



EFFECTS OF PARTICIPATION LEVEL ON BENEFITS DERIVED BY THE YOUTHS IN INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES OF AGRICULTURAL INTERVENTION PROJECT IN OYO AND ONDO STATES

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ABSTRACT:

Low inputs and poor dissemination of information were among the constraints to youth participation in Agricultural intervention project. The study therefore evaluated effects of participation level on benefits derived by the youths in income generating activities of Agricultural intervention project in Oyo and Ondo States. A multistage sampling technique was adopted to select a total of three hundred and twenty-nine (329) youth farmers for the study. A structured questionnaire was employed to obtain primary data from respondents. Chi square-test was used to analyze the relationship between the participation level and benefits derived by the youths in income generating activities of Agricultural intervention project in Oyo and Ondo States. It was revealed that dispute and conflict management resolution ($\chi^2 = 10.209^*$, $p = 0.037$), access to financial support ($\chi^2 = 13.217^*$, $p = 0.010$) and access to improved post-harvest handling of crops ($\chi^2 = 13.622^*$, $p = 0.009$) were significantly related to level of participation in Agricultural intervention project income generating activities. The relationships were positive which implies that any increase in the benefits derivable from participation in Agricultural intervention project income generating activities will lead to an equivalent increase in the level of participation in Agricultural intervention project income generating activities among youths. It was concluded that participation level in income generating activities increased as youth propensity to dispute and conflict management resolution increased. Also, participation level in income generating activities increased as access to financial support of the youth Farmers increased. Therefore, the study recommends that youth farmers should endeavor to increase their level of participation in income generating activities of the Agricultural intervention program in order to increase their propensity to resolve dispute and to enhance their income generating ability.

KEYWORDS:

AGRICULTURE, INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES, PARTICIPATION, YOUTHS.

INTRODUCTION

The reliance on agriculture for food production and food security at domestic, regional, and global level depends on youth productive force. Youth have vital roles to play in agricultural enterprises and rural development (Odhiambo, 2012). Youth is a vital source of manpower for development and constitute a very significant work force in rural communities (Ekong, 2003; Ommani, 2011). This is particularly true because more than 95 percent of the crops and livestock products in most African communities are from rural farmers. The young generation is expected to rise in the coming years for food production and food security (Proctor and Lucchese, 2012). Umeh and Odom (2011), argued that the contribution of agriculture to farmers' income and rural development depends on the active participation of youths who are the potential labour force. They are characterized by innovative behavior, minimal risk aversion, less fear of failure, less conservativeness, greater physical strength, and greater knowledge acquisition propensity.

According to Muthee (2010), youth are not largely involved in agricultural enterprises since agriculture as a

career choice is burdened with misperceptions and a lack of information and awareness. This is mostly due to uncompetitive wages, the physical aspects associated with work in the sector and the lack of awareness of what careers in the agricultural sector has to offer. Muthee (2010), further reported that the emergence of petroleum industry as the main foreign exchange, coupled with other socioeconomic restraints has resulted in youth not actively participating in agricultural enterprises. Most of the young people in Nigeria would rather work in an oil company than in the farm which is considered as a dirty and non-rewarding job.

HYPOTHESIS:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between the benefits derived by the youths due to their participation in income generating activities of Agricultural intervention project and level of participation in income generating activities of Agricultural intervention project.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Oyo and Ondo States,

South-western geographical zone of Nigeria. The population of the study comprise both male and female youths participating in Agricultural intervention income generating activities in Ondo state in south-western geographical zone of Nigeria. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select a total of three hundred and twenty-nine (329) youth farmers. Data collection from the respondents was mainly through structured questionnaire. Information contained in the structured questionnaire were based on the objectives of the study.

Data were analyzed using both descriptive (frequency count, percentage, weighted mean score and mean) and Chi square-test using SPSS version 22.

3.0. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the summary of Chi-square analysis of the significance relationship between benefits derived by the youths due to their participation in income generating activities of Agricultural intervention project and level of participation in income generating activities of Agricultural intervention project was revealed that dispute and conflict management resolution ($\chi^2 = 10.209^*$, $p = 0.037$), access to financial support ($\chi^2 = 13.217^*$, $p = 0.010$) and access to improved post-harvest handling of crops ($\chi^2 = 13.622^*$, $p = 0.009$) were significantly related to level of participation in Agricultural intervention project income generating activities. The relationships were positive which implies that any increase in the benefits derivable from participation in Agricultural intervention project income generating activities will lead to an equivalent increase in the level of participation in Agricultural intervention project income generating activities among youths. This implies that the more the youths have access to financial support, the more their level of income in will increase. In line with the finding, Adeoye *et al.*, (2011), also undertook a study to examine rural infrastructure and profitability of farmers under Agricultural intervention

program in Oyo state, using infrastructural index and gross margin. Their findings revealed that, more than half of the villages in Agricultural intervention program in Afijio Local Government Area have more infrastructures than non-Agricultural intervention program villages which implies that Agricultural intervention program had contributed significantly to the development of infrastructures in Oyo state. However, contrary to this present finding, Bajoga *et al.*, (2006) examined the impact of the project specifically on the living standard of dry season farmers who benefited from Fadama loans in Gombe State. The study revealed that the project did not make any impact on the beneficiaries of the Fadama loan by increasing their income, improving the living standard by having access to more personal belongings. Correspondingly, Adegbite *et al.*, (2008) carried out an assessment on the impact of Agricultural intervention program on small-scale farmer's income in Ogun State with emphasis on the implication for agricultural financing in Nigeria. Using a multi-stage stratified random sampling in their study; their villages were selected each for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in Fadama endowed communities of Obafemi-Owode Local Government Area of Ogun State. Evidence from their study also revealed no significant increase in the income of the Fadama beneficiaries compared to non-beneficiaries of the Fadama project in the study area. Hence, Agricultural intervention project needs to include training for youth participation in the project on loan utilization and management.

TEST OF HYPOTHESIS:

The null hypothesis that stated that there is no significant relationship between the benefits derived by the youths due to their participation in income generating activities of Agricultural intervention project and level of participation in income generating activities of Agricultural intervention project is hereby rejected.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BENEFITS DERIVED BY THE YOUTHS DUE TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES OF AGRICULTURAL INTERVENTION PROJECT AND LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES OF AGRICULTURAL INTERVENTION PROJECT (N = 329)

Variables	Chi-square	df	p-value
Access to advisory services	9.078	4	0.059
Dispute and conflict management resolution	10.209*	4	0.037
Cordial relationship among the youths (FUGs)	4.778	4	0.311
Access to improved agricultural practices	3.397	4	0.494
Access to financial support	13.217*	4	0.010
Access to ready market and off-takers patronage	4.456	4	0.348
Increase in income	1.566	4	0.815

Access to improved post-harvest handling of crops	13.622*	4	0.009
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*= significant at 5% level of significance

Source: Field Survey, 2021

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that participation level in income generating activities increased as youth propensity to dispute and conflict management resolution increased. Also, participation level in income generating activities increased as access to financial support of the youth Farmers increased. Therefore, the study recommends that youth farmers should endeavour to increase their level of participation in income generating activities of the Agricultural intervention program in order to increase their propensity to resolve dispute and to enhance their income generating ability.

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