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Information Needs and Resource Utilization of Rice Farmers in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria

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**Information Needs and Resources Utilization of Rice Farmers in Anyiin,
Logo Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.**

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ABSTRACT

The study was design to investigate the information needs and resources utilization of rice farmers in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.. The study adopted descriptive research design. The population of the study comprises rice farmers in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State. The sample size of 70 rice farmers was drawn from the population

using simple random sampling technique. A self-design questionnaire was used as instrument of data collection. Frequency counts and percentages were used to analyzed the collected data. The findings of the study indicated that, rice farmers need information. The study also indicated that, the information resources needed by rice farmers in Anyiin are journals and pamphlets. The findings of the study showed that, the sources of information used by rice farmers in the area under study are extension services, research institutes and public library. The study also showed that, the rice farmers need information to get improved varieties, modern farm technology, market location, agricultural loan and credit facilities. The information needs of the rice farmers under study are not being satisfied. The study showed that, the rice farmers are faced with the problem of high cost of information resources, inadequate funds and high level of illiteracy. The study concluded that a great number of rice farmers encountered difficulties in utilizing information resources to meet up their information needs. This is either because, most of the information resources are not adequately provided. The study recommended amongst others that, Government should organize and provide agricultural workshops for farmers. This is because, through this workshops and conferences, farmers will be trained on modern farming technique which in will help improve their farmer produces.

Key words: Information, Information needs, Resource utilization, Rice Farmers

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Information is regarded as one of the most valuable resources in agricultural and rural development programmes (Meyer, 2003; Morrow & Weltasinha, 2002). It is also regarded as an important input in agriculture (Tripp, 2006).

Nigerian farmers are reported not to feel the impact of agricultural innovations mainly because they have no access to such vital information or due to poor dissemination (Ozowa, 1995 & Tripp, 2006). The information usually provided is reported to be focused mainly on policy makers, researchers, students and those who manage policy decision with little or no attention paid to the information needs of farmers who are the targeted beneficiaries of the policy decision (Ozowa, 1995; Oguya, 2007 & Omenesa, 2007).

Even through small scale farmers, accessibility to agricultural innovations is often limited by unfavourable economic, socio-cultural and institutional conditions, they have achieved some level of efficiency through deployment of their indigenous knowledge. If provided with what they actually need, they are capable of transforming traditional agriculture.

Ozowa (2005), opined that no one can categorically claim to know all the information needs of farmers, especially in an information dependent sector like agriculture where there are now and rather complex problems facing farmers everyday. The information needs of Nigerian farmers is therefore, likely to vary from one community to another due to various factors.

A better understanding of the specific needs of farmers in each state and community of Nigerian is needed. This approach will lead to site specific information and will cater for the specific needs of the farmers in that locality.

In order to meet the specific needs of stakeholders in agriculture in Nigeria, the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) developed and introduced the Nigeria Agricultural Question and Answer Services (NAQAS), while the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIS) partner to provide information in all aspects of agriculture on demand. The service is supported by the Technical Center for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA). However, reports from NAQAS stakeholders meeting revealed that, farmers derive the least benefits from NAQAS services while other beneficiaries such as researchers, lecturers, students and agro-processor make better use of the service (Oguya, 2007; Omenesa, 2007). This was attributed to the fact that, the farmers are probably unaware of the services and are therefore, not able to use it. However, in order to serve the clientele better, particularly the farmer who are the main key stakeholders in rural development,

the need to know farmer's information needs cannot be overemphasized (Tologbonse, & Obadiah, 2008). This is in order to prepare fully for the service to serve the farmers better. Previous study in Nigeria was a national survey with only 1.75 respondents (Omenesa, 2007), with no specific one on any locality or state in Nigeria since farmer's information needs is likely to vary from one state/community to another, due to various factors.

With the potential in Nigeria in terms of rich soil and mineral resources, one would expect that, the country's economy should have been better than what we have. In an attempt to improve on the present economy, the vision 20-20-20 emerged. According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (2010), the 20-20-20 means that by the year 2020, it is expected that Nigeria will be one of the 20 largest economics in the world and it is also expected that Nigeria presidents had tried to improve Nigerian economy through different means but with little impact. Then former president Yar'adua came up with a strategy that could guide this decision and actions to make it happen. For the new idea to work for the country, he initiated 7-point Agenda. Onyekakeyah (2008) stated clearly that, 7-point Agenda has been subsumed under vision 20-20-20. He went further to say that however; the vision is a long term project but the 7-point Agenda is to address basic immediate developmental needs affecting the nation. The major issue in 7-point Agenda was, power and energy, food security and agriculture,

wealth creation and employment, mass transportation, land reform, security and qualitative functional education (Aluko, 2007).

One of the 7-point Agenda is food security and agriculture- this point is very important. Nwanze (2010) emphasized that agriculture and nutrition which is part of food security are vitally important issue and need to be a key part in our effort to fight poverty, development and wealth creation. He went further to say that, it is estimated that half of the worlds poor are small scale agriculturalists, which are rural farmers. Odeh reported in Sunday Independent of October 24, 2010 that over Africa, Asia and Latin America depend on rural farming and such small farmers can feed the world if directed. For instance, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) said that 80% of imported rice production is grown by small holders' farmers in developing countries. The rural farmers cannot achieve this without commitment of many partners from private sectors, individuals and government emphasized (Nwanze, 2012). It must be noted that, libraries as information providers, who are in charge of public libraries and information centers have a great role to play in providing necessary information to the rural farmers. Libraries can provide this information in different formats like talks, posters, videos, pamphlets, news, etc. Information needed by the rice farmers could be according to their needs. Their needs could be how to control pest and diseases, environmental hazard, seedling, preservation, finance and access to loan.

There is a saying that information is power if enough information needed by rice farmers are repackaged in the language, they will understand and given to them at the appropriate time, Nigeria will be able to achieve food security.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The general problem which this research work seeks to solve is on the information needs of rice farmers, other problems the research will also solve are to find out how rice farmers utilize the agricultural resources available to them; how rice farmers gain information on how and where to obtain farm credit, loan, seedling, fertilizer, pesticides, modern farm tools. Another problem is to find out the role of Agriculture extension services. To find out also the role of the library in providing information to farmers.

This study is also to understand the access and utilization of agricultural information services in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State. Also attempts to identify the constraints and factors that influence the provision of agriculture information to make useful policy recommendation to facilitate meaningful intervention.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of the study is to investigate the information needs of rice farmers in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State. Specific purposes of this research includes:

1. To determine the type of information rice farmers needs in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State.
2. To determine where rice farmers go to satisfy their information needs.
3. To determine the purpose for which rice farmer seek such information.
4. To determine how and whether they are satisfied with their information needs.
5. To determine the problems of provision and utilization of information by the rice farmers.

1.4 Research Questions

This study will seek to provide answers to the following research questions:

1. What types of information do the rice farmers need in the place under study?
2. Where do the rice farmers go to satisfy their information needs?
3. What purpose do the rice farmers seek for such information needs?
4. To what extent do the rice farmers satisfy their information needs?
5. What problems are associated with the provision and utilization of information for the farmers?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study will be very imperative because “information” is the most relevant in all sectors in the society, economic sectors, etc. More emphasis will be laid on the relevance and information needs of rice farmers. It is hoped that the result of the study will encourage educationist, information scientist and students of library and information science on the usefulness is dissemination of information to the user communities.

This study is meant to benefit rice farmers who will be the most beneficiary of the study by providing useful and appropriate agricultural information that will increase their farm inputs. Currently beside the indigenous farm experience, government designed programmes also contributed providing agricultural information to farmers, examples of such programmes are the national FADAMA Development project, Intelligent and Integrated Post Management (IPM). All these programmes are designed in order to improve the agricultural sectors which rice farmers are the most emphasized in this study. However, all development actors like extension services, information professionals like the librarians, NGOs, and other development agencies involved in the provision of information especially to rice farmers must be answered of the need to understand the constraints and factors influencing the level of such needs and utilization of agricultural information and understand the gaps to take remedial action. It is important for policy makers to understand

whether the existing agricultural information services, beside the local knowledge flows, assures the desire based in the provision of information and to make useful policy charges to facilitate meaningful interventions in the provision of and utilization of agricultural information to rice farmers.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is to examine the information needs and resources utilization by rice farmers: A case study of Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State. The study intends to investigate the followings variable: types of information the rice farmers need, where do the rice farmers go to satisfy their information needs, what purpose do the rice farmers seek, to what extent do the rice farmers satisfy their information needs?

1.7 Operational Definition of Research Concepts

Information Needs: These refer to as individuals or groups desired to locate and obtain information to satisfy a conscious or unconscious need, example, the information needs of rice farmers.

Resource Utilization: This are the farmers that utilize different types of information mentioned above. These refer to a total amount of resources actually consumed, compared against the amount of resources planned for a specific process.

Rice Farmers: Are particular farmers engage mostly in rice farming. They are often members of local, regional or national rice framers union of agricultural producers' organization.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

To achieve the review of related literature in this study, the chapter has been divided into conceptual framework, review of concepts, review of related literature and review of empirical works as well as summary of the work.

2.2 Conceptual Framework of the Study

2.2.1 The Concept of Information Needs of Rice Framers

To enhance the agricultural production and productivity in developing countries, access to and utilization of agricultural information by rice farmers play a crucial role. Due to different external and internal factors (such as high illiteracy level of farmers, limited application of modern inputs, poor provision of agricultural information, etc.), Nigeria agricultural sector remain under low production and productivity, one of the options would be to increase access to and effective utilization of agricultural information through identifying and working on the problems that affects the extent of access utilization of agricultural information. This can be done through analyzing the personal, socio-economic and instructional factors that might significantly influence information needs and resources utilization.

This study assumes that, the farmers in Nigeria are embedded with a lot of complex roles and constraints in the agricultural production sector. But the existing traditional system persists from generation to generation. This is mainly due to the fact that the exposure to modern and scientific activities and utilization of agricultural information and technologies remain limited. Consequently, the development of agricultural sector constrained from progress through agriculture also formed the backbone of Nigeria economy.

In this study, efforts were made to identify factors affecting the needs and utilization of agricultural information from literature, practical experience and field observation of the research. The conceptual framework of this study is based on the assumption that the needs and utilization of agricultural information are influenced by a number of personal, socio-economical and institutional factors of the farmers.

In reviewing the literature that is relevant to the study; According to Wilson (2000), information needs are influenced by a variety of factors such as the range of information services available, the uses to which the information will be put, the background motivation, professional orientation and individual characteristics of the user. Other factors are the socio-political, economic, legal and regulatory system surrounding the users as well as the information professionals.

According to Kirkelas (1963), information needs is the recognition of the existence of uncertainty in decision making. Information needs also refers to the extent to which information is required to solve problems as well as the degree of expressed satisfaction or dissatisfaction with information need as any activity of an individual that is undertaken to identify a perceived need, information use occurs when information acquired by a person to satisfy an information need is actually put into use.

Prytherch (1995) on his part defined information as an assemblage of data in a comprehensible form capable of communication. The means that information is made up of facts put together in a particular form which can be communicated or distributed.

Igbeka and Atinmo (2002), acknowledged that information is an important tools and available resource required for the realization of any objective goal set by organizations and individuals. Therefore, acquiring and utilizing information are critical and important activities. In what look like a summary and for the purpose of this study, information is all published and unpublished knowledge from a source geared at meeting human needs for decision making and for meaningful existence.

Akusu (2007) established that information needs differ according to area of specialization. In the view of Kuhithau (2013), information needs is often

understood as an awareness of something missing and as culminating in locating information that contribute to understanding and meaning.

Belkin, Brooks and Oddy (2012) in their study noted that information needs is an anomalous state of knowledge. Derwin and Nilan (1986) on their part, saw information needs as a gap in individual knowledge in sense making situation. Accessibility to the right information is necessary for the general wellbeing of the individual, institutions or organization.

Alemna(2008) defines information as knowledge given or received by some fact or circumstance. According to Pettigrew (2016), information seeking behaviour involves personal reasons for seeking information, the kind of information which is being sought. Barriers that prevent individuals from seeking and getting information are also of great importance in understanding the information seeking behaviour of individuals and organizations. Information use is a behaviour that leads an individual to the use of information in order to meet his/her information needs, but they are not identical.

2.2.2 Ways/Sources of Seeking for Information by Rice Farmers

Agriculture is a major sector of Nigeria's economy as it provides food and processed products for the populace as well as the provision of raw materials for agro-allied industries (Ayoade, 2010). One of the ways of achieving the role of agricultural sector in Nigeria's economy is through effectiveness of information sources on improved farm practices including fertilizer application (Abbas, 2003). Ways or sources of seeking for information by rice farmers is that, agricultural information can be viewed as a process of communicating ideas, skills and technology from extension to farmers. The importance of such information as an ingredient for advancement of agriculture cannot be overemphasized as its inadequacy could be dangerous and turn to become a major constraint to agricultural development (Adeola, 2008). The high output of agricultural research has led to a large pool of new technologies, which are yet to be disseminated to farmers (Ayoade, 2010). This view is supported by Abbas (2003:23) that most of the farmers are not fully aware of the recommended agricultural practices resulting in low yield. In order to accelerate the pace of effectiveness of the research findings to farmers on their information, Ayoade (2010) said, a variety of communication channels have to be adopted with the assumption that both approaches and technical information packages are suitable to the farmers. This can be minimized only if recommended technology

is effectively transferred from researchers to farmers who are the ultimate users of innovation.

For communication of new ideas and skills to farmers, Roggers (2003) opined that, inter-personal relationship, relatives experience farmers, agricultural extension staff, printed materials and dealers of agricultural input play a crucial role in establishing foundation store of the knowledge base for farmers in shape of technological package, as knowledge acquisition occurs with awareness explosive and at least, a rudimentary understanding of how an innovation functions. However, Ayoade (2010) said “it is known definitely which of the sources are more effective in transmission of information to farmers”. He added that, it is important to know the extent of effectiveness on awareness and adaptation of recommended technology by the farmers, as Khan (2002) revealed that Nigeria’s agricultural production is much lower than many other countries of the world, and that there is a big gap between actual yield and attainable potential yield of crops.

According to Fekadu (2007), though knowledge is provided through agricultural research, it is not the only avenue for knowledge generation. Learning from experience, interaction and farmer’s experimentation are other sources. Salomo and Engel (2007) indicated that farmers have been innovators for centuries, based on their own on-farm experimentation. Acknowledging

farmer's expertise, involving them in setting the research agenda and/or as partners in research can lead to additional forms learning and innovation.

Farming families, agricultural cooperative, agro businesses, agricultural press and extension service can serve as source of or ways of seeking for information by rice farmers. Especially extension services can be seen as a good source, because extension services can cap a wide variety of information and have several partners. Generally, there is a multitude of actors who can be considered as the sources of agricultural knowledge and information. To strengthen the information exchanges of rice farmers, extension can serve as information source and information exchange facilitator. The learning opportunities in local market areas are the main (informal) means for information dissemination across a community. Therefore, agricultural extension service is expected to contribute the well functioning of the existing local information exchange, taking into account the diverse source of information.

Although, no one can categorically claim to know all the information needs of farmers especially in an information dependent sector like agriculture where there are needs and rather complex problems facing farmers everyday. It is safe to assert that the information needs of rice farmers in Nigeria revolve around the resolution of problems such as pest, hazards, weed control, farm credit/loan, agricultural technology, modern farm inputs are needed to raise

small farm productivity. These inputs may include fertilizers, improved variety of seeds and seedlings, feeds, plant production chemicals, agricultural machinery and equipment and water (Ozowa, 2007). An examination of the factors influencing the adoption and continued use of these inputs will show that information dissemination is a very important factor. It is a factor that requires more attention than it now gets.

2.2.3 Problems of Provision and Utilization of Information Resources

There are some limiting factors and apparent constraints in agricultural information dissemination to rice farmers, including status differences between extension agents and their clients, agents, inadequate knowledge or how communication works and lack of inter-agency cooperation both in programme planning and implementation, and the extension's general lack of interest in traditional media (FAO, 2003).

One of the obvious constraints in the use of the broadcasting media in Nigeria is poor reception quality and the area. The messages carried are not tailored to the information needs of the farmers. Even when the information is relevant, it is seldom aired at the proper time and so does not get to the targeted audience (Ozowa, 2007).

Another major constraint is the use of print media: leaflets and newsletters as message carriers are of limited use in reaching illiterate farmers.

Technical language used in communicating information is incomprehensible to the farmers.

Adekunle (2002) also said that, another major constraint to agricultural information dissemination is the inadequacy of existing extension programmes. Some of these programmes he said are conceived without well thought out plans and are prepared in a hurry without the farmers whose attitudes are to be changed making any inputs, such agricultural information packages can neither sustain the farmers' interest nor effect the desired attitudinal change. Farmers' interests are disregarded even more as most of the agricultural innovations are written broadcast in English instead of the local language.

When local language is used, emphasis is often on the three major Nigerian languages: Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba. These programmes can be marred by poor implementation and too much bureaucracy. For example, the cooperative extension center of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi, has competent crops of subject specialists without adequate funding, facilities and logistic support like visual aids, equipment, transportation and adequate communication channels. As a result, the center has not been able to achieve the expected impact on the immediate university community.

He narrated that, the present ration of one (1) extension worker to 3,000 farmers is inadequate for effective agricultural information diffusion. The problem is compounded by the paucity of woman in extension agents especially

in a society where cultural and religious taboos make it impossible for male technical proficiency rather than on rhetorical and persuasive skills. An extension workers trained in this way is likely to make an impact on a conservative farmer who is not likely to put his farm inputs to risk by trying the extension workers improved technique. There is real need for extension agent training to be relevant to their jobs at the grassroots.

Ojedokoro (2007) cited by Ochogwu (2010) also stressed the fact that, the ability to access, evaluate and use information is a prerequisite for lifelong learning and a basic requirement for the information society.

Given the conditions, it become difficult for the user communities to reconcile themselves with the following unresolved issues:

1. Lack of awareness of their information needs
2. Inability to determine the nature and extent of their information needs
3. Lack of knowledge to the existence of information structure established in modern societies to meet citizen's information needs such structures include libraries of different types, archives, information and documentation centers, the mass media, information brokerage firms, etc.
4. Lack of skills required to exploit the structures to meet individual and community needs.

5. Inability of the user to critically evaluate the information obtained for decision making.

However, some of these problems occur due to poor funding of libraries in the country, the lack of government support and the lack of support from the information user communities for the provision of library and information services (Ochogwu, 2010).

2.2.4 Strategies for Overcoming the Problems

Problems associated with provision and utilization of information to rice farmers need to be treated or profound solution in order to help farmers gain access to information that will benefit them and increase their farm yields. Some of the ways curbing these problems are identified.

Agriculture is once again seen as the engine of economic growth. Wanmali and Isliam (2002) opted that investment in agricultural sector will lead to increase in food production and household incomes and also strengthens linkages between agricultural and non-agricultural sector, as well as economy. All these are seen as an integral component of any future strategy for achieving food security.

In Nigeria, the government has tried to improve on some policies, Aremu (2009) reported that the following could strengthen agricultural business through profitable price support mechanism:

- Technological empowerment of agricultural sector
- Increase in access to credit finance
- Improvement in rural access infrastructure
- Improvement on available silos and provide additional ones in the country to cater for food production
- Translations or repackaging of research results in agriculture.

Agriculture is therefore, fundamentally multifunctional FAO (as cited in Wanmeli and Isliam, 2002) more sustainable agricultural system therefore tends to a positive effect on natural social and human capital and also produces food. Ways in which rural farmers can improve their production and earn enough income is through forming farm cooperatives among themselves.

Attwood and Bavista (2002) emphasized that some developmental goals in agriculture are best achieved by cooperatives and similar organizations, rather than private corporations or state bureaucrats; these cooperatives help people cope with economic, social and environmental problems. To be effective, they must adapt to local conditions, meet the needs of small producers and operate under their control. On the other hand, Pretty (2002) opted that improvement in agriculture have to involve among others, social capital, human capital, physical capital and finance. For instance, improvement on building farmers knowledge and skills will lead to a more sustainable system farming. Mullen (2002) also enumerated information flows, public awareness of citizens' rights, reinforcing

capabilities train, erosion control and access to financial markets. One way to train the farmers is by using pictures to show them practical way of doing things. The African Rice Center (africarice) has developed a simple solution to help farmers share the knowledge of improving the process of rice production as contained on Sunday Independent, October, 2010.

Jacques Taylor cited in Business Day Nesapper of Monday 18th June 2012 opted that, agricultural transformation can be achieved in Nigeria through the development of regional agricultural value chains that would enhance investment, trade, marketing and food security. Developing regional value chains and markets is both feasible and important given the country's high population and income growthrates, which have led to increasing demand for high value food commodities such as rice, etc.

2.3 Empirical studies

Bello and Musa (2003) in their study of the information needs and information seeking behaviour of research students observed that the importance of knowing the information needs and the way clients go about seeking for such information in any library arises from the necessary of libraries to satisfy such needs. This approach to studying information needs of rice farmers in the contest of research activities not only enhance an understanding of information seeking behaviours of the farmers, but it also assists advancing for more research work and knowledge.

Adewumi (2003) in her study of information seeking habits and needs of agricultural research scientists in Ibadan metropolis asserts that they have complex information needs. This, she further reveals is so because of their varying areas of specialization and their needs for information in other areas of agriculture other than their own.

Devadason and Lingam (1996) in their study on identification of information needs of users, indicate that the users may not like to reveal his/her needs as he/she may like to show that he/she is above (any) requirement and that he/she knows his/her sources more than the information managers/professionals. In his study of the information needs of agriculture scientists in Africa, Kaniki (2002) observed that they have variety of information and thus generate appropriate information to enhance increased productivity in their area of specialization.

Adewumi (2003) agrees with Ojiambos (1993) findings that agricultural scientists are both generators and consumers of information. The information generated from the results of their research efforts is used to provide information for other researcher scientists in their own research activities or utilization by extension service workers to solve the problems of the farmers on the field.

A major task in agricultural development is the transfer of improved technologies to farmers (Pipy, 2006). Farmers access to different information

sources help them to get information about improved technologies and enhance the adoption of new innovation. Conducting various extension events plays an important role in the provision of different agricultural information and consequently enhances the utilization of the accessed information. Such events include; training, demonstration and field days or visit, etc. (Pipy, 2006).

Yahaya (2002) explained that, trends in Nigeria's agriculture development scenario shows that mass media have tremendous potentials for agricultural information dissemination. Many studies reported the positive and significant relationship of mass media with adoption of agricultural technologies.

2.4 Summary of the Review

This chapter reviews the literature that is relevant to this study. It also considers the review of empirical studies of other scholars that are related to this study. Also considered in this chapter are the conceptual framework and finally the summary of the reviews.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The research methodology of this study is presented under the following headings: Research Design, Area of Study, Population of the Study, Sample and Sampling Technique, Instrumentation, Validation of Instruments, Method of Data Collection and Method of Data Analysis

3.2 Research Design

The research design selected for the study is the descriptive survey method in which questionnaire was administered to obtain a reliable data for the study.

3.3 Area of Study

Logo Local Government Area is located in the Northeast part of Benue State. It shares common boundaries with Taraba State in the North, Ukum Local Government Area in the Northeast, Katsina-Ala Local Government Area in the Northeast, Guma Local Government Area in the West and Buruku Local Government Area in the South. The local government has an estimated population of 81,132. Its inhabitants are predominantly Tiv who consist of two clans namely: Ugondo and Shitile South (Gaambe-Tiev). People from various

parts of Nigeria are found in the area for economic, social and administration purpose.

The local government area was created in 1996, along with Tarka under the administration of General Sani Abacha the then Head of State. It is headquartered at Ugba, the largest town in the area. Other towns include: Anyiin, Abeda, Ayilamo, Sev-Av, Mbawar, Iorza, Mchia, Azege, Genyi-Mbawar, Arufu, Akwana and Ayoo.

The area lies between the transitional zones of the forest and Savanna vegetations which the northern part consists of typical grassland and savanna vegetation, the south population density is higher in the north than in the south because, the south is more suitable for both commercial and administrative purpose as the towns are more in the south than in the north. This local government is endowed with much natural resources including two (2) big rivers (Benue and Katsina-Ala), that flow through with other streams and large ponds.

About three quarters of its land are fadamas, rivers and stream bank and also plains suitable for the production of rice. However, this land is grossly under utilized because of the above mentioned factors under this research work.

3.4 Population of the Study

The targeted population for this study is all the rice farmers in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State.

3.5 Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size of this study will be stratified into one category based on the level of commitment of the rice farmers. The researchers used a random sampling technique in choosing his respondents. Hence 70 rice farmers constituted the total sample size which will consist of the rice farmers.

3.6 Instrumentation

In carrying out this research, the researcher will use structured questions for gathering of his information. The questionnaires will be used to collect data to cover all aspect of the research questions. The questionnaire was be divided into seven (7) sections, A,B,C,D,E,F,G,. Section 'A' was designed to elicit information on the characteristics and location of the respondents. Section 'B' sought to find out the type of information the rice farmers need in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area. Section 'C' sought to find out where do the rice farmers go to satisfy their information needs. Section 'D' focused on the purpose for which rice farmers seek for such information needs. Section 'E' was on whether rice farmers are satisfied with their information needs. Section 'F' was on the problems associated with the provision and utilization of information

for the farmers. While section 'G' focused on the strategies to overcome the problems associated with the provision and utilization of information to the rice farmers.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

The researcher will personally visit Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue state to administer the questionnaire to the rice farmers. They will be collected on the spot.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistical analysis will be carried out on the data to generate frequencies and percentages in order to be able to answer the research questions formulated in this study.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, data obtained from administered questionnaire to the respondents are presented, analyzed and interpreted. A total of seventy (70) questionnaires were administered to rice farmers among the villages in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State. The researcher was able to retrieve all the seventy (70) useable copies administered from the respondents.

4.2 Response Rate

Table 1: Response Rate

Respondents one (1)	No. of Administered questionnaire	No. of used questionnaire	Percentage of respondents
Rice farmers	70	70	100

Table 1 above shows that the respondents are rice farmers, the number of questionnaires administered is seventy (70, the number of retrieved copies is seventy (70, that make it 100 percent.

4.3 Analysis of Data

Section A: Bio Data

Table 2: Location of respondents

Village	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mbagber	20	28.57
Mbavuur	18	25.72
Tombu	22	31.43
Ukembaregya/Twarev	5	7.14
Total	70	100

Source: Field survey, 2019.

Table 2 above shows that most of the respondents are from Tombu which constitute 22(31.42%), followed by Mbagber having 20(28.57%) while Mbavuur 18(25.71%), Turan has 5(7.14%) and Ukemberagya/Twarev 5(7.14%).

Table 3: Sex Distribution of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	48	68.57
Female	22	31.43
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 3 shows that most of the respondents are male 48(68.57%) while the female constitute 22(31.43%) of the total respondents.

Table 3: Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20-30	21	30
31-40	30	42.9
41-50	16	22.9
51 and above	3	4.2
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 3 above shows that 21(30%) of the respondents are within the age range of 20-30, 31-40 have 30(42.9%) while 41-50 constitute 16(22.9%) and 51 and above 3(4.2%).

Table 4: Educational qualification of respondents

Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	10	14.2
Secondary	30	42.9
Higher institution	16	22.9
Non-formal education	14	20
Total	70	100

Table 4 above shows that 10(14.2%) represent respondents with primary school certificate, while 30(42.9%) are respondents with secondary school certificate with the highest population and 16(22.9%) constitute the number and percentages of respondent with higher education qualification. Finally, 14(20%) represents the population of respondents without formal education.

Research Question 1:

What types of information do the rice farmers need?

Table 5: Do you need any information resources to enhance your rice production?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	68	97.1
No	2	02.9
Total	70	100

Table 5 above reveals that 68(97.1%) need information resources to improve on their agricultural production while 2(02.9%) of the total respondents do not need information resources.

Which of the following information resources do you need?

Table 6: Information needs of rice farmers

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Books	14	26
Journals and pamphlets	48	96
Newspapers and magazines	8	16
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 6 shows that 14(26%) of the respondents needs textbooks for their information while a total number of 48(96%) need journals and pamphlets for information resources and a total number of 8(16%) respondents said they needs newspapers and magazines for agricultural information.

Research Question 2:

Where do the rice farmers go to satisfy their information needs?

Table 7: What are the ways/sources in which you seek information from?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Extension services	22	44
Radio and Television	10	20
Posters and exhibition	5	10
Research institution	18	36

Public libraries	15	30
Total	70	100

Source: Field survey, 2019

Table 7 above shows that total number of 22(44%) for information from extension services, 10(20%) from radio and television, 5(10%) from posters and exhibition while 18(36%) from research institutions and a total number of 15(30%) seek information from public libraries.

Research Question 3:

What purpose do the rice farmers seek for such information needs?

Table 8: For what purpose do you need the information resources for?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
To get information on modern farm technology	19	38
To get current price of farm produces	4	8
To get information on improved varieties	22	44
To get information on market location agricultural loan/credit	15	30
To get information on the control of pest and weed	10	20
Total	70	100

Table 8 above shows that 19(38%) needs information on modern farm technology, 4(8%) needs information on current price of farm produces, 22(44%) needs to get information on improved varieties, 15(30%) needs to get information on market location/agricultural loan/credit while 10(20%) need information on the control of pest and weed.

Table 9: In your procession, do you consider information useful?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very much	70	100
Fairly	-	-
Not at all	-	-
Total	70	100

Source: Field survey, 2019

Table 9 above shows that respondents representing 70(100%) of the respondents considered information very much in their field.

Research Question 4:

To what extent do the rice farmers satisfy their information needs?

Table 10: Extent of information satisfaction

Response	Frequency	Percentage
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Highly satisfactory	-	0
Satisfactory	12	24
Fairly satisfactory	18	36
Not satisfactory	40	80
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 10 above reveals that 12(24%) represent respondents who are satisfied with the dissemination of information to farmers, 18(36%) respondents are fairly satisfied while 40(80%) represent respondents who are not satisfied with the current dissemination of information to farmers.

Research Question 5:

What problems are associated with the provision and utilization of information for the farm?

Table 11: Problems encountered in which of the following, with the provision and utilization of information resources

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate funds	13	26
High cost of information resources	16	32
Problem of illiteracy	10	20
Poor communication network	5	10
Epileptic power supply	4	8

Inadequate communication facilities	8	16
Lack of computer literacy	6	12
Poor transportation network	8	16
Total	70	100

Source: Field survey, 2019

Table 11 above shows that 13(26%) representing the respondents attributed the problems of provision of information resources to farmers on inadequate funds, 16(32%) of the respondents attributed the problem to high cost of information resources, 10(20%) of the respondents gives the problems to illiteracy on the part of the farmers, 5(10%) attributed the problems to poor communication to farmers, 4(8%) of the respondents gives the problem to epileptic power supply, while 8(16%) said it is the inadequate communication facilities which also make communication difficult to farmers, 6(12%) attributed the problems to lack of computer literacy to be able to retrieve information with the internet and 8(16%) representing the total respondents attribute the problem to poor transportation network, for example roads.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

The foregoing analysis and interpretation of result obtained in the cause of this study showed that lot of farmers find information resources useful in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State. Table 5 shows that many farmers need information resources to enhance or improve on their rice production and that is why the result shown 68(136%) said “yes” in table 5.

In the course of the research, the researcher discovered that farmers are faced with a lot of problems which affect the provision and utilization of information to them (rice farmers) in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State. They are faced with the problem of inadequate funds with result shown 13(26%) respondents, problem of high cost of information resources 16(32%), problem of illiteracy 10(20%), poor communication network 5(10%), epileptic power supply 4(12%), lack of computer literacy 6(12%), while inadequate communication facilities 8(18%) and 8(16%) are faced with the problem of poor transportation network as indicated in table 12.

Table 8 above shows that farmers 29(38%) need information on modern farm technology, 4(8%) need information on current price of farm produces, 22(44%) said they need information on improved varieties, 15(30%) need information on market located/agricultural loan/credit facilities while 10(20%) said they need information on the control of pest and weed.

Table 9 showed that respondent representing 70(100%) considered information very important in their various fields. Table 10 indicated that 12(24%) of the respondents are satisfied with the level of information dissemination to farmers, while 18(36%) said they are fairly satisfied with the current dissemination of information to farmers.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

5.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with summary, conclusion, recommendation and suggestions for further studies.

5.2 Summary

The research on information needs and resources utilization of rice farmers in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State is aimed at knowing the information needs of rice farmers. The population of the study comprises rice farmers in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State. In order to streamline this research work, the following research questions were formulated. They are:

What types of information do the rice farmers need in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State, where do the rice farmers go to satisfy their information needs, for what purpose do the rice farmers seek for such information, to what extent do the rice farmers satisfy such information needs and problems associated with the provision and utilization of information. Moreover, the researcher also explored literature which contained various

concepts that is revealed to the topic under investigation. The research design adopted for this study was descriptive survey method which helped the researcher to determine the level of information needs by rice farmers in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State. Also, questionnaire was formulated and administered for data analysis, percentage and frequency tables were used. The findings of the study show that, rice farmers need information for various reasons in various locations.

5.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, as information is paramount to all human, this research was designed to find out the information needs and resources utilization by rice farmers in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State. Using rice farmers as the population and to determine their preference and problems they encountered in utilizing the available information resources to them. The research revealed that a great number of rice farmers encountered difficulties in utilizing information resources to meet up their information needs. This is either because, most of the information resources are not adequately provided.

5.4 Recommendation

In view of the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Government should organize and provide agricultural workshops for farmers. This is because, through this workshops and conferences, farmers will be trained on modern farming technique which in returned applied will help improve their farmer produces.
- ii. Government should obtain and subsidize price on agricultural inputs and modern farm technology. These are as result of high cost of agricultural inputs like fertilizer, high cost of modern farm technology like tractors or other machines which make farmers unable to purchase them, if government can obtain and subsidize the price it will go a long way in improving farming activities.
- iii. Basic information searching skills should be provided to the farmers so that they can properly explore the information resources available, example, the library and internet sources.

- iv. Access to loan/credit facilities should be provided, that is to assist farmers of financial constraints agricultural credit facilities be established and loans disbursed to farmers through appropriate organizations and individuals to enable them support their farm operations. Also, agricultural extension agents should encourage farmers to organize themselves into cooperative societies to assist themselves. Commercial banks should also extend their credit services to farmers to assist them.
- v. Improve varieties of seedling- it was also recommended that, the seed technology centre of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi should extend their enlightenment campaign on importance of the use of improved varieties of rice to farmers across the state, and supply breeders seeds to farmers to ensure high yields through improved varieties.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies

The suggestions below are made for further studies. This study has adequately revealed the information needs and resources utilization of rice farmers in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State. It is therefore necessary that further studies be carried out. Further studies may be carried out in the following areas:

Problems and prospects of utilizing information resources by rice farmers
in Anyiin, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State.

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Questionnaire

Questionnaire for Rice Farmers in Logo LGA

Section A: Bio Data

Please, you are required to tick in the correct column provided in the options and provide answers where necessary.

1. Name of your village.....
2. Sex (a) Male [] (b) Female []
3. What is your age (a) 20-30 years [] (b) 31-40 [] (c) 41-50 years [] (d) 51 and above []
4. What is your educational qualification?
 - (a) Primary school []
 - (b) Secondary School []
 - (c) Higher Institution []
 - (d) Bib-Formal education []

Section B: Types of Information the rice farmers need in Anyiin, Logo LGA of Benue State

1. Do you need any information resources to enhance your rice production?
 - (a) Yes [] (b) No []
2. If YES, which of the following resources do you need?
 - (a) Books []
 - (b) Journal and Pamphlets []
 - (c) Newspapers and Magazines []Others (specify)
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.

Section C: Where do the rice farmers go to satisfy their information needs?

1. What are the ways/sources in which you seek for information from? (tick as appropriate)

- (a) Extension services []
- (b) Radio and Television []
- (c) Posters and Exhibition []
- (d) Research Institution []
- (e) Public Libraries []

Others (specify)

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

Section D: Purpose for which rice farmers seek for such information needs

1. For what purpose do you need the information resources for? (Tick as appropriate)

- (a) To get information on modern farm technology []
- (b) To get current price of farm produces []
- (c) To get information on improved varieties []
- (d) To get information on market local/agricultural loan/credit []
- (e) To get information on the control pest and weed []

2. In your procession or in your field, do you consider information useful?

- (a) Very much [] (b) Fairly [] (c) Not at all []

Others please specify

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

Section E: Level of Satisfaction derived from the use of the information resources

1. Are you satisfied with the current dissemination of agricultural information to farmers?

Highly satisfactory	Satisfactory	Fairly satisfactory	Not satisfactory

Others please specify

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

Section F: Problems of provision and utilization of information resources to farmers

1. Problems encountered in which of the following with the provision and utilization of information resources (Tick as appropriate)

- (a) Inadequate funds []
- (b) High cost of information resources []
- (c) Problem of Illiteracy []
- (d) Poor communication networks []
- (e) Epileptic power supply []
- (f) Inadequate communication facilities []
- (g) Lack of computer literacy []
- (h) Poor transportation network []

Others please specify

- i.
- ii.

iii.

Section G: The strategies to overcome the problems associated with the provision and utilization of information by farmers

1. Which of the following strategies would you adopt to overcome the problems? (Tick as appropriate)

- (a) Government should provide agricultural work for farmers []
- (b) Extension workers should be trained in order to disseminate adequate information to farmers []
- (c) Government should obtain and subsidize price on agricultural inputs and modern technologies []
- (d) To provide steady power supply []
- (e) Government should provide employment for farmers to enable them raise funds []
- (f) Access to loan/credit facilities should be provided []
- (g) Networks stability []
- (h) To provide good transportation network []

Others please specify

i.

ii.

iii.