



A Comparative Analysis of Agricultural Constraints and Coping Strategies among Women Farmers in Rural and Urban Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Studies have shown that women contribute 50-60% labour to agricultural production in Nigeria. They are however, confronted with monumental constraints which hinder their performances in agricultural production. The aim of this research is to analyze rural and urban women farmers with respect to farming constraints and the coping strategies adopted by them in Kwara State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study examines the socio-demographic characteristics and farm activities of women; analyzes the problems facing them in their farm activities and coping strategies adopted to mitigate the constraints. A total of 400 women farmers were sampled with copies of questionnaire in Otun-Oro and Ahun. In order to explore their opinions further on the constraints faced and the coping strategies adopted by them, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were organized for them. Matrix ranking was employed to rank their problems in order of most pressing. The urban women farmers sampled in Otun-Oro ranked land tenure problem (46.4%), poor access to credit facilities (19.5%) and inadequate farm input (17.5%) among others as the most pressing problems confronting them. The rural women farmers in Ahun ranked poor access to credit facilities (46.0%), lack of farm input (32.5%) and bad roads (20.0%) among others as the most pressing problems confronting their increased production. Some of the coping strategies adopted include participating in farmers' cooperative societies with relaxed conditions, multiple cropping to diversify production, early or late planting and praying to God. Hence, an average urban woman farmer has lots of potentials that can be developed to assist in urban planning for proper agricultural development and management. Recommendations were made appropriately and these include: when taking agricultural/farming decisions, women should be part of the group and production resources should be made available especially for women farmers both at the rural and urban areas. This will enhance increased agricultural production by women.

1. Introduction

A larger proportion of world's food production is grown by women. Aggregate data shows that globally and in developing countries women comprise about 43 percent of the agricultural labour force (FAO, 2011). Researchers have reported that over 50 percent of the foods grown worldwide are produced by women (FAO, 2011). Their contributions to agricultural production vary from one country to another, one region to another, in terms of crops grown and tasks performed. For instance, women in Asia contribute about 50 to 90 percent of the labour for rice cultivation. In both Egypt and Guinea, they provide about 53 percent each of the agricultural labour while in Nigeria, their contribution to labour force is about 50% particularly in subsistence food production as well as in all sub-sectors of agriculture, such as crops, fisheries, livestock and agro-forestry (World Bank, 2003 and 2019). Small farms kept by women in Ghana provide about 80% of the total food production in the country (Ugwu, 2019). Furthermore, studies have shown that women in Nigeria play major roles in terms of activities performed on the farm. These activities include planting, weeding, applying fertilizers and pesticides, harvesting and threshing of the crops (Tunde, 2011). Post-harvest food processing, storage, transporting and marketing are also done by them, to the extent that certain crops are assigned as "female" crops in some areas. For instance, yam is being grown by male while cassava and other short cycle crops like melon and cocoyam are female crops in southeastern Nigeria (Ajani 2008:1).

Despite the roles played by women farmers in Nigeria both in the rural and urban areas, they are still confronted with some monumental problems which affect increased production. Some of these problems are environmental related while some are economic. Many scholars have written a lot about these problems. For instance, Olaoye (1999) observed that

during the growing season in Nigeria regular occurrence of drought as a result of erratic rainfall distribution and/or cessation of rain reduces farmers' capability for increased crop production. Land tenure is another problem hindering women in agriculture. According to the 2012 "Gender in Nigeria" report by the British Council, average land ownership by women across the country was found to be significantly low at less than 10%; 4% in the North-East, and just over 10% in the South-East and South-South parts of the country respectively (Sahel Capital and Advisory, 2014). Women generally own less land by reason of traditional authority. This general lack of land ownership by women depresses their farm output levels as well as their chances of securing institutional credits that are mostly based on the presentation of land titles as collateral securities. It has been identified by various scholars (Maxwell, 1995; Smit et al., 1996 and Maxwell et al., 1998) in general terms, that women's lack of access to land is a major constraint to improved agricultural activities in most developing countries. Lack of access to land and security of land tenure affects female farmers' access to other crucial resources such as credit, technology, and farm input and extension services.

Tunde (2016) reported that in Nigeria women farmers constitute a larger proportion of agriculture farmers but lack access to production resources. Poor access to credit facilities has posed difficulties on women accessing key agricultural inputs such as improved seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides, machinery among others. According to Ugwu, 2019, women farmers in Nigeria receive less than 10% of the credit offered to small-scale. Ajani (2008) observed that when compared with men, women are often marginalized in terms of access to economic, political, and social resources causing them to be relatively poorer than their male counterpart. The only way to eliminate hunger in the country according to FAO, (2011) is that women must be granted equal access to production resources such as

land, technology, financial services, education and markets as men, as this could reduce the number of hungry people by 100-150 million. However, the prevailing rigid forms of land tenure system neither allows women land ownership, control nor inheritance rights. Consequently, land titles are often placed in men's names even where women are clearly heading the household (FAO, 1983). Based on these findings, it is important therefore, to find out whether there has been a positive change over the years in the problems confronting women in agriculture or not. The question still remains. What are the constraints limiting women farmers in the course of their agricultural activities for increased agricultural production in urban as against rural areas of Nigeria? This study sought to find solution to

this question. The aim of this study therefore, is to assess women's farming constraints and coping strategies in urban as against rural area of Kwara State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study will examine socio-demographic features, types of crop grown and farm activities of women; analyze the problems facing them in their farm activities and coping strategies adopted to mitigate the constraints.

2. Materials and Methods

The study area for this investigation is Kwara State, Nigeria. The State was chosen because of its potential for agricultural production in general and because of the widespread practice of agricultural practice within the State.

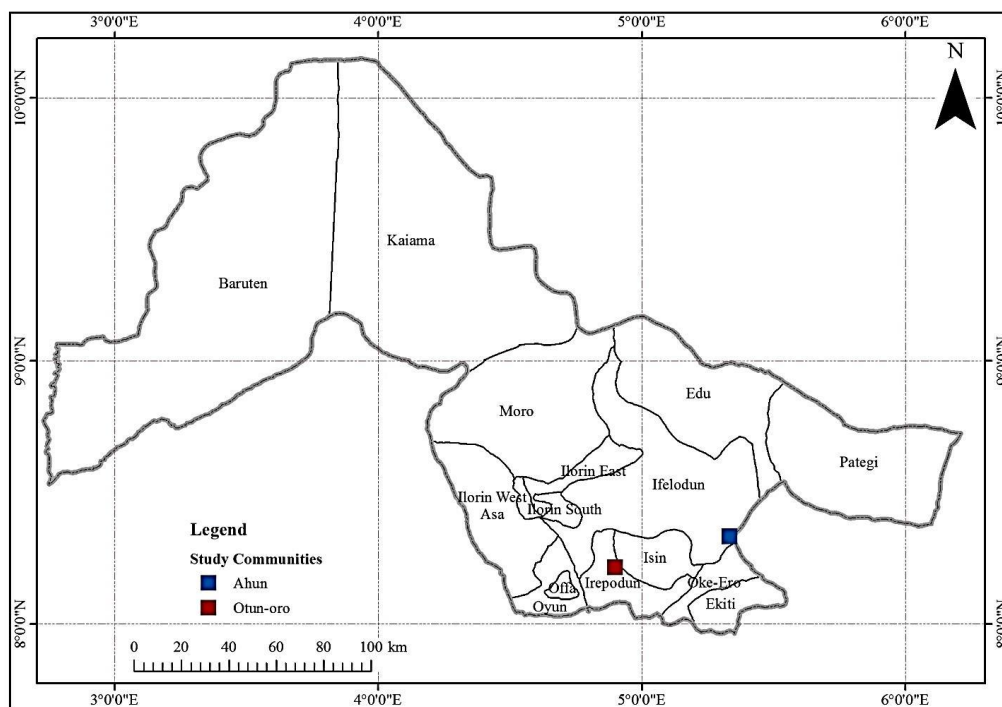


Figure 1. Kwara State showing the Local Government Areas and Sampled Communities

Source: Ministry of Lands and Housing

Kwara State is located between latitudes 80 and 10004'N and longitudes 2045'E and 6012'E (Figure 1). The state occupies an area of 36,825km² and shares boundaries with

Niger State in the North, Kogi and Ekiti States at the East, Osun and Oyo States in the South and an international boundary with the Republic of Benin in the West. The State

has sixteen Local Government Areas. Kwara State falls under the tropical climate with a distinct dry and rainy season. The dry season is about four months from November to February and sometimes it may extend to early March. The rainy season on the average lasts for nine months between March and October or sometimes early November with a mean annual rainfall of 1,000 to 1,500 mm. During the dry season, temperatures are higher compared to the rainy season. The mean maximum temperature ranges between 33°C and 36°C while the mean minimum temperature ranges between 19°C and 24°C for a greater part of the year (November – March). The absolute minimum and maximum temperature during this period ranges between 15°C – 20°C and 35°C respectively (Ajibade, 2002). The vegetation is mainly the wooded Savannah, and is well suited for the cultivation of a wide variety of food crops like yams, cassava, maize, beans, rice, sugarcane, fruits, and vegetables, among others. A large proportion of the study area is covered by ferruginous tropical soils. The soils are reddish in colour and have appreciable reserve of weatherable minerals. Also, the presence of alluvial and hydromorphic soils on the banks of River Niger have strong potentials for agricultural activities. The soils have sufficient calcium, potassium, magnesium and phosphorus that can be tapped by the crops grown on them. These soils have loamy sand texture with well-leached topsoil mainly comprising nutrients that support the growth of food crops (KSMANR, 1989). Otun-Oro in Irepodun LGA was chosen as an urban area based on its population which is above 5,000 and other administrative functions performed while Ahun in Ifelodun LGA was chosen as rural because its population is less than 5,000 people.

Data for this study were gathered through primary and secondary sources. There are no data on number of women farmers in each community hence, the 2016 projected population (475,900) of the two LGAs was used to arrive at a sample size. Sample size

was determined using Taro Yamane's (1967) formula which is stated as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n= the sample size

N= the population size

e= the acceptable sampling error

*95% confidence level and $p=0.5$ are assumed. Thus $n = 400$

If $n = 400$, then 50% was chosen as a fair representation for each community, so as to eliminate bias. This gives 200 respondents, hence, a total of 200 women farmers were sampled per community. The method of study involves sampling of 400 women farmers. Selection of respondents was done from households with women farmers. First building on all major roads and footpaths in each settlement was randomly selected to examine a household and the 3rd, 5th and nth building were systematically selected. In each of the buildings selected, only one woman-farmer was sampled until the last was sampled to make 200 respondents per community.

Focus Group Discussions were done based on volunteers among women with more than ten years farming experience and a group of eight women farmers formed the group in each of the communities. Hence, two different sessions of FGD were organized. To analyze the gathered data, descriptive statistics was used to describe the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The percentage contribution of each of the challenges to increased food production by sampled women farmers in the study area was determined using matrix score ranking. Matrix ranking was done according to the most pressing problem hindering their effective and increased production.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Socio-demographic features and farm activities of sampled women farmers

In Otun-Oro, findings from Table 1 revealed that out of the sampled women farmers, 35% are within the age limit of 51-60 years indicating that some of them are retired and rely more on farming than any other activity. On the overall, 89% are within the age bracket of 18 and 60 and married, meaning majority are in economic active age group. Average household size was 6 persons, only 41% had no formal education, and 92% earned less than N200, 000 (\$555.6) annually. Furthermore, about 55% of these

women farmers are on part-time farming. Most of them (61%) are not household heads since they are still under their husbands. Sampled women farmers in the study area grow different types of crops such as vegetables, potato, maize, groundnut, guinea corn, and beans among others. In terms of farming activities, women farmers participate in almost all farming activities ranging from planting, weeding, transplanting, fertilizer application, harvesting, transporting and marketing. In Ahun (Table 1), 45% are between 41 and 50 years. This could be linked with the fact that this age group has more family responsibilities than the other age groups.

Table 1. Socio-demographic features, crops grown and farm activities of sampled women farmers

| Features | Otun-Oro | Ahun |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Age | | |
| 18-30 years | 38 (19) | 10 (05) |
| 31-40 years | 30 (15) | 30 (15) |
| 41-50 years | 40 (20) | 90 (45) |
| 51-60 years | 70 (35) | 40 (20) |
| 61 and above | 22 (11) | 30 (15) |
| Total | 200 (100) | 200 (100) |
| Marital Status | | |
| Married | 120 (60) | 168 (84) |
| Single | 2 (1) | 4 (2) |
| Divorced | 1 (0.5) | 5 (2.5) |
| Separated | 20 (10) | 13 (6.5) |
| Widowed | 57 (28.5) | 10 (5) |
| Total | 200 (100) | 200 (100) |
| Educational Status | | |
| No formal education | 82 (41) | 140 (70) |
| Primary Education | 77 (38.5) | 35 (17.5) |
| Secondary Education | 30 (15) | 12 (6) |
| Post-Secondary Education | 8 (4) | 13 (6.5) |
| Total | 200 (100) | 200 (100) |
| Number in Household | | |
| 1-3 persons | 2 (1) | 7 (3.5) |
| 4-6 persons | 70 (35) | 20 (10) |
| 7-9 persons | 65 (32.5) | 133 (66.5) |
| 10-12 persons | 40 (20) | 30 (15) |
| Above 12 persons | 23 (11.5) | 10 (5) |
| Total | 200 (100) | 200 (100) |
| Farming Status | | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Full-time | 150 (75) | 130 (65) |
| Part-time | 50 (25) | 70 (35) |
| Total | 200 (100) | 200 (100) |
| Annual income | | |
| Below 50,000 | 24 (12) | 11 (5.5) |
| 51,000-100,000 | 25 (12.5) | 18 (9) |
| 101,000-150,000 | 60 (30) | 75 (37.5) |
| 151,000-200,000 | 75 (37.5) | 70 (35) |
| Above 200,000 | 16 (8) | 26 (13) |
| Total | 200 (100) | 200 (100) |
| Household Heads | | |
| Yes | 78 (39) | 56 (28) |
| No | 122 (61) | 144 (72) |
| Total | 200 (100) | 200 (100) |
| *Types of Crops Grown | | |
| Vegetables | 120 (60) | 189 (94.5) |
| Fruits | 30 (15) | 112 (56) |
| Beans | 01 (0.5) | 130 (65) |
| Melon | 30 (15) | 145 (72.5) |
| Sweet potatoes | 10 (5) | 50 (25) |
| Maize | 134 (67) | 182 (91) |
| Groundnut | 35 (17.5) | 41 (20.5) |
| Cowpea | 05 (2.5) | 20 (10) |
| Guinea corn | 180 (90) | 170 (85) |
| Yam | 65 (32.5) | 75 (37.5) |
| Cassava | 85 (42.5) | 190 (95) |
| *Farm Activities Performed | | |
| Land Preparation and Heaping | 12 (6) | 25 (12.5) |
| Planting & transplanting | 137 (68.5) | 123 (61.5) |
| Weeding | 173 (86.5) | 75 (37.5) |
| Harvesting | 194 (97) | 195 (97.5) |
| Transporting | 200 (100) | 200 (100) |
| Processing/ Marketing | 197 (98.5) | 200 (100) |

Source: Fieldwork, 2018

Note: *Total not 200 because of multiple responses, percentages are in parentheses

The overall result further revealed that 85% of the women farmers are between the age of 18 and 60. This indicates that majority of them have more mouths to feed and are also in their economic active age. Eighty-four percent are married with average household size of 7 persons indicating more mouths to be fed. Also, 70% are without formal education and 87% earn less than N200, 000 (\$555.6) annually. About 35% of these women are part-time farmers. Only 28% are household heads meaning majority are still

under their husbands. Findings further revealed that the different types of crops grown by the sampled women farmers include vegetables, yam, maize, guinea corn and cassava among others. Furthermore, based on farming activities performed by women farmers in this community, just like in the urban area, they are also involved in various activities such as planting, weeding, transplanting, fertilizer application, harvesting, transporting and marketing.

Table 2. Ranking of farming problems by women farmers in Otun-Oro (200)

| Problems | Ranks | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Land ownership | 106 | 49 | 30 | 4 | 8 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lack of farm input | 35 | 46 | 23 | 25 | 18 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 8 | - | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| Marketing problem | - | - | - | 4 | 22 | 31 | 50 | 26 | 17 | 25 | 7 | 8 | 10 |
| Seasonal rainfall | - | 3 | 11 | 36 | 42 | 43 | 27 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| Middlemen problem | - | - | 4 | - | 5 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 42 | 17 | 10 | 36 | 69 |
| Cattle disturbance | - | 19 | 4 | 19 | 14 | 18 | 26 | 34 | 11 | 10 | 15 | 19 | 11 |
| Pest & Diseases | 14 | 41 | 27 | 58 | 29 | 16 | 4 | 8 | - | - | 3 | - | - |
| Drought | - | - | - | 8 | 4 | - | 8 | 29 | 32 | 38 | 29 | 39 | 13 |
| Lack of education | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | 4 | 23 | 40 | 28 | 41 | 35 | 25 |
| Poor road condition | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | 8 | 6 | 17 | 50 | 48 | 26 | 37 |
| Lack of storage facilities | - | - | - | 21 | 21 | 62 | 32 | 25 | 19 | 7 | 13 | - | - |
| Poor access to credit | 39 | 35 | 91 | 18 | 13 | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate extension | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 24 | 5 | 32 | 14 | 10 | 22 | 18 | 29 | 20 |

Source: Fieldwork, 2018

3.2. Women and their farming challenges

There are myriad of problems confronting women farmers in carrying out their agricultural activities and these vary from individual to individual, region to region and country to country. According to the data gathered from the communities sampled, identified problems confronting them were ranked as shown in Tables 2 and 3.

Thirteen (13) identified challenges confronting women in farming in the two communities sampled were ranked according to the most pressing. These include capital/poor access to credit facilities, land tenure problem, inadequate farm inputs, poor accessibility to extension services and agents, lack of formal education and middlemen problem in marketing. Other problems include poor storage facilities, poor road network, problem of cattle disturbances and marketing problem.

3.3. Otun-Oro

3.3.1. Land tenure

Land is one of the most important production resources and lack of control over it has been a major hindrance to women

farmers' productivity. Findings from Table 2 revealed that land ownership was found to be the most critical issue as over 90% of women ranked this within first 3 places. The results revealed that this problem hinders women farmers' increase in agricultural production in Otun-Oro as 46.4%, 26.2% and 15.8% of women farmers ranked this problem as 1st, 2nd and 3rd most pressing problem respectively. Furthermore, 4.4% ranked it 4th while it was ranked 5th by 5.2% sampled women farmers. About 1.6% ranked it 6th most pressing problem. This means that land is not readily available for ownership as a result of increase in population in the urban areas which has hiked the price of land unlike the rural areas where land is available but only not accessible. This can further be linked with the fact that women cannot own land traditionally in the study area. To support this, Focus Group Discussion was organized for the women farmers, during this session, they pointed out that most of them cannot afford cost of large farmland for agricultural purposes. Hence, they embark on the use of backyard, undeveloped land, borrowed land, community land, and government land for their farming activities. This is in support of the study undertaken by Egbuna (2008) who

listed some of the constraints facing urban agriculture in Nigeria to include: land both in terms of access and tenure security; prohibitive urban policies and regulations; limited access to productive resources and agricultural inputs and lack of support services. Non ownership of farmland implies that the landlord/land owners usually men may abruptly take over farm plot from the farmers, even before harvest or as at when needed. Similarly, perennial crops cannot be planted on these types of land and most importantly, such urban cultivated land cannot be used as collateral to obtain loans from the banks by women farmers. Generally, land tenure systems in Nigeria may be described as traditional, customary or communal.

3. 3. 2. Capital/poor access to credit facilities

In terms of capital/poor access to credit facilities, it was discovered that lack of capital/poor access to credit facilities (Table 2) is another limiting factor constraining women farmers' production. This was ranked by 19.5% women farmers as the most pressing problem while 17.5% ranked it 2nd, 45.5% ranked it 3rd. It was further ranked by 9% as the 4th problem. Similarly, about 6.5%, and 2% sampled women farmers ranked it 5th and 8th problem respectively. Evidence from this study as regards Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) (See Figure 2) carried out in the sampled community confirmed that majority of the sampled women farmers pointed out that poor access to credit facilities has really hampered their productive capacity. From the discussion it was gathered that none of them had access to credit since they do not have collateral. The implication of poor access to credit facilities is that they would not be able to expand their farm. To support this, the National Bureau of Statistics, in 2007, reported that some 20,098 men accessed loans compared to 8,550 women cited in Sahel Capital and Advisory (2014).



Figure 2. Focus Group Discussion at Otun-Oro, Nigeria

3. 3. 3. Accessibility to farm input

Accessibility to farm input is a major factor to be considered in agricultural production. It could be deduced from the study that access to inputs may depend on level of income, size of land holdings or potential level of agricultural production in which women may be disadvantaged. Generally, the productivity of the staple food produce is low in the study area, as a result of the decline in the use of improved inputs packages by farmers. These farm inputs are supposed to be introduced by extension agents but since the number of available extension agents is not adequate, this becomes a problem and so most farmers rely heavily on informal channels such as markets to access inputs, which may amount to not getting the original inputs. Table 2 further revealed that 17.5% women farmers ranked farm input as number one problem confronting their agricultural activities, 23%, 11.5%, 12.5%, 9% and 3.5% ranked it 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th problems respectively. This implies that urban women farmers do not have access to farm input. This has actually affected their agricultural production. This is similar to the findings by Owolabi et. al (2011) in Kaduna State, Nigeria that women farmers lack access to farm inputs. Other problems confronting women farmers that were also ranked include pest and diseases, inadequate extension services, seasonal rainfall, drought, middlemen problem, marketing problem, lack of storage facilities, bad roads, cattle disturbance and lack of education.

Table 3. Ranking of farming problems by women farmers in Ahun (200)

| Problems | Ranks | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Capital/poor access to credit facilities | 91 | 57 | 25 | 8 | 19 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bad roads | 40 | 64 | 24 | 26 | 18 | 24 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Seasonal rainfall | - | 1 | 12 | 4 | 23 | 33 | 61 | 17 | 20 | 9 | - | - | 20 |
| Inadequate extension | - | 2 | - | 51 | 49 | 47 | 21 | 13 | 9 | - | 3 | 5 | - |
| Middlemen problem | - | - | - | 4 | - | 9 | 13 | 24 | 7 | 26 | 4 | 57 | 56 |
| Cattle disturbance | - | 18 | 9 | 18 | 28 | 32 | 25 | 36 | 17 | - | 3 | 3 | 11 |
| Land | 4 | 11 | 65 | 59 | 30 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 12 | - | - | - | - |
| Pest & diseases | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | 10 | 18 | 65 | 46 | 44 | 9 |
| Marketing problem | - | - | - | - | 9 | - | 3 | - | 15 | 43 | 68 | 31 | 31 |
| Drought | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | 7 | 33 | 25 | 59 | 31 | 42 |
| Lack of storage facilities | - | - | - | 3 | 24 | 24 | 40 | 53 | 19 | 17 | 17 | 3 | - |
| Lack of farm inputs | 65 | 46 | 65 | 14 | - | 4 | 1 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lack of education | - | 6 | - | 13 | - | 15 | 20 | 29 | 50 | 15 | - | 26 | 28 |

Source: Fieldwork, 2018

3. 4. Ahun

3. 4. 1. Capital/poor access to credit facilities

On the other hand, in Ahun, Table 3 revealed that 46% of women farmers ranked capital/poor access to credit facilities as the most pressing problem confronting them in farming production. It was ranked 2nd by 29%, while 13% women farmers ranked it as 3rd most pressing problem. Eight women farmers ranked this problem as 4th most pressing problem. This was further ranked 5th most pressing problem by 19 women farmers. This means that credit facility is a major problem confronting women farmers in agricultural production than any other problem. This is in line with the findings of Nuhu et. al (2014) that the major constraint facing women farmers in agricultural production in Bauchi State, Nigeria was low capital and this could be linked to poor access to credit facilities.

3. 4. 2. Lack of access to farm input

Table 3 further shows that 32.5%, 23%, 32.5%, 7%, 2%, 0.5% and 2.5% women farmers ranked lack of access to farm input

as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th respectively as the most pressing problem impeding farming production. This implies rural women farmers do not have access to mechanized equipment like ploughs, tractors, harvesters among others; they still rely solely on the use of simple implements like hoe, cutlass, rake etc. This is similar to the findings of a study carried out by Sahel Capital and Advisory, (2014) that women indicated that they are unable to use improved inputs due to their high cost in the open market.

3. 4. 3. Poor road condition

In Ahun, only 20% women farmers ranked bad roads as the most pressing problem hindering farming while 32% ranked it 2nd, 12% ranked it as 3rd most pressing problem. Thirteen percent, 9% and 12% women farmers ranked it as 4th, 5th and 6th most pressing problem confronting their farming activities (Table 3). This corroborates the findings of Adedeji et.al (2014) that in rural areas of Nigeria, poor condition of roads has negative effects on agricultural activities.

Another problem confronting women farmers' increased production in Ahun that

was also ranked includes land tenure; land is not too a pressing problem in the rural areas like the urban areas. Women farmers either use their husband's land, backyard, family land, undeveloped land, borrowed land, community land, and government land as revealed from the discussion organized with them. Other problems include cattle disturbance, pest and diseases, inadequate extension services, seasonal rainfall, drought, middlemen problem, marketing problem, lack of storage facilities and lack of education.

3. 4. 4. Coping strategies

Coping strategies employed by women farmers to solve some of the identified problems in the two communities include participating in farmers' cooperative societies where they can obtain some loans to cope with the problem of lack of/inadequate access to capital. This strategy is common to both communities and it has adequately to some extent assisted them in expanding their various farms.

Land tenure problem was resolved or coped with by purchase in the two communities while in some cases, these women acquire their various land through their husbands and some borrow while some rent for some periods especially in Ahun community. Strategies adopted for lack of farm input include purchase of farm input, which will also solve the problem of pest and diseases. According to the women farmers, most of them engage motor bikes to transport their agricultural products since roads leading to their farms are not motorable. This is common in Ahun,

To cope with the problem of cattle disturbance, women farmers in Ahun use to report to the village head who in turn use to liaise with the head of Fulani cattle rearers around the community. This has reduced clashes between crop farmers and cattle Fulanis in some instances. Coping strategies adopted by the sampled women farmers to

other problems was based on their indigenous knowledge. For instance, the common indigenous coping strategies that have been adopted by women farmers in both communities to cope with seasonal rainfall and drought include multiple cropping to diversify production, early or late planting and praying to God. This is similar to the findings of Tunde and Ajadi (2018) that most common indigenous technologies that have been continually adapted and applied by farming communities in Kwara State include; multiple cropping to diversify production; early or late planting; mulching to retain soil moisture, texture and fertility; terrace building to prevent soil erosion; use of fertilizers; and prayers for God's intervention among others.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

In spite of women participation and contributions to agricultural production, they are still confronted with different constraints. The outcome of this research revealed that most of the women farmers from the urban area sampled are faced with a host of problems in order of most critical which include land ownership and restricted accessibility to land, poor access to credit facilities, lack of access to farm input, pest and diseases, inadequate extension services and seasonal rainfall among others. The study further indicates that capital/poor access to credit facilities is the most pressing problem confronting women in agricultural production in rural areas of Nigeria. Other problems highlighted by the women farmers in Ahun are accessibility to farm input, poor roads, land tenure problem, cattle disturbance, pest and diseases among others. This implies that farm expansion as well as increased production by women farmers will be affected.

From the foregoing, this study suggests that an average urban woman farmer has lots of potentials that can be developed to assist in urban planning for proper agricultural

development and management. Evidence from this study revealed that an average urban woman farmer can identify resources, problems and importance of urban farm productions in her environment.

It is of great importance from this result that there is the need to provide women farmers with enough credit facilities in order for them to be able to expand their farms. However, rural areas should be more focused on since most crops are from the rural areas and inadequate access to credit facilities is their most pressing problem. In addition, women farmers in the study area especially the rural area should be given land title. In other words, the incentive for women farmers to increase production may be greater if they own land either individually or communally. In relation to farm input, women both at the rural and urban areas should be provided with the required farm inputs and services for agricultural production in order to increase production and encourage more women into agricultural enterprise.

Furthermore, food security and urban food supply can be improved upon if there is proper urban planning that allows use of vacant land for crop and animal production. Socioeconomic and urban physical planning could also be improved upon based on the identification of inadequate access to credit facilities, land tenure system and lack of farm input among others as part of the constraints to urban agricultural production. It is however important for government of Nigeria to give proper recognition to urban and rural women farmers and urban agriculture in particular. Conditions for obtaining such loans through cooperative societies should therefore be relaxed for women farmers at both communities. Extension services should be provided by employing more extension workers to cover urban and rural farming operations. In making decisions concerning agriculture, women farmers should be involved at both urban and rural levels.

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