

ENSURING WOMEN HOUSEHOLD FOOD AVAILABILITY THROUGH ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES IN ABIA STATE, NIGERIA

Osahon, E. & Odoemelam, I. E.
Department of Rural Sociology and Extension
Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike
NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

Women's legal status as individuals and their rights regarding economic activity are mind with uncertainty. The study investigated rural women access to productive resources in Abia State, Nigeria. Multi-stage sampling procedure was used in the selective of the sample size. In the first stage, three local government areas were randomly selected. From the three agricultural zones in Abia State followed by a selection of 2 communities and 2 villages from the communities. Finally 20 rural women from each village who were actively engaged in farming were also randomly selected bringing the total to 240 respondents. Data were collected through the use of questionnaire and Focused Group Discussion (FGD). Data collected were analyzed using simple descriptive and inferential statistics like linear regression. Major findings show that the women were between the ages of 50 – 55 years with mean monthly income of ₦20,000. On level of access to productive resources, land had a mean score of ($\bar{x} = 1.9$), capital ($\bar{x} = 1.42$), credit ($\bar{x} = 1.0$), information ($\bar{x} = 2.08$) and labour ($\bar{x} = 1.33$). On hypothesis testing, the results show a positive and significant relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their access to productive resources. The coefficient of age, marital status, educational level and income were positive and significantly related to productive resources at 1% level. Therefore the study recommends the importance of strengthening the legal status of rural women in Abia State as the basis for reinforcing their economic and land-use rights (including productive resources) to enhance food availability in households.

Keywords: Women empowerment, food access and, land-rights.