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SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON IMPROVE CASSAVA VARIETIES AMONG FARMERS IN ANAMBRA STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed the sources of information on improved cassava varieties among cassava farmers. Anambra state served as the areas of the study of which the entire cassava farmers in Anambra State comprised of the population of the study. 120 cassava farmers were randomly selected from the Awka Anambra and Agwata Agricultural zones of the State. Questionnaire was used to collect data for the study whose items border on the various sources of agricultural information. The data collected was analyzed using the descriptive statistical of such as frequency, percentage and mean score. It was discovered among other things that the cassava farmers obtain agricultural information mainly through the radio fellow farmers and it was recommended among others that the government, ministry of Agricultural organization should work in collaboration to overhaul the extension delivery system and also make information on cassava varieties available to cooperative society and community leaders to reach out to farmers.

Keywords: Sources; Information; Improve Cassava Varieties; Farmers.

Introduction

Agricultural growth is fundamental in fostering atomic growth of any agrarian nation in order to feed the growing population (Ojo and Ogunyemi, 2014). Agriculture is the largest sector in the Nigerian economy, providing food, income and employment, for sustainable livelihood of both rural and urban population (Anyikwa, Ezeano, Anunobi, Umeh and Anyawu, 2019). It is fascinating that more people are realizing that among the various sectors of the economic development in Nigeria. "Agriculture has become the most profitable and has been identified as the largest employer of labour in Africa, particularly in Nigeria" (Amechi and Okafor, 2018). Agriculture in Nigeria employs about two third of the total labour force of the nation, and provides a livelihood of the poor living the rural areas (Adepoju and Salman, 2013). Agricultural sector is a major source of foreign exchange earnings contributing 23% of the gross domestic product (GDP). It has annual growth rate of 5.5% and it is assumed to employ about 70% active workforce of the population (CBN, 2014).

Adoption is a mental process through which an individual when hearing about the new idea, embrace it an makes it a part of his behavior. (Ahmed, Awad, Tadez, Filipez and Skvwron, 2025). Adoption is the final decision made by an individual/group of persons to make use of the most recent technology. Adoption of an improved agricultural technology has been associated with higher earnings and lower poverty; improved national status, lower staple food prices; increase employment opportunities as well as earnings for landless labourers (Marangi and Kariauka, 2015). Alade (2011) defined adoption as any innovation or

idea or a mental process which an individual pass through before deciding to continue the full use of any innovation or not. Loevinsohn, Sumberg and Diagne (2013) defined adoption as the integration of a new technology into an existing practice adaptation. Chavas and Nauges, (2019) reported in their study that adoption decision are part of a general innovation process that starts with discovery of new knowledge, relating to how resources are used in the production of goods and services. Margareth and Samuel (2015), explained the two categories of adoption in their study which are rate of adoption and intensity of adoption. According to them, rate of adoption is relative speed which the farmer adopt an innovation while intensity of adoption refers to the level of use of a given technology over a given period of time.

Cassava (Manihot Osculenta Crantz) also called tapioca in Asia: manioc, Yucca and Madioca in Latin America, it is a perennial vegetatively propagated shrub growth throughout the low land tropics for its starchy, thickened roots. (Ola and Adedayo, 2020), Cassava originates from tropical America, introduced in Africa by the Portuguese in the Congo basin around 1558 (Anyikwa et al, 2019). Cassava is a starch stoning root crop that is an important source of dietary energy in the tropical regions of the world (Oluwabusayo, Peter and Tim, 2019). The majority (88%) of cassava produced in Africa is used for human food, with over 50% used in the form of processed products. (Oyewole and Eforuoku, 2029). "Cassava has the potential to increased farmers income, reduce rural and urban poverty and help close food insecurity gaps" (Okonkwo, Nwaru, Nwokoro, Ukeje, 20218) because cassava grows in high rain fall between 508mm and 1524mm and also, in semi-arid region because of its drought tolerance and high resistance and high resistance to pasts and diseases (Orimolonye and adegun, 2017).

As a result of the benefits gotten cassava, many improved cassava varieties have been developed particularly in Nigeria. The cassava varieties were bred for high yield (high dry matter content), pest and disease resistance, good product quality and early maturity. (Nwabueze, 2010), improved cassava varieties for pest and disease resistance are those improved cassava varieties capable of resisting the attack of common cassava disease known as Cassava Mosaic Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan released a total number of thirty-one improved cultivars of cassava that are high yielding. resistant to pests and diseases with low HCN contents to Nigerian farmers from 2000 to 2005. Cassava varieties arc also differentiated from one another by their morphological characteristics such as colour of stem, petiole leaves. Cassava varieties are usually grouped into two main categories: Manihot Palmata (bitter) and Manihot aipi (sweet) cassava.
This grouping is a matter of economic convenience, as it is difficult to distinguish the two groups by botanical characteristics. (Nwabueze,2009), International fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) .2016) listed two main types of cassava varieties existing as (TMS 98/0505) and (2)

Sweet varieties (TMS 4 (2) 1425). These varieties contain hydrogen cyanide (Prussic acid) that is harmful when eaten raw (TMS 98050S) which the better variety has acid on the root whereas (TMS 4 (2) 1405) have the acid mainly on the leaves. Other improved cassava varieties TMS 992132, TMS 98/0581/TMS 98/0505/, TMS 4(2) 1405, TMS 980510. TMS 97/2205, TMS 30572,

TMS 4(2) 1425,NRS 032, NR 8O82 and Tme419 (Udensi et al. 2011).

Cassava is produced largely by small scale farmers in Nigeria. It is an important crop in the farming systems of Nigeria due to its inherent attributes which includes its ability to give good breturns under poor soils such as dystric aerosol and plinthic ferrosols and adverse weather conditions such as drought's ability to store in the field until needed for use and amendability to Processing into various food forms such as tapioca, garri, fufu, chin chin, bread, cake, mio-mio. bean cali livestock feed and industrial raw materials such as ethanol (Uchemba, Nenna and Obianeto, 2021).

Nigeria has remained the global leader in production of cassava as they contributed about 50metric tones GDP to Nigeria annually (F.A O. 2019). It is expected that it's contribution will reach 60million tones by 2020 (Anyikwa et al, 2019). Nigeria accounts for cassava production up to 20 percent and of the world 34 percent of africa's and about 13.63 metric tons per hectare (ha), as against potential yield up to 40 metric tons per hectare (ha) (Uchemba et al, 2021). They further reported that close to two thirds (66 percent) of the total production is in the southern part of the country, while about s0 percent is in the north central and 4 percent in other part of the north.

According to Donkor, Onakuse, Bogue, Camenado, (2o17) cassava has engaged most of the labour force, provide the industries with raw materials and food commodities to the populace and is currently an income generating activity, The tuber of flesh is composed of about 62% water, 36% carbohydrates, 1-2 fibre and 1% mineral matter, (Cock, 2015) cassava leaves compare favorably with soyabeans in protein quality and are higher in lysine but deficiency in methionine and possibly tryptophan (Cock. 2015)

Olutosin and Barbara. (2019) stated that garri accounted for about 70% of human food from cassava, Other common cassava products mainly for human consumption include: elubo/lafun lufu/ akpu. abacha among others the major industrial products of cassava in Nigeria are cassava starch. High quality cassava flour or bakery flour, cassava chips and pallets (Nwike,2010). The purpose is to access source of information improve the cassava varieties among the farmers so as to feel in the necessary gaps regarding the farmers knowledge base or awareness on good varieties the will increase their productivity in cassava farming

Population and Sampling Technique

The population for the study comprises of all registered cassava farmers in Anambra State and a multi-stage sample technique was use to select 100 and 20 respondents for the study. The stage (1) involved random sampling of three agricultural zones due to intensive cassava production activities which included Aguata zone, Awka zone, Anambra zone.

The data for this study was obtained through the use of questionnaire whose items border on various socio-economic variable of the farmers such as age, marital status, gender, household size, size of income, membership of cooperative, annual income, farm size etc. The Data collected for the study was analyzed using the descriptive statistic such frequency, percentage and mean score.

Table: Sources of Information

S/n	Source	Frequency	Percentage	Ranking
1.	Radio	101	84.17	1st
2.	Fellow farmers	100	83.33	2nd
3.	Television	96	80.00	3rd
4.	ADP	95	79.17	4th
5.	Farmers Cooperatives	58	48.33	5th
6.	Extension Agent	49	40.83	6th
7.	Town Crier	40	33.33	7th
8.	Flyer	34	28.33	8th
9.	Handbill	28	23.33	9th
10.	Magazine	16	13.33	10th
11.	Newspaper	10	8.33	11th
12.	Bulletin	5	4.17	12th
13.	Print	3	2.50	13th

Discussion of Result

Entries in Table shows the results of sources of information on improved cassava varieties. The findings shows that the first five sources of information were radio (84.17%), follow farmers (82.33%). Television (80.00%), ADP ((7(.17%) and farmers' co-operative (48.33%) respectively. This implies that most of the cassava farmers selected their information through Radio. This finding was in agreement with Abebe (2016) who reports that "among the electronic media, radio is found to be important means of communicating agricultural information to the rural farmers". Radio is cheap most easily accessible and its signals covers almost a whole country as observed by (Urbha, 2015). Healther et al (2017) indicates that "radio is among the most widely used mass media for disseminating information to rural audience across Africa together with mobile phone as a result of increased ownership and widespread use among farmers. "The position of extension as the 6th sources of information to farmers indicates a gap in the extension service delivery system. Agricultural extension service is usually established to improve the knowledge and skills of farmers on farming practices and make their attitude positive towards agricultural innovation (Rahae et al 2021).

Conclusion

The findings of the study showed that the cassava farmers source agricultural information through radio fellow farmers television, Agricultural Development programme. Moderate mother of the farmers obtains agricultural information through farmers' cooperative societies and the extension agents.

For the cassava farmers to improve their knowledge base which they will enhance productivity, it in however paramount that there should be avenues for direct extension contact which is the major agent recommended to assist farmers in agricultural information. The government, ministry of agriculture and relevant non-governmental agencies should collaborate to encourage and improve extension service delivery in cassava farming. Information should also be related to the farmers by reaching out to the cooperative groups where the farmers belong. Community leads should also be utilized by the extension agents.

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