

The impact of climate variability on socio-economic and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in wetland ecosystem in Bende Local Government Area of Abia State was studied. Current global concern is focused on climate change which is deeply intertwined with global patterns of inequality. Based on growing projections due to climate variability in Nigeria and how to understand the impacts of increasing shifts in temperature, rainfall, storms, floods and erosion creates the need for this study. Assessment of socio-economic characteristics was carried out using primary and secondary source data. A well-structured questionnaire, focal group discussions and key informant interviews were mainly the primary data, while secondary data were obtained from published works, newspaper articles and meteorological stations. Within the research period, data on the physical and biological environment including rainfall pattern, wind speed, relative humidity, and temperature were obtained from a meteorological station in Abia State. Data obtained were analysed using microsoft excel 2007, principal component analysis and data were presented in frequency distribution, percentage, means and trend/radar analysis. From this study it was observed that climate variability had significant impact on the socio-economic characteristics and livelihood of smallholder's farmers due to a variety of factors, including low adaptive capacity, limited resource distribution and poverty. Experiences of increased rainfall led to deterioration of roads and other infrastructure and lowered sales/business volume in most communities. Therefore, it has become imperative for the State to respond to climate variability by ensuring that

policies and programmes are tailored towards preserving the environment for sustainable economic development. And all sectors should encourage community participation and active roles in all livelihood development initiatives.

**Keywords:** Climate variability, Socio impact assessment, Livelihood, Vulnerability.

### Biography

Nwakanma Chioma is an Environmental Biologist with special interest in Environmental Pollution Studies. She has a BSc. in Fisheries with 2nd class upper division from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture,