

## STATUS OF COOPERATE MOBILIZATION OF PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES AMONG WOMEN IN UYO SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF AKWA IBOM STATE

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### ABSTRACT

The study was expo-facto research type that adopted cross sectional survey approach to explore the level of inclination to cooperate mobilization of productive resources towards entrepreneurial action. Primarily, the research evaluated the pattern, the status of, and inclination likelihood to cooperate mobilization of productive resources among the most vulnerable to poor socioeconomic wellbeing status and often socially excluded from international development initiatives. The study adopted multistage sampling procedure to select 231 women for the administration of the questionnaire. Data were subjected to both descriptive and inferential statistics. Based on the outcome of the analyses, the study revealed that there is heavy transition or diversification of primary income or livelihood from the agricultural to non-extractive occupations, most of them were married and majority were within the active age group of 32-42 years. About 76.6 percent of the women did not go beyond secondary education. Result of the composite index analytics revealed that about 26.8 percent of women population were relatively inclined toward co-operate mobilization of productive resources. Aside this relative group, about 4.8 percent had quite sufficiently inclined towards cooperate mobilization of productive resource towards wealth creation. In an attempt to examine the variations in the dependent variable across different simple

**Keywords:** Cooperative, Farming, Corporate, Mobilization, Productive Resources, Women.

### INTRODUCTION

Most communities in Akwa Ibom State is quite dynamic and are fast losing their typical rural features. As the transition to peri-urban status can readily be observed, the previously urbanised areas are expanding its radius over time (National Population Commission, 1998 and Ernest, Mbakwe and Leke, 2010). Uyo senatorial district is not less affected. The transition is also occasioned with changes in environmental, social and economic status. Of-course, the community within the study area have been majorly agrarian society, which have been characterised by complex synergies in pattern of livelihood behaviour and income generating activities, which have been driven by trust (Ekong, 2010). The non-plurality of the study area induced aggregation of share beliefs and understandings that promoted group entrepreneurship through mobilization of productive resources towards joint investments and sharing of proceeds. Typically, the utilization of these social system enhanced derivation of economics of scale and competitive advantages in various agro and allied enterprises. Ever since the post civil war era and coupled with advent of formal, education, technological advancement and cultural exchange, the traditional systems dynamics are weakened by the day. In the face of fading socioeconomic wellbeing status and environmental change, cooperate economic activities portends great opportunity for group socioeconomic actions and cooperatives to mitigate the scourge of poverty ravaging the urban, peri-urban and rural regions in Nigeria. There has been increasing push for corporate entrepreneurship across the

developing region of the world but corporate agro-entrepreneurship is relatively new within the sub-Saharan Africa (Inyang, Andinya and Awolumate, 2012).

Thus, it is culturally alien towards driving entrepreneurship especially when documentation culture was not popular and the illiteracy index among the rural Africans were typically unfriendly. Though, formalised cooperatives are becoming popularly engaged mechanism for livelihood creation and socioeconomic wellbeing interventions in Nigeria, it does not mean that the agrarian communities were deficient in social structures and norms that drive cooperate economic activities. Though, it could have been rudimentary and non-formalised, the unprecedented trend associated with socio-cultural erosion has marred some of the beneficial economic opportunities. The status of socioeconomic socialization system among women calls for investigation on the inclination index towards cooperate mobilization of productive resource for wealth creation. Women contribute meaningfully to the growth and sustenance of small and medium scale enterprises in Nigeria but they are among most vulnerable group to poor socioeconomic well-beings in the study area (Mitra, 2008 and Rao, 2008). With the increasing promotion; switching towards formalized structures, how inclined are the women towards partnership or associative or group mobilization of productive resources for wealth creation? And what is the likelihood that cooperatively driven socioeconomic intervention would be sustainable in the face of social erosion of social inclusion and waning group functionality? Furthermore, there is dearth of proof of evidence on performance outcomes of international development induced cooperatives society towards promoting agro-entrepreneurship in Nigeria. Based on interactive experience drawn from such intervention approach in the study area, the extent of effectiveness of such intervention rationale through cooperate groups leaves scarce success story during and after the intervening period due to salient inter and intra issues surrounding social inclusiveness from the project onset (Ekong, 2011, Asanusun, 2014 and Effiong, 2014). The study was designed to explore the seemingly waning situation of traditional system of group actions in respect of cooperate mobilization of productive resources among women farmers.

- i. Identify the demographic profile of the women in Uyo senatorial district
- ii. Analyse the pattern of cooperate mobilization of productive resources (CMPR) among the women in Uyo senatorial district
- iii. Estimate the status of cooperate mobilization of productive resources (CMPR) among the women in Uyo senatorial district
- iv. Identify the inclination likelihood to cooperate mobilization of productive resources (CMPR) among the women in Uyo senatorial district

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Expectancy Theory of Motivation**

The study draws its conceptualization from the fact co-operate entrepreneurship could be deduced or induced from the environmental bound resources and resultant economic expectations of individuals based on the positive rewards that would emanate from self motivation. Following the expectation that jointly pursued economic task could be more profitable especially where a region is poor and individual holdings don't have the potentials force needed to achieve competitive advantage. Without self motivation individual hardly undertakes activities that will result in personal rewards. Economically active adult could be directed towards a course of action due to his or her expectation. This study fits into the simple application of expectancy theory of motivation by Victor Vroom (Vroom, 1964). This theory affirms that people will be motivated to do things to achieve results and goals to the

extent that they expect certain actions on their part will help them achieve the goal. Unsatisfied with Maslow's and Herzberg's theories, Vroom (1964) observed the work behavior of individuals would be motivated when there are available promising preference, the crux of Vroom's theory is that motivated behavior is a product of two key variables, namely: The valence of an outcome for the individual and the expectancy that a particular action will be followed by a predictable outcome. Valence is the anticipated satisfaction from an outcome, which is different from the value of the outcome (the actual satisfaction obtained). Expectancy is a momentary belief concerning the likelihood that a particular act will be followed by a particular outcome. The product of Valence X Expectancy is Force, which is seen as the pressure or drive to perform an act. This is there force what is manifesting as cooperate synergy that become the force that create sustainable would if engaged appropriately. Thus, this study therefore seek to understanding existence of salient component that could culminated in force is most desirous of independent aids donor and drivers.

### **Pattern of Corporate Mobilisation of Productive Resources**

It has been noted that cooperatives were formed where there is a felt need but government especially in developing countries often give active support to cooperatives because they promise to help the poor and to remove or reduce unfair treatment or injustice or uneven distribution of welfare, since the best way of pushing back the limit of economic problems of scarcity is by working together (Reeves, 2003, Amelina, 2000 and Deininger, 1995). The pattern of women farmers in collective or cooperate mobilisation of productive resources is that of collaboration/partnering with women farmers and volunteers within the district with a coordinated approach and a shared understanding. However, reasons for this corporate/collective mobilisation have been developed from empowerment among the women farmers which is based on their individual self confidence and having leadership skills with an access to information including opportunity capacity to influence decisions for improved bargaining power brought these women farmers together as a body to form a corporate mobilisation. Also the need to build up assets which involves capacity to build and secure control over assets diversification of coping strategies gave rise for their mobilisation. The inclusion of increased incomes was considered which included capacity to generate and control income. Research has showed that patterns of partnership or collective mobilisation include group dynamics and evolution, gender relations, social capital, governance structure and external intervention which all these evolve in membership, gender composition, functionality and degree of formality. Yet it is misleading to make assumption about these particular patterns.

### **Methodology**

Uyo senatorial district was chosen as the study area; with south-eastern Niger Delta of Nigeria. It is located along latitude 5.05°N and longitude 80°E. The area is within the equatorial rain forest belt. It is a tropical zone that has vegetation of green foliage of trees, shrubs and oil palm trees, etc. It has a land mass of about 1680km<sup>2</sup>(6580 square metre). The population of the study comprises of all women across the study area between the ages of 18 years and above. The study was an expo-facto research type using cross-sectional survey approach. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to generate primary data using structured questionnaires. At first stage, simple random sampling technique was adopted to select three: Ibesikpo Asutan, Uyo and Nsit Atai out of nine Local Government Areas (LGAs), at second stage, simple random sampling technique was used to select a village from

each LGAs and at the third stage, simple random sampling technique was used to select hundred households each from three LGAs for questionnaire administration. Out of 300 administered questionnaires, 231 duly completed questionnaires were returned. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for the study.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Profile Analysis of the Respondents**

The study was tailored towards only on women, currently receiving attention of international development drivers on empowerment and mainstreaming. Focus on women is strategic; owing to their degree of vulnerability to poverty and social exclusion despite the fact that large proportion of women are economically active and supportive of their households demands. The result in Table 1, item 1 revealed that majority (45.9%) of the respondents were within the age bracket of 32-42 and was closely followed by 51-69 years constituting 32.9%. The results of the findings in Table 1, item 2 revealed that 60.2% of the respondents were married and presently are in marriage while 39.8% were single. The distribution of respondents showed that marriage is accorded important institutional status in the study area. According to Ekong (2003) the description of a married couple as a family takes on full meaning in the presence of a child or children of such union. Such family by impacting certain values and norms to its members contributes to social order and control. The relatively large segment of single could have been contributed by the proportion of those between 32 to 42 years in the study area. They are still having hope of securing marriage partner since marital institution is highly cherished in the study area. According to item 3, more than 50% of the respondents were literate aside 35.9% of the women that acquired at least the basic primary education, thus any introduction of innovative ideas would not likely be much of a big challenge in the study area. The massive literacy rate is the outcome of various basic primary education programmes of past governments in the region. Furthermore, this distribution of relative higher educational attainment of respondents is important to their ability to understand and appreciate entrepreneurial work ethics from friends and associate on what is taught especially during the capacity building sessions, to adopt and use it effectively. More importantly she can also receive information, comprehend and share her experiences and knowledge with others. Researches have shown that education is positively correlated with innovation adoption. Highly educated tend to possess higher analytic capacity of the information and knowledge necessary to successfully implement new technology and realize expected results. Hence, higher education allows individuals to make efficient adoption decisions. The distribution of respondents based on primary occupation as shown in item 4 revealed that there is massive primary occupation diversification as 39.8% are practically deriving livelihoods from crop agriculture and 7.4% from animal agriculture. Invariably about 52.8% are passively engaged in extractive nature of livelihood activities. This further affirmed the study area is fast transiting to peri-urban and urban are types characterised by non-extractive secondary source of livelihood.

**Table 1: Distribution of Respondents Based on Personal Characteristics**

Item	Percent
<b>1</b>	<b>Age</b>
	32-42 45.9
	43-53 21.2
	54-64 32.9
<b>2</b>	<b>marital status</b>
	Single 39.8
	Married 43.3
	divorce/separated 6.9
	Widowed 10.0
<b>3</b>	<b>Educational status</b>
	No formal education 9.1
	Primary 35.9
	secondary' 40.7
	Tertiary 14.3
<b>4</b>	<b>Primary Occupation</b>
	Home maker 10.8
	Crop 39.8
	Livestock 7.4
	Trading 26.0
	civil servant 16.0

Source: Field survey, 2015

### Analyse the Pattern of CMPR the Women

This subsection explored the relative magnitude of occurrence of the CMPR components and also the category occurrences of elements of cooperate mobilization of productive resources across the study population. The exploration took cognizance of the relative importance of each of the CMPR components order of occurrence through the ranked incidence percentage of the components. The results as shown on column P, R and Q revealed some pattern of underlying CMPR occurrence incidence percentage of inclination presented on column P, R and Q. On Table 2, the variations in response set led to derivation of magnitude; in percentage, which discriminated components of CMPR, in categories and consequence identification of the relative positioning in column Q as indicated by the right and left sided alphabetical and numerical superscripts respectively. The result of these columns (P, R and Q) made conspicuous revelation when compared with the magnitude of CMPR occurrence incidence percentage and ranked order position in column Q. The highest ranked component (item 4) was inclined to by more than 58% of the population which the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked position shared similar magnitude of occurrence incidence percentage (see item 2 and 10) respectively. The array of twelve (12) components in Table 2 showed four major underlying patterns which had been categorized based on left-sided alphabetical superscripts and are interpreted as follows: Superscript a and ranked order: 1<sup>st</sup> shows incidence of most cooperation in sourcing is the crop agriculture particularly seedlings for planting. Superscript b and ranked order: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> shows inclination of educational support to strengthen technology acquisition. Superscript c and ranked order: 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> shows how responsive and dependent were group sourcing on the respective item. Superscript d and ranked order: 11<sup>th</sup> –

12<sup>th</sup> virtually showed that the set of least inclined actions were livestock drug and farm machinery.

**Table 2: Distribution of Respondents based on CMPR Composition**

Item	CMPR Pattern (P)	Response Set (R)				CMPR Inclination Incidence Percentage
		Never	Rarely	More	Always	
1	I have access to any type of farm machinery I need during planting seasons through my cooperation with others.	69.2	8.7	13.4	8.7	<sup>c</sup> 22.1 <sup>10th</sup>
2	I easily get fertilizer for my farm through partnership or cooperation effort	55.4	11.7	22.9	10.0	<sup>b</sup> 32.9 <sup>3rd</sup>
3	I easily get pesticides/insecticides for my farm through cooperative effort	65.8	10.8	15.6	7.8	<sup>c</sup> 23.4 <sup>8th</sup>
4	I use improved seedlings for planting cooperation with friend even when I do have enough money to purchase	31.6	10.0	29.4	29.0	<sup>a</sup> 58.4 <sup>1st</sup>
5	I can access feeds for my livestock at cheaper rate through cooperative effort	62.3	10.4	16.9	10.4	<sup>c</sup> 27.3 <sup>4th</sup>
6	I do have enough labour for my farm operations through our cooperative arrangement	61.0	61.0	61.0	61.0	<sup>c</sup> 23.3 <sup>9th</sup>
7	I use machineries to plough my farm through cooperative group	79.7	6.9	5.2	8.2	<sup>d</sup> 13.4 <sup>12th</sup>
8	I use cooperative services in weeding my farm	66.7	6.9	16.0	10.4	<sup>c</sup> 26.4 <sup>5th</sup>
9	I get any type of vaccine and veterinary services for my livestock from my cooperation of others.	70.1	11.7	13.0	5.2	<sup>d</sup> 18.2 <sup>11th</sup>
10	I get information on new farming technology from my partners and group members.	54.1	11.7	19.5	14.7	<sup>b</sup> 34.2 <sup>2nd</sup>
11	The only source of credit I have during planting season is the cooperation with people.	55.8	19.0	14.7	10.4	<sup>c</sup> 25.1 <sup>7th</sup>
12	My cooperative helped me to acquire more land for farming activities	64.9	9.1	10.4	15.6	<sup>c</sup> 26.0 <sup>6th</sup>

Source: field survey, 2015

### Estimate of the Status of CMPR among the Women

Primarily, assessing the inclination divide in CMPR of each respondent considered for this study gave credence to the relative comparison across the study population based on the composite index derivation. The composite index derivation estimated the proportion of CMPR based on probabilistic value that ranged from 0.0 to 1.0, which implies virtually negligible to excellent. The distribution pattern of CMPR inclination index was analysed for meaningful interpretation using broadly categorized four ranges; virtually negligible, rarely, adequately and excellently inclined. The respondents were distributed across the four categories of CMPR inclination index and also the overall mean index. The overall mean index of CMPR inclination stood at 0.4441, implying 44.41%. About 16% of the study population were in the virtually negligible category as their respective mean index ranged between 0.0% to 25%. Within the rarely inclined category with CMPR inclination range of 25.01% to 50%, 52.4% of the respondent were found. This promotion of cooperative oriented intervention programme may not be efficient. About 26.8% of the respondent depicted

adequately inclined status for cooperate mobilization of productive resource for wealth creation while minute percentage of respondent (4.8%) had excellent CMPR inclination status.

**Table 3: Estimate of the Status of CMPR among the Women**

CMPR Inclination Index range	CMPR inclination index range interpretation	Frequency	Percent
0.00-0.250	Virtually negligible	37	16
0.2501-0.500	Rarely inclined	121	52.4
0.5001-0.750	Adequately inclined	62	26.8
0.7501-1.00	Excellently inclined	11	4.8
Total (mean=0.4441)		231	100.0

### **Evaluation of Inclination Variation in Cooperate Mobilization of Productive Resources (CMPR) among Women Farmers.**

As depicted in Table 4 Item 1, the mean variation in the level of CMPR inclination across the age categories of the women was examined, it was observed that there were relative variations in their mean index value and thus as age increased, the value of the CMPR Mean index decreased. The significant value of the test of difference was greater than the p-value at 0.05. This indicates that their ages did have significant difference in the level of CMPR inclination status in the study area. According to Table 4 Item 2, the mean variation in the level of CMPR inclination across the marital status of the women was observed. Married folk have higher CMPR inclination than the single and even the previously married respondent. Despite the variation, statistically the CMPR inclinations among women were virtually the same. The significant value was greater than the p-value at 0.05. Therefore, facts are drawn that there was no significant difference in the level of CMPR inclination across the women.

According to Table 4 Item 3, there was no significance difference in the CMPR mean index across the women's educational status. The significant value (0.394) was greater than the p-value at 0.05, which indicates that the various educational attainment have no influence in the level of CMPR inclination. The variations in the level of CMPR inclination across the various educational level, of course as expected, the CMPR inclination index increased with higher educational attainment except tertiary level of education. As depicted in Item 4, the mean variation in the level of CMPR inclination across the components of primary occupation of the women, it was observed that there were relative variations in their mean index value even though it did not follow a regular pattern. The significant value of the test of difference was less than the p-value at 0.05. This indicates that the primary occupation of the respondents significantly cause difference in the level of CMPR inclination status in the study area. Those that primarily execute livelihood activities from the agricultural field showed more tendencies in utilizing collaborative approach to create more wealth.

**Table 4: Level of Significant Variations in Cooperate Mobilization of Productive Resources (CMPR) among Women Farmers**

Item	Mean index	Df	F-value	Sig.
<b>1 Age</b>		230	0.769	0.465 <sup>ns</sup>
32-42	0.4566 <sup>a</sup>			
43-53	0.4464 <sup>a</sup>			
54-64	0.4252 <sup>a</sup>			
<b>2 Marital status</b>		230	0.239	0.869 <sup>ns</sup>
Single	0.4332 <sup>a</sup>			
Married	0.4538 <sup>a</sup>			
divorce/separated	0.4414 <sup>a</sup>			
Widowed	0.4475 <sup>a</sup>			
<b>3 Educational status</b>		230	0.999	0.394 <sup>ns</sup>
No formal education	0.4117 <sup>a</sup>			
Primary	0.4287 <sup>a</sup>			
secondary'	0.4656a			
Tertiary	0.4419 <sup>a</sup>			
<b>4 Primary occupation</b>		230	3.493	0.009 <sup>sig</sup>
Home maker	0.3825 <sup>a</sup>			
Crop	0.4853 <sup>b</sup>			
Livestock	0.4902 <sup>b</sup>			
Trading	0.4128 <sup>ab</sup>			
civil servant	0.4127 <sup>ab</sup>			

## CONCLUSION

Many strategies have been utilised as pilot cases to popularised lofty socioeconomic wellbeing enhancement in most developing regions. Though it could have been effective at point of initiation but the adoption of such conceptualization pose enormous challenge for effective upscaling process. Having noted variations in environmental psychology sociology, it became necessary to evaluate the likely effective corporate approach to management of international socioeconomic development programme in a recipient region like Nigeria. The study explored the status of cooperate mobilization of productive resources pattern among women and as well as the inclination likelihood for cooperate entrepreneurial action. There was appreciable level of literacy among the women and they were more involved in economic activities that are devoid of drudgery and exposure to harsh weather conditions. Four major pattern of the CMPR was conspicuous among the women namely: (a) incidence of most cooperation in sourcing is the crop agriculture particularly seedlings for planting, (b) inclination of educational support to strengthen technology acquisition, (c) shows how responsive and dependent were group sourcing on the respective item and (d) the set of least inclined actions were livestock drug and farm machinery. The inclination likelihood to CMPR was quite low among the women. Thus, the likelihood current international development approach, adopting cooperative groups as instrument would have limited impacts on the socioeconomic wellbeing transformation of the region. This implies that more



capacity building and community education is needed on cooperate strategic planning and discipline for successful cooperate entrepreneurship.

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