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PERCEIVED FACTORS LIMITING RICE PRODUCTION IN PATIGI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
The study examined the perceived factors limiting rice production in five selected villages in Patigi Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria. The study area was purposively selected based on their known potentials for rice production. One Hundred and Ten (110) rice farmers were selected for the study. An interviewed scheduled was used to obtain information from the farmers. Frequency counts, percentage and means were used to analyze the data. The study revealed that 87% of the respondents fall between 41 – 50 years age category, about 82% were married, about 81% were Muslim, about 92% had farming as there main occupation and 32% had no formal education. The perceived limiting factors in rice production include lack of rice processing machines 59.1%, financial constraints 42.7%, illiteracy 30.0%, poor access to input 22.7%, pest and disease 21.0%, poor transportation 11.8%, fluctuation in climate 11.8%, lack of extension service 10.9% and lack of storage facilities 10.9% respectively. It is recommended that government should assist the rice farmers with the provision of rice processing machines (such as threashers and destoners) and credit facilities so as to improve the quality and quantity of rice produced in the study area.

Key words: Rice production, farmers,

INTRODUCTION

Rice is the most important staple food for about half the human race (Hawksworth, 1985). The earliest cultivation of improved rice varieties (O. satival) started in about 1890 with the introduction of upland varieties to the high forest zone in western Nigerian (Hardcastle, 1959, Atanda et al 1978). There has been a steady increases in rice production and consumption Nigeria (Imolehin and Wada, 2000).

This production increase has not been enough to meet the consumption demand of the ever increasing population in Nigeria. According to Longtau (2003), Rice is important in Nigeria for several seasons. It is a major contributor to internal and sub-regional trade. Rice is also the staple for most of the people in Nigeria-Benue through which divides Nigeria into three parts, Sokoto-Rima Basin in the North-West Chad Depression in the North-East, Hadejia-Jamare through in the extreme north and Cross River through in the South. According to him, farmers find rice more adaptable than a high input staple food like maize when there is declining soil fertility because of huge array of varieties they than switch over to every few years, since it is becoming a staple crop, farmers seem to be willing to grow it all the time no matter the constraint they are facing. Nigeria together with other countries in the world have ecology that are suitable for different rice varieties which can be harnessed to boost rice production to meet Nigeria domestic needs and to produce for export. In addition, Nigeria has the potential to be self-sufficient in rice

production, for both food and if possible industrial raw material needs and for export. However, a number constrains have been identified as limiting to rice production efforts by Nigerian farmers. This study, which was carried out in Pategi Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria seeks to determine some of the factors limiting rice production in the study area. Addressing at least most of these problems will be a good step towards attaining the target of rice self-sufficient in Nigeria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Pategi Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria. It is one of the major rice producing areas in the Kwara State, Nigeria. The population for the study consists of all rice farmers in the local government area. The list of the villages in the local government area was gotten from Kwara State Agricultural Development Project Office. Five villages were purposely selected based on their level of rice production. These villages were Lade, Pategi, Godiwa, Edogi Kpan-Sanko and Sakpefu respectively. Twenty-Two rice farmers were selected from each of the five villages, using systematic random selected from every two houses, this gave a sample size of 110 respondents. An interview scheduled was used to collect from the respondents. The independent variables that were used in the study were the socio-economic variables such as age, which was measured in years, Gender which was measured as single, married, divorced and widow. The level of education was measured as No education, Quranic education, Adult education, Primary Education, Secondary education and Tertiary education. Farm size was measured in hectares while years of rice farming experience was measured in years. The dependent variables for the study was possible limiting factor in rice production. It was measured on a four point Liker scale type of very severe, moderately severe, severe and not severe respectively. Descriptive statistic such as frequency counts, means and percentage were used in analyzing the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents. N= 110

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age (Years)		
≤30	8	7.3
31 – 40	34	30.9
41 – 50	47	42.7
51 – 60	17	15.5
> 60	4	3.6
Gender		
Male	96	87.3
Female	14	12.7
Marital Status		
Single	13	11.8
Married	19	81.8
Divorced	1	0.9
Widow	2	1.8
Separated	4	3.6
Religion		

Islam	89	80.9
Christianity	18	16.4
Traditional	3	2.7
Main Occupation		
Farming	101	91.8
Civil Service	5	4.5
Teaching	2	1.8
Hunting	1	0.9
Others	1	0.9
Level of Education		
No education	35	31.8
Quranic education	31	28.2
Adult education	6	5.5
Primary education	13	11.8
Secondary education	15	13.6
Tertiary education	10	9.1
Farm Size (ha)		
Less than 1	11	10.0
1 – 5	69	62.7
6 – 10	29	26.4
>10	1	0.9
Mean	2.182	
Years of rice farming experience		
1 – 10 years	38	34.5
11 – 20	31	28.2
21 – 30	26	23.6
31 – 40	13	11.8
Above 40	2	1.8
M**ean**	2.182	

Source: Field Survey (2010).

Table 1 shows the socio-economic characteristics of the rice producers in Pategi Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria. The table shows that 42.7% of the respondents fall within the 41 – 50 years age category. About 30.9% of the respondents fall within 31- 40 years age categories. The table shows that majority 87.3% of the respondent are males while 12.7% are females. About 81.8% are married while 11.8% are single. About 80.9% are Muslim while 16.4 are Christian. Over 90% of respondents have farming as their main occupation, about 31.8% of the respondents have no formal education, 28.2% have Quranic education, 13.6 have secondary education and 11.8% have primary education. About 62.7% have farm size of between 1 – 5 hectares with mean farm size of 2.18 ha. Also about 34.5% of the respondents have between 1-10 years of farming experience on rice production with mean farming experience of 2.8 years. 28.2% have farming experience on rice production of between 11-20 years, while 1.8% have farming experience in rice production of over forty years.

Table 2: Perceived Factors Limiting Rice Production in the Study Area (Variables)

Variable Perceived Limiting Factors	Very Severe	Moderately Severe	Severe	Not Severe	Total
1. Financial Constraints					
Frequency	47	18	42	3	110
Percentage	42.7	16.4	38.2	2.7	100.0
2. Poor access to inputs					
Frequency	25	32	42	11	110
Percentage	22.7	29.1	38.2	10.0	100.0
3. Illiteracy					
Frequency	33	53	5	19	110
Percentage	30.0	48.2	4.5	17.3	100.0
4. Lack of storage facilities					
Frequency	12	28	28	42	110
Percentage	10.9	25.8	25.5	38.2	100.0
5. Lack of rice processing machine					
Frequency	65	23	15	7	110
Percentage	59.1	20.9	13.6	6.4	100.0
6. Fluctuation in climate					
Frequency	13	44	32	21	110
Percentage	11.8	40.0	29.1	19.1	100.0
7. Poor transportation					
Frequency	13	30	48	19	110
Percentage	11.8	27.3	43.6	17.3	100.0
8. Pests and Diseases					
Frequency	23	21	49	17	110
Percentage	21.0	19.1	44.5	15.5	100.0
9. Lack of extension services					
Frequency	12	14	23	61	110
Percentage	10.9	12.7	20.9	55.5	100.0
10. Others					
Frequency	2	15	31	62	110
Percentage	1.8	13.6	28.2	62.4	100.0

Source: Field survey (2010)

Table 2 shows the perceived factors limiting rice production in the study area. About 42.7% of the respondents claimed that financial constraints is very severe to their rice production 16.4% claimed it is moderately severe, 38.2 claimed is it severe while 2.7% claimed it is not severe. The table also shows that 38.2% claimed poor access to inputs as severe to their rice production, 29.91 claimed it is moderately severe while 22.7% claimed it is very severe. The table shows that 48.2% claimed that illiteracy is moderately severe to their rice production, 30.0% claimed it is very severe while 17.3%

claimed it is not severe. The table further shows that 38.2% claimed that lack of storage facilities is not severe as a constraint to their rice production, 25.5% claimed it is severe while another 25.5% claimed it is moderately severe. Lack of processing was claimed by 59.1% as a very severe constraints to their rice production. About 40% claimed fluctuation in climate was a constraints to their rice production while 29.1% claimed this reason as a constraints. About 43.6% claimed poor transportation as severe to their rice production. Also 44.5% claimed pest and disease as a severe constraints to their rice production. The table further showed that 55.5% claimed that extension service was not a severe constraints to their rice production.

From the findings of this study, it can be seen that age category 41 – 50 years constituted the majority of the age group involved in rice production in the study area. The implication of this finding is that this age category fall within the middle age group, who are still energetic and productive. The study shows that males dominate rice production in the study area. Rice production is dominated by married people who are mostly Muslim. The rice producers have as their main occupation ass farming with those without formal education and Quranic education dominating rice production. Majority of the rice producers are between 1 – 5 hectares as their farm size while majority of the rice farmers are between 1 -10 years of farming experience.

According to Ekeleme et al (2008) the major pests and diseases of Rice in Borno State which could constitute constraints to its production are the borers, which attack the crops from seedling to maturity. They lay eggs above or below the leaves in clusters. The larvae which emerge later damage the internal structure of the stems. There is also army worms and termites, birds, brown leaf spot caused by fungus . striga attack (this weed is a parasite which germinates only when the plants (hosts) which it attacks are present. This study did not examine the severity of the attack of these pests and diseases, which our study tries to fill in the missing gap. Longtau (2003) listed the following constraint to rice production in Nigeria: Policy Consistency and Instability; Fluctuation in value of Naira; Seed System and Agronomic Constraints such as diseases, pests, climate, water regime, weeds and input supply. Our findings are a bit different from that of Longtau (2003) in that severity of the constraints were examined in this study. From our findings as shows in table 2, financial constraints constituted a very severe constraints to the respondents in their rice production, poor access to input constituted a severe constraint, illiteracy of the respondents constituted moderately severe constraints to rice production. Lack of storage facilities was not a severe constraints to rice production. This implies that the respondents have where to store their rice after production. However, lack of processing machine was a very severe constraints to rice production in the study area. Fluctuation on climate was a moderately severe constraints to the respondents. Poor transportation was claimed as a severe in rice production while pests and disease constituted severe constraints. However, the respondents claimed that lack of extension service was not a severe constraints to rice production. This implies that the rice producers have enough extension, services.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study examined the socio-economic characteristics of rice producers in Pategi Local Government Area in Kwara State which is well known for rice production. It is also examined the perceived factor limiting rice production in the study area. From the findings of this study, lack of rice processing machine (such thresher and destoner) and

financial constraints are the major perceived limiting factors in rice production. These limiting factors vary from very severe to not severe. Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that rice produces should be assisted with rice processing machines (such as threashers and destoners) and with financial assistance. The extension services are performing well and they should be encouraged to still perform even more.

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