

EFFECT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DEVELOPMENT IN THE COCOA SUB-SECTOR OF NIGERIA: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

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This study examined effect of Covid-19 pandemic on development in cocoa sub-sector of Nigeria using systematic review and meta-analysis approach. Studies were accessed through electronic web-based search mechanism from PubMed Central, Research for Life, Google Scholar, Medline using keywords: Covid-19pandemic, development, cocoa, Nigeria for publications between January 1, 2020 and May 31, 2022. All articles published until May 31, 2022 were included. The data extraction was in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analyses guidelines. Reports, reviews, case series and editorials were critically assessed, articles that met the aim were further screened using independent and combinations of key terms. An I^2 test was used to assess heterogeneity. Funnel plot and statistical significance by Egger's test of the intercept was used to check publication bias. The final estimate was determined in the form of odds ratio by applying Duval and Tweedie's trim and fill analysis in the Random-effects model. Numerous studies were identified; only seven studies fulfilled the inclusion criteria and were included in the analysis. In all the studies included, covid-19 pandemic had a significant association with development in Nigeria's cocoa sub-sector. The final pooled estimate in form of odds ratio for development in the cocoa sector with the preceding covid-19 pandemic within 24 months was found to be 4.01(97% CI: 2.48, 4.01, random effect (seven studies, $n=55,462$), $I_0=65\%$, $P<0.05$). From this study, understanding the short-term effect of Covid-19 pandemic may contribute to enhance development in the cocoa sub-sector of Nigeria. Therefore, policy makers should give more attention in promoting development by bringing up policies that remove institutional and cultural barriers which negatively hinder development in the cocoa sector of Nigeria.

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