



Factors Influencing Youth Participation in Rice Production in Bunza Local Government Area of Kebbi State, Nigeria

*A. Aliyu¹, Muhammad A.M², Y. Hassan³ and R.K Umar⁴

^{1,2,3} Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Federal University of Agriculture, Zuru, Kebbi State, Nigeria.

⁴ Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Abdullahi Fodiyo University of Science and Technology, Aliero, Kebbi State, Nigeria.

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*Corresponding Author: **A. Aliyu**

Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Federal University of Agriculture, Zuru, Kebbi State, Nigeria.

Abstract

In order to strengthen rice production and marketing in Kebbi State, an assessment of factors influencing youth participation in rice production in Bunza Local Government Area of Kebbi State was conducted. Both primary and secondary data were used in this study. Primary data were collected using structured questionnaires, and secondary data were sourced from past studies. Descriptive statistics analysis was used to analyze the data. 60% of youth with age range between 18–25 dominated the production activities, and the majority of respondents (95%) were male. 55% had formal education, 63.3% had farming experience between 6–10 years, 71.7% claimed cooperative membership, 60% of the respondents claimed access to credit services, and 68.3% had contact with extension and advisory services. It was discovered that age, education, membership of cooperatives, contact with extension services, and access to credit services are significant factors influencing youth participation in rice production in the study area and hence improve food security and reduce unemployment among the youth population, thereby reducing insecurity due to unemployed youth population who may engage in unlawful activities in Kebbi State and Nigeria at large.

Keywords: Rice, Production, Youth, Participation.

Introduction

Agriculture contributes a lot to the economy of Nigeria, not less than 70% of Nigerian earned their living from agriculture, basic need such as food, income, shelter and employment their by increasing food security, foreign exchange and raw material for manufacturing industries (FAO, 2006).

Rice is a unique crop grown virtually all over the country, because of it is requirement of wide range of temperature between 20 and 38c, long sun radiation and wide range of ecological condition, the prevalent rice production system in Nigeria is rain fed rice upland, rain fed low land and irrigated low land (Singh, 2000).

Youth in agriculture have been describe as a very important structure for land and agrarian reform which will help to promote the interest of adolescent in agricultural sector of the economy (Gwanyo, 2008).

Odebo, 2000 opined that youth in Nigeria are very significant portion for rural communities in which their existence and potentials are well known.

Youth have been noted to play vital role in family farming especially in developing countries Nigeria inclusive where their contribution is paramount, (Ugwoke *et al*, 2005).

Many studies have been conducted on rice value chain without making impasses on youth participation in production phase so as to mitigate the need for youth involvement in production which will increases output, employment, and livelihood as well as food security at large, Thus, the primary aim of the study is to investigate factors that influence youth participation in rice production so as to provide information available for stakeholder to provide support needed for youth participation in rice production.

Literature review

Agriculture is an essential industry for many nations, In western world the share of agriculture in total gross domestic product (GDP) is less than 4% but nearly 50% of the worldwide agriculture trade is conducted by these developed countries, this is amplified in the European union (EU) low dependent on agriculture but with a large budget to subsidize agriculture products (Bertow and Schultheis, 2007). The reverse is true in developing countries where is mostly higher dependence on agriculture and a marginal budget that does not allow large spending. In the world agriculture's share of contribution to employment is 35% compared to 86.8% in Africa according to international labor organization (2010 cited in Wobst, 2011) and this makes agriculture the basic sector in Africa's economy on which majority of the people depends for their livelihood.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the population is predominantly rural and agriculture remains the main occupation, unfortunately the growth of the sector in sub-Saharan African still lags behind that of the population culminating in the continuous food importation, thus poverty and food insecurity remain widespread in the region. Domestic food markets are not given the needed attention as a potential engine of agricultural growth, this is demonstrated in higher national import dependence which is the major causes of food insecurity among farmers especially in Kenya and low budget allocation as Nigeria (Djurfeldt and Larson, 2004).

Nigeria is agrarian economy with 81% of the population living in rural areas , apart from the fewer large scale commercial farming , most farming take place on small scale family owned farms and there is little mechanization. youth are very important for every nation for sustaining agricultural productivity and important sector for the development, unfortunately this category of people is virtually left out in policies and programs consideration (FAO, 2009) even though this is a critical stage for this group of people since this is a period of transition in to adulthood for instance the unemployment rate of this group globally ranked 12.6% compared with 4.8% as rete of the adult in 2010 according to United Nation(UN, 2010) and this has the potentials of tempting youth to embark on migration especially to urban centers and beyond since this act create room for accessing job opportunities and this group of people is over 1.8 billion in the world , 90% of whom live in developing countries where they tend to make up a large proportion of population and needs to be empowered since this is an important means of improving food security, livelihood, and create employment, thus there is insufficient youth participation in agricultural sector (Mangal, 2009).

Methodology

The study was conducted in Bunza local government area of kebbi state, Nigeria, multi-stage sampling technique was used to select 3 districts in the first stage, in the second stage 2 villages were selected from the selected districts based on the intensity of rice production making a total of 6 communities, in the last stage 10 respondent were selected randomly from the selected villages making a total of 60 respondents used in this study, both primary and secondary data were used in this study, the primary data were collected from the field by the use of structured questionnaires while the secondary data were gathered from pass literatures such as publication, text books , newspapers and magazines, data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Research Result and Discussion

A. Age

About 28.3% of the respondents are within the age range of 18-25 years with 60% within the age range of 26 – 35 years and those range 35 – 43 years were 11.7%. This finding indicate that age is a significant factor in rice production as many youths are found as dominant in rice production

B. Gender

Majority of the respondents were male with a score of 95% while only 5% were found to be female , thus this finding indicate that sex is an essential factor that influence rice production in the study area

C. Level of education

About 55.0% of the respondents have tertiary education, only 28.3%,11.7%, and 5.0% obtained secondary, primary and non-formal education respectively, this result indicate that education is important factor that determine rice production in the study area

D. Year of farming experience

The analysis shows that about 63.3% of the respondents attained 1-5 years of farming experience while 31.7% have 6-10 years and very few have 11 and above years with a score of 5% which implies that farmers with long period of this could increase their knowledge, experience and subsequent participation in rice production.

E. Co-operative membership

This is also essential factor determining youth participation in rice production in the area as about 71.7% of the respondents claimed membership of co-operatives

F. Access to credit

60% of the responded claimed access to credit which revealed that accessibility to credit foster youth participation in rice production and hence the study found out that credit is a core determinant of youth participation in rice production.

G. Contact with extension services

Extension service such as individual contact, group contact, mass media and digital agricultural services influences youth participation in rice production as revealed by this finding thus: about 68.3% of the respondents have access to extension advisory services as such agricultural advisory services is a ladder to a success in rice production in the study area.

Table 1. Factors influencing youth participation in rice production

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
18 – 25	17	28.3
26 – 34	36	60.0
35 – 43	7	11.7
Total	60	100
Education		
Non formal	3	5.0
Primary	7	11.7
Secondary	17	28.3
Tertiary	33	55.0
Total	60	100
Years of experience		
1-5	38	63.3
6-10	19	31.7
11 and above	3	5.0
Total	60	100
Access to credit		
Access	27	60
No access	33	40
Total	60	100
Co-operative membership		
Membership	43	71.7
Non membership	17	28.5
TOTAL	60	100
Contact with extension services		
Have contact	41	68.3
Not have contact	19	31.7
Total	60	100

Source: field survey, 2020

Conclusion and Recommendation

To close the knowledge gap and advance the understanding of factors influencing youth participation in rice production for intervention from stake holders to invest in rice production their by creating employment and engaging a substantial number of youth in agriculture this study concluded that accessibility to credit, agricultural advisory services, age as well as experience are essential determinant of youth participation in rice production and thus; there is need for policy makers to tailored their decision so as to enhance youth participation in rice value chain so as to focus on food security and youth employment at large in order to increase national gross domestic products and also straighten and ensure sustainable rice production.

Further study

Every research has it is own limitation so as this findings, limitation in form of time limitation, financial and data gap, in this study some of limitation encountered includes financial constraints and time as such there is need for more and deep investigation to certify this finding.

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