Direct Research Journal of Agriculture and Food Science
Vol. 9, Pp. 149-154, 2021
ISSN 2354-4147
DOI: https://doi.org/10.26765/DRJAFS117930615
Article Number: DRJAFS117930615

https://directresearchpublisher.org/drjafs/

Full-Length Research Paper

Challenges of women participation in agricultural activities in Hadejia local government area, Jigawa State, Nigeria

[*1]Imam, Muhammad and [2]Babuga, U. S.

[1]Jigawa State Research Institute, Kazaure, Jigawa State, Nigeria.
[2]Department of Agricultural Technology, The Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi, Bauchi State, Nigeria.
*Corresponding Author E-mail: imammuhd019@gmail.com

Received 2 April 2021; Accepted 28 April 2021 Published 20 May 2021

ABSTRACT: The study analyzed the challenges of women participation in agricultural activities in Hadejia Local Government Area of Jigawa State, Nigeria. A total of 120 respondents were randomly selected for the study. Structured questionnaire was used to elicit primary data that were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency and percentage). The results revealed 64.1% of the respondents were married and are within the age of 40 and above, ware as 38.33% has farming experience of about 11-15 years. The result of the study shows that about 72.5% of the women farmers in the study area encountered one form of challenges or the other ranging from non-access to credit facilities and accounted for 81.7%, low access to extension services accounted for 65.0%, and also most of the women farmers that engaged in crop production operate in their husbands' farm and accounted for 40.8%, farm size accounted for 33.3% had only 2 hectares while the majority of the 46.6% relay on personal savings as their sources of finance to their farming activities. It is recommended that government should encourage women's participation in agricultural activities in the study area, women farmers should be encouraged to have more access to land by involving them in any meaningful development plan of the Jigawa State government through Jigawa State Agricultural Rural Development Authority (JARDA, 2011). By so doing, extension visits will allow the farmers to have access to subsidized inputs and this will boost their level of participation in agricultural production.

Keywords: Women participation, agricultural activities, Jigawa State

INTRODUCTION

Women in the rural communities of Nigeria are mostly responsible for planting, harvesting, and processing food crops. They also work themselves out to feed, support, and supplement the household income (Garba *et al*., 2014). Despite the important role women play in agricultural production in the country, they are hardly given the full needed attention in the area of training and/or visitation by extension agents with improved technologies. Banks also hardly grant them access to loans and they are hardly reached with improved seeds, fertilizer, and other inputs (Damisa *et al*., 2007).

Lawanason (2008) reported that Nigerian women have worked side by side with men in agriculture with some marked division of labour between them. In Nigeria, there are significant regional differences in women's participation in agriculture. For instance, a study of women in the country revealed that on an overall basis, 40% of the rural women surveyed regarded farming as their major occupation. On regional basis, 89, 10 and 6 % of those in the East, West and South respectively regarded Agriculture as their main occupation. It has been reported that80% of the work done on the farm in

Agricultural activities takes place in rural areas. It is now widely demonstrated that rural women, as well as men, throughout the world, are engaged in a range of productive activities essential to household welfare, Agricultural productivity, and economic growth. According to the Agricultural intensification hypothesis, as the population pressure increases and Agricultural production moves away from a more traditional practice to a more tool-based or mechanized (use of plough) farming, role of women in agriculture declines (Aminu, 2008, 2010). However, this decline in women's role is more in relative terms than in absolute terms. With increased capital intensification like increased use of tractors and ox implements, acreage increases and that implies women have to do more weeding and harvesting and increased work of caring for domestic animals, thus, more labour demands from women. Besides tools, fertilizers and pesticides may be quite useful in increasing productivity. Fertilizer use depends on availability and farmer's resources to purchase. Fabiyi, et, al, (2007), Farid, et,al, (2009) reported that women farmers generally have less access to cash and credit, they are less likely to purchase and use fertilizers.

METHODOLOGY

Study area

Hadejia Local Government area is one of the 27 Local Governments areas that constitute the Jigawa State with a population of approximately 105,628 (NPC, 2006). The town lies to the north of the Hadejia River and is upstream from the Hadejia-Nguru wetlands, an internationally important ecological and sensitive zone and lies approximately 10°.00' E Longitude and between 12°.25' N and 12°.30' N latitude. Hadejia belongs to the semi-arid region and it is characterized by a long dry season and a short wet season from June to September. The climatic variables vary considerably during the year. However, the micro-climate is modified by the local effect of the Hadejia River system, making the temperature slightly cooler in the southern parts. The temperature regime is warm to hot. The mean annual temperature is about 25°C but the mean monthly values range between 21°C in the coolest month and 31°C in the hottest month. However, the mean daily temperature could be as low as 17°C during December to February, when the cold dry Harmattan or North-East Trade wind blows from the Sahara Desert. The total annual rainfall ranges from 600mm in the northern part to 762 mm in the southern areas. Wide variations occur in the annual total rainfall and for some years, it may result in severe and prolonged droughts (Retrieved from www.jigawastate.gov.ng on April 30, 2018). Clearly, the overall climate is influenced by two air masses: The Equatorial Maritime or South-West Trade winds and Tropical Continental or North-East Trade winds (World bank, 2007). The latter is the main rain-bearing winds coming onshore from the Gulf of Guinea and the former are the dry dusty and cold-bearing winds blowing from the Sahara Desert during the dry season (Retrieved from www.britanica.com and www.jigawastate.gov.ng on April 30, 2018). The regional vegetation falls within the Sudan Savannah type. Extensive open grasslands with few scattered trees are characteristic of the vegetation, (Okoye, 2002, Tologbonse et al., 2008). The natural vegetation around Hadejia and other towns has long been removed, giving rise to farm parkland vegetation. Hadejia is a centre for rice and wheat farming and is strong in poultry, fish, and animal farming. The Hadejia Local Government consists of eleven (11) wards of the local government area. Which include Atafi, Dubantu, Gagulmari, Kasuwar Kofa, Kasuwar Kuda, Majema, Matsaro, Rumfa, Sabon Garu Yankoli and Yayari (Retrieved from www.britanica.com and www.jigawastate.gov.ng on April 30, 2018).

Sample techniques/sample size

This study would be conducted in Hadejia Local Government which eleven wards; Atafi, Dubantu, Gagulmari, Kasuwar Kofa, KasuwarKuda, Majema, Matsaro, Rumfa, Sabon GaruYankoli, and Yayari. Among the eleven wards, six (6) were selected for this study as shown in (Table 1) which includes, Atafi, Dubantu, Kasuwar Kudu, KasuwarKofa, Matsaro, Majema, and Rumfa at Hadejia Local Government area. Twenty (20) women were selected randomly and served with a questionnaire from each ward making a total of 120 respondents for the study.

Method of data collection

The data will be collected using primary data which is directly from respondents with the use of a well-structured questionnaire.

Method of data analysis

Data were analyzed using simple descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Age of the respondent

Table 2 shows that 9.2% of the respondents fall within the age of 18-23, 15% are within 24-29, while 33.3% of

Table 1: Hadejia Local Government Wards.

11 WARDS	6 WARDS SELECTED	NO OF WOMEN SELECTED IN EACH WARD
Atafi	Atafi	20
Dubantu	Dubantu	20
Gagulmari	Gagulmari	20
KasuawaKofa	KasuwarKuda	20
KasuwarKuda	Matsaro	20
Majema	Majema	20
Matsaro		
Rumfa		
Sabon Garu		
Yankoli		
Yayari		

Table 2: Age of the respondents.

Age of the respondent (years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-23	11	9.2
24-29	18	15
30-35	40	33.3
40 and above	51	42.5
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 3: Marital status of the respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	25	20.83
Married	77	64.17
Divorced	18	15.00
Total	120	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 4: Educational level of the respondents.

Level of education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Adult non-formal education	11	9.17
Primary education	16	13.33
Secondary education	45	37.50
Tertiary Education	32	26.67
Qur'anic Education	16	13.33
Total	120	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2018

them are within 30-35 age. The highest percentage of the respondents are 40 years and above with 42.5%.

Marital status

Table 3 shows that 20.8% of the respondents were single, 64.17% were married and 15.0% were divorced. This implies that the majority of the respondent were married and having the household responsibility to feed their family and dependents.

Level of Education of the respondent

The result in (Table 4) shows that about 9.17% of the respondent attend adult non-formal education, while 13.33% of attending qur'anic education, another 13.33% of the respondent have attended primary school, 37.50% attend secondary school, while 26.67% have attended tertiary institutions. From the above result, it can be concluded that a good number of the respondents have attended one form of education or the other.

Table 5: Land tenure system of the respondents.

Land Tenure	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Inherited	36	30.00
Husband Farm	49	40.83
Hired Farm	15	12.50
C0-oprative	0	0.00
Purchase	20	16.67
Total	120	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 6: Farm size of the respondents.

Farm Size(hectare)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
< 1	21	17.5
1	32	26.7
2	40	33.3
2-4	11	9.2
>4	16	13.3
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 7: Source finance of the respondents.

Source of Finance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
personal saving	56	46.67
Relations	24	20.00
Money Lender	32	26.67
Women cooperatives	8	6.67
Total	120	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2018

Land tenure

Table 5 indicate the system of land acquisition by the respondent were by the highest percentage of the respondent(40.83%) practice farming in their husband farm, 30% inherited,12.50% hired,16.67 purchase while none of the respondent practice farming in the cooperative farm. This result shows that most of the respondents practice farming in husband land and inherited land.

Farm size (Hectare)

Result in (Table 6) shows that 17.5% of the respondent had < 1ha of farmland, 26.7% had 1 ha of farmland, about 33.3% had 2 ha of land and 9.2 % had 2-4 ha of land. This result indicates that the majority of the respondents are small scale farmers.

Source of finance of the respondent

The result in (Table 7) revealed that 46.67% of the respondents obtain their finance from personal savings, 20% of them from relatives, another 26.67% from money lender, while 6.6% of them obtain their respondents from women cooperatives. This result revealed that most of the respondents obtained their finance from personal savings.

Access to extension service

The result in (Table 8) shows that 35% of the respondent has access to extension service, while 65% have no access to extension service. This signifies that the majority of the respondent had no access to extension services.

Access to government agricultural credit

Table 9 provides information on the accessibility of government credit by the various respondent 81.7% of the respondent has no access to credit and only 18.3% have access to agricultural credits. This signifies that most of the respondents are not able to access government agricultural credits in any form.

Table 8: Respondents access to extension service.

Access to Extension Services	Frequency	Percentage
Access	42	35
No access	78	65
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 9: Respondents access to government agricultural credit

Access to Agricultural credit	Frequency	Percentage
No access	98	81.7
Access	22	18.3
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 10: Challenge encounter by the respondents.

Challenge Encountered	Frequency	Percentage
YES	87	72.5
NO	33	27.5
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey, 2018

Challenge encountered

Table 10 shows that most of the respondents have encountered a challenge in the process about 72.5% of them claimed this and only 27.5% of them has not come in contact with any challenge.

Conclusion

The women in the area of study see agriculture as the major means of livelihood and therefore put high expectations of returns on the occupation. The majority of the women farmers are between the ages of 35and above; this might have accounted for the negative coefficient of the age variable; also, most of the respondents have non-formal educational status and it is expected that the higher the education level of the woman farmer, the more the likelihood of her to out-migrate to seek for better-placed employment. Then, marital status, significant influence on women's participation; this is so because marital status is directly related to household size and this thus dictates, to some extent, the availability of labour for agricultural activities. Years of experience, on the other hand, have an insignificant influence on the level of women's participation in agriculture. Also, access to government agricultural credits is quite expected since the majority of the women interviewed claimed they have never come in contact with any extension agent through whom they believe government agricultural credits or information about it would reach them. This goes to support the claim of women being side-lined in important agricultural policy-related issues. Hence, the study concludes that there is a high rate of involvement of women in agricultural production in the study area; though the output does not justify this. This study shows the picture of how the women in Hadejia Local Government Area of Jigawa State engage in agricultural production; variables such as marital status, Age, Educational level, and farming experience were shown to have a significant effect on women participation perception. Also, this study pointed out that, the role of some personal and socioeconomic variables as well as assets such as social capital, landed property, cash, as well as savings is central in determining women's participation in agricultural production.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of the study several policy recommendations were raised:

1. There is a need for a mass enlightenment programme on the need for active participation in agricultural production irrespective of educational status.
2. Government should encourage efficient and sustainable

use of the existing cultivable land, by further investing in agricultural research and extension, to increase the agricultural output as well as the corresponding income for households especially for those investing in commercial agriculture. By so doing, extension visits will allow the farmers to have access to subsidized inputs and this will boost their level of participation in agricultural production.

3. Because of the respondents' non-involvement in social organizations which primarily focuses on thrift and credit activities; there is need for awareness to participate in those organization and this should be accomplished with adequate training on money management so that credit facilities obtained can be properly channeled to agricultural production and other useful purposes for which it is meant.

4. Due to inadequate extension service delivery to the area the government needs to revive policies regarding extension services targeting women.

REFERENCES

Aminu A (2010). "Determinants of participation and earnings in wage employment in Nigeria", final report submitted to African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) Nairobi, Kenya

Aminu A (2008). "Government Wage Review Policy and Public-Private Sector Wage Differential in Nigeria", A Revised Final Report Submitted to the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Nairobi, Kenya.

Damisa MA, Samndi JR, Yohanna M (2007).'Women Participation in Agricultural Production: A probit analysis', Journal of Applied sciences, Vol. 7 (3) pp. 412-414

Farid KS, Mozumdar L, Kabir MS, Goswami UK (2009). "Nature And Extent of Rural Women's Participation in Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Activities". Agricultural Science Digest 29(4) : 254-259.

Fabiyi EF, Danladi, BB, Akande KE, Mahmood Y (2007). 'Role of Women in Agricultural Development and their constraints', Pakistan journal of Nutrition; Vol. 6 (6) pp. 676-678

Garba A, Umar AG, Babuga US, Ubayo MM (2014). Contribution of Small Scale Women Farmers For Sustainable in Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Agricultura; and Development Economics Vol 4 (1): pp 15-21*

Jigawa State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (JARDA, 2011) "Sesame production process and marketing.

Lawanason OI (2008). Female labour force participation in Nigeria:' Determinants and Trends', Oxford Business and Economic Conference Program, Oxford, United Kingdom. June 22-24, 2008.

Nigeria: "Women in Agriculture, World Bank participation sourcebook", The World Bank group.

World Bank. (2007). World Bank Development Report 2008: Agriculture for development. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Publications.

Okoye AJ (2002). Sustainable agriculture for food security in sub-Saharan Africa. In Research and Development in Africa.

Tologbonse D, Fashola O, Obadiah M (2008). Policy Issues in Meeting Rice Farmers Agricultural Information Needs in Niger State. J. Agric. Ext., 12(2): 84-94.