

CHALLENGES OF UPSCALING WATER PROVISION AMONG FARM HOUSEHOLDS IN SELECTED RURAL COMMUNITIES OF ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study highlighted the challenges of upscaling water provision among farm households in selected rural communities of Enugu State. Interview schedule was developed and administered to 114 respondents. The study revealed that the main natural source of water to the communities was streams which were located far from the communities. This posed enormous challenges to average farm households in the communities in terms of health, socio-cultural and economic activities of the people. The mechanisms for upscaling water provision through other sources were: water vendors (through motor tankers), rainwater harvesting and ponds. The main challenges in upscaling water provision in the communities were finance, labour and water pollution. High level of effects of water scarcity was expressed in the areas of disease outbreaks, thirst/hunger/starvation, poor sanitary condition, reduction in household income etc. The study concluded that finance, labour and environmental pollution were the main challenges in upscaling water provision in the communities.

KEY WORDS: Challenges, Farm Households, Mechanism, Provision, Upscaling, Water