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Income Generating Activities Among Rural Women in Ensuring Household Food Security in Ila Local Government, Osun State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT [ENGLISH/ANGLAIS]

The study examined the income generating activities of rural women in ensuring household food security in Ila Local Government Area of Osun State. Multistage sampling method was used in the selection of ninety (90) respondents for the study. The respondents considered for this study were of different age groups, structured interview schedule was used to gather necessary information from the sampled rural women in the study area. Data collected were analyzed with both descriptive and inferential statistical tools. and majority (60.0%) were literate with different educational background, while 40.0% of them did not have formal education. The result further revealed that respondents involved in diversify on-farm activities in ensuring household food security by engages in different income generating activities in which gari processing ranked first with Weighted Mean Score WMS of 2.9, while hair plaiting scored least with WMS of 1.0. Access of the women to credit was the major constraint facing women in ensuring household food security as indicated by the respondents and was ranked first (WMS of 2.8), while high cost of food items scored least (WMS of 1.1). Significant relationship exists between some selected socio-economic variables and income generating activities of the rural women in the study area at 0.05%.

Keywords: Income, activities, women, household, food, Ila, Osun State

RÉSUMÉ [FRANÇAIS/FRENCH]

L'étude a examiné les activités génératrices de revenus des femmes rurales en assurant la sécurité alimentaire des ménages dans la zone de gouvernement local de Ila l'Etat d'Osun. Méthode d'échantillonnage à plusieurs degrés a été utilisé dans la sélection des dix (90) des répondants de l'étude, les répondants considérés pour cette étude étaient de différents groupes d'âge, le calendrier entrevue structurée a été utilisée pour recueillir des renseignements nécessaires auprès des femmes de l'échantillon en milieu rural dans la zone d'étude. Les données recueillies ont été analysées avec la fois descriptive et inférentielle outils statistiques. et de majorité (60,0%) étaient alphabétisés ayant une formation différente, tandis que 40,0% d'entre eux n'ont pas eu d'éducation formelle. Le résultat a en outre révélé que les répondants impliqués dans la diversification des activités agricoles pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire des ménages par s'engage dans des activités génératrices de revenus différents dans lesquels le traitement du gari au premier rang avec Score moyen pondéré de 2,9 WMS, tandis tressant les cheveux moins marqué avec WMS de 1,0. Accès des femmes au crédit est la contrainte majeure que rencontrent les femmes pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire des ménages, comme indiqué par les répondants et a été classée première (WMS de 2,8), tandis que le coût élevé des produits alimentaires moins marqué (WMS de 1,1). Relation significative existe entre certains variables socio-économiques et des activités génératrices de revenus des femmes rurales dans la zone d'étude à 0,05%.

Mots-clés: Le revenu, les activités, les femmes, les ménages, la nourriture, Ila, l'Etat d'Osun

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INTRODUCTION

No meaningful household food security can occur without women who make up more than one half of the rural population. Women produce a large part of the world's food. Exact data is very hard to come by but FAO estimates that women are the main producers of the world's staple foods: maize, wheat and rice. However, women are responsible for about 50 per cent of the world's food production and in some countries of sub-Saharan Africa (including Nigeria), women provide between 60 and 80 per cent of the food for household

consumption. Women's contribution to agricultural production varies from country to country, crop to crop and task to task [1].

Women perform many tasks in household crop production, including sowing seeds, weeding, applying fertilizers and pesticides, harvesting and threshing of the crops. They are also responsible for post-harvest food processing, storage, transport and marketing. In addition to producing staple crops, women in many countries also grow legumes and vegetables to feed their families [1].

Women farmers engage in diverse income generating activities in order to ensure their household food security, there are four major elements that constitute food security these include availability, adequacy, accessibility and sustainability of access to food. Availability connotes the physical presence of food in large amounts, accessibility suggests sufficient purchasing power or ability to acquire quality food at all times while utilization demands sufficient quantity and quality of food intake. The elements of availability, accessibility, utilization and sustainability in a larger context embrace the supply, demand and adequacy of food at all-time [2].

Food is a basic necessity of life. Its importance to ensure basic means of sustenance and an adequate food intake, in terms of quantity and quality as it's necessary for healthy and productive life. Food problem, with regards to quality and quantity, is one of the characteristics of developing countries like Nigeria. This study therefore carried out to determine the income generating activities of rural women in ensuring household food security in Ila Local Government Area of Osun State Nigeria. This study examine the socio-economic characteristics of the women in the study area; investigate the on-farm activities engages by women in ensuring household food security; examine various income generating activities of the respondents; and identify constraints to food security among the respondents.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in Ila Local Government Area of Osun State. A multistage sampling technique was used for the study. The area consist of ten (10) political wards, out of which six (6) wards were purposively selected for the study due to their rural base, in each ward one village was randomly selected making a total six villages sampled for the study. In each selected village fifteen (15) respondents were randomly sampled making a total of ninety (90) respondents that constituted the sample size for the study. Data collected was subjected to descriptive statistical tools like frequency distribution, percentages and ranking score, while regression analysis was considered as inferential tool to analyze the formulated hypothesis of the study

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Findings in Table 1 show that 66.6% of the respondents were between the ages of 31-50 years, 13.3% were below 30 years of age, 11.1 % were above 60 years of age while

only 8.8% of the respondents were between the categories of 51-60. This implies that majority (66.6%) of the women sampled for the study were in their active age 31-50 years and this is expected to influence their income generating activities in supporting the household food security in the area. Also 74.4% of the respondents were Christian 21.1% were Muslim, while 4.4% practices Traditional religion. Further on table 1 40.0% of the women had no formal education, 26.7%, 21.1% and 10.0% had primary education, secondary, and adult education respectively. This implies that majority (60.0%) of the respondent were literate with different educational background. This may be the basis for the women in engaging in various income generating activities. Also 53.3% of the respondent had household size of between 1-5, 42.2% had household size of between 6-10 while 4.4% had household size of 10 and above. The size of the household of the respondents may contribute positively to their involvement in the various income generating activities.

The results show the various on-farm activities performed by the women (table 2) in supporting their household food security and it was indicated that 100.0% of the respondent engaged in weeding, 94.4% engaged in gathering of wood and non-wood forest products, 93.3% involved in land clearing, 88.9%, involve in planting/transplanting, 86.7% involved in fertilizer application, 82.2% involved in transport of farm produce for household consumption, 81.1% involved in crop harvesting while 72.2% and 24.4% of respondent involved in crop processing, chemical application respectively. This implies that women sampled engaged in different activities so as to ensure household food security. These findings conform to Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nation [3] who reported that significant roles played by women in addition to unpaid labour are aimed at maintaining the household welfare.

The results show that different types of income generating activities that respondents indicated as a mean in ensuring household food security in the study area(table 3). The weighted mean score (WMS) and rank were used to determine the level of involvement of the sampled respondents and it was shown that gari processing had WMS of 2.9 ranked 1st, cassava flour processing WMS of 2.8. ranked 2nd, while Maize production, yam production and selling of yam tuber had WMS of 2.5 and were ranked 3rd vegetable production had WMS of 2.2 ranked 4th, yam flakes

processing had WMS of 1.9 was ranked 5th, cowpea production and selling of fruits had WMS score of 1.7 and ranked 6th. Fufu processing and black soap making were ranked 7th with WMS of 1.4, snail rearing had WMS of 1.3 and ranked 8th, basket weaving, palm oil processing had WMS of 1.2 were ranked 9th while hair plaiting was ranked 10th with WMS of 1.0. This implies that women in the study area engage in varieties of activities as a mean of livelihood so as to ensure household food security. This finding corroborates the finding of [4], who reported that without stable livelihood and gainful employment, household lack the capability to access adequate food availability and be food insecure.

Table 1: This table shows the distribution of respondent by socio-economic characteristics N= 90

Age	Frequency	Percentage
<30	12	13.3
31-40	31	34.4
41-50	29	32.2
51-60	8	32.2
61 and above	10	11.1
Religion		
Christian	67	74.4
Islam	19	21.1
Traditional	4	4.4
Educational level		
No formal education	36	40
Primary education	26	26.7
Secondary education	19	26.7
Adult education	9	21.1
Household size		
1-5	48	53.3
6-10	38	42.2
Above 10	4	4.4

The results show that sampled women were faced with different constraints in ensuring household food security (table 4). It was revealed that poor access to credit had weighted mean score (WMS) of 2.8 and ranked 1st. This suggests that access to credit is the main constraint faced by the women in the study area and this may hinder their contribution toward household food security. This findings is supported by [5] reported that access to credit improves food nutrition and security by reducing high risk transaction. Also problem of post harvest losses with WMS of 2.4, was ranked 2nd, poor access to farm input had WMS of 2.2 and ranked 3rd, food scarcity was ranked 4th with WMS of 2.1, Poor access to farmland was ranked 5th with WMS of 1.9 This implies that access to

Table 2: This table shows the distribution of respondent by on farm activities perform in ensuring household food security N= 90

Activities *	Frequency	Percentage
Land clearing	84	93.3
Planting / transplanting	80	88.9
Fertilizer application	78	86.7
Chemical application	22	24.4
Weeding	90	100.0
Crop harvesting	73	81.1
Crop processing	67	74.4
Transport of farm produce for household consumption	19	21.1
Gathering of wood and non-wood forest products for household consumption	4	4.4

*Multiple responses

Table 3: This table shows the distribution of respondent by income generating activities and level of involvement in household food security

Income generating activities	Frequency				
	High	Medium	Low	WMS	Rank
Vegetable production	40(44.4)	30(33.3)	20(22.2)	2.2	6 th
Maize production	57(63.3)	20(22.2)	13(14.4)	2.5	3 rd
Yam production	60(66.7)	13(14.4)	17(18.9)	2.5	3 rd
Cowpea production	27(30.0)	13(14.4)	50(55.6)	1.7	8 th
Snail production	-	28(31.1)	62(68.9)	1.3	12 th
Gari processing	80(88.9)	9(10.0)	1(1.1)	2.9	1 st
Fufu processing	-	32(35.6)	58(64.4)	1.4	10 th
Cassava flour processing	73(81.1)	12(13.3)	5(5.6)	2.8	2 nd
Yam flake processing	9(10.0)	64(71.1)	17(18.9)	1.9	7 th
Palm oil processing	4 (4.4)	6(6.7)	80(88.9)	1.2	15 th
Hair plaiting	-	-	90(100.0)	1.0	14 th
Black soap making	-	40(44.4)	50(55.6)	1.4	10 th
Basket weaving	-	63(70.0)	27(30.0)	1.7	8 th
Selling of fruits	-	-	-	-	-
Selling of tuber	47(52.2)	43(47.8)	-	2.5	3 rd

WMS: Weighted Mean Score; Figures in parenthesis are percentage

personal farm land may hinder the women contribution to household food security. This finding is in line with [6] reported that much still need to be done to ensure women's access to farm land and control overexploitation of resources to alleviate the constraints that hindered their role as the main producer and providers of food for the household. Poor access to nutritious diet was also indicated by respondents as constraint that hindered their role in household food security with WMS of 1.7 and ranked 6th, high cost of food items were ranked 7th and with WMS of 1.1.

Table 4: This table shows the distribution of respondent by constraints to household food security and level of security

Constraints	Frequency (Percentage) Leve of security				
	Very severe	Severe	Mild	WMS	Rank
Poor access to credit	73(81.1)	17(18.9)	-	2.8	1 st
Poor access to farm inputs	41(45.6)	24(26.7)	28(31.1)	2.2	3 rd
Poor access to farmland	32(35.5)	14(15.6)	44(48.9)	1.9	5 th
Poor access to nutrition diets	25(27.7)	42(46.7)	23(25.6)	1.7	6 th
Food scarcity	47(52.2)	13(14.4)	30(33.3)	2.1	4 th
Post-harvest losses	56(62.2)	14(15.6)	20(22.2)	2.4	2 nd
High cost of food items	-	13(14.4)	77(85.6)	1.1	7 th

WMS: Weighted Mean Score; Figures in parenthesis are percentages

Table 5: This table shows the regression analysis on socio-economic characteristics and income generating activities of women

Independent Variables	
Constant	26.50(2.74)*
Age	0.23 (2.06)*
Marital status	0.459(2.54)*
Religion	0.124(0.254)*
Educational level	0.321(3.20)*
Household size	0.283(2.48)*

* Significant at $p < 0.05$; $F = 4.6$; $R^2 = 0.558$; $Adj R = 0.321$

The result of regression showed that significant relationship exist between income generating activities and x1 - age, x2- marital status, x4educational level and x5 household size and contributed 56 percent ($R^2 = 0.559$) of variation in the income generating activities

involved by women. This explain that age, marital status, educational level and household size have influenced the different income generating activities involved by women in the study area.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Empowering women for household food security in a distressed economy has become necessary and sufficient condition, since Government policies on economy has weakened the socio-economic incentives that heighten household food security, rural women therefore, may begin to see household food security as part of their priority rather than the exclusive preserve of men in the traditional society. It can therefore be concluded from the findings of the study that majority of rural women are in their active age that enable them to involve in various income generating activities. However, Government should empower rural women through provision of soft credit facilities with little or no interest charged to improve the credit requirements on their income generating activities. Also agro-support services should be established nearer to the rural women to enables easy sales or marketing of their products and there should be adequate provision of extension services to rural women to assist in increasing their level of productivity and improve their income.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interests was declared by authors.

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