

ASSESSMENT OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION ALONG FISH VALUE CHAIN ACTIVITIES IN EDE NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed youth participation in fish production value chain in Ede North Local Government, Osun State, Nigeria. The study specifically described the socioeconomic characteristics of youths involved in fish production value chain in the study area, examined their perception, determined their level of participation and identified the constraints affecting their participation in fish production value chain. Multistage sampling procedure was used to select one hundred respondents from the study area. Results showed that majority, (56.0%) of the respondents were below 40 years of age and 73.0% were males. Majority, (69.0%) had travelled out of outside the State. Fish production value chain activities is a way to reduce poverty (79.0%) ranked highest among the indicators of perception of youth about fish production value chain activities followed by fish production value chain activities are capital intensive (72.0%). In addition, wholesaling (\bar{x} = 2.72) ranked the highest among the fish value chain activities the youths participated in followed by feeding of fish (\bar{x} = 2.68). Also, some of the youths (22.0%) indicated that lack of credit facilities as a constraint affecting their participation in fish production value chain activities followed by instability of economy (17.0%). There was a positive and significant relationship ($p \leq 0.001$, $r = 0.265$) between perception of youth and their participation in fish production value chain activities. The study concluded that the level of youth participation in fish production value chain was moderate and recommended that micro credit facilities with low interest rate and low collateral demands suitable for youth participation in fish production value chain be made available.

Keywords: Assessment, Youth, Participation, Fish, Value Chain Activities

INTRODUCTION

Fish is an important source of animal protein for both man and livestock in developed and developing economies. In Nigeria, the current demand for fish is about four times the level of local production. Humans consume approximately 80 percent of the catch as food. The remaining 20 percent goes into the manufacturing of products such as fish oil, fertilisers, and animal food (Emmanuel, Chinenye, and Peter 2014).

Adelodun, Bankole, Rafiu, Morawo and Ajao (2016) posited that aquaculture in Nigeria still requires some physical strength which the already ageing farmers do not poses. Norton (2014) reiterated that value chain is a set of linked activities that work to add value to a product, which consist of actors and actions that improve a product while linking commodity producers to processors and market.

Fisheries and aquaculture are integral parts of agriculture which were found to have the capacity to increase the country's GDP and can solve the unemployment problem for our teeming youths if adequately managed. The formal sector of employment where most graduates seek employment cannot absorb the large number of graduates, estimated to be between 10-12 million young persons per year (Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), 2015).

According to Nwunel (2018), the average age of Nigeria farmers is between 55-60 years and the participation of Nigeria farmers in agriculture is low let alone the value chain of the sector. Participation of youths in agriculture is a way of increasing their skills, knowledge, confidence, self-

reliance and opportunity to collaborate and engage in sustainable development. Fasina (2013) also posited that the Nigerian farmer is ageing with an average age of 50 years.

Adelodun *et al.*, (2016) reiterated that youth amounts to about 80 million, representing about 60.0% of the total population of the country. This shows that the youth dominates the country in terms of population, but the apathy of the youths towards fish farming has limited their participation in the sector. Presently, it has been observed that the number of youth involved in aquaculture is very small, rather than getting involved in farming activities, a vast population of the youth goes in search of the white collar jobs which a decline in its availability has been the experience in recent times. For aquaculture to reach its full potential there should be a considerable and active participation of a high percentage of the youth in the sector (Adelodun *et al.*, 2016). Hence, this study assessed youths' participation in Fish Production Value Chain (FPVC) activities in Ede North Local Government Area, Osun State, Nigeria.

The general objective of the study was to assess the participation of youths along FPVC activities in Ede North Local Government Area, Osun State, Nigeria. Specific objectives were to:

- i. describe the socioeconomic characteristics of youths involved in FPVC activities in the study area;
- ii. examine the perception of the youths about the FPVC activities;
- iii. determine the extent of participation of the youths in FPVC activities and;



- iv. identify the constraints affecting the participation of the youths involved in FPVC activities.

The study hypothesized that there is no significant relationship between the youths' perception towards FPVC activities and their extent of participation in the FPVC activities.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Ede North Local Government Area, Osun State, with headquarters at Oja Timi in the town of Ede. The study area has a population of 83,818, with 42,282 males and 41,536 females (National Bureau of Statistics, 2018). The population of the study comprised youths only (aged between 15 years to 40 years) who were participating in FPVC activities. Ede North Local Government Area was purposefully selected for the study due to the encouraging population of fish producers available. Multistage sampling procedure was used for the sample selection. In the first stage, random sampling technique was used to select five communities namely: Apaso, Adejumo, Araromi, Atoyebi and Sabo. At the final stage 100 youths who participated in FPVC were equally drawn from the five selected communities.

The Agricultural Development Programme staff member in the area assisted in contacting the respondents. The data for the study was collected using a well-structured and validated interview schedule. Data collected were summarized using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviation. In addition, correlation analysis was used to determine the relationship between the dependent and an independent variable of the study. The extent of participation was measured on a four-point Likert-type scale of 0, 1, 2 and 3 for not at all, rarely, occasionally and often respectively for the extent of participation. Perceptual statements were used to measure perception on a five-point likert-type scale of 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 for strongly disagree, disagree, undecided, agree and strongly agree respectively for the positive perceptual statements and the inverse for negative perceptual statements.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Personal and socioeconomic characteristics

Results in Table 1 show that the mean age of respondents was 30.78 ± 7.42 years. This indicated that respondents were in their productive ages and they were very active. This result agrees with the position of Uzoma, Bello and Falade (2017) that Sub-Saharan Africa that youths are people within the age bracket of 15 and 35 years. Majority, (73.0%) of the respondents were male. This indicated that FPVC activities is male dominated. This finding is similar to that of Idrisa,

Shehu, and Ngamdu (2012) who stated that the majority (87.7%) of the respondents were male respondents.

The results also show that close to half, (47.0%) of the respondents were married. This implied that almost half of the respondents have partners who can help in decision making. This finding is similar to that of Umar, Musa, and Kamsang (2014) who found that majority of the farmers were married. The results further show that majority, (69.0%) had travelled outside the state in the last one year. This indicated that the respondents had high level of cosmo-politeness exposure in improving their FPVC activities.

The results show further respondents used imported equipment (6.0%), fairly used equipment (36.0%) and locally fabricated equipment (58.0%). This indicated that locally fabricated equipment were the most assessable in the study area. The results also show that majority, (73.0%) of the respondents got their capital through personal savings, few, (16.0%) got their own through relatives, and (2.0%) got theirs through government, (2.0%) got theirs through credit institutions and (7.0%) got theirs through cooperatives. This implied that the youths that participated in FPVC activities in the study area depended on themselves and their relatives for acquiring capital that would assist them in their FPVC activities.

Perception of the youths towards FPVC activities

The perception of the youths about FPVC activities may have an influence on their participation in it. Results in Table 2 reveal that majority (79.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed that FPVC activities are a way to reduce poverty. FPVC activities can solve the problem of food shortage (70.0%), FPVC activities can reduce the rate of unemployment (57.0%), and FPVC is a lucrative business (54.0%). These perceptions may encourage the respondents to participate in FPVC activities if they are sure that engaging in it will alleviate their poverty, make them food secured, cash secured and gainfully engaged. In addition, majority of the respondents strongly agreed that FPVC activities will increase agricultural productivity (69.0%) and a little above average (51.0%) agreed that FPVC strengthen the link between agricultural stakeholders. These perceptions are expected because FPVC activities are chiefly agricultural and participating in them will further increase agricultural activities and strengthen the link between agricultural stakeholders.

However, (72.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed that FPVC activities are capital intensive. This perception may discourage the respondents from participating in FPVC activities. This finding agrees with the

findings of Adelodun *et al.*, (2016) that youths perceive aquaculture as a high capital investment

and most of them have limited funds/income to carry out that kind of investment.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on their personal and socioeconomic characteristics (n=100)

Variables	Freq	Percent	\bar{x}	S.D
Age				
≤20	16	16.0		
21.00-30.00	65	65.0		
31.00—40.00	19	19.0	30.78	7.42
Sex				
Male	73	73.0		
Female	27	27.0		
Marital status				
Single	41	41.0		
Married	47	47.0		
Divorced	10	10.0		
Widowed	2	2.0		
Cosmopolitaness				
Not at all	6	6.0		
Neighboring local government	15	15.0		
Other state within Nigeria	69	69.0		
Outside Nigeria	10	10.0		
Type of equipment				
Imported	6	6.0		
Fairly used	36	36.0		
Locally fabricated	58	58.0		
Capital				
Personal savings	73	73.0		
Relatives	16	16.0		
Government	2	2.0		
Credit institution	2	2.0		
Cooperative	7	7.0		

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 2: Perception of youths towards FPVC activities (n=100)

Variables	SA	A	U	D	SD
FPVC is a way to reduce poverty	79.0	21.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FPVC is capital intensive	72.0	25.0	2.0	1.0	0.0
FPVC can solve the problem of food shortage	70.0	26.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
Youths' participation in FPVC will increase agricultural productivity	69.0	25.0	3.0	0.0	3.0
FPVC can help reduce the rate of unemployment	57.0	39.0	1.0	0.0	2.0
FPVC is a lucrative business	54.0	33.0	3.0	0.0	3.0
FPVC strengthen the link between agricultural stakeholders	41.0	51.0	3.0	2.0	4.0
There is no steady employment in FPVC	26.0	11.0	12.0	31.0	20.0
FPVC activities are concentrated in agrarian communities	19.0	15.0	11.0	30.0	25.0
FPVC activities do not benefit youths	20.0	8.0	18.0	36.0	18.0
FPVC activities cannot increase the standard of living of stakeholders	10.0	2.0	13.0	58.0	17.0

Source: Field survey, 2018

Extent of participation in FPVC activities

Results in Table 3 reveal that wholesaling ($\bar{x}=2.72$) ranked the highest among the FPVC activities the youth participated in, followed by feeding of fish ($\bar{x}=2.68$), weighing of fish ($\bar{x}=2.55$), stocking ($\bar{x}=2.52$), selection of fish ($\bar{x}=2.51$), treating of fish ($\bar{x}=2.50$), handling of fish ($\bar{x}=2.48$)

and others in that order. These results further implied that most of the respondents participated in FPVC activities for economic and food security/sufficiency and socio reasons; that is to have money in their pockets, to have food on their tables and to get engaged in FPVC activities as an occupation whether on full time or part time basis.

**Table 3: Extent of youths' participation in pre-production, production, processing or value addition and marketing activities (n=100)**

Variables	Not at all	Rarely	Occasionally	Often	\bar{x}
*Pre-production activities					
Selection of fish	4.0	5.0	27.0	64.0	2.51
Construction of pond	3.0	12.0	28.0	57.0	2.39
Purchasing of input	4.0	11.0	30.0	55.0	2.36
Sourcing of labour	5.0	17.0	30.0	48.0	2.21
Sourcing for capital	2.0	18.0	45.0	35.0	2.13
Demudding of pond	5.0	23.0	31.0	47.0	2.08
Formulation of feed	4.0	30.0	39.0	27.0	1.89
*Production activities					
Feeding of fish	1.0	6.0	17.0	76.0	2.68
Stocking	3.0	5.0	29.0	63.0	2.52
Treating of fish	2.0	8.0	28.0	62.0	2.50
Weeding of pond	2.0	11.0	22.0	60.0	2.45
Manual harvesting	3.0	13.0	27.0	57.0	2.38
*Processing or value addition activities					
Weighing of Fish	2.0	10.0	19.0	69.0	2.55
Handling of fish	0.0	8.0	36.0	56.0	2.48
Smoking of fish	1.0	8.0	45.0	46.0	2.36
Salting of fish	4.0	12.0	40.0	44.0	2.24
Drying of fish	3.0	17.0	47.0	33.0	2.10
Storage of fish	6.0	36.0	29.0	29.0	1.81
Bagging of fish	9.0	33.0	27.0	31.0	1.80
Canning of fish	16.00	44.0	18.0	22.0	1.46
*Marketing activities					
Wholesaling	0.0	4.0	20.0	76.0	2.72
Retailing	2.0	11.0	40.0	47.0	2.32
Exporting	43.0	28.0	13.0	16.0	1.02

Source: Field survey, 2018

Constraints affecting youths' participation in FPVC activities

Results in Table 4 show that lack of credit facilities (22.0%) ranked highest among the constraints affecting youth participation in fish value chain activities. Also, instability of economy (17.0%), high cost of inputs (16.0%), illiteracy (15.0%), lack of storage facilities (10.0%), poor land tenure system (7.0%), high cost of labour (6.0%), low level of external orientation (3.0%),

lack of appropriate technology (3.0%) and poor transport amenities (1.0%) followed as other constraints in that order. This finding agrees with that of Adedun *et al.*, (2016) which revealed lack of credit facilities as one of the major constraints hindering the participation of youths in fish production in the study area.

Table 4: Constraints affecting youths' participation in FPVC activities (n=100)

Constraints	Freq	Percent
Lack of credit facilities	22	22.0
Instability of the economy	17	17.0
High cost of inputs	16	16.0
Illiteracy	15	15.0
Lack of storage facilities	10	10.0
Poor land tenure system	7	7.0
High cost of labour	6	6.0
Low level of external orientation	3	3.0
Lack of appropriate technology	3	3.0
Poor transport facilities	1	1.0

Source: Field survey, 2018

Test of hypothesis

Results in Table 5 show the correlation analysis between the respondents' perception of FPVC activities and their participation in FPVC activities. The results show that the respondents' perception towards FPVC activities correlated positively and significantly with their participation

in FPVC activities ($r= 0.265$; $p=0.008$). We therefore reject the null hypothesis and indicate that there is a statistically significant relationship since the respondents' perception of FPVC activities influences their participation in FPVC activities in the study area.

Table 5: PPM Correlation showing relationship between the respondents' perception of FPVC activities and extent of participation in the FPVC activities

Variables	Correlation coefficient (r)	p-value	Decision
Perception	0.265**	0.008	S

** Significant at $P \leq 0.01$

Source: Field survey, 2018

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study assessed youth participation in fish production value chain in Ede North Local Government, Osun State, Nigeria. The study revealed that majority of the respondents were in their productive ages and they were very active, were males and had travelled out of outside the State. The respondents still believe that fish production value chain activities is a way to reduce poverty and that fish production value chain activities are capital intensive. Most of the respondents participated in wholesaling and feeding of fish. Also, some of the youths indicated that lack of credit facilities and instability of economy as a constraint affecting their participation in fish production value chain activities. In order to improve the participation of youth in the FPVC activities, the study recommended that the government and private organisations make micro credit facilities with low interest rate and low collateral demands suitable for youth participation in fish production value chain available.

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