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## Information Use Behaviour of Sedentary Livestock Farmers in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria

SHERIFF OLAMIDE AFOLABI Mr.

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, NIGERIA, gandyss87@yahoo.com

MUTAWAKILU ADISA TIAMIYU PROF

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, mutatiamiyu@gmail.com

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# **Information Use Behaviour of Sedentary Livestock Farmers in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria**

**Sheriff O. Afolabi and Muta A. Tihamiyu**  
**Africa Regional Centre for Information Science**  
**University of Ibadan, Nigeria**  
**Email: [gandyss87@yahoo.com](mailto:gandyss87@yahoo.com)**

## **Abstract**

Information is important for all human activities and represents a fundamental input in knowledge creation. Just like in any other human activity, relevant, accurate, and timely information is critical to the success of livestock production and marketing. This study examined the information use behaviors of sedentary livestock farmers in Egbeda Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria, specifically, the farmers' perceived knowledge on livestock production, marketing information needs, attitude to, and preferred information sources, information seeking activities, and challenges faced when seeking for information. The descriptive survey design was used. Data were collected, using a questionnaire, from 155 sedentary livestock farmers; who were surveyed using the enumeration method. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Spearman Correlation. Findings revealed that highly needed information are information on the livestock market, disease and pest control, information on nutrition and feeds, pesticide, best agriculture practices, and marketing strategy. Television and radio were the most preferred information source, while extension officers are the least preferred. The farmers used information sources that are easy to use, easily accessible, and trusted. Information obtained and used by the farmers was mostly in respect of pest and disease control, and least in sourcing for labor. Information use was positively and significantly related to farm size, but not with farmers' gender, age, marital status, family size, farming experience, academic qualification, and farm management type. It is recommended that the activities of extension officers among sedentary livestock farmers should be increased and improved. Also, accessing information by farmers from extension officers should be made easier.

**Keywords:** Egbeda local government area, Information seeking behavior, Information sources, Information use, Oyo state, Nigeria, Sedentary livestock farmers

## **Introduction**

Information is very important in all human activities and disciplines. It is defined as data that has been processed in such a way that it enhances the knowledge of the individual uses such data as cited by McFadden et al in Kadir, (2002). Information is a tool for creating knowledge, not just in the form of data and facts but in the form of representations that provide meanings and context for purposive action. It is also defined as data that has been put into a useful and meaningful context which is communicated to recipients who use it to make meaningful decisions (Ofuoku, Nnemah, and Eitedjere, 2008). Information is regarded as a crucial resource and an important commodity for development is a basic necessity and brings success in everyday life including farming activities (Odini, 2014). Information is a powerful tool for empowerment, it takes away ignorance and enables an individual to be enlightened and bold (Nicholas-Era, 2017).

Information is a tool for the creation of knowledge, for ensuring that we have meaningful data and facts. It is also used to impose order so that we can be able to cope with the randomness in the world. Information needs vary among individuals, age groups, cultures and societies, discipline, time-space, countries, etc., and this variation has led to the belief that this information age will lessen the gap between the privileged and less privileged, Ademola (2014). Successful societies and economies in the future will depend on how well they enable information to be appropriately shared, how much they learn from the information held, and how effectively they put to use the information accessed to create new values. Effective information sharing and use have the power to improve individuals and society as a whole.

Choo (2002) viewed information to use as a dynamic interactive process that may result in making meaning or arriving at a meaningful decision. In other words, information use is the result of searching and acquiring information for decision making and in the creation of new values or innovations. Information use is the fulcrum that drives all other information-seeking behaviors (information need and information seeking) since it represents the ultimate process for which information is needed and sought for. For any nation to improve its agricultural sector and ensure food security more commitment must be made towards providing information that suits the needs of farmers, aids to ensure that this information that has been provided can be easily accessed as well as follow-up programmes to ensure that farmer put the information acquired to effective use. Information is becoming a major input in agriculture, whilst, knowledge and information play a central role for farmers to respond to opportunities that could improve their agricultural productivity (Nzonzo & Mogambi, 2016). This is corroborated by Olatokun and Tihamiyu (2005), who stated that individuals and organizations are becoming more aware of the need to continually create, process, and use the information to outdistance their rivals in society.

Agriculture plays a vital role in the social and economic development of most countries in the world. The importance of agriculture in the economy is profound, despite the growth of industries, oil, and commerce; it continues to be and remains to be the most common activity of the people of Nigeria particularly those of the rural and semi-urban areas. It remains Nigeria hopes of increasing its foreign exchange in the face of a steadily increasing population, a dwindling external reserve, and the global uncertainty of oil. Nigeria was famous for its agrarian economy before the discovery of oil(crude) in 1956. Agriculture remains an important source of livelihood for the majority of Africans but the sector is still very unproductive, resulting in food insecurity and large imports of staple foods (Verdier-Chouchare & Karaguezian, 2016) Through agriculture, Nigeria was able to feed its population, generate income, generate employment and majorly exported in large quantity, cash crops such as palm product, rubber, cocoa, groundnuts, etc. This trend changed with the discovery of crude oil, making Nigeria abandon agriculture and clinched to the oil sector (Kemi, 2016). It remains the mainstay of the economy not only because it is the greatest contributor to the country's gross domestic product, but also because it is also the largest employer of labor and also a key factor in poverty alleviation and food security for the survival of its ever-increasing populace. In 2010 it substantially contributed to the Nigerian economy accounting for about 11% of the total gross domestic product (Encyclopedia of nations, 2010). In the Northeast region of Nigeria, more than 80% of the populace are engaged in growing crops or rearing livestock for their livelihood (Food and Agricultural Organisation, 2017). Idris (2020) posited that Agriculture plays a significant role in accelerating economic growth and development, particularly for developing countries through the provision of industrial raw materials, employment creation, and expansion of the domestic market.

The agricultural sector occupies an essential position in the West African sub-region, and this sector is recognizably the heartbeat of the region's economy (Osabuohien et al.,2018). Such recognition emanates because its impact cuts across societies at various stages, given that the regional economies and labor force, incomes, and access to food rely mainly on the sector such that the ECOWAS agricultural sector generates over 35% of gross domestic product (Food and Agriculture Organisation, 2017). This sector is the backbone of most African countries as well as some developed countries of the world but most African countries, Nigeria inclusive are yet to devote more attention to the development of this sector by actively disseminating accurate and timely agricultural information to farmers, ensuring that information can be easily accessed as well as following up on farmers to ensure that they put to effective use the information they have acquired. For any nation to improve its agricultural sector and ensure food security more commitment must be made towards providing information that suits the needs of farmers, aids to ensure that information that has been provided can be easily accessed as well as follow-up programmes to ensure that farmer put the information acquired to effective use. Livestock farming accounts for as much as a third of Nigeria's agricultural gross domestic product, providing income, employment, fuel, and transportation. Livestock farming represents an appropriate system to feed the fast-growing population and also plays an important role in household food security. Nigeria's livestock sector has several strategic roles to play in the nation's march towards national development. First, its products can improve export earnings which can be used for the importation of machinery and raw materials needed for the industrialization of the sector. Second, the livestock sector itself constitutes a vast consumer market for industrial goods. Third, in a nation with embarrassingly high unemployment statistics, an increasing number of school dropouts, and a growing sense of job insecurity in private and public sectors, this sector will serve as an alternative means of livelihood to the unemployed populace.

The above underscores the urgency of Nigeria's need for improved agricultural production generally and livestock production specifically. The country cannot afford the current slow pace of development in its agricultural sector if it is to avert economic and food crises of major dimensions in the immediate future. The study was carried out with the main objective of exploring the information use behaviors of sedentary livestock farmers in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The specific objectives include:

- i. To identify the information needs of sedentary livestock farmers in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria.
- ii. To investigate the information-seeking behavior of sedentary livestock farmers in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria.
- iii. To investigate the sources of information used by the farmers.
- iv. To investigate the perception and attitude of the sedentary livestock farmers to the various information sources available.
- v. To determine the challenges faced by sedentary livestock farmers when sourcing for information.
- vi. To investigate the relationship between the information needs of the sedentary farmers and their information-seeking behaviors.
- vii. To find out the relationship between the diversity of information needs of the sedentary farmers and the diversity of their use of information sources.

The study, therefore, answered the following research questions:

- i. What are the information needs of sedentary livestock farmers in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria?
- ii. How do the sedentary livestock farmers in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria seek information?

- iii. What are the sources of information used by the farmers?
- iv. Is there a relationship between the information needs of the sedentary farmers and their information-seeking behaviors?
- v. Is there a relationship between the diversity of information needs of the sedentary farmers and the diversity of their use of information sources?

### Materials and Methods

The location of the study is the Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The population of the study is all sedentary livestock farmers in the local government. Egbeda Local Government, consists of 11 wards, with an area of 191km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 319,388 people based on the 2006 census. The local government is dominated by the Yoruba ethnic group and endowed with a large expanse of land for the production of livestock and farming. About half of the local government area is rural and while the rest is a suburb of the Ibadan metropolis. Subsistence farming is most common among the people of Egbeda local government and this is due to the fertile soil and favorable climate which supports the growth of crops such as maize, cassava, yams, etc. as well as livestock farming. Among the notable industries within the local government are the Nigerian Brewery Company and the Atlantic carpets. A 4-point Likert scale was used to collect respondent responses to questions on information seeking, information use, information sources and the attitude and perception of respondents towards information sources, with response option from 1 = strongly disagree to 4 strongly agree (SD=1, D=2, A=3 and SA=4). Census (total enumeration) method was used to collect data because the total number of registered sedentary livestock farmers is small. Descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) were used to represent and analyze the profile of the farmers, as well as responses to some individual questions toward answering the research questions. The research hypotheses were tested using Pearson correlation and simple and multiple linear regression analysis.

### Results and Discussion

#### *Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Sedentary Livestock Farmers*

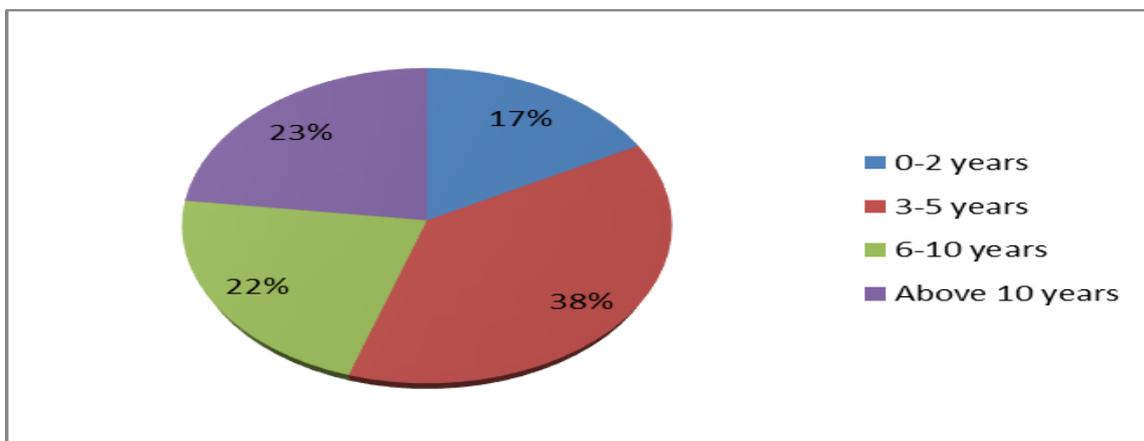
Table 1 presents the socio-demographic characteristics of 105 sedentary livestock farmers in Egbeda Local Government Area, Ibadan that participated in the study.

Variable	Values	Frequency	Valid Percent (%)
Gender	Male	65	61.9
	Female	40	38.1
Age	30 years and below	25	25.5
	31-40 years	23	23.5
	41-50 years	39	39.8
	Above 50 years	11	11.2
Highest Academic Qualification	Primary School	6	5.8
	Secondary School	13	12.5
	OND	35	33.6
	BSC/HND	48	46.2
	Others	2	1.9
Marital Status	Married	71	69.6
	Divorced	2	2.0
	Widowed	8	7.8

	Single	21	20.6
Family size	1-3 people	29	28.2
	4-7 people	51	49.5
	8-15 people	14	13.6
	Above 15 people	9	8.7

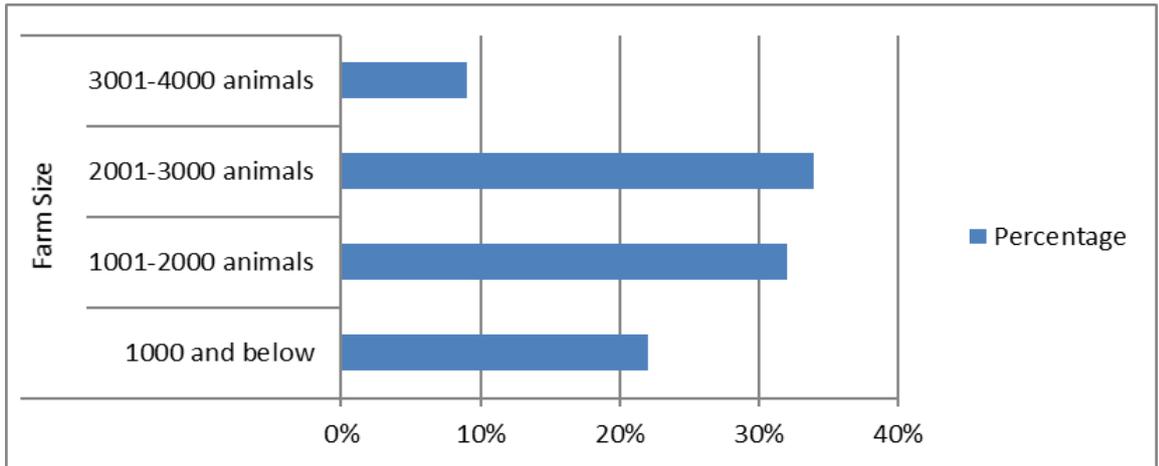
As shown in Table 1, the majority of the respondents were males (62.0%). The majority (40%) were also between the age bracket of 41-50 years, while a further 23.0% were between the ages 31 and 40 years. The data on the highest academic qualification reveals that most (46.0%) possessed either a university degree or Higher National Diploma, closely followed by 34% that possessed Ordinary National Diploma. Data collected shows that the percentage of respondents with HND or degree was the highest, followed by those with OND and secondary education.

The marital status indicated that 70.0% were married, while 20.0% were single. In addition, the family size of the majority of the respondents (49.0%) ranged between 4 and 7 people, and a further 28.0% had between 1 and 3 people, while 9.0% of the respondents' family members are more than 15 people. Figure 1 presents the years of experience of the respondents in this study.



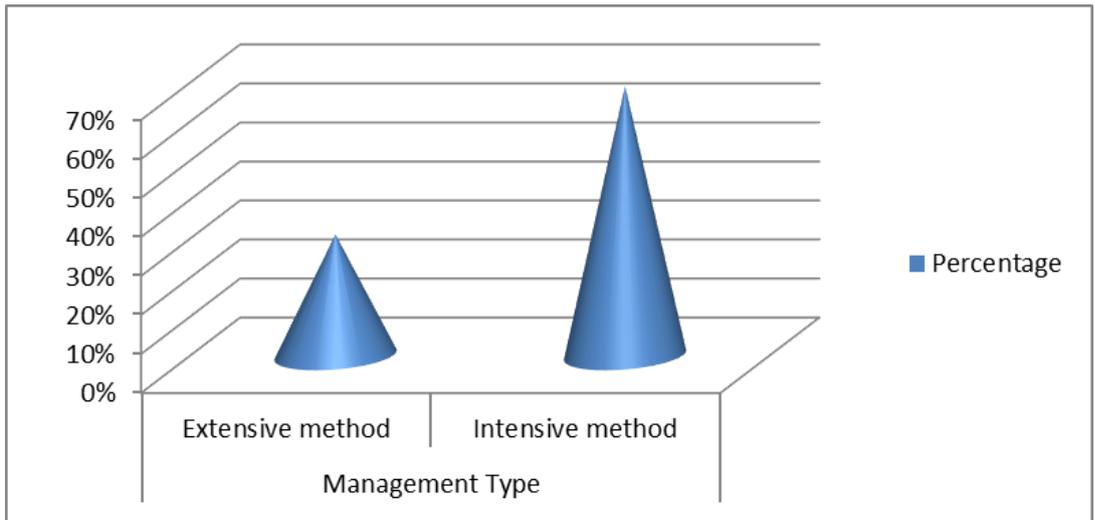
**Figure 1: Years of experience as sedentary livestock farmers (N=105)**

The majority of the sedentary farmers that participated in this study (38.0%) had been in the business for a period ranging between 3 and 5 years, 23.0% had over 10 years working experience, while 22.0% had been in the business for not more than 2 years. The distribution of farm sizes operated by the respondents, measured by the number of bred animals is presented in Figure 2. The farmers that participated in this study are in the business of rearing cattle, goats, turkey, and chicken.



**Figure 2: Farm size (N=105)**

Figure 2 shows that the majority represented by 34.0% possessed between 2001 and 3000 animals in their farm, 32.0% possessed between 1001 and 2000 animals, while 3.0% had over 4000 animals in their farm. The farm management type adopted by respondents is presented in Figure 3. The respondents indicated that they practiced either the extensive method or the intensive method, with the majority (69.0%) using the intensive method, while the remaining 31.0% used the extensive method.



**Figure 3: Management Type (N=105)**

***Information Needs***

Table 2 presents various types of information that are likely to constitute the information needs of sedentary livestock farmers in the Egbeda local government area, as well as the extent to which each information is needed as indicated by the farmers.

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Not at all Freq (%)</b>	<b>Low extent Freq (%)</b>	<b>Moderate extent Freq (%)</b>	<b>High Extent Freq (%)</b>
Information on animal health	6 (6.0%)	16 (16.0%)	51(51.0%)	27(27.0%)
Information on new technologies	5 (4.8%)	19 (18.3%)	57(54.8%)	23 (22.1%)
Information on livestock market	4 (3.4%)	15 (14.4%)	52 (50.0%)	33 (31.7%)
Information on agriculture policies	5 (5.0%)	28 (27.7 %)	40 (39.6%)	28 (27.7%)
Information on disease and pest control	5 (4.9%)	16 (15.7%)	45 (44.1%)	36 (35.3%)
Information on animal husbandry	4 (3.9 %)	19 (18.4%)	54 (52.4%)	26 (25.2%)
Information on housing technique	4 (3.8 %)	30 (28.8 %)	45 (43.3%)	25 (24.0%)
Information on credit facilities	4 (3.9 %)	18 (17.5 %)	53 (51.5%)	27 (27.2%)
Information on nutrition and feeds	3 (2.9%)	13 (12.5%)	54 (51.9%)	34 (32.7%)
Information on raw materials/input source	3 (2.9%)	19 (18.3%)	55 (52.9 %)	27 (26.0%)
Information on pesticide	4 (3.8%)	13 (12.5%)	55 (52.9%)	32 (30.8%)
Information on best agric. Practices	4 (3.8%)	14 (13.5%)	52 (50.0%)	34 (32.7%)
Information on water management	3 (2.9%)	19 (18.4%)	60 (58.3 %)	21 (20.4%)
Information on the weather	5 (4.9%)	26 (25.5 %)	48 (47.1%)	23 (22.5%)
Information on the marketing strategy	6 (5.8 %)	15 (14.6 %)	50 (48.5%)	32 (31.1%)

As observed from Table 2, all the respondents required information on animal health, new technologies, livestock market, agriculture policies, diseases, and pest control, animal husbandry, housing technique, credit facilities, nutrition and feeds, raw materials/input source, pesticide, best agricultural practices, water management, weather, and marketing strategy.

Results further show that information on animal health and new technologies was required moderately by 51.0% and 54.8% of the sedentary farmers that participated in this study, while 31.7% of respondents to a high extent required information on the livestock market. 35.3% of the respondents also required to high extent information on disease and pest control, while information on animal husbandry was required by the majority (52.4%) on a moderate level. Findings also showed that 51.5% required information on credit facilities moderately, while information on nutrition and feeds was required by 51.9% on a moderate extent, and 32.7% on a high extent. Furthermore, the finding shows that extent of information need on raw materials/input source is moderate. It was also discovered that the extent of information needs for pesticide information was required moderately by 52.9% of the respondents, and required highly by 30.8% of respondents. Information on best agriculture practices was needed highly by 32.7% of the respondents, whereas, information on water management is required moderately by 58.3% of the respondents. It was also discovered that information on marketing strategy was required by 31.1% of the respondents to a high extent.

Findings also show that sedentary livestock farmers needed information on animal health, livestock market, agriculture policies, diseases, and pest control, animal husbandry, housing technique, credit facilities, nutrition and feeds, raw materials, pesticide, best agricultural practices, water management as well as a marketing strategy. This finding corroborated findings by previous researchers such as Edwin, Achugbue, and Sylvester (2011), who asserted that fish farmers need information on feed formulation, weather, and water management. The findings of this study also corroborated the findings of Fawole (2006), who found that farmers need information on animal health. Similarly, Melba (2015) also found that livestock farmers need information on animal health, animal husbandry, market, and agricultural policies.

The findings of this study also supported that of Angello, Jangawe, and Matovelo (2016), who found that livestock farmers need information on disease control, nutrition and feeds, market, housing techniques, and credit facility. Similar to this study, Emmanuel (2012) also found that farmers need information on loan/credit facilities and marketing strategy. Based on the findings of their study, Mtega, Ngoepe, and Dube, (2016) disclosed that farmers need agricultural information for undertaking agricultural activities.

### ***Information Seeking***

The specific different behaviors exhibited by sedentary livestock farmers in Egbeda local government area when seeking information are presented in Table 3.

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Disagreed Freq. (%)</b>	<b>Agreed Freq (%)</b>
I do actively search for livestock information	12 (11.5%)	92 (88.5%)
I am willing to pay for relevant livestock information	17 (16.5%)	86 (83.5%)
I prefer well-known sources or renowned sources, documents, or persons when searching for livestock information	20 (20.8%)	76 (79.2%)
I make use of informal sources (friends, family)	19 (18.4%)	84 (81.6%)
I make use of the mass media sources	28 (27.2%)	75 (72.8%)
I make use of documents in libraries	53 (54.1%)	45 (45.9%)
I make use of seminars and workshops	36 (37.1%)	61 (62.9%)
I am especially interested in every new idea to make me different from other farmers	24 (24.70%)	73 (75.3%)
I am often willing to spend as much time as possible in seeking livestock information	23 (23.7%)	74 (76.3%)
I read regularly and widely livestock-related books	31 (31.9%)	66 (68.1%)
I read regularly newspaper and magazines only for livestock-related information	42 (42.0%)	58 (58.0%)

Most of the respondents agreed that they actively searched for livestock information (88.5%), and were willing to pay to obtain relevant livestock information (83.5%). The majority (81.6%) made use of informal sources of information such as friends and family, and a closely similar majority preferred well-known sources or renowned sources, documents, or persons when searching for livestock information (79.2%), while 72.8% made use of mass media sources. Furthermore, 75.3% of the respondents were especially interested in using every new idea to make themselves different from other farmers, while 76.3% were often willing to spend as much time as possible in seeking livestock information. However, only 58.0% of the respondents regularly read newspapers and magazines for livestock-related information, while some others (45.9%) used documents in the libraries. Finding in this study on the behavior of sedentary livestock farmers when seeking information reveals that the majority of the farmers actively search for livestock information, and are willing to pay to obtain relevant livestock information. It was also discovered that the majority make use of informal sources of information such as friends and family, mass media, well-known sources or renowned sources, documents or persons as well as documents in the libraries when searching for livestock information. Findings further showed that the majority are interested in every new idea to make them different from other farmers, regularly read newspapers and magazines only for livestock-related information, and are often willing to spend as much time as possible in seeking livestock information. Melba (2015), however, discovered that while seeking information, livestock farmers first make use of personal experience before consulting others, that is, other farmers and relatives. The outcome of the study carried out by

Aziagba and Okede (2011) showed that when farmers seek information, they consult useful information sources where such information is found, which include fellow farmers, extension workers, and news media.

***Attitude to Information Sources***

Table 4 presents the perception and attitude of the respondents to the various information sources. The perception and attitude to information sources were based on ease of use, easy accessibility, and trust.

**Table 4: Attitude to Information Sources by Sedentary Livestock Farmers (N=102)**

Variables	Disagreed Freq. (%)	Agreed Freq. (%)
I use only easy to use information source(s)	19 (19.0%)	81 (81.0%)
The only use easily accessible information sources	16 (16.0%)	84 (84.0%)
I only use information source that I trust	14 (14.1%)	85 (85.9%)
Extension officers are too few	17 (17.0%)	83 (83.0%)
Extension officers are not always available	16 (16.0%)	84 (84.0%)
Farmers meeting/seminars on livestock farming hold adequately often	41 (41.4%)	58(58.6%)
I trust information coming from extension services	13 (12.9%)	88 (87.1%)
I trust information coming from veterinary services	16 (16.0%)	84 (84.0%)
I trust information from farmers meeting/seminars on livestock farming	9(8.8%)	93 (91.2%)
I trust information from radio/television on livestock farming	12(11.8%)	90 (88.2%)
I trust information from newspapers and magazines	15 (14.7%)	87 (85.3%)

The attitude of sedentary farmers to information sources showed that the majority of the respondents trusted information emanating from farmers’ meeting/seminars on livestock farming (91.2%), radio/television on livestock farming (88.2%), extension services (87.1%), newspapers and magazines (85.3%), and veterinary services (84.0%). It was also discovered that the majority of the respondents (85.9%) indicated that they used information sources they trust, and they used easily accessible information sources (84.0%). Responses also showed that extension officers were not always available (84.0%), and the extension officers available were too few (83.0%). Furthermore, it was found that the majority (81.0%) only sourced information from an easy-to-use source. 58.6% of the respondents disclosed that farmers’ meetings/seminars on livestock farming are held often. The outcome of this study on the perception and attitude of sedentary livestock farmers revealed that farmers use information sources that are easy to use and easily accessible. They also utilize information sources that they trust. Similar to the finding in this study, Morton and Campbell (2008) found that the use of information sources differs based on attitude towards the information source. Contrary to the finding in this study, Fanoberova and Kuczowska (2016) discovered that attitude to information sources has an insignificant relationship to the use of such information sources.

***Information Uses***

Table 5 presents the summary of responses obtained with regards to information used by the farmers.

**Table 5: Information Use by Sedentary Livestock Farmers (N=97)**

Variables	Disagreed Freq (%)	Agreed Freq (%)
Livestock inputs (feeds)	13 (13.4%)	84 (86.6%)
Pest and disease control	5 (5.1%)	92 (94.9%)
Livestock health	8 (7.5%)	89 (92.5%)
Disaster control and mitigation	8 (7.5%)	89 (92.5%)
Sourcing for labour	27 (27.8%)	70 (72.2%)
Sourcing for Agricultural Credit	16 (16.5%)	81(83.5%)
Livestock production	6 (6.3%)	89 (93.6%)
Livestock processing (slaughter, dressing, packaging)	18 (18.7%)	78(81.3%)
Sales of livestock and associated products	15 (15.4%)	82 (84.6%)
Storage of livestock products	15 (15.4%)	82 (84.6%)
Transport of livestock and associated products	12 (12.4%)	85 (81.6%)

Responses obtained concerning information used by sedentary livestock farmers showed that sought information was used most highly for pest and disease control (94.9%), livestock production (93.6%), livestock health (92.5%), and disaster control and mitigation (92.5%). Slightly lower proportions of the farmers used information for livestock input/feeds decisions (86.6%), sourcing for agricultural credit (83.5%), sales and storage of livestock and associated products (84.6%), and transportation of livestock and associated products (81.6%). The use of information for sourcing for labor was the lowest (72.2%). Findings on what sedentary livestock farmers use the information for revealed that the majority of the farmers use information pest and disease control, livestock production, livestock health, disaster control mitigation, livestock input/feeds, sourcing for agricultural credit, sales and storage of livestock, and associated products, transportation of livestock and associated products, and for sourcing for labor. It was discovered that information was mostly used for pest and disease control, and least used for sourcing labor. Similar to the findings in this study, the outcome of the findings of Ofuoku, Emah, and Itedjere (2008) revealed that fish farmers utilize information on all farming operations such as stocking operations and water treatment.

### *Information Sources Accessed*

<b>Table 6: Information Sources Accessed by Sedentary Livestock Farmers</b>				
Information Sources		Frequency	%	Ranking
Extension officers	Accessed	77	81.1	7 <sup>th</sup>
	Not Accessed	18	18.9	
Meeting with other farmers	Accessed	93	96.9	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Not Accessed	3	3.1	
Newspapers/ Magazine	Accessed	90	92.8	5 <sup>th</sup>
	Not Accessed	7	7.2	
Friends/relatives	Accessed	94	96.9	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Not Accessed	3	3.1	
Seminars/workshops	Accessed	89	91.8	6 <sup>th</sup>
	Not Accessed	8	8.2	
Veterinarians	Accessed	89	94.7	3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Not Accessed	5	5.3	
Television/Radio	Accessed	94	98.9	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Not Accessed	1	1.1	
Agricultural Non-Governmental	Accessed	92	93.9	4 <sup>th</sup>

Organizations (NGO)	Not Accessed	6	6.1	
Internet	Accessed	94	93.9	4 <sup>th</sup>
	Not Accessed	3	3.1	
Print Publication	Accessed	90	92.8	5 <sup>th</sup>
	Not Accessed	7	7.2	

Responses obtained show that the sedentary livestock farmers made use of the various information sources examined in this study. The most used of all the sources were television/radio (98.9%), followed by meeting with other farmers (96.9%). Veterinarians represented another important information source used by the respondents (94.7%). The least used of all these sources was extension officers (81.1%).

### ***Test of Hypotheses***

This section provides the findings on the test of hypotheses. All hypotheses were tested in null forms.

**Hypothesis H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the diversity of information needs of farmers and the diversity of their information-seeking behavior.**

Spearman's rho correlation was used to test if there was a significant relationship between the information needs of sedentary farmers and their information-seeking behavior, and the result of the test of the hypothesis is shown in Table 7.

		Information Seeking Behaviour	
Spearman's rho	Information Need	N	95
		Correlation Coefficient	.571**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
		N	82

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Results shown in Table 7 reveal that  $r=0.571$ , and  $p<0.05$ . Based on this result, the null hypothesis is rejected. It is therefore concluded that there exists a significant relationship between information needs and the information-seeking behavior of sedentary farmers. The results also show that the existing relationship between information need and information-seeking behavior is positive. Analysis of data collected in this study reveals that there is a positive and moderate significant relationship between information need and information-seeking behavior of sedentary farmers. This implies that the information need of farmers is a determining factor for the behavior exhibited by farmers when seeking information. The outcome of this study corroborated that of Hill (2010), where finding shows that the information needs of farmers are positively related and significant to their information-seeking behavior.

**Hypothesis H<sub>02</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the diversity of information needs of sedentary farmers and the diversity of their use of information sources.**

The result of the test of hypothesis 2 is presented in Table 8.

		Preferred Information Sources	
Spearman's rho	Information Need	N	97
		Correlation Coefficient	.385**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.001
		N	84
**.			Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Results show that  $p < 0.05$ , which is an indication that the relationship between information need and attitude to information sources is significant. The correlation coefficient of 0.385 shows that the relationship between information need and information sources is positive, although weak. Information needs of farmers had a positive and significant relationship with information sources consulted by sedentary livestock farmers. This implies that the needed information of the farmers was related to the information source they use. Contrary to the finding in this study, the outcome of the study Zubair (2015) revealed that information needs had no significant relationship with information sources.

### **Conclusion**

In meeting their various information need, sedentary farmers consulted diverse information sources. The information source mostly used by sedentary livestock farmers was television/radio, while the information sources least utilized are extension officers and newspaper/magazines. Extension officers who were supposed to be one of the most used information sources were found to be the least used source among farmers. This, therefore, calls for special attention to the growth of this agricultural sector. The information source used by farmers has been found to have a positive and significant relationship with their information needs. It can therefore be inferred that the low patronage of extension officers is because farmers believe that they do not possess the information they need, but which they can obtain from television and radio.

In addition, the information sourced used by farmers was found to be a function of ease of use, easy accessibility, and trust of the source. This fact revealed that the attitude of sedentary livestock farmers towards sourcing information from extension officers is not good enough. The behavior exhibited by farmers has a significant and positive relationship with their attitude towards information sources. Although sedentary livestock farmers have various information needs and exhibit different behaviors when seeking information, this study discovered that the information needs and information-seeking behavior are positively and significantly related. It was also found that there is no significant relationship between information-seeking behavior and knowledge of sedentary livestock farmers on livestock production and marketing.

Generally, livestock farmers have good knowledge of livestock production and marketing. It was discovered that the knowledge on livestock production and marketing was significantly related to their attitude of farmers to an information source, whereas, knowledge of livestock production and marketing is not significantly related to the information source preference of the farmers. It is therefore important that farmers should have a good and positive attitude towards available information sources to increase their knowledge base.

The information sourced by sedentary livestock farmers was used for various purposes. Information sourced by these farmers was mostly used for pest control, and least used in sourcing for labor. Findings in this study have revealed that physical characteristics (gender, age, marital status, and family size) have no significant relationship with information use. Of the socio-economic characteristics examined in this study, only farm size had a

significant relationship with information use, whereas, years of farming experience, academic qualification, and management have no significant relationship with information use.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the outcome of this study, the following are recommended:

- i. Due to the low utilization of extension officers as information sources, the extension service programmes must be redesigned in such a manner that extension officers will be easily accessible for farmers, and that information emanating from them can be trusted.
- ii. Government agencies and departments in charge of agriculture should organize seminars and workshops at affordable rates, as this would help mitigate the problem of the high cost of seminars because farmers are complaining on the high cost of seminars.
- iii. Farmers should ensure that their meeting holds regularly as this would help their business.
- iv. To develop livestock farming, information to farmers should be communicated more using television and radio since they are the most used of all the information sources.

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