

EFFECTS OF INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIO-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES ON CROP PRODUCTION OF ARABLE CROP FARMERS IN IKENNE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

Adetunbi S.I, Adewole W.A, Ayoade A.R, Binuomote O.K

Author (s) Institutional Affiliation: Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

The general objective of the study is to determine the effects of involvement in socio-cultural activities on crop production of arable crop farmers in Ikenne local Government of Ogun state. Specifically, the study described the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents, examined the socio-cultural organization of the respondents, determined the level of involvement in socio-cultural activities by the respondents and identified the benefits derived from involvement in socio-cultural activities.

Multistage sampling technique was used in selecting 90 respondents for this study. Data was collected with the aid of well-structured interview schedule while descriptive statistical tools (frequencies, percentages, mean and weighted mean score (WMS)) and inferential tool (Paerson Product Moment Correlation) were used to present the results of the findings.

The results of the findings revealed that majority of the respondents were male (67.1%), married (71.4%) with mean age of 42.5 years. Majority (71.1%) had farming as their primary education with mean farm size of 4.2 hectares, the mean household size of 6 members while the mean year of farming experience was 28years. Also, 95.6% of the respondents were members of socio-organization with 22years been the mean year of socio-organization experience.

The major socio-cultural organizations of the respondents were religious association (92.3%) and cooperative societies (75.8%), the level of involvement in socio-cultural organization revealed that attendance of group meeting and bonding and togetherness with group members were jointly ranked first with the weighted mean score (WMS) of 2.3. The major benefits of involvement in sociocultural activities were Sharing risks, cost and adverse condition with members of the group (WMS=2.4) and access to market for the sale of farm produce (WMS=2.3). The major effects of socio-cultural activities on crop production were access to credit facilities such as loans and subsidies was ranked first with the weighted mean score (WMS=1.4) and Input Availability such as seedlings, fertilizers etc, Market access to farm produce and better price for the produce were jointly ranked second (WMS=1.3).

The study concluded that respondents were active, agile and still in their productive age with small farm size and many years of farming experience. Religious association and cooperative society were the two major groups the respondents were mostly involved and therefore recommends that government, non-governmental associations and stakeholders in agriculture and rural development should further take advantage of religious institutions and cooperative society as existing structure in accessing farmers whenever there is need to disseminate information, farm inputs and subsidies to farmers and so on.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture plays a crucial role in the quest for poverty reduction and serves as an engine for growth in developing countries. Additionally, it contributes to socio-economic well-being of the people through food production and employment (Aker, 2010). It is believed that 70% of the labour force in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) are engaged in agriculture or agriculturally related activities while 67% of the labour force in South Asian are employed in the same sector (Maxwell, 2001). Agriculture is also an important component of Nigerian

economy judging by its important role of enhancing food security, employment generation, revenue generation and provision of raw materials for industries. The agricultural extension services are very important in the development of rural knowledge and innovation system for farmers (Fiaz et al., 2016). Agricultural extension services improves the knowledge and skills of farmers in practices, and make their attitudes positive towards agricultural innovations (Aldosari, 2013)

The culture, value and norms of a community give it an identity of its own. A community gains a character and a personality of its own because of culture of its people. Culture is shared by members of a community. It is learned and passed from the older generation to the newer ones. For the transfer of culture from one generation to another to be effective, it has to be translated into symbols. The language, art and religion serves as the symbolic means of transfer of cultural values between generations (Altab, 2015). Culture is a bond that ties people of a religion or community together. The customs and traditions that the people in a community follow, the festivals they celebrate, the kind of clothing they wear, the food they eat and the cultural values they adhere to, bind them together. According to Manali (2011), culture is regarded as a system of social control, wherein people shape their standards and behavior. The cultural values form the founding principles of one's life. They influence one's principles and philosophies of life. They influence one's way of living and thus impact social life.

Farmers and their families are members of the society in which they live. In any society there are strong pressures on its members to behave in certain ways and to belong to one socio-cultural group or the other. For the farmers, some of these pressures will come from within. In all societies there are accepted ways of doing things and these ways are directly related to the culture of the society. Farmers' attitudes and desires are influenced by their society's culture (Maxwell, 2001). If it is customary in a certain community for farmers to scatter seed and plough it into the soil, people will grow up to believe that that is the only correct way of planting. Even if the benefits of other methods are explained to them, their strongly held attitudes may make it difficult for to them change.

UNESCO emphasized that culture and membership of socio-cultural organization is a key element in the fight against poverty (UNESCO, 2002). Under-privileged groups have values, which give them an identity of their own. If these values are not respected, then, even the best productive proposals would be jettisoned. Preserving cultural values is very important for development. If rural people are too much involved in social groups and cultural activities, it may have a negative impact on their involvement in socio-economic activities and may lead to high wastage, and poor performance in their livelihood activities. Cultural and socio-economic factors mutually affect each other. Involvement in some socio-economic activities is culturally motivated.

Yet not all of these pressures will come from the farmers' own attitudes and beliefs; some will come from other people. Any society expects its members to behave in certain ways. No one is seen by others as an isolated individual. Each person is seen as occupying a position in society, and each position carries expectations with it. In some communities, an unmarried man is expected to work on his father's farm; only when he marries will people expect him to start farming his own plot. A successful farmer may be expected to give food, money and shelter to relatives who have not been so successful, or to pay for his relatives' children to go to school. If a person resists these expectations, those around him will show their disapproval. Because most people like to feel acceptance and approval from those around them, they tend to behave in accordance with such expectations (UNESCO, 2002).

An extension agent will be more effective if he understands the social and cultural background of the farmers with whom he works. He will then be better able to offer advice that fits in with the culture of the society, and he can use the structure and culture of the society to the benefit of his work. It is useful, therefore, to examine the main features of societies and how their membership of different social organizations affects their crop production. .

The general objective of the study is to determine the effects of involvement in socio-cultural activities on crop production of arable crop farmers in Ikenne local Government of Ogun state. Specifically, the study identified the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents, examined the socio-cultural organization of the respondents determined the level of involvement in socio-cultural activities by the respondents and identified

the benefits derived from involvement in socio-cultural activities. The study further established the relationship between the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and the level of involvement in sociocultural activities.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Ikenne local Government of Ogun state. Ogun State was created from the old Western State on February 3, 1976 by the then regime of General Murtala Mohammed. It has Abeokuta as its capital and largest city. Located in South Western Nigeria, Ogun State covers 16,762 square kilometres. It borders Lagos State to the south, Oyo and Osun states to the North, The area has a vegetation of rainforest and high annual rainfall that ranges between March and November every year. The main economic activity of residents of the towns that make up Ikenne local Government are farming and trading. The major crops that are usually cultivated in the area are cassava, maize, yam, melon, Tobacco and the likes.

The population of the study comprised of all farmers in Ikenne Local Government of Ogun state. For the purpose of this study multistage sampling technique was adopted. During the first stage, purposive sampling techniques was used to select two wards that are rural and that are predominantly dominated by crop farmers, simple random sampling technique was used to select two villages from each of the two wards making a total of six selected villages while simple random sampling technique was used in selecting 15 respondents from each of the six selected villages making a total of 90 respondents for the study. A well-structured interview schedule was used to obtain relevant information from the respondents. The dependent variable was the effect of involvement in sociocultural activities which was measured on a 3-point scale of major effect, minor effect and no effect.

The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, such as frequency, percentages and mean while Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the hypothesis of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1: Distribution of the Respondents by their Socio-economic Characteristics

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Age			
<30	22	24.4	
31-40	23	25.6	
41-50	18	20.0	42.5
51-60	14	15.6	
Above 60	13	14.4	
Sex			
Male	61	67.0	
Female	29	31.9	
Marital Status			
Single	15	16.5	
Married	65	71.4	
Divorced	4	4.4	
Separated	4	4.4	
Widowed	2	2.2	
Religion			
Christianity	42	46.7	
Islam	46	51.1	
Traditional	2	2.2	
Years spent in School			
0	14	15.4	
1-6	38	41.8	11.3
7-12	22	24.2	
Above 12	16	17.6	

Household Size

1-3	24	26.7	
4-6	28	31.1	5.9
7-9	26	28.9	
Above 9	12	13.3	

Years of Experience in Socio-cultural Organization

1-10	28	31.1	
11-20	30	33.3	22
21-30	16	17.8	
Above 30	16	17.8	

Years of Farming Experience

1-10	17	20.0	
11-20	28	31.1	
21-30	17	20.0	31

31-40	13	14.4	
Above 40	15	16.5	

Primary Occupation

Farming	64	70.3	
Trading	13	14.3	
Civil Service	12	13.3	
Artisan	1	1.1	

Secondary Occupation

Civil service	12	13.3	
Saw miller	8	8.8	
Artisan	32	35.2	
Trading	36	39.6	

Farm Size

1-3	23	26.3	
4-6	29	31.9	4.2
7-9	24	26.4	
Above 9	14	14.4	

Method of Land Acquisition

Inheritance	29	31.9	
Lease	35	38.5	
Rent	26	28.6	

Type of Labour

Family Labour	22	24.2	
Hired Labour	29	31.9	
Family and Hired Labour	39	42.9	

Membership of Socio-organization

Yes	87	95.7	
No	3	3.3	

Sources of Capital

Personal Savings	86	95.5	
Cooperative	71	78	
Private money lenders	5	5.5	
Relative and Friends	23	25.6	
Commercial Banks	5	5.5	
Thriffs	34	37.4	

Field Survey, 2018

Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1 revealed 24.4% of the respondents were less than equal to 30years of age, 25.6% of the respondents were between 31 and 40 years of age, 20% of the respondents were between 40 and 50 years of age, 15.6% were between 51 and 60 years of age while 14.4% of the respondents were above 60 years of age. The mean age of the respondents was 42.5years Also, 67.1% were males while 31.9% were females, 16.5% of the respondents were single, majority (71.4%) were married, 4.4% were separated, another 4.4% were divorced while 2.2% were widowed. In addition, a little below half (46.7%) were Christians, about half (51.1%) were Muslims while 2.2% were traditional religion worshippers, 26.7% of the respondents had between 1 and 3 members in their household, 31.1% had between 4 and 6 members in their household, 28.9% had between 7 and 9 members in their household while 13.3% of the respondents had above 9 members in their household. The mean household size is 6. Also, 31.1% of the respondents had between 1 and 10 years of socio-cultural experience, 33.3% of the respondents had between 11 and 12 years of socio-cultural experience, 17.8% of the respondents had between 21 and 30 years of socio-cultural experience while another 17.8% of the respondents had above 30 years of socio-cultural experience. The mean years of socio-cultural experience was 22 years.

Furthermore, 20.0% of the respondents had between 1 and 10 years of farming experience, 31.1% of the respondents had between 11 and 20 years of farming experience, 20.0% of the respondents had between 21 and 30 years of farming experience, 14.4% of the respondents had between 31 and 40 years of farming experience while 16.5% of the respondents had above 40 years of farming experience, 26.3% of the respondents had between 1 and 3 hectares, 31.9% of the respondents cultivated between 4 and 6 hectares, 26.4% of the respondents cultivated between 7 and 9 hectares while 14.4% of the respondents cultivated above 9 hectares. The mean farm size was 4.2 hectares. More so, 31.9% of the respondents acquired land through inheritance, 38.5% acquired land through leasing while 28.6% of the respondents acquired their farmland through rentage, 24.4% of the respondents used family labour, 32.2% of the respondents used hired labour while 42.9% of the respondents used both family and hired labour. Also, 95.6% were members of social organization while 3.3% of the respondents were not members of any socio-organization. Lastly, 95.6% of the respondents uses their personal savings, 78.0% of the respondents gets capital from cooperative society, 5.6% of the respondents got capital from private money lenders, 25.3% of the respondents got capital from family and friends, 5.5% of the respondents got capital from commercial banks while 37.4% of the respondents got capital from thrift.

Table 2 Distribution of the Respondents by their Socio-cultural Organizations

Socio-organization	Frequency	Percentage
Age group Organization	47	51.6
Trade Group	63	69.2
Gender Association	62	68.1
Fadama User Group	41	45.1
Youth Group	30	33.0
Political Group	54	59.3
Cooperative Societies	69	75.8
Religious Association	84	92.3
Community Based Association	55	60.4
Farmers Group	62	68.1

Field Survey, 2018 Multiple Response

Socio-cultural Organization of the Respondents

The distribution of respondents by the socio-organization revealed that 51.6% belonged to age group organization, 69.2% belonged to trade organization, 68.1% belonged to gender association, 45.1% belonged to Fadama user group while 33.0% of the respondents belonged to youth groups. Also, 59.3% of the respondents belonged to political group, 75.8% belonged to cooperative societies, 92.3% belonged to religious association, 60.4% belonged to community based association while 68.1% of the respondents belonged to farmers group. The results implies that the respondents belonged to various socio-cultural groups while religious association (92.3%) and cooperative society (75.8%) were the two major groups the respondents were mostly involved in.

Table 3: Distribution of the Respondents by the level of Involvement in Socio-cultural Activities

Level of Involvement	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Not at all	WMS	Rank
Attendance of group meetings	53(58.2)	31(34.1)	6(6.6)	-	2.3	1 st
Payment of dues	28(30.8)	51(56.0)	11(12.1)	-	2.0	5 th
Participation in major group programmes	48(52.7)	32(35.2)	9(9.9)	1(1.1)	2.2	3 rd
Participation in major decision making	31(34.1)	43(47.2)	12(13.2)	4(4.4)	1.9	6 th
Promotion of group ideals and values	37(40.7)	29(31.9)	22(24.2)	2(2.2)	1.9	6 th
Obedience to the constituted authority of the group	46(50.5)	35(38.5)	9(9.9)	-	2.2	3 rd
Bonding and togetherness with group members	59(64.8)	23(25.3)	8(8.8)	-	2.3	1 st

Field Survey, 2018

Level of Involvement in Socio-cultural Activities by the Respondents

Table 3 revealed the distribution of respondents by level of involvement in socio-cultural organization, the results showed that attendance of group meeting, bonding and togetherness with group members were jointly ranked first with the weighted mean score (WMS) of 2.3, Participation in major group programmes and Obedience to the constituted authority of the group were jointly ranked third with the WMS of 2.2, payment of dues was ranked fifth with the WMS of 2.0 while Participation in major decision making and Promotion of group ideals and values were jointly ranked sixth with the WMS of 1.9. The results implies that attendance of group meeting, bonding and togetherness with group members were the activities the respondents were mostly involved in.

Table 4: Distribution of the Respondents by the Benefits Derived from Socio-cultural Organization

Benefits	Very Often	Often	Seldom	WMS	Rank
Access to Market for the sale of farm produce	53(58.2)	33(36.3)	4(4.4)	2.3	2 nd
Credit source	32(25.2)	52(57.1)	6(6.6)	2.1	5 th
Source of subsidized fertilizer	42(46.2)	42(46.2)	6(6.6)	2.2	3 rd
Improved stems and chemicals	38(41.8)	45(49.5)	7(7.7)	2.1	5 th
Financial assistance	40(44.0)	38(41.8)	12(13.1)	2.1	5 th
Lower services and transaction cost	30(33.0)	49(53.8)	11(12.2)	2.0	9 th
Sharing risks, cost and adverse condition with members of the group	42(46.2)	40(44.0)	8(8.8)	2.4	1 st
Easy Access to land	36(39.6)	42(46.2)	12(13.2)	2.1	5 th
Social belonging	46(50.5)	37(40.7)	7(7.7)	2.2	3 rd
Access to input	40(44.0)	43(47.3)	7(7.7)	1.7	10 th

Field Survey, 2018

Benefits derived from Socio-cultural Organization

Table 4 revealed the distribution of the respondents by benefits derived from socio-cultural organization. Sharing risks, cost and adverse condition with members of the group were ranked joint first with the Weighted mean score (WMS) of 2.4, access to market for the sale of farm produce was ranked second with the WMS of

2.3 while source of subsidized fertilizer and social belonging had a joint ranking of 3rd with the WMS of 2.2. Also, credit source, improved stems and chemicals, Financial assistance and easy access to land were jointly ranked 5th with the WMS of 2.1 while lower services and transaction cost and access to input were ranked 9th and 10th with the WMS of 2.0 and 1.7 respectively. The results implies that risks sharing, cost and adverse condition with members of the group were the most mentioned benefits derived from socio-cultural organization by the respondents.

Table 5: Distribution of the Respondents by the Effects of Involvement in Socio-cultural Activities on Crop Production

Effects	Major Effect	Minor Effect	No Effect	WMS	Rank
Access to Extension service	41(45.1)	40(44.0)	9(9.9)	1.2	5 th
Access to credit facilities such as loans and subsidies	52(57.1)	35(38.5)	3(3.3)	1.4	1 st
Input Availability such as seedlings, fertilizers etc	48(52.7)	37(40.7)	5(5.5)	1.3	2 nd
Market access to farm produce	42(46.2)	44(48.4)	4(4.4)	1.3	2 nd
Less labour demand	25(27.5)	42(46.2)	23(25.3)	1.0	7 th
Better market demand	29(31.9)	45(49.5)	16(17.6)	1.1	6 th
Better storability	28(30.8)	36(39.6)	26(28.6)	1.0	7 th
Better price for the produce	41(45.1)	39(42.9)	10(11.0)	1.3	2 nd

Field Survey, 2019

Effects of Involvement in Socio-cultural Activities on Crop Production

The distribution of the respondents on the effects of socio-cultural activities on crop production in table 5 revealed that access to credit facilities such as loans and subsidies was ranked first with the weighted mean score (WMS) of 1.4, Input availability such as seedlings, fertilizers etc, Market access to farm produce and better price for the produce were jointly ranked second with WMS of 1.3, access to extension service was ranked fifth with the WMS of 1.2, better market for produce was ranked sixth with WMS of 1.1 while better storability of farm produce had the least ranking of seventh with the WMS of 1.0. The results implies that access to credit facilities such as loans and subsidies was the major effect of involvement in socio-cultural organization on crop production.

Table 6: Results of Pearson Product Moment Correlation showing the Relationship between the selected socio-economic characteristics and effects of involvement in Socio-cultural Organizations

Variable	R-value	p-value	Remarks
Age	0.536***	0.000	Significant
Household Size	0.332**	0.001	Significant
Years spent in School	0.779**	0.000	Significant
Years of Socio-cultural organization.	0.838**	0.000	Significant
Years of farming Experience	0.366**	0.000	Significant
Farm size	0.510**	0.000	Significant

Field Survey, 2018

Test of Hypothesis

The results of Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) showed a significant relation between the selected socio-economic characteristics (age: $r = 0.536^{***}$, $p = 0.000$, Household size: $r = 0.332^{**}$, $p = 0.001$, Years spent in school; $r = 0.779^{**}$; $p = 0.000$, years of sociocultural organization, $r = 0.838^{**}$, $p = 0.000$, years of farming experience; $r = 0.366^{**}$ and farm size = 0.510^{**} , $p = 0.000$) and effect of involvement in socio-cultural

activities. The results implies all the significant variables decisively influenced the involvement of the respondents in socio-cultural activities.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The study concluded that respondents were active, agile and still in their productive age with small farm size and many years of farming experience. Religious association and cooperative society were the two major groups the respondents were mostly involved in. attendance of group meeting, bonding and togetherness with group members were the activities the respondents were mostly involved in. risks sharing, cost and adverse condition with members of the group were the most mentioned benefits derived from socio-cultural organization while that access to credit facilities such as loans and subsidies was the major effect of involvement in socio-cultural organization on crop production. A significant relationship was found between some selected socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and the level of involvement in socio-cultural activities.

The study therefore recommends that government, non-governmental associations and stakeholders in agriculture and rural development should further take advantage of religious institutions and cooperative society as existing structure in accessing farmers whenever there is need to disseminate information, farm inputs and subsidies to farmers.

The various socio-cultural organization should be further organized and strengthened by government and stakeholders in rural development so as to continue to perform the benefits of sharing risks, cost and adverse condition with members of the group.

REFERENCES

- Aldosari M (2013). Agricultural extension in Asia: Constraints and options for improvement. *The Journal of Animal & Plant Sciences* 23(2): 919-632.
- Altalb A.T (2015). Models and methods that use in agricultural extension. Conference for current issues moved by young scientists. A special issue of the Conference, Krakow. Poland. ;25- 35.
- Aker, J. C. (2010). "Dial „A” for Agriculture: Using Information and Communication Technologies for Agricultural Extension in Developing Countries." Tuft University, Economics Department.55pp.
- Maridal, J. H. (2013). Cultural impact on national economic growth. *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, 47, 136–146.
- Mundi S.N. (2009). Social cultural perceptions of teachers and parents on inclusive education in four selected special and integrated schools in Kenya.
- Maxwell, A.J (2001). A Systems Approach Study of Agricultural Development Problems in Transkei. Ph.D. Thesis, University of Stellenbosch. 685 pp.
- Manali O. (2011). Importance of culture. An article in Buzzle.com
- UNESCO. (2011). "Gender and education for all". *The leap to Equality*. Paris: UNESCO