

ASSESSMENT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH HOME GARDEN TYPE OF AGROFORESTRY IN AKURE METROPOLIS, ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed the contributions of home garden type of agroforestry system as a means of alleviating poverty in Akure metropolis, Ondo state, Nigeria. The study showed that the mean age was 43years; majorities (61.3%) of the respondents were males and married (77.5%). Majority (79.2%) had one form of education or the other, majority (71.3%) had a household size between 3 and 5. Seventy percent of the respondents engaged in home garden so as to meet family consumption, majority (63.8%) of the crops cultivated by the respondents were annual crops. Majorities of the respondents (70%) revealed that they engaged in home garden basically to supplement feeding for the family, while 20% of them revealed that they engaged in home garden to generate more income, while the same percentage of respondent claimed that they engaged in home garden for land preservation. The study shows that 22.5% of the respondents realized between 501,000 and 1,000,000 naira from their primary occupation, 20% of the respondents realize less than 100,000 naira from their primary occupation are civil servants, 17.5% of the respondents' claimed that they realized between 401,000 and 500,000 naira from their primary occupation. Majority of the respondents showed favourable attitudes towards home garden in eradicating poverty, results show that significant relationship exist between household size(0.000) and their attitude towards home garden at 0.05 level of significance, results further showed that there exist a significant difference between the respondent's income before and after practicing home garden at (0.05) level of significance.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The high level of poverty in Nigeria, which has attained an endemic nature, is becoming worrisome. Poverty has made Nigeria to attain an unenviable status as one of the poorest countries in the world, such that no government, organization, community, clan or family can survive effectively without introducing one kind of poverty reduction strategy or the other (World Bank, 2002). Nigeria has not been known to lack in such efforts; yet she is still ranked among the world's 25 poorest nations (World Bank, 2002). Poverty in Africa has become a subject of national concern in the last two decades. The prevalence of mass poverty in Nigeria that claims to be the giant of Africa reflects the poor management and performance of the economies of the various states in Nigeria. It must be noted that the poor in most instances are unable to have access to basic necessities of life such as food, clothing, and decent shelter, unable to meet social and economic obligations, they lack skill, gainful employment, have inadequate possession of economic assets and sometimes lack of self-esteem (Kehinde, 2014). On the nature of poverty, Ewetan (2005) emphasized that poverty may be chronic / structured or conjunctural / transient. Structural or chronic poverty is long-term or persistent. Its causes are more permanent and depend on a number of factors such as limited productive resources, lack of skill for gainful employment, location disadvantage or endemic socio-political and cultural factors. Growing poverty, hunger and lack of formal employment opportunities, as well as the special opportunities provided by the city including the growing demand for food, proximity to markets and availability of cheap resources such as urban organic wastes and waste water have stimulated the development of diverse agricultural production systems in and around Cities (Smit, 2001).

Problem Statement

Nigeria has one of the world's highest economic growth rates, averaging 7.4% according to the Nigeria economic report released in July 2014 by the World Bank. Poverty still remains significant at 33.1% in Africa's biggest economy. For a country with massive wealth and a huge population to support commerce, a well-developed economy, and plenty of natural resources such as oil, the level of poverty remains unacceptable. The size and urgency of the challenges in Nigeria require innovative ways of managing urban settlements and their related infrastructure and requirements for survival. There should be a renewed interest in alternative strategies for improving urban livelihood. Many cities cannot cope with the massive growth of its population, which leads to the degradation of the urban environment, and increase in poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity. Food is a basic necessity of life, its importance is seen in the fact that it is a basic means of sustenance and an adequate food intake in terms of quality and quantity is a key for healthy and productive life (Omona and Agoi, 2007). This recreates the need to look at the role home garden plays in alleviating poverty and contributing to income for sustenance of life and in doing this, there is the need to ask the following questions in order to fully examine and understand the benefits of home garden practices in the study area.

2.0 Objectives of the study

The broad objective of the Study is The Assessment of Poverty Alleviation through Home Garden Agroforestry in Akure, Ondo State while the study was specifically designed to:

- (i) ascertain the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents;
- (ii) identify respondents' various sources of income available to the respondents';
- (iii) determine the various sources of information available to the respondents;
- (iv) determine the respondent's attitudes towards home garden in eradicating poverty in the study area and
- (v) identify the constraints faced by the respondents' in practicing home garden in the study area

Hypotheses of the study

The hypotheses for the study are stated in null form as follows:

H₀₁: there is no significance relationship between the respondent's socio-economic characteristics and their attitudes towards home garden practices.

H₀₂: there is no significance difference between the respondent's practices to income before and after home garden practices.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study was carried out in Akure South Local Government (LGA) of Ondo State situated in the South West Nigeria. Purposive sampling technique was used in selecting 20 respondents each from four (4) wards within Akure metropolis that were into home garden practices making a total of 80 respondents that were sampled for the study. The study made use of primary source of data collected from the respondents through the use of well-structured interview schedule that contained open and close ended questions on the various areas of the study. The analytical tools used for this study include descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequency distribution and percentage were used to describe socio-economic characteristics of the respondents; inferential statistics such as t-test was used to test for the hypothesis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The highest percentage of the respondents were within the age of 46-60 with 42.5%, 26.3% of the respondents were within 36-45 years of age, 15 % of them were within the age 26-35 years, 11.3% of the respondents were within 18-25 years, while just 5% of the respondents were above 60 years of age. This implies that there are higher percentage of the respondents were within the age of 46-60, with an average mean age of 43years. Table 1 shows 61% of the respondents were males while 39% were females. This implies that the number of male is higher than that of the female which means male participate more than female in home garden contrary to Adeyemo and Alayande (2001) who found out that women are more prominent in poverty alleviation strategies than the male counterparts. From the study, 76.6% of the sampled respondents were married, Agwu and Kadiri (2014) supported these as majority of people involved in various farming activities are married in order to meet their family needs. Majorities of the respondents (79.2%) graduated from tertiary institution, 9.7% of the people sampled attended primary school, while 2.8% of the respondents attempted primary school but didn't finish, 8.3% of the respondents are secondary school leaving certificate holders. Findings from Table 1 revealed that 73.1% which is the highest percentage of the of the respondents have about 3-5 members in their household, 20.5% of the respondents have 6-8 members in their household, 5.1% of the people sampled have between 1-2 members, just 1.3% of the respondents have between 9-11 members as the household size. The Table below shows the various levels of primary occupations of the respondents. It was seen that 28.8% of the respondents are civil servants as 26.3% of the respondents are traders while 17.5% of the respondents are into full time home garden practice. 15.0% of the respondents are artisans while 12.5% of the respondents are engaged in other occupations. This therefore implies that majority of the respondents are civil servants, and therefore engage in public service work, this therefore implies that the respondents had different secondary occupations they are engaged with and this will therefore add to their income generate in order to improve their standard of living. It should be noted that the attempts being made under agroforestry are to optimize the use of land for agricultural production on a sustainable basis at the same time meeting other needs from forestry (Fagbemi, 2002).

Findings in the Table below showed that majorities of the respondents (63.8%) planted annual crops as home garden while 30% of the respondents practice home garden with cultivation of vegetables such as okro, tomatoes, pepper, etc. 3.8% of the respondents revealed that they practice home garden with both annual crops and vegetables depending on the season, while just 2.5% of the respondents practice home garden with cultivation of biannual crops and fruits.

Majorities of the respondents (70%) revealed that they engage in home garden basically to supplement feeding for the family, while 20% of them revealed that they engage in home garden to generate more income, while the same percentage of respondent claims that they engage in home garden for land preservation and as a form of exercise hobby with 5%. This therefore implies that larger proportions of the respondents are engaged in home garden in order to supplement their food production. As well as generate more income in order to improve their standard of living. Table 4.1 shows the frequency distribution of the reward from primary occupation of the respondents. The survey shows that 22.5% of the respondents realized between 501,000 and 1,000,000 naira from their primary occupation, 20% of the respondents realize less than 100,000 from their primary occupation are civil servants, 17.5% of the respondents claims that they realize between 401,000 and 500,000 from their primary occupation, while 15% of the respondents claimed that they realized between 201,000-300,000, 12% of the respondents also claimed that they realized between 301,000-400,000 from their primary occupation, while just 2.5% of the respondents claimed that they realized between 100,000-200. Findings from Table 1 show the frequency distribution of the reward from primary occupation of the respondents. The survey shows that the highest percentage of the respondents claimed that they realized between 1,000-20,000, with 40% followed by 26% which claimed that they realize nothing from their secondary occupation, 10% of respondents realize between 21,000-40,000 from their secondary occupation, 8.8% of respondents realize above 100,000 from their secondary occupation, 7.5% of the respondent claims that they realize between 41,000 and 60,000 from their secondary occupation, while 5% of them claimed that they realize between 61,000-80,000, while just 2.5% of the respondents claimed that they realize between 81,000- 100,000. This indicate that the highest percentage of the respondents realize between 1000-20,000 in their secondary occupation which the top of it is Full time home garden with 68%. This is in line with (Mougeot, 2006). Throughout the developing world, municipal policy makers are waking to the fact that properly managed agriculture can make a major contribution to a city's food security. It also has potential to provide employment, improve the environment, and make productive use of vacant spaces within the city.

Table 4.1: Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
Age (years)			
18-25 years	9	11.3	43
26-35 years	12	15.0	
36-45 years	21	26.3	
46-60years	34	42.5	
Above 60 years	4	5.0	
Sex			
Male	49	61.3	
Female	31	38.8	
Marital status			
Single	16	20.0	
Married	62	77.5	
Divorced	2	2.5	
Educational status			
Pry school	11	13.8	
Secondary school	7	8.8	
Tertiary education	62	77.5	
Household size			
1-2	5	6.3	6
3-5	57	71.3	
6-8	17	21.3	
9-11	1	1.3	
Primary source of income			
Full time home garden	14	17.5	
Trading	21	26.3	
Artisan	12	15.0	
Others	10	12.5	
Secondary occupation			
Full time home garden	68	85.0	
Civil servant	2	2.5	
Artisan	3	3.8	
Others	7	8.8	
Reasons for engaging in home garden			
To generate income	16	20.0	
Supplement	56	70.0	
Form of land preservation	4	5.0	
Hobby	4	5.0	
Crops planted			
Vegetable	24	30.0	
Annual crops	51	63.8	
Biannual	2	2.5	
Annual/vegetable	3	3.8	
Income realized from primary occupation			
<100000	16	20	
100,000-200,000	2	2.5	
201,000-300,000	12	15.0	
301,000-400,000	10	12.5	
401,000-500000	14	17.5	
501,000-1000000	18	22.5	
above 1m	2	2.5	
Nil	6	7.5	
Income realized from secondary occupation			
<N20,000	32	40.0	
21-N40,000	8	10.0	
41-N60,000	6	7.5	
61-N80,000	4	5.0	
81-N100,000	2	2.5	
above N100,000	7	8.8	
Nil	20	23.6	
Total	80	100	

Source: Field survey, 2018

Respondents Attitudes Towards home garden in Eradicating Poverty

Table 2 below shows the attitudes of the respondents in practicing home garden towards eradicating poverty in the study area and respondents indicated the level at which each factor affect their attitudes towards of home garden. Their responses were recorded on a four-point Likert scale of. Many of the respondents indicated that labour is not expensive, production cost is low, land is readily available for the practice of various home garden practice, and the main aim of the practice is to supplement family food consumption and generate little income to supplements the family income. The practice also helps to eliminate land encroachment and this his is in line with World Bank, 2002 who found out that agroforestry helps in eliminating land encroachment. Though Nigeria has not been known to lack insuch efforts; yet she is still ranked among the world's 25 poorest nations.

Table 2: Respondents Attitudes Towards home garden in Eradicating Poverty

Attitude statement	SA F (%)	A F (%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)	Mean	Decision
Labor is expensive	21(26.3)	36(45.0)	19(23.8)	4(5.0)	2.38	Disagree
Poultry drops serves as manure for crops planted	21(26.3)	33(41.3)	26(32.5)	-	2.06	Agree
High cost of production	17(21.3)	32(40.0)	28(35.0)	3(3.8)	2.21	Disagree
Inavailabilityland	27(33.8)	39(48.8)	10(12.5)	4(5.0)	1.89	Disagree
additional source of income	53(66.3)	17(21.3)	10(12.5)	-	2.46	Agree
Its time consuming	30(37.5)	33(41.3)	17(21.3)	-	1.84	Disagree
Provision for family consumption	40(50.0)	21(26.3)	16(20.0)	3(3.8)	2.78	Agree
Provision of balance diet for the family	45(56.3)	29(36.3)	4(5.0)	2(2.5)	2.54	Agree
A form of hubby/exercise	41(51.3)	30(37.5)	6(7.5)	3(3.8)	2.64	Agree
It's a form of land preservation to prevent encroachment	50(62.5)	20(25.0)	7(8.8)	3(3.8)	2.54	Agree
Satisfactory	42(52.5)	36(45.0)	2(2.5)	-	1.50	Disagree
Output as a form of gift for visitors and during festive period	46(57.5)	22(27.5)	9(11.3)	3(3.8)	2.61	Agree

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Hypothesis

Ho: There is no significant difference between the respondent's income before and after home garden practices.

In the Table 3 below it shows the result of Ho that there is significant difference between the respondent's income before and after home garden practices. The P value was 0.000 which indicated that home garden practices are profitable if practiced by the farmers.

Table 4.3: Showing significant difference between the respondent's income before and after home garden practice

	R value	Df	P value	Decision
Income before home garden	0.034	1	0.456	NS
Income after home garden	0.079	3	0.000	S

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study it can be concluded that home garden plays a significant role in national development by contributing towards food security, employment creation and income generation. However, it is associated with diverse negative impacts on public health and the environment. Development of home garden has been affected by lack of specific laws and policies geared towards addressing the development this important sub- sector. However, various legislations refer individually to the sub-sector. Some of these legislations indirectly support or hinder the growth and development of the sub sector. Despite these shortcomings home garden has continued unabated in most parts of Akure, Ondo state. Many households in Akure are facing a serious decline in their purchasing power and poverty levels are on the rise. The larger the household, the more they depend on home garden to supplement their food requirements. As Akure metropolis expands, it encroaches on the hither to agricultural areas in its periphery. These areas are an integral part of the city as they provide the bulk of the food especially vegetables to the city.

Recommendations

1. Partnership with other stakeholders to develop, disseminate and promote adoption of appropriate technologies to address constraints associated with limited land holdings, unavailability of clean water for irrigation and poor waste management in addition to promoting the adoption of high value crop and livestock enterprises e.g. horticulture and small stock.
2. Various households should be encouraged to increase their home garden practice in order to produce beyond family consumption to mass sell of home garden products in order to ensure sustainable economy in Nigeria.
3. Initiation of in-ward looking development programmes that are in line with the earnings and aspirations of home gardeners and the target population should be introduced and actively involve every households.

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