



Perception of youth towards farm city programme in Ondo state, Nigeria - a case study of Ore, Epe and Auga farm site

Akintade TF

Department of Agricultural Science Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo, Ondo State, Nigeria

Publication History

Received: 17 February 2017

Accepted: 29 March 2017

Published: 1 May 2017

Citation

Akintade TF. Perception of youth towards farm city programme in Ondo state, Nigeria - a case study of Ore, Epe and Auga farm site. *Discovery*, 2017, 53(257), 298-304

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General Note



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ABSTRACT

This study examined the perception of youth towards from city programme in Ondo State, Nigeria. It described the socio-economic characteristics of the youth in the area; determine the various sources of information and identified the various problems encountered by the respondents. Interview schedule was used to collect data from 120 respondents which were analyzed using percentage and frequency counts. The study found that majority of the respondents had a favorable attitude towards farm city programme. The study established the preponderance of males in the programme (71.9%), a young active respondents, majority were not married (60.8%). Findings revealed that majority of the respondent completed tertiary institution (41.8%) with 79.2% in the study area. It was also found out that sex and educational status had significant relationship with respondent's perception towards farm city programme. It was recommended that government should partner various organizations to finance the scheme very well and also provide accessible roads and adequate electricity supply should be made available.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, food accounts for a large and increasing share of family budgets for poor and urban families. The Food and Agricultural organization (FAO), an agency of the United Nations (UN), once raised alarm that Nigeria, Morocco and Bangladesh faced imminent food crisis. The report stated that the world food situation was in dire crisis. The recent escalation of food prices in Nigeria call for a sober reflection and object of concern to the government and citizens.

Ayoola, (2001), attributed this situation to along time neglect of agriculture by successive government administration since the advent of petroleum in Nigeria market. Aflred, (2004) adduced many other reasons for the neglection of agriculture and one of these is the migration of the youth and able bodied men and women to the urban areas. This resulted in the abandonment of farming enterprise into the hand of old people who are still into subsistence farming.

Adedoyini, (2005) opined that if youth were encouraged to live in the rural areas and contribute to food production, the effect of the crisis could be ameliorated. To improve the level of participation of youth in Agriculture, the Ondo State Government introduced the farm city programme to encourage youths and curb the effect of rural – urban migration and also increase food production in Nigeria. It is assumed that if this programme is well embraced by the youth, food shortage would be “kicked out” of the country, hence labour supply in farming would also be enhanced. World Bank data shows that more than 70% of Nigerians live below the poverty line which is less than a dollar/day. Implying that there has been an astronomical growth in the level of poverty of Nigerians most of whom are engaged in Agriculture from independence till today. Farming population comprises predominantly resources – poor peasant, cultivating an average of about two hectares of land usually scattered from holdings with low and declining productivity.

The problems faced by youth in Nigeria is at an alarming rate, these includes youth restiveness, militancy, kidnapping, hostage, taking, armed robbery, cultism, cannibalism, pipe line vandalism. There is therefore the need by various arms of government to engage the youth and bringing them together towards the satisfaction of their felt needs through organized efforts to acquire the needed skills required for effective participation in agricultural programmes. It is on the basis, that the study will seek to answer the following research questions.

- What are the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents?
- What is the perception of respondent towards the programme?
- What is the source of information available to respondents on the programme?
- What are the problems encountered by respondents?

1.1. Objectives of the study

The broad objective of the study therefore was to investigate the perception of youth towards farm city programme in Ondo State, Nigeria. Specifically the study.

- ascertain the demographic characteristics of the respondents
- determine the perception of respondents towards farm city programme.
- examine the sources of information on the programme
- identified various problems encountered by respondents

1.2. Hypothesis of the study

H0₁: There is no significant relationship between respondents demographic characteristics and perception of youths towards the programme.

2. METHODOLOGY

The state lies between longitude 4° 30' and 6° 00' east of Greenwich Meridian and Latitude 9° 15' and 8° 19' north of the equator, the area is composed of low lands and rugged hills with granites in several places, there are two distinct seasons (rainy season and dry season). The 2006 National, population estimated the state population as 3,441,024 and covers an area of over 14, 595 square kilometers and divided into 18 Local Government areas.

2.1. Sources of Data and Sampling Technique

Primary data was collected for the study. The primary data were obtained through structured questionnaire and were administered on youths identified to have participated in the farm city programme through an interview schedule. Based upon the available information of the population size, the sampling procedure employed was purposive sampling technique which was used in selecting three (3) out of five existing farm site in the state. From each site selected, forty youths were randomly selected and sampled thus giving a total sample size of one hundred and twenty youths that were used for final data analysis.

2.2. Data analysis

Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages and chi-square, A 5 point likert scale technique was used to determine the perception of respondents towards the programme.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Age of respondents

Table 1 shows that 25% of the respondents were less than 20 years, 46.7% were between 21-30 years while 28.3% were between 31-40 years. This shows that younger generation are motivated to go into farming.

Table 1 also revealed 71.7% of the respondents are males while only 28.4% are females. This may be due to the tedious nature of farming (Alfred, 2001 and Adedotun, 2010). Also in table 1, 60.8% of the respondents were single while 39.2% were married. This may probably be due to the fact that young graduates were recruited for the programme. Respondents also had one form of education or other cutting across completed tertiary education 41.8% attended tertiary education 22.5% completed secondary 37.5%. This implies that respondents have the required knowledge to manage new technologies that will be helpful in improving their productivity. Respondents with high educational standard are expected to be able to have access to information than illiterate (Okunola, 2003). The table 1 also revealed that majority of the respondents are Christians 79.2% Muslims, 18.3% of the respondents are traditional worshippers while 1.7% are free thinkers. The high percentage of Christianity could be as a result early missionary activities in their early 60's.

Table 2 shows majority of the respondents (50.8%) had information from friends/politicians, 34.2% Agricultural Extension agents, 8.3% fellow farmers 4.2% Non Governmental Organization while 10.8% through Radio and Television.

Table 1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents (n=120)

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	86	71.9
Female	34	28.4
Age		
11-20	30	25.5
21-30	56	46.7
31-40	34	28.3
Marital Status		
Single	73	60.8
Married	47	39.2
Level of Education		
Completed tertiary education	72	41.8
Attended Tertiary education	27	22.5
Complete secondary education	45	37.5
Religion		
Christianity	95	79.2
Islam	22	18.3
Traditional	2	1.7
Free thinker	1	0.8

Source: Field data survey 2015

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3.2. Source of information of Respondents

Table 2 shows that majority of the respondents (42.6%) had information from friends/politicians while others received their information from agricultural extension agents (41.6%). Non Governmental Organization (4.2%), Radio and Television (11.7%). Friends/politicians appear to be most accessible source of information among respondents.

Table 2 Distribution According to Source of Information of Respondent

Source of information	Frequency	Percentage
Agricultural Extension Agents	50	41.6
NGO	5	4.2
Radio/Television	14	11.7
Friends/Politicians	51	42.6

Source: Field data 2015

3.3. The Perception of Respondents towards farm city programme

Table 3 revealed the perception of respondents (PD) to a set of statements by means of 5 point Likert Scale of "Strongly Agreed" "Agreed" "Undecided" "Disagreed" "Strongly Disagreed" Frequencies, percentage and mean scores were used to measure and take appropriate decision on each statements.

According to table 3, 45% of the respondents strongly agreed that farm city programme has helped in the increment of their income, 46.7% agreed, 4.2% were undecided 2.56% of the respondents disagreed while 7.7% strongly disagreed. The mean score of 3.9 shows that respondents agreed it has helped in increasing the income. The result also revealed that 35.0% strongly agreed that the programme has increased their socio-economic wellbeing, 44.2% agreed, 5% were undecided, 7.5% strongly disagreed while 8.3% disagreed. The mean score is 4.2 i.e. the respondents strongly agreed that farm city programme has increased their socio-economic. Also 33.3% strongly agreed it has alleviated their status 55.8% agreed, 5.8% were disagreed. The mean score 3.8 clearly shows that respondents were undecided. The table also revealed that 30.8% of the respondents believe the programme has improved their access to loanable fund, 40% agreed, 18.3% were undecided while 4.2% and 6.7% and the respondents strongly agreed and disagreed.

The table also showed that 30% of the respondents strongly agreed that it has improved their techniques in farming, 34.2% agreed, 24.2% of the respondents were undecided, 4.2% strongly agreed with the statements. Also 3.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that the programme has changed their orientation about agriculture, 48.3% agreed, 13.3% of the respondents were undecided, 4.2% strongly disagreed while 2.5% disagreed. The mean score of 2.9 implies that respondents agreed that their participation in farm city programme has changed their orientation. 39.2% of the respondents strongly agreed and the programme has change their values system 37.5% agreed 10.8% were undecided, 8.3% strongly disagreed while 4.2% disagreed. The mean score of 4.1 clearly shows that respondent strongly agreed that their participation in the scheme had improved their values. Furthermore, 26.6% of the respondents also believe the programme is stressful, 43.3% agreed, 22.5% of the respondents were undecided. 50% disagreed while 2.5% disagreed. The mean score of 3.9 shows clearly that respondents agreed to the statement. 26.6% of the respondents also believed that the programme has made farming less time consuming, 50% agreed, 12.5% of the respondents were undecided 9.2% strongly disagreed while 1.7% disagreed. The mean score of 4.1 clearly shows the respondent strongly disagreed that the programme has made farming less time consuming. This may be a results of the latest technique used for production on the farm.

Also 35.8% of the respondents believed farm city programme gave useful information, 50% agreed, 12.5% were undecided, 9.2% strongly disagree while 1.7% disagreed. The mean score shows that respondents strongly agreed to the statements. The table also showed that 39.2% believed their programme has improved their farming technique 42.5% of the respondents agreed, 15.8% were undecided, 2.5% strongly disagreed. The mean score of 3.8 shows that respondents were-undecided. 28.3% of the respondents believed the programme has mad farming more successful, 14.2% were undecided. The means score of 4.0 shows that respondents agreed that it has made success out of farming.

27.5% of the respondents also believed that the programme has reduced the cost invested in farming, 38.3% agreed, 20.8% were undecided, while 5.0% disagreed. The mean score shows that respondents believed that the programme has reduced cost drastically.

Furthermore, the table revealed 35.8% of the respondents perceived that the programme has failed in terms of delivery, 36.7% agreed, 20% were undecided, 16.6% strongly disagreed while 0.8% disagreed while 0.8% disagreed. The mean score of 4.1 shows that respondents clearly agreed. Also 42.5% of the respondents believed the programme need some adjustment and re-orientation, 43% agreed, 13.3% were undecided 0.8% strongly disagreed respectively. The mean score of 4.3 clearly shows they agreed to the statement. The table also shows that 36.7% of the respondents believed the programme should be sustained and improved on, 49% agreed, 10.8% were undecided 3.3% strongly disagreed while 4.2 disagreed. The means score of 4.1 clearly shows that respondents strongly agreed that the programme should be sustained and well packaged. Finally 30% of the respondents believed the scheme has reduced unemployment 52% disagreed, 9.2% were undecided, while 0.8% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

Table 3 The perception of respondent towards farm city programme

Item	(SA) Stringy Agreed		(A) Agreed		(u) Undecided		(SA) Strongly Agreed		(D) Disagreed		Mean
	Frequency	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	
The programme helped in increasing their income	58	45.0	56	46.7	5	4.3	2	1.7	3	2.5	3.9
Farm city has increased their social economic well being	42	35	53	44.2	6	5	9	7.5	10	8.3	4.2
Farm city has helped to alleviate poverty status	40	33.3	67	55.8	7	5.8	6	5			3.8
The programme has improved their access to loanable fund	37	30.8	48	40	22	18.3	5	4.2	8	6.7	3.9
Farm city enhanced and improved farming skills	42	30.0	41	34.2	29	24.2	5	4.2	3	2.5	4.1
The programme has changed their orientation about agriculture	38	3.7	58	48.3	16	13.3	5	4.2	3	2.5	3.9
The programme helped in changing values about agriculture.	47	39.2	45	37.5	13	10.8	10	8.3	5	4.2	3.9
Farm city made farming stressful	32	26.6	52	43.3	27	22.5	16	5.0	3	2.5	3.9
The programme has made farming less time consuming	32	26.6	60	50	15	12.5	11	9.2	2	1.7	4.1
Farm city gave useful information per time	43	35.8	48.3	11	9.2	8	6.6	–	–		3.7
Improved agricultural farming practices	47	39.2	51	42.5	5	5.3	2	1.7	3	2.5	3.9
Programme has made success of farming	34	28.3	44	36.7	6	5	9	7.5	10	8.3	4.2
The programme reduce the cost invested in farming	33	27.5	46	38.3	7	5.8	6	5	–	–	3.8
Failed in term of delivery	43	35.8	44	36.7	22	18.3	5	4.2	8	6.7	3.9
Need adjustment and orientation	51	42.2	52	43.3	29	24.2	5	4.2	3	2.5	4.1
Farm city is sustainable	44	36.7	54	49	16	13.3	5	4.2	3	2.5	3.9
The programme has reduced unemployment	36	30	63	52.5	13	10.8	10	8.3	5	4.2	3.9
Total	730		943		305		129		54		40

Source: Field Data 2015

Grand mean = 3.8

3.4. Problems Encountered

The table 4 revealed the various problems encountered by respondents in the course of the programme, (84,2%) bad road network, (84.1%) lack adequate electricity supply, inadequate funding accounted for 58.3% nonpayment of stipends (87.5%) under utilization of farming equipment (66.7%). These problems had hindered the vision of the programme.

Table 4 Problems Encountered

Problem encountered	Frequency	Percentage
bad road network	110	84.2
Lack of adequate electricity	101	84.1
Under utilization of farming equipments	70	58.3
Inadequate funding	70	58.3
Non payments of stipends	108	87.5

Source: Field data 2015

Multiple responses

3.5. Hypothesis Testing: Demographic Characteristics and Perception towards Farm City Programme

The chi-square analysis conducted for each of the demographic characteristics against perception as shown in table 5 revealed that sex and educational attainment had significant effect on the perception of the respondent towards the programme. This shows that the variable can influence the respondent view towards the programme.

Table 5 Chi-square relationship between selected socio-economic characteristic and perception of the programme

Selected socio economic characteristics	Chi-square tabulated	d.f	Chi-square calculated	Decision
Sex	13.44	1	0.455	S
Age	3.61	4	3.357	N.S
Educational qualification	13.44	5	6.846	S
Religion	0.82	5	4.351	NS

Source: Field data 2015

0.05 level of significance

NS = Not significant

S=Significant

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study investigated the perception of youths towards farm city programme in Ondo State, Nigeria. The study also identified the challenges encountered by respondents and the sources of information by respondents in the programme. It is therefore concluded that there is need to address the enormous problem identified in the course of the research work in order to boost food production in Nigeria mostly especially in the South West which has been identified as a major producer of food crops. The study recommends that government should partner with various organizations to finance the scheme very well and also provide accessible roads, and electricity supply shall be made available.

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