

Agriculture Produce Impacts on Development: The Case of the Production of Local Rice in Selected Communities of Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area of Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Abstract: Agriculture has for once been the main source of income in Nigeria, but during the oil boom era, agriculture was sidelined for petroleum products as the major source of income, since then, agricultural products has suffered significant setback as most of our food were imported from foreign countries, apart from the fact that many people are no more interested in agriculture, most youths now migrate to urban centres in search of white-collared jobs. This study thus looks in the impacts of agricultural produce on development using selected rice producing communities of Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area of Ekiti State as case study. It employs the agricultural land use theory and the productivity concept as the basis of its theoretical underpinning. The study involves the use of descriptive research design and the primary source of data collection in a bid to collecting relevant data from producers and consumers using 200 questionnaires. The data collected were presented using the descriptive statistics. The study examines the problems confronting rice production in the study area and suggests recommendations for the remedies of the noted problems. The study will be of great help to researchers and government agencies.

Keywords: Agriculture, Rice Production, Conceptualization, Development

1. Introduction

Agriculture has been to a large extent a catalyst for socio-economic development as its importance has never been subject to any form of kwashiorkor critics. This is due to its impact in world development thus it has been defined as the science of producing crops and livestock for human consumption. According to Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary, Agriculture refers to the science or practice of farming[1].

In developing countries of the world, agriculture has been seen as the major economic sector and the highest provider of employment that engaged over 70 percent of the population. The agricultural objectives generally include how to achieve food security for the nation and provide foreign

exchanges and raw materials for the development of local industries but one of the most apparent characteristics of agriculture is its potent low productivity due to factors that are either controllable or otherwise in developing countries.

Rice is the most common staple food especially in developing world and it is divided into five types viz: Upland rice grown on free draining fertile soils, Hydromorphic rice grown on shallow ground water table or impermeable layer of the crust, Lowland/Fadama rice grown in any aquatic condition, Deep Inland Water rice grown on soils with deep water table and Mangrove Swamp rice grown in swamps or areas characterised with high rain forest [2]. Rice grows in all parts of Nigeria although, due to the oil boom in 1986, rice production has been neglected in many parts of the country. The most common rice grown in Nigeria is the Upland rice and the Swamp rice and the major rice producing areas among others are Niger, Borno, Ebonyi, Taraba, Kano, Ekiti,

Ogun etc. although rice production in the North-Eastern Nigeria is on the decline due to the present Boko-Haram insurgency looming in the area.

In Ekiti state, rice production is across the state with Igbemo Ekiti having the highest production centre. This is solely due to

the type of soil present there and also, it can be attributed to their culture, no wonder, people named the local rice produced in Ekiti 'Igbemo Rice'. With rice now being a structural component of Nigeria diet while the production increase was sufficient to match the consumption increase (with rice imports making up to the shortfall), the importation of rice is making up an important share of Nigerian agricultural imports although there is a considerable political interest in increasing local rice production in the country. For example, the production of rice has a sharp increase in 1984 when the rice ban law was enacted and the production of rice began to decrease gradually when the ban was lifted in 1996.

The Nigerian rice production is special within the West African context as it is produced primarily for the market and primarily consumed in its parboiled form. Despite the importance of Nigerian rice production within the West African context, a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of ofada (another name for Nigerian local rice) rice production and processing was lacking [3]. The Nigerian rice is typically affected in terms of productivity, by nature of rain, soil, size of the farm (land tenure system), the use of crude and simile-mundane implements as well as the problems of pest and diseases.

Ekiti state been part of the regions where rice is cultivated cannot even feed the communities where production takes place not to talk of the whole Ekiti populace and can be traced to some difficulties and problems militating against production processes of local rice in the state. This study thus examines implication of the production of local rice on the development of Ekiti State.

2 The Problem

Despite the importance of local rice production in the state, the producers have limited resource base, economic activities and scale, although rice production in Nigeria has boomed over the years, there has been a considerable lag between production and demand level with imports making up for the shortfall [4].

Production of rice has not been enough to meet the demand of the ever-increasing population in Nigeria and due to the population pressure and increased urbanization process; marginal land is gradually being brought under cultivation while fallow periods have reduced. The use of crude instrument also contributes to the low level of production and the extents of farm to be cultivated. Bad roads and lack of bridges in food producing areas hinder evacuation of the product to where it can be sold which has led to wasting of time, wasting of valuable foodstuffs in remote areas. Lack of transport facilities has also led to underdevelopment of food producing areas. We also have problems of pests and diseases which affect the level of production in the tropics, for example, *trypanosomiasis*, birds and rodents, winds etc. are very common in Nigeria.

A peep into the diary of rice production in Nigeria according to FAO (1985) shows that the annual domestic output of rice still hovers around 3.0million metric tons, leaving the huge gap of about 2.0million metric tons

annually, a situation which has continued to encourage dependence on importation [5]. Reasons attributed to this are: improper production methods, inefficient milling techniques, poor marketing standards, heavy reliance on manual labour, low mechanization, labour costs and financial constraints. All these and more are problems attributed to rice production in Ekiti State thus a reason for this study.

3 Aim and Objectives

The aim of this study is to examine the impacts of agricultural produce in development using the case of rice production in Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area, Ekiti State. In a bid to achieving this aim, these objectives are set: To provide the basis for development strategies to revitalize the local rice production; to identify the causes and effects of low productivity performance of rice on development in the study area and to suggest possible solutions toward improving the production rate of rice in Ekiti state and Nigeria at large.

4 The Study Area

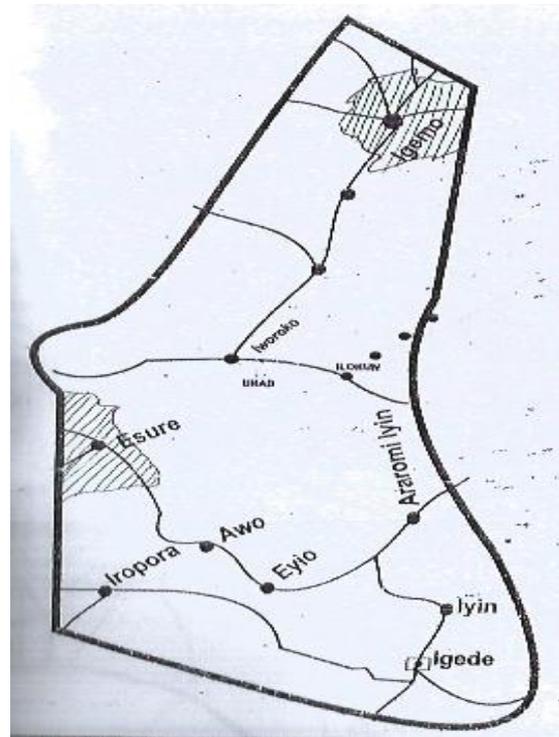


Fig 1: The Map of Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area showing the selected Communities (Esure and Igbemo) [6]

The study area is Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area of Ekiti State. It is located on Latitude $7^{\circ}37'16''N$ and Longitude $5^{\circ}13'17''E$. With its headquarters at Igede Ekiti, it is situated in the central part of the state and share boundary with Gbonyin, Ido-Osi, Ado Ekiti, Ilawe Ekiti etc. and its population according to the Nigeria Population Commission in 2006 is 129,149, thus with the annual growth rate of 2.5% attributed to Nigeria, it has a projected population of 151,750 in 2013. Most of the

inhabitants engage in agriculture and this attribute is a special characteristic of all towns and villages in the state.

5 Theoretical Background And Literature Review

For the purpose of this study, the Agricultural Land-Use theory and theory of productivity performance will be used as the basis for its theoretical underpinning.

The Agricultural Land Use theory was propounded by **Johann Heinrich von Thünen** (24 June 1783 – 22 September 1850) who was a prominent nineteenth century economist. Von Thünen was a Mecklenburg (north German) landowner, who in the first volume of his treatise, *The Isolated State* (1826), developed the first serious treatment of spatial economics, connecting it with the theory of rent. The importance lies less in the pattern of land use predicted than in its analytical approach.

The Von Thünen model of agricultural land, created before industrialization, made the following simplifying assumptions:

- The city is located centrally within an "Isolated State."
- The Isolated State is surrounded by wilderness.
- The land is completely flat and has no rivers or mountains.
- Soil quality and climate are consistent.
- Farmers in the Isolated State transport their own goods to market via oxcart, across land, directly to the central city. There are no roads.
- Farmers behave rationally to maximize profits.

The use of a piece of land is put to is a function of the cost of transport to market and the land rent a farmer can afford to pay (determined by yield, which is held constant here). The model generated four concentric rings of agricultural activity. Dairying and intensive farming lies closest to the city. Since vegetables, fruit, milk and other dairy products must get to market quickly; they would be produced close to the city. Timber and firewood would be produced for fuel and building materials in the second ring. Wood was a very important fuel for heating and cooking and is very heavy and difficult to transport so it is located as close to the city. The third zone consists of extensive fields crops such as grain. Since grains last longer than dairy products and are much lighter than fuel, reducing transport costs, they can be located further from the city. Ranching is located in the final ring. Animals can be raised far from the city because they are self-transporting. Animals can walk to the central city for sale or for butchering. Beyond the fourth ring lies the wilderness, which is too great a distance from the central city for any type of agricultural product.

Von Thünen's rings proved especially useful to economic history, such as Fernand Braudel's *Civilization and Capitalism*, untangling the economic history of Europe and European colonialism before the Industrial Revolution blurred the patterns on the ground. In economics, **von Thünen rent** is an economic rent created by spatial variation or location of a resource. It is 'that which can be earned above that which can be earned at the margin of production'.

In his theory of "The Isolated State", he started out from Adam Smith's idea of "economic man": that the farmer is expected to maximize his profit ("economic rent") from his farmland. Von Thünen, as a landlord, knew that such return

depends on an optimal use of the land surfaces and the transport costs. In concentrating on the effects of these two variables on profits, removal of other factors results in a homogeneous - and isolated - state: A circular, completely undilating plane with a single, dominant market in the centre and no interactions with the outside. The economy in the surrounding rural area would have to rearrange itself according to economic behaviour in such a way that each industry brings optimal profit in: Transport cost depends on the distance from the market and different kind of products. The gain from farming per unit area (locational rent) decreases with increasing distance from the market. The minimum price of a commodity is calculated by locational rent, transport costs and fixed production costs - the profit is then the difference between the costs and the fixed market price. Idealized pattern of agricultural land use zones in von Thünen's model

Take the locational rent of a product with a yield of 1,000, for example, with a fixed price of 100 DM/t in the market. Production and transport costs are respectively, 50 DM/t and 1 DM/t/km. The locational rent is 50,000 DM/km² at the market, 40,000 DM/km² 10 km from the market and only 20,000 DM/km² 30 km from the market. Since locational rent falls with increasing distance from the market, the amount each farmer is willing to pay for agricultural land will shrink and the price of land will eventually decline. Von Thünen concluded that the cultivation of a crop is only worthwhile within certain distances from the city: beyond that, either the cost of the land becomes too high, with increasing distances transport costs also increase, or if there is another product having greater yield or lower transport costs. After a distance from the market (the city) the production of a crop becomes unprofitable, either because its profits drop to zero or the profits earned by other crops are higher, as von Thünen calculated them for products having different intensities (cattle, wood, grain, eggs, milk, etc.): For each product there is a certain distance from the city where its production would be worthwhile. Since Thünen referred transport costs directly to the market ("Luftlinie"), circular land use zones arises - the Thünen rings. The farmers of these products compete against each other, plant their crops concentrically around the market according to the locational rent curves of their own crops. Products having low yields with high price and high transport costs relative to its weight or distance due to its weight will have higher locational rent close to the market than a product having lower transport costs. Locational rent is the highest possible amount one will pay for the use of the land for certain cultivation, and is a relative indicator of competitiveness of it in the market.

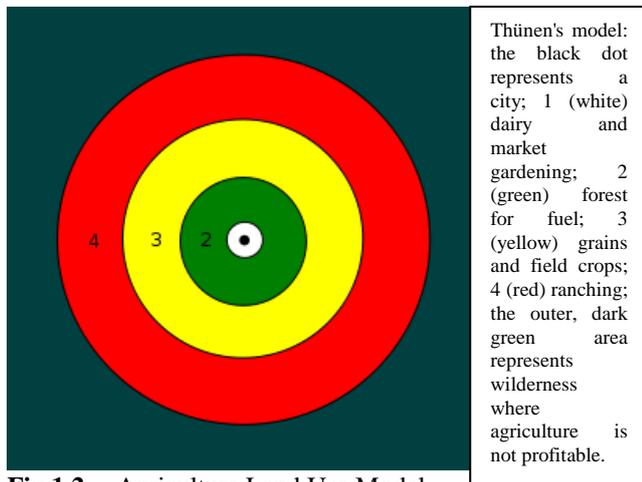


Fig 1.2: Agriculture Land Use Model

Productivity is the ratio of output to inputs in production; it is an average measure of the efficiency of production. Efficiency of production means production's capability to create incomes which is measured by the formula real output value minus real input value. Productivity is a crucial factor in production performance of firms and nations. Increasing national productivity can raise living standards because more real income improves people's ability to purchase goods and services, enjoy leisure, improve housing and education and contribute to social and environmental programs. Productivity growth also helps businesses to be more profitable [7]. There are a variety of theories that attempt to explain why some countries grow faster than others. In a fairly recent review of the New Zealand economy, Bates (2001) explains that the main determinants of output growth are *input growth* (the growth of capital and labour inputs) and the *growth of Total Factor Productivity* (TFP). Bates goes on to note the importance of resource discoveries as another factor that can help explain growth. Resource discoveries and the exploitation of resources are somewhat important in the New Zealand context with agriculture, forests, oil and gas and perhaps fishing all playing a role. Other important factors in determining growth rates are: Changes in the terms of trade, Immigration and population growth (obviously these factors influence the growth of labour input), Changes in domestic savings rates (this influences investment and the growth of capital input), Openness of the economy to foreign investment, Changes in the educational composition of the labour force, National entrepreneurial capacity and the role of government in facilitating competition and the development of efficient markets. In the same vein, if all these important factors are noted in any production process, success is guaranteed [8].

On literature review, Nigeria rice (grown on 1.77 million ha) ranks sixth after sorghum (4.0 million ha), millet (3.5 million ha), cowpea (2.0 million ha), cassava (2.0 million ha) and yam (2.0 million ha), but if placed on a social scale, it can as well be ranked first because it is no longer just a mere festival meal, but the staple of most homes in urban and rural areas. A worrisome phenomenon with rice production data in Nigeria is that, most of it is based on recycled information from ADPs rather than formal research. A true picture of the rice enterprise in Nigeria is therefore hard to come by. The ADP data are based on large-scale production. However, on the ground, there are hardly any large-scale rice farmers in

Nigeria. Rice producers are smallholder farmers who are left entirely on their own to keep the sub-sector afloat against so many odds. Since rice can grow in every ecological zone, Nigeria has such a tremendous potential for its production. This can be easily demonstrated. Some rice growing systems like upland hill have arisen as a result of smallholder farmers searching for more land to cultivate rice. In the light of a viable rice culture (even amongst communities which have only marginal land for rice cultivation due to socioeconomic factors) and availability of appropriate varieties, the crop illustrates that adoption of technologies will be faster if the key factors for each community can be identified. Ekiti State is a food basket in South-Western Nigeria known for the production of major staple crops. It is therefore expected that since these crops are grown regularly, nutrient supplements are required to replenish the lost soil nutrients. However, the nature of fertilizer consumption among farmers is not certain [9].

Rice is a very important staple food in the diet of the estimated 120 million Nigerians. It is consumed in various forms but the most popular is as grains. The value of Nigeria's rice industry is estimated to be about US \$ 5.86 billion (as at 2002) made up of US \$ 2.2 billion of imports and US \$ 3.66 billion of domestic production. The value of the industry is expected to rise to about US \$ 7.98 billion by 2006 at the current growth rate of 10% per annum. Nigeria is West Africa's largest producer of rice, producing an average of 3.2 million tons¹ of paddy rice (~2million tons of milled rice) for the past 7-years. Rice cultivation is widespread within the country extending from the northern to southern zones with most rice grown in the eastern (Enugu, Cross River and Ebonyi States) and middle belt (Benue, Kaduna, Niger and Taraba States) of the country. However, domestic supply has not kept pace with demand as imports have steadily increased faster than domestic supply by accounting for close to 60% of total supply. The status of rice in the average diet has been transformed from being a luxury food item to that of a staple, taking the place of cassava and yam. Empirical evidence also suggests that the price elasticity of demand for rice is low at the urban market. This last point has been the driver of increasing tariffs in the recent past. The low elasticity means fiscal instrument like tariff can be increased without a corresponding decline in demand because rice is still considered a fast food in many urban centers and government can continue to use high tariff to protect domestic producers. At the farm-level, much can be done to improve the profitability of domestic rice production through increasing productivity and producing higher value paddy. Also, along the value-chain, much needs to be done in order to deliver rice that can be substitutes for imports by satisfying urban consumer preferences through improved processing, quality assurance and product branding while rewarding those responding to market signals [10].

Local rice marketing in Igbemo Ekiti occurs in four stages. The first stage is harvesting, while stage two is movement from the farm to processing centre. Stage three consists of moving the milled rice from processing areas to urban consumption centres. The fourth stage encompasses wholesaling and retailing in the urban centre [11]. At the commencement of the harvesting season in July, the rice marketers visit Igbemo to enter into series of contract-harvest arrangements with the farmers. In the deal, some assist the farmers to harvest and subsequently purchase their rice, while

others, who had earlier supplied chemicals or capital to the rice farmers, demand payment with rice. There is, therefore, a partial involvement of the marketers in the first two production stages. Stages three and four activities take place in the market places. As a response to the prevailing rice supply deficit situation in Nigeria, successive Nigerian governments intervened in the rice sector by increasing tariffs so that local production could be encouraged. This was expected to widen the home market for the nation's local rice [12].

The domestic rice chain is currently dominated by trade on traditional markets. New types of institutional arrangements are emerging, however, and involve the private sector to some extent, including multinational corporations. Various forms of contractual arrangements between farmers and processors are now being tested to ensure production of high-quality paddy and white rice. Measures to stimulate investment, such as concessional loans for investment in processing, are increasingly attracting foreign capital. The emergence of new stakeholders is also guiding political decisions affecting the rice sector in Nigeria. In 2010, rice importers, processing centres and vendors in Nigeria spearheaded an effective campaign to address politicians, obtaining a ban on re-exports of rice imported to Nigeria from Benin. Paddy rice is, for the most part, grown by small farmers in Nigeria; over 30% of rice growers cultivate less than 1 ha, and close to 60% less than 5 ha. Although the paddy harvest rose from under 1 million tonnes in the 1970s to 4.2 million tonnes in 2010, production has not kept pace with demand. There is considerable potential for extending and intensifying rice production in the five rice-growing ecosystems found in Nigeria (plateau, rainfed plains, irrigated plains, lowlands and mangrove). The land area that could be cultivated is roughly 79 million hectares. Less than 10% of the 3.4 million hectares that could be irrigated are currently irrigated. Rice yields in irrigated areas are between 3 and 3.5 t/ha, much lower than the potential yields estimated at between 7 and 9 t/ha. This production gap could be bridged by introducing improved varieties, with better use of water resources and integrated management of rice growing. The high cost of seed is one of the main factors behind the low level of seed renewal by farmers. Some fifty-seven varieties of rice have been made available to growers, mainly through joint selection mechanisms. These improved varieties have not been widely disseminated, however, and most rice growers continue to use primarily seed rice produced and stocked on their farms. The formal seed delivery system is regulated by the National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC). Pre-base seed is produced by research institutes, e.g. the National Cereals Research Institute (NCRI) and the Africa Rice Centre. Basic seed rice is then produced by NASC and certified seed by commercial seed producers [13].

6 Materials and Method

Primary source of data collection was devised in this research work; facts and figures were obtained and compiled from direct field work. This is done so as to have original, raw, first hand data, unbiased and undistorted information through the use of questionnaires and field survey.

The respondents were two groups which are the producers (farmers) and the consumers. A total of 200 questionnaires

i.e. 100 questionnaire for each group were distributed to respondents in the study area. The reason for chosen the local government area is because of her share in state and national rice production. The towns chosen in the Local Government Area are Esure Ekiti and Igbemo Ekiti. 100 questionnaires were distributed at each of the communities. At each community, 50 questionnaires were administered on the producers while the remaining 50 were administered on the consumers.

The stratified random sampling method was used. In this purview, two levels of stratification were used: the production village and the rice farmers after which the samples were selected randomly to detest from any form of biasness on the part of the researcher and a descriptive approach of research design was adopted.

Data was analysed and presented using the descriptive statistics as it entails the description of the impacts of rice production on development in the study area.

7 Data Presentation and Discussion

The first data analysed in this research is for the producers, according to table 1.1, the highest producers were between the ages of 36 and 45 and this is recurrent at the two communities as 23 respondents representing 30% of the total respondents were between the ages of 36 and 45 at Esure Ekiti while 30 respondents representing 60% of the total producers at Igbemo were between the ages of 36 and 45. This shows that it is still the working class that is engaged in the production of rice in the study area.

Table 1.2 shows the farming status of producers, it reveals that only 36% of the respondents are full-time producers of rice, the remaining 64% are producing rice on part-time basis, this shows that most of these farmers are into other jobs apart from being a rice farmer. This can reduce the production level of rice as only few of the respondents are full-time farmers.

Table 1.1 Age Distribution Of Respondents

| Age | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 16-25 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 26-35 | 15 | 30 | 5 | 10 |
| 36-45 | 23 | 46 | 30 | 60 |
| 46&Above | 7 | 14 | 15 | 30 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.2: Farming Status Of Respondents

| Farming Status | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Full Time | 18 | 36 | 30 | 60 |
| Part Time | 32 | 64 | 20 | 40 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.3 reveals the method of acquiring land for the planting of rice, at Esure Ekiti, 66% of the respondents inherited the land they are using for cultivation, 24% were leased while only 5% were purchased. At Igbemo Ekiti, most their lands used for cultivation were leased representing 64% of the respondents, 30% of the lands were inherited while 6% were purchased. The results in table 1.3 was attributed the poor nature of most farmers at the study area thus most of the land used in cultivation were either inherited from parents/family or leased. Table 1.4 shows the source of finance of producers of localized rice. A high percentage of

the respondents financed themselves or relied on loans although at Esure Ekiti, 32% of the respondents were financed by members of their family.

Table 1.3: Method of Land Acquisition

| Method Of Land Acquisition | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Inherited | 33 | 66 | 15 | 30 |
| Leased | 12 | 24 | 32 | 64 |
| Purchased | 5 | 10 | 3 | 6 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.4: Source of Finance

| Source Of Finance | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Friends | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Family Contribution | 16 | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| Bank | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Government | 3 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| Self Finance | 14 | 28 | 17 | 34 |
| Loan | 14 | 28 | 27 | 54 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.5 reveals that 46% of the respondents at Esure Ekiti engaged in subsistence farming, 26% in commercial farming while 28% were engaged in the two forms of agriculture. In contrast, 16% of the respondents at Igbemo Ekiti were engaged in subsistence farming, 50% in commercial farming while 34% in both commercial and subsistence farming. This implies that Igbemo is more commercialised than Esure when it comes to rice production, no wonder, most time, any localised rice in the study area has been nicknamed Igbemo rice.

Table 1.5: Type of Farming System

| Type Of Farming System | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Subsistence | 23 | 46 | 8 | 16 |
| Commercial | 13 | 26 | 25 | 50 |
| Both | 14 | 28 | 17 | 34 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.6: Size Of Farm Used For Production

| Size Of Farm | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1-5acres | 30 | 60 | 38 | 76 |
| 6-10acres | 12 | 24 | 9 | 18 |
| 11&Above | 8 | 16 | 3 | 6 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.6 shows the size of farmed used for production. At Esure Ekiti, 46% of the respondents cultivated between 1 to 5 acres of land for rice production, 24% cultivated between 6 to 10 acres while 16% cultivated more than 10 acres. Likewise, at Igbemo Ekiti, 76% cultivated between 1 to 5 acres, 18% cultivated between 6 to 10 acres while 6% of the

respondents cultivated above 10 acres. This was due to the method of land acquisition that shows that most respondent either inherits or lease the land used in cultivation of rice.

Tables 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9 shows the use of inputs in the boosting of agriculture produce in the study area and it revealed that most of the producers generally don't use agricultural inputs while a low percentage make use of inputs. For example, 54% and 56% of the respondents at Esure and Igbemo didn't make use of pesticides respectively; the use of herbicides was at 36% and 50% in Esure and Igbemo respectively, also 35% and 70% don't make use of fertilizer in Esure and Igbemo respectively. This has really resulted in the generally low production of rice in the study area.

Table 1.7: Use of Pesticides

| Use Of Farm Inputs (Pesticides) | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 23 | 46 | 22 | 44 |
| No | 27 | 54 | 28 | 56 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.8: Use of Herbicides

| Use Of Farm Inputs (Herbicides) | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 18 | 36 | 25 | 50 |
| No | 32 | 64 | 25 | 50 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.9: Use of Fertilizer

| Use Of Farm Inputs (Fertilizer) | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 15 | 30 | 20 | 40 |
| No | 35 | 70 | 30 | 60 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.10: Source of Supply Of Rice For Planting

| Source Of Supply Of Rice For Planting | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Purchased (Market) | 18 | 36 | 8 | 16 |
| Personal Store | 32 | 64 | 37 | 74 |
| Government | 0 | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.10 shows the source of supply of rice for planting, most of the respondents got their seedlings from their own personal, this means that they always keep part of their harvest for planting in the next planting season, very few of the respondents got their seedlings from government, this implies that the government are not really interested in the growth of rice in the study area. In table 1.11, 50% and 50% of the respondents noted that they were facing problems of finance in Esure and Igbemo respectively, 15% and 10% revealed that land acquisition is their main problem, this is also due to the problems of land tenure and lastly, the problems of rodents, pests and diseases were manifested problems of 20% and 30% of the respondents in Esure and Igbemo respectively.

Table 1.11: Problems Faced During Production

| Problems Faced In Course Of Production | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Finance | 25 | 50 | 25 | 50 |
| Land Tenure | 15 | 30 | 10 | 20 |
| Rodents, Pests & Diseases | 10 | 20 | 15 | 30 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.12: Number of Processing Centres In Study Area

| Number | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1-2 | 30 | 40 | 43 | 86 |
| 3-4 | 20 | 60 | 7 | 14 |
| 5&Above | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.12 shows the number of milling/processing centres in the study area, 60% and 86% noted that there are between 1 to 2 milling centres in Esure and Igbemo respectively while 40% and 14% revealed that there are up to 3 or 4 milling or processing centres in Esure and Igbemo respectively, this can result in the non regular availability of local rice for consumption (see table 1.14) in the study area.

Tables 1.13 and 1.14 were results of data collected by consumers to ascertain the level of satisfaction on the quality of local rice and availability of local rice in the study area. At Esure Ekiti, 80% of the consumers revealed that the quality of the local rice is good while 10% noted that the quality is fair. Similarly, at Igbemo, 56% of the consumers noted that the quality of rice is good, 34% noted that it is fair while only 10% believed that the quality of rice in the area is poor.

Table 1.13: Quality Of Local Rice

| Quality Of Rice | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Good | 40 | 80 | 28 | 56 |
| Fair | 10 | 20 | 17 | 34 |
| Bad/Worse | 0 | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

Table 1.14: Availability of Local Rice For Consumption

| Availability Of Ofada Rice | Esure | % | Igbemo | % |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Regular | 20 | 40 | 20 | 40 |
| Not Regular | 30 | 60 | 30 | 60 |
| Total | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Fieldwork, 2014

In table 1.13, 40% and 40% of the consumers revealed that the local rice is regularly available, 60% and 60% noted that local rice is not always available for consumption at Esure and Igbemo respectively. This shows that the level of production of ofada in the study area is still very low

This problem can be attributed to the different reasons that has been shown in the various table, which are: the problems of pest and diseases, rodents, problem of finance, government policy, problem of land acquisition, cultivation on a small scale, and lack of machinery for processing.

8. Summary of Findings and Recommendations

The research work was based on the impacts of agricultural produce on development using selected local rice producing communities in Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area of Ekiti State, Nigeria. It was revealed in the study that the selected communities i.e. Esure Ekiti and Igbemo Ekiti are rice producing areas that make Ekiti to be one of the rice producing state in Nigeria. The production of rice in the study area can be one of the important yardstick of development in Ekiti state although it was noted in the study that most people are now leaving agriculture in pursuit of white-collar jobs, the neglect of agriculture had been evident since the era of oil boom in the 20th century, the discovery of oil in Oloibiri had brought a setback to agricultural practices and this had left few people to invest in agriculture. Most people now engage in agriculture just to produce foods for their immediate family as a result, they make use of small piece of land for their cultivation (see table 1.5 and 1.6). Another finding in the study is the impact of government on production of rice; the general contribution of government on rice production in the study area is very low and even with the fact that one of the community i.e. Igbemo is known in Nigeria for production of rice, government impacts on development of these areas is very poor. Also, most of the farmers are poor; they find it hard to source for huge amount so that they can embark on commercial farming. Use of crude implements and also, the non availability of farm inputs, pests, diseases and rodents are other problems confronting the production of rice in the study area.

To develop these areas for better production of rice in a bid for sustainable development, government must come in to help the producers of rice in the study area thus; they need to make available loans at little or no interest so that the producers can engage in commercial farming. The farmers should be more focused and they should specialize in one particular crop to a greater yield in their produce.

Government should provide adequate incentives for rice producers such as fertiliser, pesticides, insecticides and herbicides. The producers should be sensitized by Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations (GOs and NGOs) through the use of one on one chat and mass media such as radio and television, also during sensitization; teachers should make use of the community's local language or make use of an interpreter in situation where the teacher does not understand the language. Sensitization can also be done using jingles, banners, posters and billboards. Seminars, workshops and other relevant programmes to keep farmers up-to-date on latest varieties of crops and new methods of production should be organize as these will help in improving the production rate of local rice toward the development of the state at large.

Land should be made available especially to foreign investors who are ready to carry our local rice production. Generally, foreigners are not always given the privilege to produce on large mass of land because of fear on the part of the indigenes. In this wise, government should encourage foreign investors by acquiring large mass of land and allowing them to produce on a large scale. Sophisticated machinery should also be made available to farmers so as to

encourage farmers to produce on large scale. Storage facilities and other infrastructure (roads, water, electricity etc.) that can make the producing communities functional should be made available.

Financial institutions should encourage producer by providing financial backup to farmers producing local rice in the state, government should also make available processing centres in the rice producing communities of the study area as this will help in hastening the production of local rice i.e. Ofada or Igbemo towards the development of Ekiti State and lastly, there should be ready made markets for produce after final processing.

9 Conclusion

This study deals with the impacts of agricultural produce on development, it also deals with providing basis for development to revitalise the Nigeria rice (Ofada) and to take a look at various problems confronting rice production in the study area and proffering recommendations. This study has thus revealed the problems confronted by producers of Nigerian Rice using two selected communities in Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area of Ekiti State as case study. It is noteworthy that recommendations stated in this study should be of great assistance to government, policy makers and researchers and also in the tackling of the problems confronting rice production in the study area and Nigeria at large.

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