



SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON RICE PRODUCTION AMONG FARMERS IN HONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ADAMAWA STATE

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Abstract

The study assessed the sources of information related to rice production to farmers in Hong Local Government Area of Adamawa State. The specific objectives were to describe the socio-economic characteristics rain fed rice production and identify the sources of rice production related information available to rain fed rice production farmers. A multi stage random sampling technique to sample 188 respondents and the data obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Garrate Ranking Technique. The results of the socio-economic characteristic revealed that majority (68%) of them were male, 65% were within 31-50 years, the mean household size was 8 persons, 76% of the farmers have attained one form of education or another, majorities (85%) do not belong to any association, and majority (86%) do not have access to credit with the mean farming experience is 8 years. The result on the sources of information showed that friends and relatives (81.92%), neighbor (69.68%), marketers (47.34%), and radio (42.55%) were the major sources of information to rice farmers in the study area. Other sources of information to the farmers from Table 2 were ministry of agriculture (5.32%), ADPS (6.38%), research institutes (3.91%), extension agents (10.64%), while about 10.10% of the respondents' access information from TV programmes, farm labourers and Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria (RIFAN). The study recommended that the major sources of information for the farmers are mostly from friends and relatives, neighbors and marketers., government and relevant agencies should expand the farmers' awareness on information they needed to boost rice production through relevant agencies like ADPs, Ministry of Agriculture, Extension Services and mass media and there is need to encourage rice farmers to join cooperative societies for them to benefit from the dividend and be given proper orientation and/or basic trainings in major farm management techniques and this will help increase their productivity through trained extension agents.

Keywords: Sources, Information, Rice, Farmers, Hong

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Cite this article as:

Rice is among the three leading cereal food crops of the world; with maize (corn) and sorghum being the other two. All three directly provide not less than 42% of the world's required caloric intake and, in 2009, human consumption was responsible for 78% of the total usage of produced rice (Ricepedia, 2019). More than 3.5 billion of the world's populations think of rice as their staple food, which translates to at least half of the people living in the world. Because of this, experts do not see a future decline of rice consumption, especially among African and Asian countries. Asian countries produce the most rice worldwide; while countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East have shown considerable increase in rice consumption and demand. The top ten rice producing countries in the world today are India, China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, Burma, the Philippines, Cambodia, and Pakistan. These countries are also among the top rice consumers of the world, and combine to account for around 90% of the world's rice consumption. Both figures have been on the rise in the last couple of decades, and experts believe that there will be little or no decline in these numbers in the coming years (Benard *et al.*, 2014).

The African continent has been experiencing a consistent increase in the demand of rice. Rice has in the past three decades grown in popularity to become a major feature in the continental diet. It currently takes first position on the list of fastest growing staple foods. In the early 1970's it was mostly consumed during special events but it has gradually replaced yams, sweet potatoes and cassava on the dinner table. In certain countries like Tanzania, Nigeria and Niger this transformation is particularly glaring (Amanullah *et al.*, 2017). This growth has been shown to have a direct link to the growing incomes, rapid urbanization rates as well as population growth in many of the countries. Rice is mostly cultivated in the West Africa region followed by Southern Africa, Middle Africa, Eastern Africa and Northern Africa been the least. It clearly indicated that West African countries produce large proportion of rice with the production trend above other African regions.

The preferred communication sources and information needs of rice farmers are constraints expressed by rice farmers which are interrelated and they could be solved through the information rightful source (Sarada, 2018). Before *et al.* (2018) narrated that very few farmers got information on rice production and access to information on rice production is limited mostly to friends and extension agents; hence other sources should be made available to them with the help of governmental and non-governmental organizations. According to Amanullah *et al.* (2017), farmers do not care to use recommend land preparation, technologies and fertilizer application and extension workers should stimulate farmers to use available technologies as ascribed to ascertain bumper harvest from rice production. The main objective of the study was to assess the sources of information related to rice production to farmers in Hong Local Government Area of Adamawa State. The specific objectives were to:-

1. Describe the socio-economic characteristics are of rain fed rice farmers?

2. Identify the sources of rice production related information available to rain fed rice farmers?

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Area

The study was conducted in Hong local government area of Adamawa state, Nigeria. Hong is located in northern part of Adamawa State, it lies between latitude 7⁰-11⁰ N and longitude 11⁰-14⁰ E. The Local Government Area was created in 1991. Its shares boundary with Mubi Local Government to the East, Gombi Local Government Area to the West, Song and Maiha Local Area to the South and Askira-Uba Local Government Area to the North. Hong has a land area of about 117,240 square kilometers with a projected population of 226,100 (Media Nigeria, 2018). The area falls within Sudan savanna zone and have a tropical wet and dry climate. Dry season lasts for a minimum of five months (November to March), while the wet season lasts from April to October. The major occupation of people in the area is farming and few traders, civil servants and transportation. The major crops grown in the area include groundnut, sorghum, maize, rice and millet. The area has seven districts. Fishing activities is mostly carried out by the residents along some Rivers as River Yadzaram, while Fulani are mostly settled cattle herders (Gandapa, 2018). Similarly, the major ethnic groups found in the area are Kilba, Hausa, Marghi, Bura, Fulani, and Higgi.

2.2 Sources and Methods of Data Collection

The study made use of primary data obtained through questionnaire administered to the respondents and it was made up of close ended and open ended questions. The respondents were interviewed on their socio-economic characteristics and sources of information related to rice production to farmers in the study area.

2.3 Sampling Techniques

A multi stage random sampling technique was used to sampled the respondents for the study. In the first stage, four out of the seven Ditriacts namely; Gaya, Hong, Pella, Ndzukwaba, Uba, Kulinyi and Hildi Districts in the Area were sampled using random sampling. The second stage involved proportionate sample of villages in each of the sampled district using random sampling. The third stage, in a population of rice farmers in the sampled districts, the sample size (n = 188) was determined using Yamane (1967) formula.

2.4 Methods of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics (1976) such as frequency, mean and percentage were employed to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and to identify the sources of information related to rice farmers as used by Adam (2018) and Usman (2018).

3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The sexes of the respondents in Table 1 revealed that majority (68%) of them were male, while few (32%) were female. This shows that majority of rice farmers in the study area were male and could be attributed to the tedious work involves in rice production as this could be endured by male who are believed to be more virile and energetic than the female. This agrees with the finding of Zubairu *et al.* (2018) who reported that because of the socio-cultural factors, male dominate rice production in Taraba State, Nigeria. The results in Table 1 showed that 21% of the respondents were within the age of 30 years and below, 65% were within 31-50 years while 14% were greater than 51 years and with mean age of 39 years. The results therefore, indicated that most of the farmers are young and energetic, since they are in their active ages. Thus, the labour productivity of rice farmers in the study area is expected to be high. This agrees with the findings of Madugu *et al.* (2017) who reported that age is one of the socio-economic attributes which affects the level of farmers' productivity.

The household size of the respondents in Table 1 further shows that 19% have a household size of 4 individuals or below. Furthermore, 30% had household size of 5-8 individuals, 24% had 9-12 individuals, while 28% had above 12 persons per household. The mean household size was 8 which could be attributed to the fact that household members pool their energy and resources for the supply of the farm labour needed for farm work thereby reducing the high cost of labour that the farmer might incur. Table 1 indicated that 17% of the farmers had no education at all, 24% had non-formal education, 06% had primary education, 30% had secondary education, while 23% had tertiary education. This shows that over 76% of the farmers have attained one form of education or another. The result also shows that 15% belongs to association, while majorities (85%) do not belong to any association. This therefore, indicated that most of the farmers in the area do not belong to association and could be the major reason why the farmers could not speak with one voice for the purchase of farm inputs and dispose off of their farm output at a fairly uniform price. The access to farm credit by the respondents showed that only few (14%) had access to credit, while the majority (86%) do not have access to credit (Table 1). This could be attributed to the poor status of the farmers resulting from small cultivable farm size that constraint most them with requisite collateral security and other formal obligations to guarantee loan from commercial banks. The farming experience of the respondents showed that 39% had five years and below, 34% had 6-11 years, 20% had 12-17 years, while 07% were 18 years and above of experience in farming. The mean farming experience is 8 years which implies that most of the farmers have a reasonable farming experience in rice production and could be well acquainted to various levels of inputs combination that will give higher yield per input invested. These results agree with the findings of Amanullah *et al.* (2017) that rice farming is a labour intensive occupation and requires energy for land preparation, nursery, planting, weeding and harvesting. Asante *et al.* (2011) observed that farmers with high production experience incur less production cost with high margin of profit than the ones with low years of farming experience. This agreed with the finding of Ajah and Ajah (2013) who reported that more than half of rice farmers

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had some formal education and hence, will possibly be innovative increasing farm productivity. Ettah and Kuye (2015) found that having access to credit facilities contributed positively to a household's production efficiency in Nigeria.

Table 1: Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Characteristics	Frequency	Percent	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
Sex					
Male	127	68			
Female	61	32			
Age					
≤20	09	05			
21-30	30	16			
31-40	76	40	37	20	67
41-50	46	25			
>50	27	14			
Household size					
≤4	35	19			
5-8	56	30	8	01	29
9-12	45	24			
≥13	52	28			
Educational Qualification					
None	32	17			
Non-formal	45	24			
Primary	12	06			
Secondary	56	30			
Tertiary	43	23			
Membership					
Member	29	15			
Non Member	159	85			

Access to Credit

Access	27	14
Non Access	161	86

Farming Experience

≤5	74	39			
6-11	64	34	15	01	29
12-17	37	20			
≥18	13	07			

Source: Field Survey, 2025

3.2 Sources of Information of Rice Production to the Respondents

Farmers need information about input, output, market prices and future demand and supply for production as well as their farm produce. Information prior to production is also needed for informed farm decision and budgeting. The sources of information of rice farmers from Table 2 showed that friends and relatives (81.92%), neighbor (69.68%), marketers (47.34%), and radio (42.55%) were the major sources of information to rice farmers in the study area. These agreed with the findings of Before *et al.* (2018) and Benard *et al.*, (2014) who reported that farmers' access to information on rice production is limited mostly to friends and neighbors and identified barriers to accessing agricultural information from the other sources to lack of information services, inadequate number of extension agents, inadequate fund, lack of awareness of information sources and information not easily accessible to the farmers.

Other sources of information to the farmers from Table 2 were ministry of agriculture (5.32%), ADPS (6.38%), research institutes (3.91%), extension agents (10.64%), while about 10.10% of the respondents' access information from TV programmes, farm labourers and Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria (RIFAN). This is an indication that rice farmers in the study area have information from vast sources and could be attributed to the effort of the government to boost rice production in the country through various policies and programmes. Zarmai *et al.* (2014) recommended that other sources of information should be made available to farmers with the help of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Table 2: Sources of Information of Rice Production to the Respondents

Sources	*Frequency	Percent
Ministry of Agriculture	10	5.32
ADPS	12	6.38

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Research Institutes	6	3.91
Extension Agents	20	10.64
Friends and Relatives	154	81.92
Neighbour	131	69.68
Marketers	89	47.34
Radio	80	42.55
Others (TV, Labourers, RIFAN)	19	10.10
Total	521	

* Multiple Responses, RIFAN (Rice farmers Association of Nigeria), TV (Television)
Source Field Survey (2025).

Conclusion

The study concluded that majority of the rice farmers were male, young and energetic, having a large household size, attained one form of education or another, majorities were not member to any association and have a reasonable farming experience in rice production. Farmers need information about input, output, market prices and future demand and supply for production as well as their farm produce and their major sources of information related to rice production in the study area were friends and relatives, neighbor, marketers, and radio.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were proffer based on the findings: -

- The major sources of information for the farmers are mostly from friends and relatives, neighbors and marketers. Therefore, government and relevant agencies should expand the farmers' awareness on information they needed to boost rice production through relevant agencies like ADPs, Ministry of Agriculture, Extension Services and mass media
- There is need to encourage rice farmers to join cooperative societies for them to benefit from the dividend and be given proper orientation and/or basic trainings in major farm management techniques and this will help increase their productivity through trained extension agents.

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