

Averting Expenditure on Malaria: Effects on Maize Labour Productivity in Bunkpurugu-Nakpanduri District of Ghana

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Research

Keywords: Averting Expenditure, Malaria, Labour Productivity and Conditional Mixed Process

Posted Date: September 17th, 2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-19891/v2>

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Version of Record: A version of this preprint was published on December 3rd, 2020. See the published version at <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12936-020-03521-0>.

Abstract

Background Malaria has been one of the commonest diseases during farming season which affects farmers' health resulting in a reduction in the number of days spent on the farm. Due to this, farmers are regularly trying to avert a malaria attack through preventive measures. Motivated by this argument, this study sought to determine the effects of malaria averting expenditure on labour productivity of maize farmers in Bunkpurugu-Nakpanduri District in the Northern Region of Ghana.

Methods A cross-sectional primary data was collected from 194 maize farmers. Both descriptive and quantitative data analysis approaches were employed. Conditional Mixed Process was used to estimate the effects of malaria preventive expenditure on maize labour productivity.

Results The study revealed that maize farmers incurred an average expenditure of GHc284.6 to prevent malaria. The result shows that factors that affect maize farmers' malaria preventive expenditure include off-farm income, household size, presence of bushes around houses, presence of pregnant women and number of household members in school. Meanwhile, quantity of fertilizer, seed, weedicides, farming experience, age, ownership of motor bike and averting expenditure are significant determinants of maize labour productivity. The study revealed that farmers who spend more amount of money to avert malaria attack are more labour productive.

Conclusions Therefore, this study recommends that Ministry of Health and Ministry of Food and Agriculture should collaborate and integrate health extension service on malaria in agricultural extension to educate farmers on the need to avert malaria. Farmers should be educated on malaria preventive strategies such as clearing of bushes around houses, draining of stagnant water, sleeping in treated mosquito nets among others.

Full Text

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