Group formation and participation for effective performance among farmers: A case study of CRIN adopted village, Aba-agbo.

Adebiyi, S, Uwagboe, E.O, Agbongiarhuoyi, A.E, Famuyiwa, B.S., Oduwole, O.O. Abdul-karim, I, F, Williams, O.A and Agbebaku, E. E. O.

Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, PMB 5244, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Abstract: The active roles played by groups in achieving a set standard in crop production in no doubt led to improve standard of living of the peasant farmers in the country. Poor emphasis on group formation and participation has been generally recognized as one of the major constraints not only in understanding the behaviour of farmers but also providing solutions to their problems. The study examined groups and members participation within the group. The study was carried out among farmers in Aba-Agbo community in Oluyole Local Government of Oyo State Nigeria. Aba-Agbo was purposively chosen due to the concentration of farmers in the area. Data were collected with structured questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics and chi-square. The results showed that 60% of the farmers were illiterate with few land available for farm work. Majority of the respondents (61.8%) got their source of finance through personal savings. Some respondents (46.4%) belonged to 3 groups (male (24%), female (16%) and youth (7%) while more than half of the respondents (53.6%) refused to affiliate with groups due to poor coordination and inadequacy within the group. Female and youth group played active roles in nursery activities while male group participated actively in field establishment and farm maintenance. Farming and credit facilities were the main activities of farmers while lack of control of resources was the major reason causing crises among members but (80.9%) of the respondents opined that the use of legitimization and local leaders remain the best strategy for managing the crises. A significant relationship exists between respondents' education and farm size and reasons for not belonging to group association (χ^2 = 26.380, 29.412 P <0.05). It is recommended that literate farmers and a well-organized cooperative society be empowered through a group managed project in order to encourage participation and good delivery of research results to farmers in the community.
[Adebiyi, S, Uwagboe, E.O, Agbongiarhuoyi, A.E, Famuyiwa, B.S., Oduwole, O.O. Abdul-karim, I, F, Williams, O.A and Agbebaku, E. E. O. **Group formation and participation for effective performance among farmers: A case study of CRIN adopted village, Aba-agbo.** *World Rural Observ* 2018;10(4):32-38]. ISSN: 1944-6543 (Print); ISSN: 1944-6551 (Online). http://www.sciencepub.net/rural. 5. doi:10.7537/marswro100418.05.

Keywords: Legitimization, Local leaders, Group participation, Farmers

Introduction

The Nigerian economy is essentially agriculture in terms of national output and employment generation. The largest parts of the population lived in rural areas, where more than half are living below poverty level and more than 63 percent of the population engages in various farming activities (Ekong, 2003). The Nigerian rural sector with abundance of human natural resources accommodates 80 percent of the nation's population as noted by (World Bank data, 2011). In separate studies, (Adegboye, 2004 and Babatunde*etal*., 2007) observed that Agricultural sector contribute over 30 percent of total annual crop and employ about 70 percent of the labour force and constituting about 70 percent on non-oil exports. However, Agricultural sector is an engine room for sustainable growth of Nigerian economy (Olagunju 2005).

Farmers especially in the rural areas are expected to belong to group association in order to solve agricultural problems such as inadequate capital, inadequate access to loan, lack of access to improved planting materials and production techniques, access to training opportunity, marketing difficulties and labour shortage. However, an assessment of agricultural problems in Nigeria might not regard group association as a platform for agricultural development, but the current research works have shown that farmers perform better and effective when they work as a group especially when it is achieved through participatory approach. Notwithstanding, group association are formed with regards to individual interest, gender and age categories and if sustained, it can metamorphosis to cooperative society which is majorly affected by variables such as low number of members of the society, low farm size of members, operational methods of cooperators including internal factors such as investment intensity, the control of members assert and managerial capability. Coincidentally, agricultural development efforts have identified cooperatives in Nigeria as a vehicle to develop the sector of the country as the society is recognized as one of the reliable precondition to attract material and financial supports from national and international development institutions. It is pertinent to investigate the process of

group formation and participation among farmers in Aba-Agbo, in Oluyole Local Government Areas of Oyo State, Nigeria.

Aba-Agbo is one of the Agricultural Research Outreach Centre (AROC) formed by CRIN in Collaboration with Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) with the aim of transferring technologies developed by CRIN to farmers in rural areas. The Institute has arrays of technologies which are meant to be transferred to farmers in order to improve their farm practices and income of which many of these technologies are still on shelf.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To determine the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents
2. To determine the participation among the group members

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

There is no significant relationship between some selected socio-economic characteristics and reasons for not belonging to group.

Methodology

The study was carried out in Oluyole Local Government of Oyo state. An advocacy visit was conducted to villages such as Aba- Agbo, Ababadan, Onikoko and Abanlabeing the villages that fall within 5km range as stipulated by the policy of the ARCNin 2009 to introduce the institute and its mandate. Aba-Agbo was purposively selected as central community because the inhabitants are majorly peasant farmers and eager to adopt technologies developed at CRIN. Questionnaires were administered to 110 respondents and data was analyzed with the use of frequency distribution, percentage counts and bar- chart distribution. Farmers that showed interest in groups were formed into various groups these are adult groups comprising men and women group and the youth group without disrupting the structure and norms of the community. An Agricultural Research Outreach Centre (AROC) was donated by the community with the approval of the village head. This centre was renovated and furnished by the Institute from the fund released by Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN).

A portion of an ideal land for cocoa of about 0.5 ha was donated by the community for planting of high yielding cocoa varieties (CRIN TC1-TC8) developed by the Institute in line with cocoa Transformation Agenda (COCTA). The portion of land was cleared and farm layout was done at the geometry of 3m by 3m for the establishment of plantain Suckers in preceding year for Cocoa. Weed maintenance were done monthly and other agricultural practices were achieved. A nursery site was also selected near a stream in the community for an on –farm nursery demonstration practices to raise cocoa seedlings and these were planted in between plantain suckers a year after the plantain establishment. Trainings on different technologies were equally achieved as requested by the group.

Result and Discussion

Table 1: Socio – Economic characteristics of respondents n = 110

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	69	62.7
Female	41	37.3
Marital Status		
Married	98	89.1
Single	8	7.3
Widowed	4	3.6
Educational Status		
No formal Education	66	60.0
Primary Education	39	35.5
Secondary Education	3	2.7
Tertiary Education	2	1.8
Socio – Status		
Member of community	43	39.1
Family Head	59	53.6
Traditional /Religious leader	8	7.3
Farm Size (Ha)		
< 1 ha	29	26.4
1 - 3 ha	56	50.9
4 – 6 ha	16	14.5
> 6	9	8.2
Source of Finance		
Personal saving	68	61.8
Cooperative society	3	2.7
Friend and neighbours	39	35.5
Bank loan	-	–

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 1 shows that majority of the respondents (75.5%) were within the age range of 25 and 55 years of age. This indicates that they are still in their active farm age and likely to adopt new innovations if introduced to them. The table showed that 62.7% were male while 37.3% were female. Also, the percentage of those that were married was 89.1% with only 7.3% of the respondents single and 3.6% widowed. This is in line with (Ekong 2003) that the large proportion of married respondents could be essential factors facilitating household farming activities. Educational status of the respondents revealed that 60% had no formal education while 40% had one form of education or the other. This revealed high level of illiteracy among the farmers as reported by Farinde*etal.*, (2007) The influence of the missionary

primary school established in 1960's has helped some respondents to pass through primary education. The table revealed 53.6%of the respondents are head of their family while only 7.3% are either traditional head or religious leaders. Many of the respondents (67.3%) cultivated between 1 and 3 ha of land for their farming activities, which is an indication that the respondents are small holder farmers. The major source of finance is personal savings (61.8%) while few respondents (35.5%) got their finance through friend and neighbours.

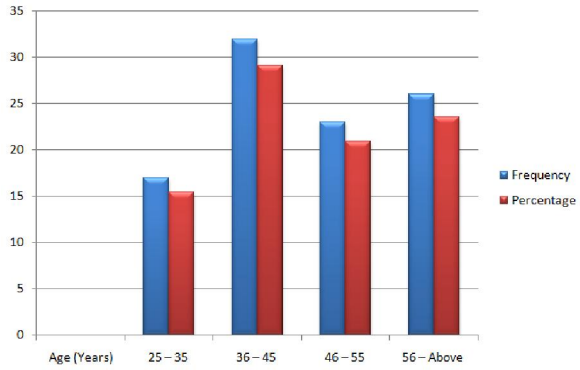

Figure 1: Showing age distribution of farmers

Figure 2 showed the formation of group among the respondents, the table showed that 24% of the respondents belonged to male group, 16% belonged to female group, while only 6% belonged to youth group. The table revealed that 53% of the respondents sample did not belong to group.

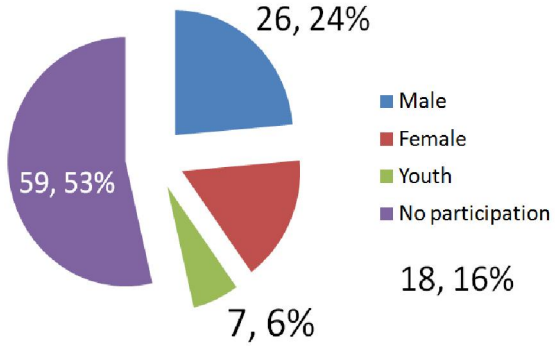

Figure 2: Group formation among the respondents
Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 2 showed the major constraints for the respondents to belong to group in the study area, it was revealed that poor source of finance (80%) is a limiting factors because farmers require loan as financial assistance to facilitate their production practices.

Table 2: Constraints to group formation and participation n=110

Variables	not a constraint	minor	Major
Sex of the group	30 (27.3)	26 (23.6)	51 (46.4)
Educational level	21(91.1)	41 (37.3)	28 (25.5)
Age group	11(10.0)	16 (14.5)	31 (28.2)
Individual difference	30 (27.3)	11(10.0)	4.3 (39.1)
Social status	32(29.1)	20 (18.2)	34 (30.9)
Source of finance	-	2 (1.8)	88(80.0)

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 3 revealed reasons for not belonging to group by the respondents, majority (66.4%) fail to belong to group because of poor coordination and inadequacy in the group organization. It means that farmer's organizations need to be properly coordinated by extension services so as to assist the farmers to organize themselves in all farming activities.

Table 3: Reason for not belonging to group n=110

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
No benefit	26	23.6
No interest	19	17.3
Not always available	11	10.0
Time consuming	6	5.5
Poor coordination/inadequacy	73	66.4

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4 revealed the participation among the group in the study area, the results showed that female group (12.7%) and youth group (10.0%) involve in nursery activities while only5.5% male group was actively involved. The finding also revealed that 10.9% of the male group participated in field establishment, 14.5% of male group participated in farm maintenance while 11.80% of female group involved in harvesting and marketing of the farm produce. This was observed by Alamu (1996) that, many rural women participate in the Fadama project through processing, storage and marketing of Fadama crops. Also, the table revealed that few (31.8%) respondents who belonged to group organization registered as a member of Cooperative Society which is an indication that group formation is an essential tool for establishment of Cooperative Society among farmers.

Table 4: Participation among the group n=110

Activities	Male group Freq	%	Female group Freq	%	Youth group Freq	%
Nursery Practices	6	(5.5)	14	(12.7)	11	(10)
Field Establishment	12	(10.9)	8	(7.3)	9	(8.2)
Farm Maintenance	16	(14.5)	2	(1.8)	14	(12.7)
Harvesting & Marketing	8	(7.3)	13	(11.8)	10	(9.1)
Membership of Coop	16	(14.5)	17	(15.5)	2	(1.8)

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 5 showed different training Programmes attended by the respondents, the finding showed that 12.7% of the respondents that participated in soap making were among the female group, 14.5% of the respondents that participated in the training of both fertilizer production and Good Agricultural Practices were among the male group. This is an indication that gender affects adoption of innovation technique introduced to farmers.

Table 5: Training Attended by the Respondents n=110

Training	Male group Freq.	%	Female group Freq.	%	Youth group Freq.	%
Soap Making	6	(5.5)	14	(12.7)	10	(9.1)
Composed Fertilizer	16	(14.5)	2	(1.8)	9	(8.2)
Good Agricultural Practices	16	(14.5)	8	(7.3)	11	(10.0)

Source: Field survey, 2016

Figure 3 showed that the main activities of farmers' group identified in the study were farming and credit facility (25.5%), the respondents were interested in the improvement of their farms and provision of credit sourcing medium.

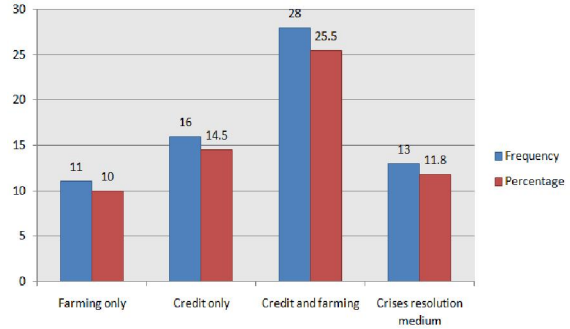

Figure 3: Showing main activities of farmers' group n=110
Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 6 revealed the causes of crises among the group, the finding revealed that control of resources (32.7%) was the major reason for crises among group members. The results in figure4 showed that the use of legitimizers/local leaders (80.9%) remain the best strategy for managing crises among group members. This showed that extension agent must make use of legitimizers and local leaders in resolving crises in a group. Also, 57.3% of the respondents agreed that implementation of norms/tradition of the rural people go a long way in resolving crises.

Table 6. Crises among group n=110

Causes of crises	Frequency	Percentage
Leadership among group	33	30.0
Location of Nursery site	12	10.9
Setting of demonstration plot	18	16.4
Management of plot	22	20.0
Control of resources	25	32.7
Total	**110**	**100**

Source: Field survey, 2016

Multiple responses

Table 7 showed the relationship between respondents' reasons for not belonging to group association and some socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. The table revealed that educational level (p=0.0012) and farm size (p=0.00382) were significant for reasons not belonging to group among the farmers.

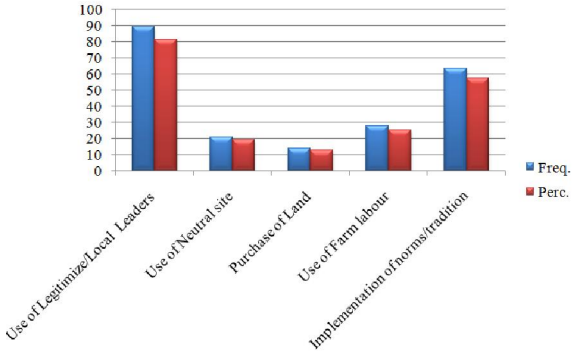

Fig 4 Strategy for crises management among the group
Field Survey 2016

Table 7: Chi-Square analysis to show reasons for not belonging to group and some selected socio –economic characteristics of respondents.

Characteristics	χ^2Value	df	P. Value
Marital status	5.365	11	0.9686
Educational level	26.380	15	0.0012
Age group	13.341	19	0.8796
Social status	4.643	9	0.6842
Farm size	29.412	18	0.00382
Occupation	6.932	12	0.9218

Source: Field survey, 2016

Fig 1: Members of Agbeloba farmers' multipurpose cooperative society, Aba-Agbo in Oluyole Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Fig. 2: Official presentation of certificate of registration to the society by the ministry of Trade, investment and cooperative, Oyo State
R-L: Mr. Babalola (representing Ministry of Trade, Investment and Cooperative, Oyo State); Mr. Jimoh Akanmu (President of the Society); Dr. O.O. Oduwole (representing the Director, FSR & E, CRIN); Mr. S. Adebiyi (CRIN Scientist).

Conclusion

The study showed that the respondents were still very active in farm work, this authenticate their redness to accept new innovations. Some respondents (60%) had no formal education and depend on small portion of land for their farming activities. Only 46.4% of the respondents belonged to groups with interest to participate in one forms of activities or the other.

Finance is the major factor limiting group participation and this has affected their production practices. More than half of the respondents refused to belong to group association due to poor coordination and inadequacy among the group members. Few of the respondents belonged to either male, female or youth group with participation in activities such as nursing of planting materials, field establishment, farm maintenance and harvesting/marketing of the farm produce. The main activity of farmers groups is farming and credit with interest to improve their farms and provide credit for their farm works.

Control of member's resources brings crises among the group members but the use of legitimizers and local leaders remain the best strategy for managing it. Since many of farming activities are achieved by the group association, it is recommended that farmers should organize themselves in to groups to encourage participation and good delivery of research results to farmers in the downstream sector.

References

1. Adegboye R.O (2004). "Land, Agriculture and Food Security in Nigeria, 3rd Faculty Lecture, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ilorin.
2. Alamu J.F (1996): Marketing Fadama produced tomatoes, onions and sweet pepper in Kano Jigawa states of Nigeria. An unpublished Ph.D thesis in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria Nigeria.
3. Babatunde, R.O Omotosho O.A. Sholatan O.S (2007). "Socio-economic Characteristics and Food Security Status of Farming Households in Kwara State. North Central Nigeria. *Pakistan*

Journal of Nutrition. Vol. 6 No. 1 Pg. 49 – 58.
Ekong. E.E (2003). Introduction to Rural Sociology, 2nd Edition, Dare Educational Publishers Uyo, Nigeria.
4. Ekong, E, 2003. Rural Sociology, An Introduction and Analysis of Rural Nigeria. Dove Educational publishers, Uyo, Nigeria, Pp 41-43.
5. Farinde, A.J., Owolafe, O.K. and Ogungbemi, O.I. (2007).“An overview of Production, Processing, Marketing and Utilisation of Okra in Egbedore Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria” Agricultural Engineering International. CIGR Ejournal. Vol. IX. July, 2007. Pp. 1-17. Online@ www.fao.org/index.php/Ejournal/article/viewFile/959/1119.
6. Olagunju, G. (2005) Turning farming into gold mine: An evaluation of the presidential initiative on cassava. World Bank, (2011) World Bank data. Available at http://data.worldbank.org/country/nigeria? Display accessed on 4th Feb., 2016.

12/25/2018