

# **DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AND SUSTAINABLE RICE PRODUCTION AMONG MALE AND FEMALE FARMERS IN RICE PRODUCING COMMUNITIES OF IMO STATE**

By

***Kanu, Winifred Nwabuku (Ph.D)***

***Department of Sociology, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria.***

***Onyekwere, Iwundu Anthony (Ph.D)***

***Department of Sociology, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria.***

***Njemanze, Vivian Chizoma (Ph.D)***

***Department of Sociology, Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ikwo Ebonyi State, Nigeria***

# Introduction

- Rice is widely acknowledged as one of the most important staple food crops in Nigeria which contributes to household food security.
- However, its production is still below demand and consumption in Nigeria as shown by available statistics (FAO, 2004).

# Statement of the Problem

- Studies (e.g Sangotegbe, Taofeeq and Oluwasusi, 2013; Osanyinlusi and Adenegan, 2016; Ajar and Ajar, 2014; Kadiri and Eze, 2015) on domestic rice production exist and a number of factors which constrain rice production in Nigeria have been identified from various perspectives.
- However, very few studies of this nature provided gender disaggregated data in Nigeria.
- And none has been conducted in the study area, which is one of the major rice producing areas in Imo State.

# Gender

- Gender is a socio-cultural concept used to differentiate male and female. It simply refers to the roles ascribed to male and female with regards to who does what.
- Gender disparity cuts across virtually every aspect of human endeavour including agricultural production.
- Gender disparity is more likely to be noticeable in rural areas of developing countries where culture appears to have significant influence in the life and activities of individuals.

# Gender, demographic variables and rice production

- Demographic factors such as sex, age, marital status, educational level, farming experience among others have been found to relate either negatively or positively with rice production in different contexts by researchers.
- It is therefore a matter of concern to understand how demographic variables affect rice production between male and female rice farmers in Arondizuogu.

# Objectives of the study

- The main objective of this study is to investigate the demographic variables that affect rice productivity of male and female rice farmers in rice producing communities in Arondizuogu. Specifically the study examined;
- the demographic characteristics of male and female rice farmers in Arondizuogu
- the difference in rice production of male and female rice farmers in Arondizuogu

# Hypotheses

- There is a significant difference in the rice production of male and female rice farmers in Arondizuogu.
- Demographic characteristics will significantly predict rice production among farmers in Arondizuogu.

# Methodology

- **Research Design:**

  - Survey research design

- **Data Collection Technique:**

  - Structured questionnaire.

  - Focuss Group Discussion

- **Study sample:**

  - Two rice producing communities in Arondizuogu (Akeme Ikpa Okoli and Akeme Ohiauchu) were randomly selected.

- **Sample Size:**

  - 30 male and 30 female rice farmers, who had their own personal rice farm, were identified with the help of key informants and were involved in the study, giving a total of 60 rice farmers.



# Methodology

## □ **Techniques for Data Analysis**

The quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics (cross tabulation).

The qualitative data were analysed through textual presentation of common themes.

The hypotheses were tested using regression analysis.

# Results

- The result of demographic variables show that male and female farmers vary in some demographic variables (e.g age,).
- The male farmers produced more with higher capital investment.
- Land source did not vary significantly among males and females. Communal land was available for anybody who is willing to farm.
- Multiple regression analysis was used to test the interaction impact of gender and some demographic characteristics (capital investment, farming experience, marital status, source of farm labour, educational level, source of capital, household size and membership of corporative societies) on rice production among farmers in Arondizuogu.

# Results

- The interaction of gender and capital investment explained 32% of the variations in rice production.
- while the interaction of gender and farming experience explained 15.7%.
- Also, the interactions of gender and marital status, gender and source of labour, gender and educational level all explained 2.1%, .2%, and .4% respectively.
- The interactions of gender and source of capital, household size and membership of corporative societies explained 0%, .4%, and 4.2% of the variation in rice production respectively.
- Gender and source of land explained .2% of the variations in rice production.

# Results in Summary

- ❑ In a nutshell, the results show that of the nine factors, only the interactions of gender and capital investment ( $\beta = .57$ ,  $p < .005$ ), gender and farming experience ( $\beta = -.90$ ,  $p < .005$ ), gender and membership of corporative ( $\beta = .57$ ,  $p < .0005$ ) were significant predictors of rice production in Arondizuogu.
- Male farmers with higher capital ( $t = 6.33$ ) scored higher in rice production
- while female farmers with higher farming experience had higher rice yields.
- Lastly, being female and belonging to corporative societies ( $t = -2.196$ ) significantly influences rice production in Arondizuogu.

# Results

- Finally, the interaction of gender and marital status, gender and source of farm labour, gender and educational level, gender and source of capital, gender and household size did not yield a significant effect on rice production

# Recommendations

In order to improve rice production among male and female rice farmers in Arondizuogu, it is recommended that:

Easy access to external capital should be encouraged. For instance easy access to agricultural loan should be guaranteed.

Belonging to cooperatives should be encouraged to facilitate access to resources and for knowledge and information sharing.

# References

- Ajah J and Ajah F.C., (2014) socio-economic determinants of small scale rice farmers' output in Abuja, Nigeria. Asian Journal of Rural Development Vol.4 pp16-24 available at [http/Scialert.net/abstract](http://Scialert.net/abstract)
- Kadiiri F. and Eze C. (2015) Effects of Paddy Rice production on the welfare of farmers and the determinants of the achievement of Paddy Rice farmers in Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development vol.6, No.4 available at [www.iiste.org](http://www.iiste.org)
- Osanyilusi, O.I. and Adenegan K. (2016) The determinants of rice farmers' productivity in Ekiti State, Nigeria. Greener Journal of Agricultural Sciences vol.6, No.2.available at [http/doi.org/10.15580/GJAS](http://doi.org/10.15580/GJAS) accessed Oct. 2016
- Sangotegbe N.S., Taofeeq T.A., and Oluwasusi J.O. (2013) Gender analysis of rice production in Obafemi Owode Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria. Nigerian Journal of Rural Sociology vol.14, No.1 accessed Oct.2016

**Thank you for  
Listening**