

EFFECT OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION ON RICE PRODUCTION IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA

¹Apu, U., ¹Okore, H.O., ²Nnamerenwa, G.C. and ¹Gbede, O.A.

¹Department of Rural Sociology and Extension; ²Department of Agricultural Economics, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State
Corresponding Authors' email: apu.uchechi@mouau.edu.ng

ABSTRACT

This study assessed the effect of rural-urban migration on rice production in Enugu State, Nigeria. Multi-stage and Purposive sampling procedure was used to select 60 respondents which constituted the sample size of the study. Data were obtained through the use of a structured questionnaire. Descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and percentages, and inferential statistics such as correlation and z-test procedure were employed for analyses of data. Findings indicated that majority of the respondents (81.67%) were at their youthful age of 16 to 45 years old. The highest household size obtained was between 4 and 9 persons per household. Majority of the respondents in the study area (53.33%) were small scale farmers and had below 6 hectares of rice farm land. Poor living conditions, low influx of income and lack of employment were the most important reasons for rural-urban migration as confirmed by the respondents in Enugu State (65.00%). In the study area, 62.68% migrated to the urban areas. A larger proportion of the respondents (60.00%) indicated that between 4 and 9 household members participated in the rice production activities. The Pearson correlation result showed a significant relationship between urban migration and rice production in Enugu State at 1% level of probability. The study concludes that there is a significant and negative relationship between urban migration and rice production in Enugu State. Based on the findings of this study, there is need for policies aimed at intense effort to transform the rural areas holistically, by making available sufficient socio-economic and infrastructural amenities such as: higher income earning jobs, educational (especially tertiary education) facilities, electricity, good roads (including farm roads), pipe borne water, good housing condition, financial institutions and other basic social-economic services for the rural dwellers.

Keywords: Rural-Urban Migration, Rice Production, and Enugu State

Introduction

The 20th century experienced the most dramatic agricultural transformation in human history (FAO, 2008). Science-based agriculture brought about rapid changes on the farm and sped the transformation from subsistence agriculture to a more productive and profitable modern agriculture. As agricultural production improved and farmers succeeded, some began to specialize in certain crops or products especially in the rural areas (FAO, *ibid*). People who have lived in the urban area are cosmopolitan in nature. This is because of their interaction with others from other places. However, this study will be narrowed down to rural-urban migration aspect. According to Ekong, (2003), Fadoyomi, (2008) and Afolabi, (2007), rural-urban migration negatively impacts on agricultural productivity through loss of productive members of the rural communities. It is expected that a reversed trend in migration will help to mitigate this problem of negative impact on

agricultural productivity. The discovery of petroleum in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria has fuelled rural-urban migration to the detriment of the agricultural sector of the economy in the rural area.

Rice production flourishes well in humid regions of the sub tropic and temperate climates. It is grown under shallow flood or wet paddy conditions. Rice production requires an integrated quality management along the entire commodity chain from rice production, through processing and marketing (World Bank, 2004). Nigeria is currently the highest rice producer in West Africa, producing an average of 4.2 million tones of paddy (2 million tonnes of milled rice) on 2.8 million hectares of farm land (Emodi and Madukwe 2008; Momoh, 2009). Nigeria is also the largest consuming nation, with the growing demand amounting to about 4.1 million in 2002 and only about half of the demand met by domestic production (USDAFAS, 2003).

Many factors have been contributing to the poor performance of rice production but one of the major factors is the rural-urban migration which involves the shifting of labour force from rural areas to urban centres, in search of employment, better living standard, freedom of religion and others too numerous to mention. One of the factors affecting rural-urban pattern of migration is the shortage of agricultural labour supply needed for rice production (White, 2000). Aworemi, AbdulAzeez and Opoola (2011) further asserted that rural communities are affected because the youths and adults who are to remain and contribute to the development of agriculture in particular and the community in general leave the rural areas for the cities. The 'lost labour' of able-bodied men and women leads to a decline in agricultural production (Regmi and Tisdell, 2002; De Brauw and Rozelle, 2003).

The depleting labour force from the rural areas; the heartbeat of agriculture especially in Sub Saharan Africa constitutes a great burden to attainment of food sufficiency as aged farmers are enthroned with herculean task of feeding the non-agricultural population without a significant improvement in the tool used and in the method of farming. Nevertheless, these aged farmers are often resource poor to hire labour and physically weak to handle drudgeries associated with manual farming, consequently low productivity ensue. Labour is a critical resource in rice production. However, the continuous movement of the rural dwellers from the rural areas to the urban areas could have far reaching implications for rice production in the study area.

The objectives of the study were to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in Enugu State, ascertain the level of rice production, examine reasons for rural-urban migration, determine the level of rural-urban migration, and ascertain the extent to which rural-urban migration affects labour availability on rice production in Enugu State.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Enugu State South-Eastern Nigeria. Enugu State had a population of 3,267,837 people at the census held in 2006 (estimated at over 3.8 million in 2012). Enugu has good soil-land and climatic conditions all year round, sitting at about 223 metres (732 ft) above sea level, and the soil is well drained during its rainy seasons. The mean temperature in Enugu State in the hottest month of February is about 87.16 °F (30.64 °C), while the lowest temperatures occur in the month of November, reaching 60.54 °F (15.86 °C). Economically, the state is predominantly rural and agrarian, with a substantial proportion of its working population engaged in

farming, although trading (18.8%) and services (12.9%) are also important. In the urban areas trading is the dominant occupation, followed by services. The population for the study comprised of all rice producing households in Enugu State. Multi stage and purposive sampling technique was used to select two local government areas that are involved mostly in rice production in Enugu States. Enugu North and West Agricultural zones were purposively selected. Enugu North is made up of Uzo Uwani, Igbo Etiti, Nsukka, Udenu, Igbo Eze North and Igbo Eze South LGAs. Enugu West is made up of five LGAs namely; Aninri, Udi, Ezeagu, Oji-River and Awgwu. Uzo Uwani and Ezeagu LGAs were purposively selected from each of the two Agricultural zones selected. Thirty respondents were selected from each of the two local government areas of the State, which gave a sample size of 60 respondents. Data for this study were collected by means of well-structured interview-guide, response from research schedules and field observations and the data collected were subjected to both descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics involved frequency distribution and percentages while the inferential statistics involved the use of Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient as statistical analysis.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The results in Table 1 shows that majority (81.67%) of the respondents were within the age range of 16 – 45 years, while only 18.33% of the respondents were within the ages of 46 – 65 years. This showed that majority of the migrants were within their youthful age of development; a stage when a child begins to operate independently of the parents. This is in agreement with UN (2003) that majority of the youth moving out of the rural areas to urban centres were between the ages of 12 – 34 years were majority of them tend to engage more frequently in temporary forms of migration. The results showed that Enugu State had a percentage of 63.33 of females as against 36.67 of males. This implies that more males would rather prefer to be engaged in rice farming which does not allow them migrate to the urban areas. This is in line with the findings of Pradjhan, (2013) who reported that migration was considered as a widely employed survival strategy among the Indian male and female youths and alternate route towards engaging in the market and economy.

The study showed that about 43.33% were married in contrast to 35.00% that were single. This implied that married people constituted the largest population of migrants in Enugu State. As indicated in the findings of this study 38.34% of the respondents had attained tertiary education, 23.33% attained secondary

education, while 18.33% and 10% of the respondents attained primary and non-formal education respectively in Enugu State. The result of the study implied that majority of the migrants were literate as they had attained one form of education or the other. This finding is in line with Pradjhan, (2013) who in a similar study in India reported that almost all the respondents in his study area were literate except very few (1.1%). The findings of the study further indicated that 60.00% of the respondents had household size of 4 – 9 persons, 13.33% had 1 – 3, about 10%, had 10 – 12 and 16 – 18 persons each while 6.67% had a household size of 13 – 15 persons in the study area. The finding is in line with that of Osundo and Ibezim (2013), were they reported that the household members in the rural areas of the South-Eastern Nigeria was small, which had negative implication on farm labour supply.

Also, the findings from the study showed the various occupations of the respondents which indicated that 30% of the rural-urban migrants in Enugu State were involved in businesses, while 23.33% were civil servants and about 38.00% were farmers. It was observed from these findings that majority of the migrants were into different kinds of businesses, such as factory businesses, hired work in shops, petty trading, supermarkets, street vendors, etc. The findings also depicted that many (51.67%) of the respondents earned ₦36,000 and above per month, 23.33% earned between ₦16,000 – ₦25,000, 13.33% and 11.67% earned between ₦5,000 – ₦15,000 and between ₦26,000 – ₦35,000 respectively. Since the majority earned above ₦36,000, it implied that the businesses engaged by the rural-urban migrants were income generating ventures when compared with that of the rural areas. This finding is in tandem with Osundo and Ibezim (2013), who reported that most of the migrants earned monthly income of ₦5,000 and above.

Results also further showed that 30% of the respondents had farm sizes that are less than 1 hectare (1ha), while 36.67% and 21.66% had farm sizes ranging between 1-5ha and 6-10ha respectively. The implication of this result is that majority of the rice farmers in the study areas are largely small scale farmers.

Level of Rice Produced by Respondents in the Study Area

The results revealed that about 41.67% of the farmers who preferred to use 100kg bags for bagging produced 2,500kg of rice, 33.33% of the farmers who preferred to bag with 50kg bag produced 1,000kg of rice while 25% of the respondents who preferred to bag with 25kg bags produced 375kg of rice. From this finding,

it implies that more rice farmers preferred to bag their rice with 100kg size of bag. Furthermore, it must be observed from the results in Table 2 that the level of rice production in Enugu State was low. This phenomenon is in agreement with the findings of Akangbe *et al.*, (2006) who stated that low productivity of rice, reduction in annual income and a fall in standard of living of the rural populace was as a result of rural-urban migration.

Distribution of Respondents According to their Reasons for Rural-Urban Migration

Results (Table 3) indicated that about 25.00% of the respondents noted their reasons for migration to be poor living condition in the communities. About 21.67% indicated low income accruing from their respective endeavours while Others (18.33%) were unemployment. The findings implied that majority of the migrants migrated to the cities as results of poor living conditions, low influx of income, and to search for better employment to improve their livelihood. This finding agree with the findings of Aromolaran (2013) who reported that the important factors that cause rural-urban migration includes; educational needs, skills acquisition, poor living conditions, boredom in business and agriculture, inadequate social amenities and expulsion due to offence and crime committed.

Level of Rural-Urban Migration within the Study Area

Results (Table 4) revealed that majority (62.68%) of the household members of the respondents in the study area had migrated to the urban centres. The level of rural-urban migration from the results was adjudged lies to have a negative effect on rice production in the study area.

Distribution of Respondents according to Household Labour for rice Production within the Study Area

Results (Table 5) showed the household labour on rice production. A larger proportion of the respondents (60.00%) in the study area indicated that between 4 and 9 household members participated in rice production activities, while only 6.67% indicated 13 to 15 household members. About 13.33% of the respondents had the smallest size of households (1 – 3) that engaged in the household labour on rice production. From this finding, assessment of the labour situation in the communities showed that majority of the community member's perceived out-migration as the main cause of labour shortage on rice production. This finding is in tandem with that of Hossian (2011) who stated that decline in labour availability in agricultural communities is likely to reduce agricultural productivity and an increase in the local wage rate.

Relationship between Migration and Rice Output in Enugu State

The result of the Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis showed a significant relationship between urban migration and rice production in Enugu State in Table 6. The result shows a negative correlation coefficient of -0.869 which was highly significant at 1% level of probability. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis accepted. We therefore conclude that there is a significant and negative relationship between urban migration and rice production in Enugu State.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the number of rural-urban migrants is high in Enugu State, and has led to decrease in household labour on rice production. However, majority of the migrants in the study area confirmed that their reasons for migrating to the urban areas were because of the poor living conditions, unemployment and low income. All these reasons including those not mentioned can be upturned if the disparity in development between the urban and rural areas is substantially eliminated. There is need for policies aimed at an intense effort to transform the rural areas holistically, by making available sufficient socio-economic and infrastructural amenities such as: higher income earning jobs, educational (especially tertiary education) facilities, electricity, motor able roads (including farm roads), pipe borne water, good housing condition, financial institutions and other basic social-economic services for the rural dwellers.

References

- Afolabi, M. O (2007) Rural-urban migration and productivity in the Nigerian Agriculture sector. An Unpublished MPP Project Work, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC., Canada.
- Akangbe, J. A., Adesiji, G., and Akinpelu, O. I., (2006). Effects of youth migration of farmers agricultural production in Egbedore Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria. *Proceedings of 8th National Research Conference and Network Meeting of CYAP in Nigeria*, held in University of Illorin, Kwara State, November 2006.
- Aromolaran, A. K. (2013). Assessment of benefits associated with rural-urban migration among non-migrant in Odeda area, Ogun State Nigeria. *International Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences and Technology*.
- Aworemi, J. R, Abdul-Azeez, I. A. & Opoola, N. A. (2011.). An Appraisal of the Factors Influencing Rural-Urban Migration in Some Selected Local Government Areas of Lagos State Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 4 (3).
- De Brauw, A. & Rozelle, S. (2003). "*Migration and Household Investment in Rural China*", University of California, Davis, CA, USA.
- Ekong, E. E (2003). An Introduction to Rural Sociology. Uyo, Nigeria: Dove Education Publishers.
- Emodi, A. I. and Maduekwe, M. C. (2008). A review of policies, acts and initiatives in rice innovation system in Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Extension*, 12 (2), pp. 76-83.
- Fadayomi, T. O. (2008). Rural Development and Migration in Nigeria: Impact of the Eastern Zone of Bauchi State Agricultural Development Project. Ibadan Nigeria: Institute of Social and Economic Research.
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (2008). Scope: Rice production to hit record high/08, prices up press release. United Nations.
- Momoh, Siaka (2009). Rice prices high in Nigeria, yet global prices are falling. Business day. http://www.businessdayonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=fulltext&layout=edit&Itemid=1
- Osondu, C.K, Ibezim, GMC (2013) Determinants of rural-urban migration and its effect on rural farm labour availability in Umuahia North Local Government Area of Abia State, Nigeria. *Research Web. Pub 1(3) 29-35*
- Pradjhan, K.C. (2013) Youth migration from rural to urban of Western Odisha India. A micro level analysis of selective industries in Tamil Nadu. *India, America Open Economic Journal 1(1): 1-11*.
- Regmi, G. & C. Tisdell. (2002). "Remitting behaviour of Nepalese rural-to-urban migrants: Implications for theory and policy." *Journal of Development Studies*, 38(3) 76-94.
- United States Department of Agriculture and Foreign Agricultural Service USDAFAS, (2003). Nigeria product brief rice. Gain report N13026 USDAFAS
- White (2000) urban and social change in West Africa by Cambridge University press New York.
- World Bank (2004). National Agricultural Technological Project: Implementation completion report. Washington DC: World Bank. [In web90.worldbank.org/OED/oeddoclib.nsf/DOCUNID](http://web90.worldbank.org/OED/oeddoclib.nsf/DOCUNID) View for Java Search/

Table 1: Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents in Enugu State (N = 60)

Socio-economic Characteristics	Frequency	%
Age		
16-25	16	26.67
26-35	20	33.33
36-45	13	21.67
46-55	6	10.00
56-65	5	8.33
Sex		
Female	38	63.33
Male	22	36.67
Marital Status		
Single	21	35.00
Married	26	43.33
Divorced/Separated	4	6.67
Widowed	9	15.00
Level of Education		
No formal education	6	10.00
Primary school	11	18.33
Secondary school	14	23.33
Adult education	6	10.00
Tertiary school	23	38.34
Household size		
1 – 3	8	13.33
4 – 6	18	30.00
7 – 9	18	30.00
10 – 12	6	10.00
13 – 15	4	6.67
16 – 18	6	10.00
Occupations		
Farming	23	38.33
Business	18	30.00
Civil service	14	23.33
Artisan	5	8.34
General Income per month (₦)		
<5000 – 15000	8	13.33
16000 – 25000	14	23.33
26000 – 35000	7	11.67
36000 – 45000	10	16.67
Above 45000	21	35.00
Farm size		
Below 1ha	18	30.00
1ha – 5ha	22	36.67
6ha – 10ha	13	21.66
11ha – 15ha	7	11.67

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 2: Level of Rice Produced by Respondents in the Study Area (N = 60)

Preferred Bags (kg)	25kg	50kg	100kg
Frequency	15	20	25
Percentage	25.00	33.33	41.67
Quantity (kg)	375	1000	2500
Total (kg)	3875kg		

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents According to their Reasons for Rural-Urban Migration in the Study Area

Variables	Frequency	%
High education	9	15.00
Unemployment	11	18.33
Low income	13	21.67
Farm drudgery	4	6.67
Growth in Business	6	10.00
Political influence	2	3.33
Poor living condition	15	25.00

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 4: Level of Rural-Urban Migration within the Study Area

Variable	Frequency	%
No. of migrants	304	62.68
No. of non-migrants	181	37.32
Total	485	100

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents according to Household Labour on rice Production within the Study Area

Household size (Mandays)	Rice Production Activities								%
	Land preparation	Planting	Fertilizer application	Weeding	Threshing	Bagging	Processing	Storage	
1-3	3	3	2	3	1	1	1	8	13.33
4-6	5	4	4	4	5	6	6	18	30.00
7-9	9	7	8	8	8	9	9	9	30.00
10-12	12	10	10	10	11	12	12	12	10.00
13-15	13	13	13	14	14	15	15	15	6.67
16-18	18	17	16	16	16	17	17	17	10.00

Table 6: Relationship between Migration and Rice Output in Enugu State

	Enugu Rice Output	
	Correlation coefficient	T-value
Urban Migration in Enugu state	-0.869	-5.920
Number of respondents	60	
P-value	0.000	0.000

Source: Field Survey, 2017