



ASSESSMENT OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS (NTFPs) AS A SOURCE OF RURAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN IDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OYO STATE NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) contribute to poverty alleviation through generation of income, provision of food and improved nutrition, medicine and foreign exchange earnings to the growth and economy of the Country as rural households in Nigeria derived up to 80% of their incomes from their sales. This study aimed at assessing Non-timber forest products as a source of household income by identifying the types of non-timber forest product, examined their perceived benefits, and identified the constraints facing effective utilization in Ido local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. Primary data were collected with the use of 150 structured questionnaires. Twenty-five (25) NTFPs were identified and bush meat was the predominant product in the study area. The identified Non-Timber Forest products were readily available in both dry and rainy seasons; they are obtained on a weekly basis majorly in farmlands and free area, free of charge while few NTFPs require a fee of between N200 and N6,500 before they could be collected. The rural households in Ido local government utilize the non-timber forest products majorly as source of food and they are faced by inadequate finance and lack of capital as major constraints for their effective utilization. Lastly, household size has a significant impact on the contribution of Non-Timber Forest products to the residents of Ido local government area. The Non-Timber Forest Products are the main sources of household income which contributed 80% to the total household income for sales; bush meat contributed the largest proportion of the total NTFPs income (94.7%) and firewood (91.3%) which is their main source of energy. These resources play a key role in the livelihood of the respondents through income generation which guarantees economic sustenance and food security, as well as remedy for healthcare challenges due to the therapeutic value found in some NTFPs. It is therefore safe to say that NTFPs are blessings to the rural population and as such should be exploited sustainably so that generations to come would benefit from these multi-purpose natural resources.

KEYWORDS: Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs); Natural resources; Livelihood; Constraints; Poverty alleviation.

INTRODUCTION

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are products or services other than timber that are produced in forests. They include, fruits and nuts, resins, vegetables, fish and game, medicinal plants, essences and a range of barks and fibers such as bamboo, rattans, and a host of other palms and grasses.

As stated by different researchers, majority of farming communities in Ethiopia are forest dependent for their livelihood and subsistence (Demel et al., 2010). More than 65 percent of the households who were involved in NTFPs did earn more than one thousand USD dollar in a year from the production of NTFP's alone, while around half of the people use the forest to generate cash income (Mohamed, 2007). Majority of the forest and rural

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dwellers in the developing countries fulfil their construction, storage, agricultural, energy, nutritional, and medicinal needs from forest, and so access to forest resources help rural households to diversify their daily needs; many people generate parts of their income from selling forest products. The forest provides sources of varieties of food that supplements and compliments what is obtained from agriculture. Non-timber forest products contribute to poverty alleviation through generation of income providing food and improved nutrition, medicine and foreign exchange earnings. Non-timber forest products provide food, medicine, fibers and cash income for rural households (Okafor et al., 1996). The contributions of non-timber forest products as source of income and food to households cannot be over emphasized; NTFPs are usually for cultural and recreational purposes, biodiversity conservation, and rural economic development (Cocksedge 2006; Endamana et al., 2016). As indicated by Agrawal et al., (2013), the NTFPs, if prioritized by the government and other stakeholders can be used to enhance the economic and social well-being of communities living in and around forestlands.

Ido Local Government Area in Oyo State, Nigeria has its headquarters in the town of Ido. It has an area of 986 km² and a population of 103,261 at the 2006 census. It lies between longitude 3° 47' 34.99" N and Latitude 7° 30' 44.49" N. Ido Local Government covers the area spanning Apata, Ijokodo, Omi-Adio, Akufo and Apete. It shares boundaries with Oluyole, Ibarapa East, Akinyele, Ibadan South-West and Ibadan North-West Local Governments in Oyo State and Odeda Local Government in Ogun State. The council formerly has six wards, which had been increased to ten for easy exercise of franchise. Among the major towns within the local Government Area are Ijokodo, Ido, Omi-Adio, Apata, Apete, Akufo and Bakatari as well as about 612 villages which include Ogunweide, Dada, Olowofela, Apooyin, Oderemi, Odetola, Erinwusi, Tade, Alagbaa, Iku-senla among others. On the account of extensive fertile soil, which is suitable for agriculture, the basic occupation of the people is farming. There are large hectares of grassland which are suitable for animal rearing, vast forest reserves and rivers. People in the area grow varieties of cash crops such as cocoa, kola nut, palm oil, timber, and food crops such as maize and rice. The area is also suitable for a wide range of edible fruits. As a matter of fact, Ido Local Government can serve as the “food basket of the state” if well utilized.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study location:

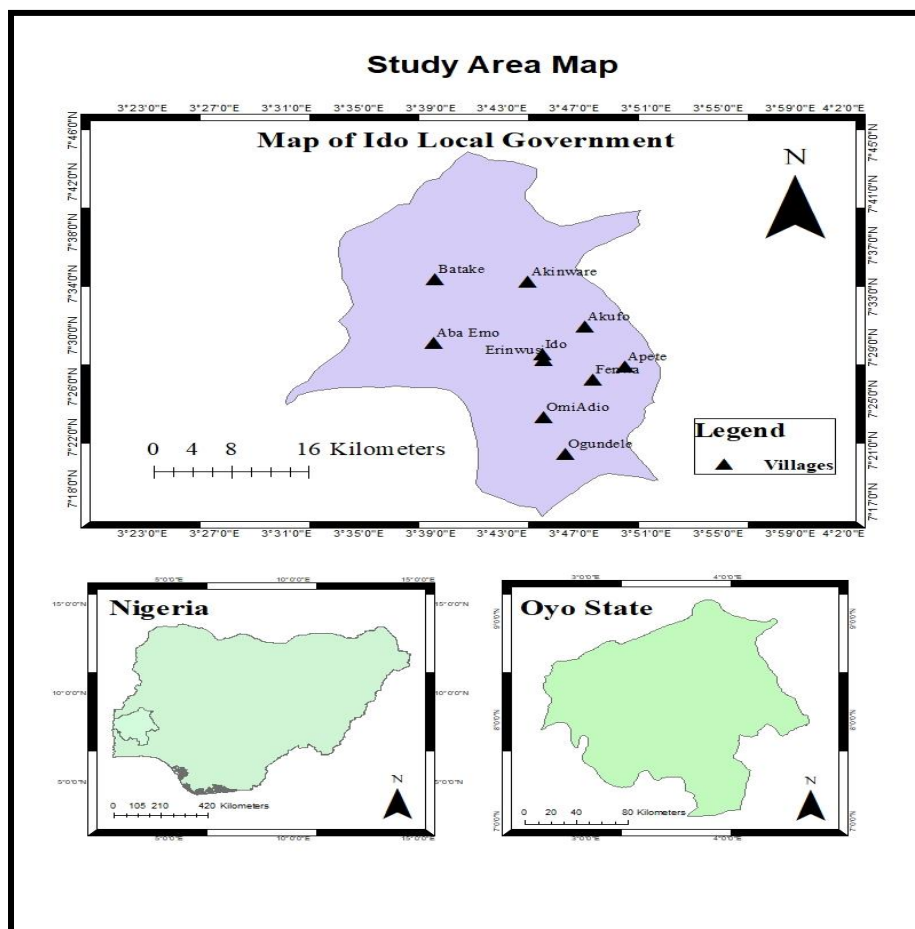


Figure 1: Map of the Study Area

Sampling Procedure:

Multi stage sampling technique was used to carry out this study. Identifications of the wards in Ido Local Government area was made: Aba emo/ilaju/alako, Akinware/Akindele, Akufo/idigba/Araromi, Apete/ayegun/awotan, Batake/idi-iya, Erinwusi/koguo/odetola, Fenwa/oglanla/elenusonso, Ido/onikede/okunaAwo, Ogundele/alaho/siba/idi-ahun, Omi adio/omionigbagboBakatari. Five wards were randomly selected from the identified wards using 50% sampling intensity; Akufo/idigba/Araromi, Batake/idi-iya, Erinwusi/koguo/odetola, Fenwa/oglanla/elenusonso and Ogundele/alaho/siba/idi-ahun, while thirty (30) respondents were picked each from five wards making a total of one hundred and fifty questionnaire administered.

Data Analysis:

Data collected were analyzed using descriptive analysis such as tables, means, simple percentages and graphical illustrations. Inferential analysis was also conducted using student's t-test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1 showed the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. There were 52.7% of male respondents and 42.7% females. This shows that more males are involved in the sales of Non-timber

forest Products in the study area, the reason could be due to the systematic study of differences in the conditions, needs, participation rates, access to resources and development, control of assets, and since men and women perform different roles which leads to different experiences, knowledge, talents and needs. This corroborates the findings of Tee et al., 2014 who worked on the Gender analysis of non-timber forest products utilization by neighborhood communities of Cross River National park.

Table 1: Demographic Information

	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	79	52.7
	Female	71	47.3
	Total	150	100.0
Marital Status	Single	28	18.7
	Married	115	76.7
	Divorced	7	4.7
	Total	150	100.0
Age	21-30	22	11.3
	31-40	32	21.2
	41-50	50	33.4
	51-60	35	23.2
	61-70	11	10.9
	Total	150	100.0
Education	No formal education	24	16.0
	Primary	33	22.0
	Secondary	34	22.7
	Tertiary	59	39.3
	Total	150	100.0
Household Size	1-5	103	68.7
	6-10	43	28.7
	11-15	3	2.0
	16-20	1	0.7
	Total	150	100.0
Occupation	None	3	2.0
	Farming	51	34.0
	Civil servant	29	19.3
	Trading	57	38.0
	Artisan	10	6.7
	Total	150	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Majority (94.7%) of the respondents mentioned Bush meat as one of the Non-Timber Forest products in Ido Local government area. Thereby, making Bush meat the most identified Non-Timber Forest product in the study area. According to Bjorn et al., (2013), Bush meat is important both for household consumption and trade, also provides a valuable source of protein and as a reliable source of income.

Amongst others, spices (86%), honey (90.7%) and firewood (91.3%) are also majorly identified in the study area. These products (spices, honey and firewood) can be easily obtained since they are found from natural forest and are not supposed to be neglected but recognized as part of livelihood strategy of communities in the rural household.

IDENTIFICATION OF NTFPs



Source: Field Survey, 2022
Figure 2: Identification of NTFPs

Table 2 showed that the identified Non-Timber Forest products are readily available in both dry and rainy seasons and they can also be obtained weekly

majorly in farmland and free areas at no cost, although some NTFPs requires a fee between N200 and N6,500 before they could be collected.

Table 2: Availability of Non-timber forest products in the study areas

	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
When are the NTFPs available in your area	Rainy season	57	38.0
	Dry season	11	7.3
	Always	82	54.7
	Total	150	100.0
How are these NTFPs available in your area	Readily	114	76.0
	Scarce	35	23.3
	Not available	1	0.7
	Total	150	100.0
Where do you collect the non-timber forest products	None	21	14.0
	Free area	56	37.3
	Farmland	59	39.3
	Government reserve	13	8.7
	Total	149	99.3
How often do you collect the NTFPs	Daily	42	28.0
	Weekly	102	68.0
	Yearly	6	4.0
	Total	150	100.0
Do you pay any fee for collection	Yes	65	43.3
	No	85	56.7
	Total	150	100.0
If YES, how much is the fee	200.00	5	3.3
	500.00	18	12.0
	1000.00	15	10.0
	1200.00	3	2.0
	1300.00	1	0.7
	1500.00	36	24.0
	2000.00	23	15.3
	2500.00	19	12.7
	3000.00	4	2.7
	3500.00	5	3.3
	4500.00	7	4.7
	5000.00	7	4.7
	6500.00	7	4.7
	Total	150	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022

According to Table 3, Non-Timber Forest products are readily available and believed to have contributed so well to the daily income of the residents in the study area. This corroborates the work of Mukul et al., 2015 that collection and processing of NTFPs contributes to the income of household. Non-Timber Forest products as a source of food has been the

best contribution made so far according to table 3. This is in line with Tewari (2012) that states 85% of household in rural South Africa depend on a variety of NTFPs in for, of medicine, food, building material e.t.c. Non-timber forest products have highly contributed as a source of food for Ido residents.

Table 3: Contribution of Non-timber forest products in the study area

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
None	2	1.3
Source of food	32	21.3
Raw material for handicrafts	21	14.0
Building materials	8	5.3
Security	2	1.3
Poverty alleviation	29	19.3
Foreign exchange earning	29	19.3
Conservation of biodiversity	1	0.7
Economic development	8	5.3
Cultural and recreational purposes	10	6.7
Secondary forest	8	5.3
Total	150	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2022

Table 4 shows the constraints facing effective utilization of Non Timber Forest Products in the study area. Non-Timber Forest products have not been effectively utilized due to some major constraints. The table above highlighted the constraints and also

confirmed that inadequate finance and lack of capital for NTFPs farmers were the major constraints facing effective utilization of Non-Timber Forest Products in the study area.

Table 4: Constraints Facing Effective Utilization of Non-Timber Forest Products

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
None	1	0.7
Lack of policy to guide the use, management and development of NTFPs	2	1.3
Over-harvesting of the NTFPs	3	2.0
Deforestation of NTFPs	7	4.7
Poor harvesting and processing skills	7	7.3
Inadequate finance and lack of capital for NTFPs farmers/harvesters	40	26.7
Lack of marketing information	21	14.0
Lack/insufficient farm tools and implement	23	15.3
Inadequate awareness creation of the nutritional and Health values of NTFPs	19	12.7
Under-utilization of NTFPs	11	7.3
High cost of transportation	16	10.7
Total	150	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022

CONCLUSION

The collection of NTFPs significantly contributes to the livelihood of the respondents in Ido local Government through income generation which guarantees economic sustenance and food security but are still faced with constraints ranging from inadequate finance and lack of capital for NTFPs farmers as well as inadequate awareness creation of the nutritional and Health values of NTFPs, for effective utilization of the NTFPs.

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