

# **PRODUCTION STATUS OF FRUITS IN HOME GARDEN OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS IN IGBO- EZE NORTH AGRICULTURAL ZONE OF ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Data were collected from hundred randomly selected heads of households using structured interview schedule, and analyzed using percentage and mean scores. The respondents cultivated exotic (53.0%), and indigenous (47.4%) fruits plants. Some were protected (68.4%), while others were cultivated species (32.0%). The species that occurred most frequently were Ogbono (*Irvingia gabonensis*), orange (*Citrus spp*), pawpaw (*Carica papaya*). Two fruits (10.5%) namely ogbono and ukpaka (*Pentaclethra macrophyllum*) have moved from protected to cultivated species in home garden. Household members participated in fruit production, but women dominated in performing most production activities. However production was constrained by agronomic and environmental factors. The study recommends that rural farmers should be educated on the appropriate criteria for selection of fruits cultivated or protected in home garden for maximum use of scarce land, adaptability and benefits to households

**KEY WORDS:** Production, Fruits, Home Garden, Protected, Households