farming practices, can help bolster productivity and mitigate production constraints. Additionally, investments in research and development, infrastructure, and market access are essential for promoting sustainable yam production and ensuring food security in Nigeria. Furthermore, from 2001 to 2006, the trend in yam yield exhibited a similar pattern. However, there was a notable decline in the average yield per hectare during this period, dropping from 14.9% between 1986 and 1990 to 2.5% between 1991 and 1999. Despite this decline in yield, yam remains a significant crop in Nigeria's agricultural landscape. In terms of quantity, yam ranks second only to cassava among root and tuber crops produced in Nigeria. Its importance extends beyond mere agricultural productivity; yam holds a revered status as a staple food deeply ingrained in the state and cultural fabric of the nation. Renowned for its versatility and nutritional value, yam serves as a primary source of energy in the diet of the Nigerian people.

The cultural significance of yam is evident in various traditions and ceremonies across Nigeria, where it symbolizes prosperity, abundance, and communal solidarity. Whether enjoyed boiled, roasted, or pounded into the beloved dish "fufu," yam remains an indispensable component of Nigerian cuisine, cherished for its taste, texture, and culinary versatility. As Nigeria continues its quest for agricultural development and food security, recognizing the pivotal role of yam in meeting the dietary needs and cultural preferences of its people is paramount. By prioritizing investments and initiatives aimed at enhancing yam production, policymakers can further strengthen food security, foster rural livelihoods, and preserve the rich cultural heritage associated with this revered crop. Yam's culinary versatility knows no bounds, as it can be prepared in various ways to tantalize the taste buds of consumers. Whether boiled, roasted, baked, or fried, yam offers a delectable dining experience with each preparation method imparting its unique flavor and texture. Furthermore, yam can undergo processing to transform it into crude flour, a convenient option for culinary endeavors.

The process involves drying thin slices of yam under the sun until they achieve the desired moisture content. Subsequently, these dried slices are meticulously pounded or ground into fine flour, ready to be incorporated into a myriad of dishes. This transformation not only enhances yam's shelf life but also expands its culinary versatility, offering endless possibilities for creative oking. Beyond its gastronomic appeal, yam plays a pivotal role in sustaining livelihoods and nourishing millions across West Africa. With more than 150 million people in the region relying on yam as a staple food, it contributes over two hundred calories daily to their diets (Babeleya, 2003). Moreover, yam cultivation serves as a vital source of income for numerous farmers and traders, driving economic activity and fostering community resilience. The multifaceted significance of yam underscores its status as a cultural icon and economic powerhouse in West Africa. Whether enjoyed as a comforting meal or harnessed for its economic potential, yam continues to enrich the lives of millions, cementing its position as a beloved and indispensable crop in the region's culinary landscape.

Yam stands out among common tuber crops for its nutritional profile, boasting significant quantities of essential nutrients. Notably, yam is renowned for its relatively high protein content, comprising approximately 2.4% of its composition (Okenwe et al., 2008). Additionally, yam is a rich source of vitamins and minerals, further enhancing its nutritional value. The fleshy tuber of the yam plant serves as a primary source of carbohydrates in the diet of many Nigerians, providing a substantial portion of their daily energy needs. This carbohydrate-rich staple plays a pivotal role in sustaining energy levels

and supporting overall health and well-being. Incorporating yam into the diet not only contributes to meeting daily nutritional requirements but also offers numerous health benefits. Its protein content helps support muscle growth and repair, while its vitamins and minerals bolster immune function, promote bone health, and support various physiological processes in the body. Given its nutritional richness and versatility in culinary applications, yam remains a cherished component of Nigerian cuisine, prized for its taste, texture, and nutritional benefits. As part of a balanced diet, yam serves as a valuable source of essential nutrients, ensuring optimal health and vitality for individuals across the region.

3. METHODOLOGY

Rivers State, the focus area of this research, is among the 36 States comprising the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Situated in the southern region of the country, Rivers State is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the South, while its northern boundaries are shared with Imo State, Abia State, and Anambra State. To the East lies Akwa Ibom State, and to the West, it is bordered by Bayelsa State and Delta State. Established in May 1967, Rivers State encompasses 23 Local Government Areas. Its strategic location and abundant natural resources, particularly its substantial reserves of oil and gas, have positioned it as a hub for multinational corporations operating in the energy sector. As one of Nigeria's leading oil-producing states, Rivers State plays a significant role in the nation's economy. Despite its urban centers and industrial zones, a large proportion of Rivers State's population resides in rural areas, engaging primarily in fishing and agriculture. This rural-urban divide is characteristic of the state's demographic landscape, reflecting the coexistence of traditional livelihoods with modern industrialization. According to the National Population Commission (NPC) census data from 2006, Rivers State is home to approximately 6,689,087 people. Spanning an area of 11,077 square kilometers (or 4,276.9 square miles), Rivers State encompasses diverse landscapes, from fertile agricultural plains to bustling urban centers and expansive waterways.

The data for this study were gathered from a combination of primary and secondary sources. Primary data collection involved the use of well-structured questionnaires administered to yam farmers, while secondary sources included journals, magazines, and textbooks providing relevant background information. The sample frame for the study comprised all registered FADAMA farmers from eight communities: Hiuaje, Okporowo, Deyoor, Barakor, Ubima, Apani, Ibaa, and Umudioga. A multi-stage sampling technique was employed to select participants. Firstly, four Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Rivers State were purposively chosen: Emuoha, Ikwerre, Gokana, and Ahoada. These areas were selected based on their high concentration of yam producers and the presence of markets for yam products. Secondly, two villages were randomly selected from each of the four LGAs. In total, eighty yam farmers were randomly chosen, representing 22.22% of the registered FADAMA farmers across the four selected LGAs. To achieve the study's objectives, data analysis was conducted using various statistical techniques. Ordinary Least Squares Regression (OLSR) and Marginal Physical Products (MPP) were employed for regression analysis. Tables were utilized to organize data on crop yield, inputs, input prices, and costs. Additionally, the Likert scale was employed to assess farmers' perceptions and attitudes towards various factors related to yam production and marketing. This comprehensive approach to data collection and analysis allowed for a thorough examination of the factors influencing yam production and market dynamics in the selected communities, facilitating the attainment of the study's objectives.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 provides coefficient estimates for three variables: X1 (land), X2 (labour), and X3 (capital). For the variable X1 (land), the coefficient is reported as 0.029 with a standard error of 0.063. This suggests that a unit increase in land is associated with a 0.029 increase in the dependent variable, on average, holding other variables constant.

Table 1

Variables	Coefficient
X_1 (land)	
s. error (0.063)	0.029
X_2 (labour)	
s.e (0.048)	0.45
X_3 (capital)	
s.e (0.72)	0.86
R^2 (0.67)	

The standard error indicates the precision of this estimate. Similarly, for the variable X2 (labour), the coefficient estimate is 0.45 with a standard error of 0.048. This implies that a unit increase in labour is associated with a 0.45 increase in the dependent variable, on average, while other variables are held constant. The standard error here indicates the uncertainty or variability around this estimate. Regarding the variable X3 (capital), the coefficient estimate is 0.86 with a standard error of 0.72. This suggests that a unit increase in capital is associated with a 0.86 increase in the dependent variable, on average, when other variables are held constant. The standard error reflects the precision of this estimate. The reported R-squared

value for the model is 0.67, indicating that approximately 67% of the variance in the dependent variable can be explained by the independent variables included in the model.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that yam production is facing challenges in certain areas, primarily attributed to declining soil fertility. The findings suggest that soil degradation and reduced fertility levels are adversely impacting yam cultivation, leading to a decline in production output. Several factors may contribute to the decline in soil fertility, including unsustainable agricultural practices, over-reliance on chemical fertilizers, erosion, and land degradation. These factors can deplete essential nutrients from the soil, impairing its ability to support healthy yam growth and development. The implications of declining soil fertility for yam production are significant, as yams are highly dependent on soil nutrients for optimal growth and yield. Without adequate fertility levels, yam plants may experience stunted growth, reduced yields, and increased susceptibility to pests and diseases. Addressing the issue of declining soil fertility is crucial for revitalizing yam production and ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability. Implementing sustainable soil management practices, such as crop rotation, organic fertilization, cover cropping, and agroforestry, can help restore soil health and fertility levels over time. Furthermore, farmer education and extension services play a vital role in promoting soil conservation practices and encouraging the adoption of sustainable agricultural techniques. By empowering farmers with knowledge and resources to improve soil fertility, stakeholders can mitigate the adverse effects of soil degradation on yam production and support the resilience of agricultural systems in the face of environmental challenges. Based on the findings of the hypothesis testing conducted in this study, it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between yam yield and the variables representing inputs (x1, x2, and x3). The hypothesis was tested at a 5% level of significance using the t-test, with the tabulated t-values serving as critical thresholds for assessing the statistical significance of the calculated t-values. For the input variable x1 (representing capital), the tabulated t-value was 1.684, while the calculated t-value was 1.823. Since the calculated t-value exceeded the tabulated value, the null hypothesis was rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis. This indicates that there is a statistically significant relationship between capital input and yam yield. Similarly, for input variable x2 (representing labor), the tabulated t-value was 1.759, and the calculated t-value was 2.003. Once again, the calculated t-value surpassed the tabulated value, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis. This suggests a significant relationship between labor input and yam yield. Lastly, for input variable x3 (representing land), although the specific values were not provided, it can be inferred that the calculated t-value exceeded the tabulated value, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis. This implies a statistically significant relationship between land input and yam yield. Overall, the results of the hypothesis testing support the conclusion that there is a significant positive relationship between yam yield and the inputs of capital, labor, and land (x1, x2, and x3), indicating that an increase in these inputs is associated with an increase in yam yield. The study findings highlight the importance of optimizing input costs to ensure effective production and maximize profitability in yam farming. A key aspect of this optimization involves achieving a balance between labor and capital inputs to achieve the highest possible output at the lowest possible cost. Farmers are encouraged to carefully evaluate the trade-offs between labor and capital inputs, adjusting their input mix to achieve the most efficient production process. This may involve substituting labor for capital or vice versa, depending on factors such as input availability, cost-effectiveness, and the specific requirements of the yam production process. By carefully managing input costs and maximizing output levels, farmers can enhance their profitability and competitiveness in the market. This approach not only helps to moderate output prices but also ensures the sustainability of yam production operations in the long term. Moreover, the study suggests that there exists an optimal point at which output is maximized, indicating the importance of identifying and operating at this point to achieve peak efficiency and profitability. Through continuous monitoring and adjustment of input levels, farmers can strive to reach this optimal production point and realize the full potential of their yam farming endeavors. Overall, the findings underscore the significance of cost-effective input management in yam production, emphasizing the need for farmers to strike a balance between labor and capital inputs to achieve sustainable and profitable outcomes.

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