



Assessment Of Non-Farm Activities Among Crop Farmers in Egebeda Local Government Area of Oyo State

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Abstract

This study was conducted to assess non-farm activities among crop farmers in Oyo state. The respondents were predominantly crop farmers in Egebeda Local government. Multistage sampling techniques was used to select 120 respondents. Data were collected from primary source using a well-structured interview guide and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Results revealed that most (70.0%) of respondent were males within 21-40 years, most (63.3%) were married, had no formal education (56.7%), while majority (79.2%) had agriculture as their major occupation and 79.2% belongs to cooperative society. Result also revealed majority (90.8%) of the respondent agreed that non-farm activities serve as a source of employment. Most (85.8% and 85.0%) of the respondents revealed that serious severe factors militating against the sustainability of non-farm livelihood activities were perceived lack of experience and inadequate capital respectively. There is significant relationship between factor affecting the sustainability of non-farm livelihood activities among crop farmers and benefit associated with non-farm livelihood activities in the study area. The overall finding from the study reveals that most of the respondents were not engaged in non-farming activities. The study further concludes that inadequate capital, lack of experience in non-farm activities, fear of risk, level of education, age of the farmers, mode of income on farm activities, economic instability all had direct and positive effect on the benefits associated with non-farm activities. It is recommended that farmers should intensify their involvement in non-farm activities, so as to serve as alternative source of capital for farm activities.

Keywords: Occupation, sustainable, farmers, extension services.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture plays an important part in their livelihood activities. Research on poverty reduction therefore tends to focus on agricultural technologies. A rural area in Nigeria according to Ekong (2010), a rural area in Nigeria according to Ekong (2010) means a settlement with 20,000 persons or less whose occupations are mainly agrarian. He stressed that such settlement is usually associated with lack of, or inadequate basic infrastructure or amenities such as pipe-borne water, electricity, hospitals, good road network, industries, modern banking services, commercial/civic centers, recreational facilities, quality food. According to Mgbada (2010), the rural areas are characterized by closeness to nature, farm and farm related occupation, low population density, small community size, homogenous community, strong social control, low standard/level of living, strong social cohesion, etc. while the major problems of these areas include lack of or inadequate social, physical and institutional infrastructure, Sustainability of non-farm livelihoods activities such as food processing and preparation. Tailoring, trading and many services and also rural- non-farming occupation such as basket making, mat making, ceramics and weaving. These are important income generating activities for the rural farmer.

Livelihood activities according to Ifeanyi-obi *et al.* (2011) are the activities, assets and the access that jointly determine the living gained by the rural households. Carney, (1998) explain that it is sustainable when it has the capacity to meet the immediate needs of the people while its ability to meet future needs is not jeopardized.

Chukwuezi (2001) stated that rural non-farm activities were often counter cyclical with agriculture and as such might serve as a consumption smoothing or risk insurance mechanism, particularly when the returns to these activities were not highly-correlated with agricultural returns, and might also absorb excess labour during agricultural off-peak periods. Given the small-scale, informal and home-based nature of some rural non-farm self-employment activities, they were often heralded as a promising strategic complement to agriculture for rural poverty alleviation.

Previous studies confirmed that rural farm households engage in several income generating activities but the polemic was tackled from the perspectives of inequality and motives without considering the factors affecting the sustainability of non-farm livelihood income generating activities by rural poor farmers. For instance, Adi (2007) found that aggregate nonfarm income increased income inequality among rural households in Ghana. In terms of its components, while non-farm self-employment income reduced income inequality, non-farm wage income increased income inequality.

The major objective of the study was to assess the factors affecting non-farm activities among crop farmers in Egbeda Local Government Area

The specific objectives of this study were to;

- i) describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study?
- ii) identify the non-farm activities respondents engaged with in the study area
- iii) determine the benefit associated with non-farm activities to the respondents in the study area
- iv) Identify the factors that militating against the sustainability of non-farm livelihood activities in the study area

Methodology

Description of the study area

This study was carried out in Egbeda Local Government Area; Egbeda town is the current political headquarter of Egbeda Local Government Area (LGA) of Oyo State. It is one of the 33 LGAs of the state and one of the eleven (11) LGAs that make up Ibadan Metropolis. The town is located on latitude 7021' -80N and longitude 4002' - 4028'E with a total land area of approximately 191km² (Figure 1).

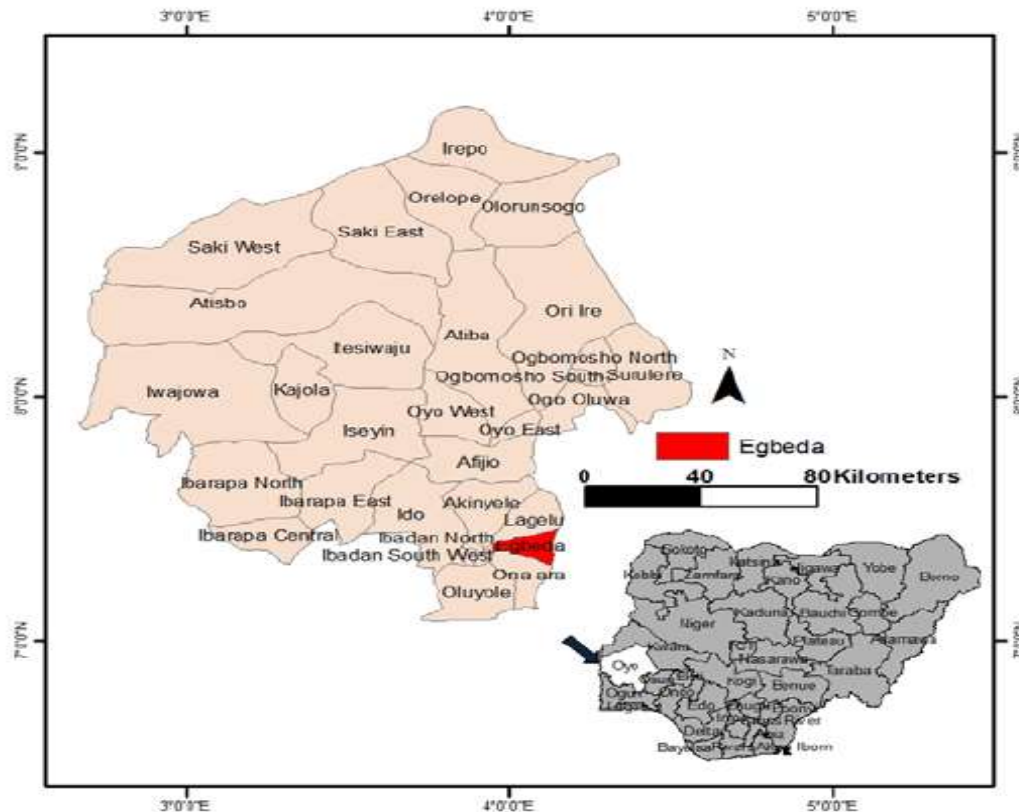


Figure 1: Map of Nigeria showing Oyo state indicate Egbeda Local Government

The population of the study consists of crop farmer in the study area. A multi-stage sampling technique was used for this study. First stage purposive selections of Egbeda Local Government area were used for this study because of predominance of rural farmer in the study area. Second stage Egbeda Local government was divided into 6 districts in which 3 districts were randomly selected for the study Third stage 4 village was randomly selected from each 3 districts. Fourth stage from list of each village in Egbeda local government 40 farmers were randomly selected form each village selected for the study gives total of 120 respondents. Data for this study was mainly primary data, through the use of interview schedule which was administered to rural farmers engaging in non-farm activities in the study area.

Results and Discussion

Socio economic characteristics of the respondents

The table revealed that most (70.0%) of the respondents were male while 30.0% were female; this implies that more males were involved in farming in the study area, this may be due to the fact that only male are capable of performing the tedious activities coupled with farming. The age distribution of the respondents shows that 48.3% of the respondent were within ages 21-40 with mean age of 40.0years, 37.5% were within ages 41-60, 13.3 were above 60 years while 0.8% were within ages 1-20, this implies that most the respondents were in their youthful age and are capable of carrying out the tedious farming tasks. Table 1 indicated that most (63.3%) of the respondent were married, 27.5% were single, 25.8% were divorced while 3.3% were widowed, this implies that most of the respondent were married and therefore, have extra hands to assist them with farm activities. More than half (54.2%) of the respondent were Christians, 44.2% were Muslims while 1.7% were traditionalists; this implies that there were more Christians in the study area than other religion worshippers. The tables also revealed that 56.7% of the respondents have no formal education, 18.3% had primary education, 15.0% had secondary education while 10.0% had tertiary education; this implies that most of the respondent were illiterates. An average (51.7%) of the respondent had 0-5 household members, with mean the household size of 2, 39.2% had 6-10 household members while 9.2% had 11-15 household members; this implies that most of the respondents do not have large family size. Most (79.2%) of the respondent had agriculture as their major occupation while the remaining (20.8%) do not have agriculture as their major occupation. This implies that respondents in the study area have agriculture as their main source of income. Almost half (47.5%) of the respondents had 11-20 years of farming experience with mean of 12 years, 43.3% had 1-10 year of farming experience, 7.5% had 21-30 years of farming experience. This implies that respondents in the study area are highly experienced farmers. Majority (79.2%) of the respondents belongs to one cooperative society or the other while the remaining (20.8%) do not belongs to any cooperative society; this implies that most of the respondents belong to cooperative society and this may influence their source of incomes positively. 51.7% of the respondent got money from their personal savings, 39.2% acquired credit facility from cooperative society while 9.2% of them acquired credit facilities from bank loan. This implies that most of the respondent does not source for credit facilities. Most (73.3%) of the respondents earned above 50,000 annually from non-farm livelihood activities, 6.7% earned less than 40,000 from non-farm livelihood activities, 5.8% earned less than 20,000 from non-farm activities while 4.2% earned less than 10,000 from non-farm livelihood activities. This implies that most of the respondents earned more from non-farm livelihood activities.

Table 4.1 Distribution of respondents Socio economic characteristics of the respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Sex			
Male	84	70.0	
Female	36	30.0	
Age			
1-20	1	0.8	
21-40	58	48.3	40.0years
41-60	45	37.5	
61 and above	16	13.3	
Marital status			
Single	33	27.5	
Married	76	63.3	
Divorced	7	5.8	
Widowed	4	3.3	
Religion			
Islam	53	44.2	
Christianity	65	54.2	
Traditional	2	1.7	
Educational status			

No form education	68	56.7	
Primary	47	39.2	
Secondary	18	15.0	
Tertiary	12	10.0	
Household size			
1-5	62	51.7	2
6-10	47	39.2	
11-15	11	9.2	
Agriculture as major occupation			
Yes	95	79.2	
No	25	20.8	
Framing Experience			
1-10	52	43.3	
11-20	57	47.5	12
21-30	9	7.5	
Above 30	2	1.7	
Cooperative society			
Yes	95	79.2	
No	25	20.8	
Credit facilities			
Personal saving	62	51.7	
Bank loan	11	9.2	
Cooperative loan	47	39.2	
Income			
<10,000	5	4.2	
<20,000	7	5.8	
<30,000	8	6.7	
<40,000	12	10.0	
>50,000	88	73.3	52,000.45
Source: Field survey, 2020			

Non-farm activities respondents engage with.

Table 2 revealed that majority (91.7%) of the respondents engaged in trading, most (79.2%) were engaged with animal hunting, 73.3% were engaged with night guard, 26.7% were engaged with transportation business, 22.5% were engaged with hair dressing, this implies that respondent in the study area were mainly engaged with trading, this may be due to the fact that trading did not require serious learning and can also be started with little capital, others are also involve in animal hunting and night guard, this may be as a result of the relationship between farming and these activities. Most of the respondent were not engaged in transporting, food vendor, basket weaving, barbing, bricklayer, photography/videography, palm wine tapping, carpentry, shoe making, tailoring etc. this may be due to the fact that these activities require a lot of expertise before being put into practice. This is in line with Bryceson (2002) who reported that, the rural poor engaged in non-farming activities as substitute for their farming income, there has been increasing involvement of rural farmers in non-farm income generating activities like craft work, trade and employment in both org and non.

Table 2: Non-farm activities respondents engaged with

S/N	Non-farm activities	Yes	No
1	Bricklaying	16(13.3)	104(86.7)
2	Transportation business	32(26.7)	88(73.3)
3	Carpentry	18(15.0)	102(85.0)
4	Tailoring	23(19.2)	97(80.8)
5	Barbing	11(9.2)	109(90.8)
6	Hair dressing	27(22.5)	93(77.5)
7	Night guard	88(73.3)	32(26.7)
8	Photography/Videography	16(13.3)	104(86.7)
9	Shoe making	19(15.8)	101(84.2)
10	Palm wine tapping	12(10.0)	108(90.0)
11	Animal Haunting	95(79.2)	25(20.8)

12	Basket weaving	16(13.3)	104(86.7)
13	Food vendor	15(12.5)	105(87.5)
14	Transportation	9(7.5)	111(92.5)
15	Trading	110(91.7)	10(8.3)
Source: Field survey, 2020			

Benefit associated with non-farm activities.

Table 3 showed that 90.8% of the respondent agreed that non-farm activities serve as a source of employment, 85.8% agreed that it causes rapid income generation, 79.2% agreed that it serve as sustainability of farmers during off season, 78.3% agreed that non-farm activities meet house hood needs, 66.7% agreed that non-farm activities is an alternative source of income. This implies that the main benefit of non-farm activities in the study area are source of employment, rapid income generation, alternative source of income, sustainability of farmers during off farm season and meeting household needs. Most (64.2%) of the respondents disagreed that non-farm activities cause environmental sustainability while 59.2% disagreed that non-farm activities prevent migration, this implies that non-farm activities do not lead to environmental sustainability and also do not prevent migration in the study area.

Table 3: Benefits associated with non-farm activities

S/N	Benefits	Fully beneficial	Partial beneficial	Not beneficial
1	Rapid income generation	103(85.8)	17(14.2)	-
2	Source of employment	109(90.8)	11(9.2)	-
3	Poverty reduction	41(34.2)	74(61.7)	5(4.2)
4	Alternative source of income	80(66.7)	37(30.8)	3(2.5)
5	Prevent migration	31(25.8)	18(15.0)	71(59.2)
6	Environmental sustainability	16(13.3)	27(22.5)	77(64.2)
7	Sustainability of farmers during off farm season	95(79.2)	22(18.3)	3(2.5)
8	Meet household needs	94(78.3)	26(21.7)	-

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Factors militating against non-farm activities among crop farmers.

Distribution of respondents by factors militating against non-farm activities among crop farmers revealed that, majority of the respondents (85.5%) perceived lack of experience in non-farm activities as a seriously severe factor militating against non-farm activities among crop farmers in the study area, 85.0% perceived inadequate capital as a seriously severe factor, 74.2% perceived level of assess to credit as a seriously severe factor, 72.5% perceived fair of risk as a seriously severe factor. Majority (84.2%) perceived age of the farmers as a mildly severe factors, 83.3% perceived economy sustainability as a mildly severe factor, 80.8% each perceived level of education and poor access of physical infrastructure as mildly severe factors, 79.2% perceived mode of income on farm activities as a mildly severe factor. This implies that the major factors militating against non-farm activities among crop farmers in the study area are inadequate capital, lack of experience in non-farm activities, level of education, economy instability, level of access to credit, fear of risk, age of farmers, mode of income on farm activities, others participating in it and poor access of physical infrastructure.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents by factors militating against non-farm activities among crop farmers

S/N	Factors	Serious severe	Mild Severe	Not a Severe	Mean	Rank
1	Inadequate capital	102(85.0)	18(15.0)	-	2.85	2
2	Lack of experience in non-farm activities	103(85.8)	17(14.2)	-	2.86	1
3	Fear of risk	87(72.5)	28(23.3)	5(4.2)	2.68	4
4	Level of access to credit	89(74.2)	26(21.7)	5(4.2)	2.70	3
5	Level of education	19(15.8)	97(80.8)	4(3.5)	2.13	5
6	Age of the farmers	13(10.8)	101(84.2)	6(5.0)	1.84	10
7	Mode of income on farm activities	14(11.7)	95(79.2)	11(9.2)	2.01	8
8	Economy instability	16(13.3)	100(83.3)	4(3.3)	2.10	6
9	Others are participating in it	15(12.5)	95(79.2)	10(8.3)	2.04	7
10	Poor access of physical infrastructure	15(12.5)	97(80.8)	8(6.7)	2.01	8

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Regression analysis showing the effect of factor militating against non-farm activities among crop farmers and benefit associated with non-farm activities

The result obtained showed that inadequate capital, lack of experience in non-farm activities, fear of risk, level of education, age of the farmers, mode of income on farm activities, economic instability and others participating all had positive coefficients. This implies that the effect of factor militating against non-farm activities among crop farmers had direct or positive effect on the benefit associated with non-farm activities. While physical infrastructure and level of access to credit both had negative coefficients, implying that there is inverse relationship between these variables and farmers benefit associated with non-farm activities. The adjusted R^2 was 0.149 indicating that about 15% of the variation in benefit associated with non-farm livelihood activities and was explained by the influence of the independent variables. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected and alternative was accepted meaning that there is significant relationship between factor militating against non-farm activities among crop farmers and benefit associated with non-farm activities in the study area.

Table 5 Regression analysis showing the effect of factor militating against non-farm activities among crop farmers and benefit associated with non-farm activities

S/N	Factors	Coefficient	St. error	t-value	Significant	Decision
	Constant	0.248	0.401	0.618	0.538	Accept Ho
1	Inadequate capital	0.264	0.173	1.529	0.29	Accept Ho
2	Lack of experience in non-farm activities	0.120	0.150	0.405	0.426	Accept Ho
3	Fear of risk	0.040	0.099	0.405	0.687	Accept Ho
4	Level of access to credit	-0.038	0.077	-497	0.620	Accept Ho
5	Level of education	0.158	0.104	1.519	0.132	Accept Ho
6	Age of the farmers	0.120	0.090	1.331	0.186	Accept Ho
7	Mode of income on farm activities	0.146	0.148	0.990	0.324	Accept Ho
8	Economy instability	0.287	0.081	3.548	0.001	Reject Ho
9	Others are participating in it	0.048	0.078	0.613	0.541	Accept Ho
10	Poor access of physical infrastructure R ² 0.221 Adjusted R ² 0.149 P-value 0.002	-0.145	0.087	-1.660	0.100	Accept Ho

NS: Not significant at $p > 0.05$

S-significant at $P < 0.05$

Chi square analysis showing the relationship between socio-economic characteristic of respondents and benefit associated with non-farm activities

The hypothesis analysis revealed that age ($p=0.000$), religion ($p=0.000$), educational status ($p=0.000$), agriculture as major income ($p=0.011$), farming experience ($p=0.000$), cooperative society ($p=0.001$) and annual income ($p=0.000$) all showed significance, this implies that there is significant relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and the benefit associated with non-farm activities.

Table 6: Chi square analysis showing the relationship between socio-economic characteristic of respondents and benefit associated with non-farm activities

Variable	Chi square value	df	P-value	Decision
Sex	11.402	14	0.654	NS
Age	4.139E2	231	0.000	S
Marital status	36.674	28	0.180	NS
Religion	48.545	14	0.000	S
Educational status	11.09E2	21	0.000	S
Household size	20.945	14	0.116	NS
Agric as major occupation	28.945	14	0.011	S
Farming experience	569E2	133	0.000	S
Cooperative society	24.692	7	0.001	S

Credit facilities	18.385	14	0.190	NS
Annual income	1.292E2	28	0.000	S

NS: Not significant at $p > 0.05$

S-significant at $P < 0.05$

Conclusion

The overall finding from the study reveals that most of the respondent was not engaged in non-farming activities. The study further concludes that inadequate capital, lack of experience in non-farm activities, fear of risk, level of education, age of the farmers, mode of income on farm activities, economic instability and others participating all had direct and positive effect on the benefits associated with non-farm activities; also, there is significant relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and the benefit associated with non-farm activities.

Recommendations

At the end of the study, it is therefore recommended that:

- i) Farmers should intensify their involvement in non-farm activities, so as to serve as alternative source of capital for farm activities.
- ii) Credit facilities should be provided for farmers for both farm and off farm activities by government.
- iii) Extension agents should educate farmers on the advantages of off farm activities.
- iv) Assists farmers in encouraging them on different various non-farm activities that will benefit them.

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