WASTE - LIABILITY AND ASSET – TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



7TH

INAUGURAL LECTURE OF COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WARRI, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

Delivered By

Dr. (Mrs.) Prisca Akpairorovre Ifie

NCE (Abraka), B.Sc Ed. (Ekpoma), M.Sc (Ibadan), PhD (Ekpoma)

Dean, School of Vocational & Technical Education,

Chief Lecturer in Agricultural Education Department,

College of Education, Warri.

DATE: TUESDAY 15TH JUNE, 2021

Rural Women as Drivers of Food Security Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

7TH IN THE SERIES OF

INAUGURAL LECTURES

Of The College Of Education, Warri, Delta State, Nigeria

By

DR. (MRS.) PRISCA AKPAIROROVRE IFIE
NCE (Abraka), B.Sc Ed. (Ekpoma), M.Sc (Ibadan), PhD (Ekpoma)
Dean, School of Vocational & Technical Education,
Chief Lecturer in Agricultural Education Department,
College of Education, Warri.

Tuesday, 15th June, 2021

Copyright © Prisca.A.Ifie, 2021

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, restored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the author.

Published By
College of Education, Warri,
Delta State, Nigeria.

Email: info@coewarri.edu.ng
1SSN: 2651-5563

DEDICATION

This lecture is dedicated to all rural women in Nigeria.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Protocol **6**
Preamble **7**
1.0 Introduction **10**
1.1 Overview of Role of Women in Agricultural Production 10
1.2 Holistic Nature of Agriculture 11
1.3 Multiple Income Generating Activities by Rural Women 12
2.0 Concept of Food Security 15
3.0 Gender Roles and Responsibilities in Agricultural Production 17
3.1 Definition of Gender 17
3.2 Gender Roles in Rural Households 17
3.3 Role of Women in Food Production 18
3.4 Gender Disparities in Arable Crop Production 22
4.0 Rural Women and Agricultural Programmes 24
4.1 Use of Rural Women Groups as measure for Sustainability of Agricultural Programmes 25
5.0 The Past, Present and Future Roles of Rural Women in Food Security 28
5.1 Past Roles of Rural Women in Food Security 29
5.2 Present Roles of Rural Women in Food Security 30
5.3 Future Roles of Rural Women in Food Security 31
6.0 Acknowledgement 32
7.0 Conclusion 35
8.0 Recommendations 35

PROTOCOL

The Provost,
The Deputy Provost,
The Registrar,
The Bursar,
College Librarian,
Acting Director of Works,
Deans of Schools and Student Affairs,
Directors,
Chief Lecturers and Members of Academic Board,
Heads of Departments and other Academic Staff,
Members of the College Community,
My Lords, Spiritual and Temporal,
Members of my Family and Friends,
Distinguished Invitees,
Gentlemen of the Press.
Great COEWA Students, Ladies and Gentlemen.

PREAMBLE

ALL HAIL NIGERIA WOMEN

Women as housewives;
Women as breadwinners;
Women as politicians;
Women as transporters;
Women as marketers;
Women as traders;
Women as food producers;
Women as food processors;
Women as socialsation agents;
Women, the cradle of life;
Women as mothers;
Oh my Mother!

A popular song by Ann Taylor

Who sat and watched my infant head,
When sleeping in my cradle bed,
And tears of sweet affection shed?
My Mother.

Who ran to help me when I fell,
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss the place to make it well?
My Mother.

And can I ever cease to be
Affectionate and kind to thee,
Who was so very kind to me?
My Mother.

This preamble is important because women have been in the fore-front of civilization and change for better living. Looking around you can see the role played by one of our own, Professor (Mrs.) Mary Olire Edema, a woman of substance, the present Provost of our great institution, College of Education, Warri. This is the first time we are having series of inaugural lectures in this College and it came in response to the dynamism of a woman. Women are great.

One cannot deny the fact that it takes two to tangle. For every successful woman there is a man and vice versa. The socio-political history of our dear country is inundated with women who stood against all odds to contribute to the success stories in different spheres of life. Typical examples are the likes of Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala who is the current Director General of the World Trade Organisation; Prof Allele Williams who was the first female Vice Chancellor of the University of Benin and first female Vice Chancellor in Nigeria; Tolulope Arotile who was the first-ever female combat helicopter Pilot in the Nigerian Air Force; Agbani Darego, from Bayelsa State, in 2001 became the first African to be crowned Miss World, after being crowned Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria; and Nike Okundaye, World famous Nigerian artist, is first black woman without a degree to lecture at Harvard University, Canada, UK and other African countries. Her achievement was spectacular because she did not attend secondary school. Another woman worth mentioning in recent times is Ibukunoluwa Awosika who until recently served as Chairman of First Bank of Nigeria making her the first female Chairman of a Bank in Nigeria

A discourse on the contribution of women to posterity cannot be tackled to the fullest in one lecture. This inaugural, the 7th in the series is devoted to research on how rural women in particular have contributed and still contributing to food security in the country.

1.0 Introduction

The introduction is premised on the following sub-headings: overview of the role of women in agricultural production, holistic nature of agriculture, multiple income generating activities by rural women.

1.1. Overview of Role of Women in Agricultural Production

Generally, the role of women is ubiquitous in agriculture especially in the African continent. 60-80% of agricultural production activities are carried out by women farmers in the continent of Africa (Jiggins, Samanta, & Olawoye, 1997, Meludu, Ifie, Akinbile, & Adekoya, 1999; Rahman, Gabriel & Marcus, 2004, Adisa & Okunade, 2005 and Sabo, 2006). The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) (1999) noted that in sub- Saharan Africa, women farmers, entrepreneurs and wage earners contributed significantly to the National Gross Domestic Product and to national welfare but their efforts were hampered by lack of capital, modern implements, distribution facilities and market outlets. They also noted that it was common for men to take over the sale of women's produce and to control women's income. The report also revealed that the contribution of women to household food security has not been fully recognized.

Ovwigho and Ifie (2002) and Ekong (2003) maintained that rural women in Nigeria play three major socio-economic roles in the society. These activities were summarised as productive, reproductive and community services. These roles included land preparation for farming, planting of crops and vegetables for household consumption, weeding, harvesting, processing of harvested crops and storage, transportation of farm produce by head porterage, fishing, fish processing and marketing of sea

foods, processing and sale of dairy products, homestead livestock husbandry, small–scale trading, carrying concrete at building sites, fetchers of fire wood, pot making, weaving and dyeing of traditional clothing materials, sewing and beautification, religious activities and festivals, community development, teaching, food preparation and home management leadership as well as support of political parties, child care and reproduction of new members of the society.

Erie (2002) added that women do as much work as the men in farming, yet they could hardly meet their economic demands. Women farmers play major roles in food production, processing and marketing in Nigeria. Rural women play prominent roles in poultry management and caring for other animals that are housed and fed within the homestead in Nigeria. A lot of rural women are also involved in commercial poultry farming. Tide (2008) noted that despite the fact that over the years, good policies and programmes have been adopted by successive administrations, the Nigerian rural woman is still very poor. This is because the rural women, who should be the target group of such Government policies and programmes are never involved in such programmes.

1.2 Holistic Nature of Agriculture

Agriculture has always played a pivotal role in the history of Nigeria's economic development. Over the past two decades, agriculture has provided food, employment, foreign exchange earnings and poverty reduction, making the sector a bed rock of the nation's economy (Van Buren, 2001; United Nations, 2001; Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), 2004). Agriculture in Nigeria is mainly subsistence and characterized by a preponderance of small scale farming and small scale farm-related businesses. According to Imoudu (2005), the food

problem in Nigeria is attributable to certain features of the nation's agricultural systems, which reflect the existence of small resource- poor peasant farmers existing alongside with a few large scale commercial cultivators. The primary purpose of production is largely to feed the family and surpluses sold.

Oseni, McGee and Dabalen (2014) stated that Nigeria labour force is heavily concentrated in agriculture. The sector employs about 60% of the labour force and contribute over 40% to GDP. Despite its importance, the agricultural sector in Nigeria is far from reaching its potential. To reduce poverty, it is critical for households to earn more in their income generating activities. Improving the agricultural sector in Nigeria is vital to increasing food security and reducing poverty, especially in rural areas.
Women are the critical agents of change in the fight against rural poverty, hunger and malnutrition; they comprise near to or even more than 50% of the agricultural workforce in developing countries (FAO, 2001).

1.3 Multiple Income Generating Activities by Rural Women



Figure 1a



Figure 1b

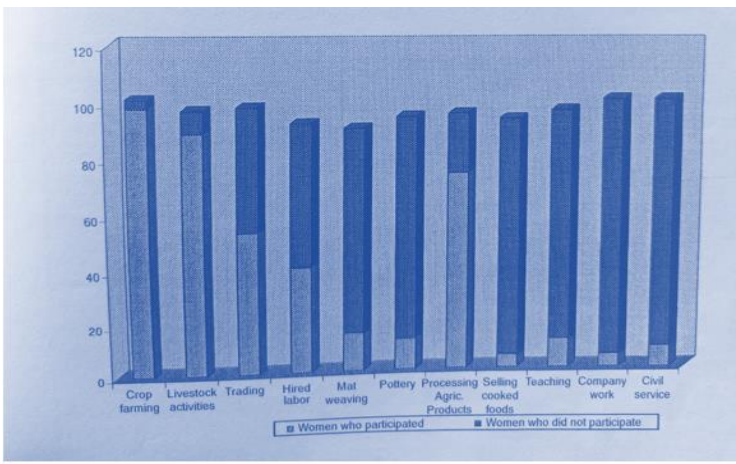


Figure 1c

Figures 1 a, b and c: Different economic activities engaged in by rural women

Women have been found to play significant roles in all spheres of rural life. They have been active in socio-economic activities

such as trading, production and processing of agricultural commodities, care of children and performance of household jobs (Adisa & Okunade, 2005, Okorley & Kwarten, 2006;; and Ifie, Ovwigho & Erie, 2011). Women are known to contribute major proportion of family farm labour to the production of food crops as well as providing the major support for themselves and their children (Adisa & Okunade, 2005). More often, African rural women supplement household agricultural productivity with income from non-agricultural activities such as making handicrafts and brewing. Odjebor (2014) found that some of the non-farm income generating activities of rural women include petty trading, weaving, dancing and singing, tailoring, hair plaiting, garri processing, soap making and casual labour For many households and especially those headed by women, they provide the income needed for food, shelter, clothing, school fees and medical expense by engaging in a multiple income generating activities as shown in fig. 2. (Meludu, Ifie, Akinbile & Adekoya, 1999).



Reports from studies show that African women are responsible for 100% of the work in food processing, 50% in animal husbandry and 60% in marketing (Adisa & Okunade, 2005). Rural women in developing countries have been found to play a prominent role in agriculture (Egbugara, 1990; Ejunjobi, 1991 and FAO, 1995). Ifie and Ovwigho (2007) opined that the roles played by rural women in agriculture has evolved over time with women assuming more and more responsibilities for what used to be male dominated tasks. Millions of women work as farmers, farm workers and natural resource managers (Onyemobi, 2000). In doing so, they contribute to national agricultural output, maintenance of the environment and family food security (Brown, Felstein, Haadad, Pena, & Quisumbing, 2001). Thus the women folks constitute a formidable and significant part of the production in the Nigeria's rural primary production sector. In spite of this heavy involvement, evidence from studies has shown that rural women are usually disadvantaged in their access to all factors of agricultural production and processing. Recent reports in Africa show that the productivity of agriculture on the continent has not satisfied the requirement for food, fibre and other raw materials despite efforts by Government to develop agriculture (Ike-Obasi, & Ogunbunka, 2019)..

2.0 Concept of Food Security

Food security means having sufficient food all the year round. It is a concept that has been defined by the World Food Summit Plan of Action (1996), as when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. FAO (1997) viewed food security not only in terms of access to, and availability of food, but also

in terms of resource distribution to produce food, and purchasing power to buy food where it is not produced.
Food security challenges often decrease the ability of countries to develop the agricultural market and economies. Access to quality and nutritious food is fundamental to human existence. Secure access to food can produce wide range of positive impacts including economic growth and job creation. On the other hand, food insecurity is also associated with increased risk of birth defects, anemia, lower nutrient intakes, cognitive problems, aggression and anxiety.

Bassey (2017) opined that a good way to look at food security is to approach it in terms of agriculture, property rights and environmental management. The deep link to agriculture is inescapable, as the majority of our people are engaged in agricultural production in one form or the other. Food is available when food producers are able to invest their time, energy, resources and skills in farming, herding or fishing and attain good harvest for subsistence or for commercial purposes.

Ladele and Ayoola (1997) see food security as a function of food production level. High level of food production is equal to food security. According to Oriola (2009), food security entails producing food that will go round every citizen both in quality and quantity. To achieve this, agricultural production needs to be enhanced with adequate knowledge of the environment, climatic condition, the market and its operation and be aware of price and price mechanism, good transportation system, storage, and fashion out modalities to check glut and be well prepared in case of disaster. Food insecurity on the other hand is the lack of access to sufficient quality and quantity of safe and nutritious food for an active and healthy life, the inability of households or individuals to meet the required consumption

level of food in the face of fluctuating production, price and income (Maharjan & Chetri, 2006).

3.0 Gender Roles and Responsibilities in Agricultural Production

3.1 Definition of Gender

Gender is used to describe roles, activities, needs and problems of men and women in agricultural production process. Gender means the different socially and culturally constructed roles and relationship which exist between men and women across time and space as well as among variables of age, caste, class and ethnicity among others (FAO, 1994). Gender could also be described as the economic, social, political and cultural attributes and opportunities associated with being a man or a woman. Olawoye (1993) defined gender as a socio-economic variable which assists the researcher to analyse the roles, responsibilities, constraints and opportunities of both men and women. One point that should be clear is that gender and sex are not interchangeable. Gender denotes roles of men and women while sex is biological attributes.

3.2 Gender Roles in Rural Households

In the traditional African, perspective, men's role is that of providing household requirements and the women's role can be described as that of home -maker (Abdul-Rahman, 1991). The traditional role of women according to her therefore includes rearing and caring for the children. The woman looks after the welfare of her husband. She cooks the meals and takes charge of the nutritional need of the family. She is also in charge of the training, education and informal socialisation of the children.

Majority of the money earned by women goes directly into the family pot thus improving the quality of life for the whole

family. Women in polygamous homes perform higher roles in household food security than women in monogamous homes. It could be explained that women in monogamous homes are supported by their husbands compared to those in polygamy. Even when cultural traditions deny such roles, women often provide a necessary supplement to the family budget. The result in table 1 showed that there is significant difference in the roles of women from monogamous and polygamous homes (t= 2.57; p=.001, Table 1). The implication of this is that women in the polygamous family perform higher roles in attaining food security. Women in the monogamous family are supported by their husband financially. On the other hand, the women in polygamous homes struggle to compete with each other to win the love of their husband, thereby providing for the whole family. The fact notwithstanding, women in most cases find it difficult to cope with the current economic recession. Therefore, they have to struggle to get themselves engaged in one type of economic generating activity or the other.

Table 1: Differences in the role of women from different family structures

Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	t-value	p-value
Monogamy	63.81	8.69		
Polygamy	68.08	8.19	2.57	0.001

Source: Ifie, 1998.

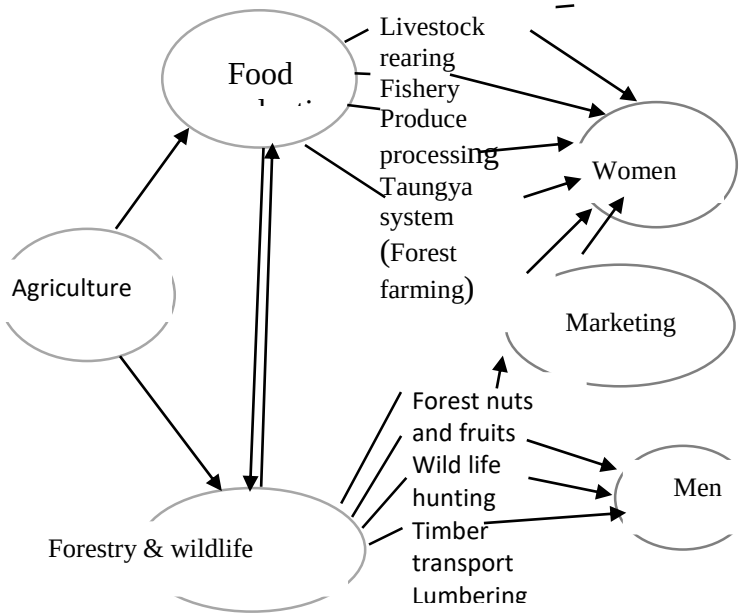
3.3 Role of Women in Food Production

The role of women in agricultural production in Nigeria can never be over emphasised. They perform crucial roles in domestic and economic life of the society (Damisa & Yohanna, 2007). Women's positive contributions have been recognized in

politics, economic development, and even in the academia, but not much recognition has been accorded the huge, significant and positive contributions of women to agricultural development and food security. The role of women and men can be visualized in figure 3.

Women farmers play vital roles in food production, processing and marketing in Nigeria, (Rahmah *et. al*, 2004). The dominant role played by women in agricultural production in Nigeria was confirmed by the findings of a study financed by the UNDP). The study revealed that women make up to 60% - 80% of the agricultural labour force in Nigeria, depending on the region and produce two-thirds of the food crops (Quast, 2005).

Meludu, Ifie, Akinbile and Adekoya (1999) found that women play significant roles in supplying the major ingredients for achieving sustainable food security and availability. They suggested, therefore, that these women should be strengthened through policies and programmes that will enhance their abilities and resources to fulfill their roles to the maximum..



Source: Ifie (2021) adapted for this lecture

Figure 3: The roles of women as compared to men in modern agriculture in Nigeria

Saito, Inekonne & Spurling, (1994) observed that not only do women outnumber men in the agricultural labour force but work hours in agriculture than men. In most developing countries, rural women are mostly engaged in small-scale agriculture and day-to-day family sustenance (Okorley and Kwarten, 2006), yet they are faced with a number of constraints. Adisa and Okunade (2005) identified the constraints facing rural women as lack of direct access to resources for example, credit, lack of opportunities to learn new skills and to acquire affordable technology; and limited access to markets for inputs, production

and sales. In addition their schedule is so overloaded with all the traditional female chores such as preparing food, fetching water and wood, caring for children and elders in the family.

Othman, (1996) opined that rural development cannot succeed if it does not involve rural women and take advantage of their potential. The best and perhaps the only way to achieve sustainable rural development in developing countries is to orientate it towards the people living in the rural area especially women because they represent a major source of labour and food production (Kizilaslan, 2007).

Women rarely own land in traditional settings and when they do, their holdings tend to be smaller and less fertile than those of men. Women in rural communities because of poverty, uncertainties and risk in production activities, compounded by reduced access to land is pushing many of them out of traditional agriculture (Fapokunda, 2012 cited in Egwunyenga, 2017).

Rural women represent probably the world's most powerful untapped natural resources, and are a key to world stability (Hefferan, 2000). They are not only community builders and stabilizers but also involved in the process of production, handling and production of food. Not only do women produce and process agricultural products (Meludu *et al*, 1999; Prakash, 2003 and Adisa & Okunade, 2005), they are also responsible for much of the trade in agricultural products. Yet these rural women are faced with a number of constraints. The literature on the subject of women's access to productive resources is replete with findings confirming that they have more difficulties than men in gaining access to land, credit and extension services (FAO, 1990; Nnadozie & Ibe, 2000; Agu, 2001). Women in

rural society and especially in farming have always been an invisible work force. Too little has been done to fully recognize women's role on farms and in rural communities-legally, economically, technologically and in statistics.

Sociologists have said that one of the social fall-outs of the oil boom in Nigeria was the bread-winner syndrome, whereby the feeding and total welfare of the family became the responsibility of a family-head usually the male (Alamu, 1993). Women then were seen only as money spenders and men as wealth or money providers. Women were mainly full-time housewives. However, the dwindling oil revenue and its attendant structural adjustment policy, instability in prices of food items and rising family size, no longer permit women to sit at home and wait to be fed, instead they are now faced with the task of playing dual roles of maintaining the family and providing food.

3.4 Gender Disparities in Arable Crop Production

Rural women play major role in arable crop production. According to Saito and Weidemann (1990) women were responsible for at least seventy percent of staple food production in Africa. Most men were involved in cash crop production like rubber and oil palm. Uzokwe and Ofuoku (2006) remarked that the ever changing economic conditions in Nigeria have altered the culture of societies. Consequently, women have resorted to combining male designated tasks with their traditional female tasks due to unfavourable economic conditions, and nowadays, no task is gender specific (Ekong, 2003).

Kayode and Sunday (2013) stated that women are mainly responsible for the bulk of crop production, agro-based food

processing, preservation of crops and distribution of outputs/products from farm centres to urban areas. Cassava, yam, coco yam, sweet potato, plantain, maize, fruits and vegetables are among the important crops produced mainly by women farmers in Niger Delta and other parts of Nigeria. Oyaide (1999) and Ovwigho (2000), reported that ninety-two per cent (92%) and eighty per cent (80%) of farm families in Delta State and Shell Petroleum Development Company areas of operation in Delta State respectively grew cassava as a major crop. Cassava is a major crop in these areas because of the favourable productive factors and ease of cultivation coupled with the fact that the crop constitutes a major staple food crop processed into garri. Garri made into eba is the most popular food eaten by adults and children in the Niger Delta

Ovwigho and Ifie (2002) found out that women play a greater role in the planting of cassava stem cuttings and in harvesting of cassava. More women were involved in the weeding operation for cassava production. Most men have separate cassava plots while majority of the women farm their husband's plots. The findings further showed that the women were the active cassava farmers while men were the passive cassava farmers. These findings support the views of Ifie, Oroka and Ajokporise (2002) that though men and women are involved in land preparation for cassava planting, women play more roles in planting of stem cuttings, weeding operation and in the harvesting. This means that extension services should be directed more to the women folk than the men. The distribution of inputs and extension information services concerning planting materials and agro-chemicals should be channelled to the female farmers instead of the men that hitherto received this service. Financial incentives from cooperative societies, governments and non-governmental organisations should be given to the women

folk to procure their separate plots in order to increase production and enjoy maximum satisfaction from their labour.

In many parts of the country yam is regarded as a male crop but nowadays women dominate almost every stage of the cultural operations for yam. Yam is depicted as a male totem in some areas of the Igbo land. In many parts of Igbo land women are not permitted to go to the yam farms till it is ready for harvesting. Harvesting of the crops is the prerogative of the women (World Bank, 2018). Oladotun (2020) found that 63.3% of females were involved in weeding operations for yam production while 35.8% were male. This indicates that women take active part in weeding for yam. She also found that women in Ukuani Local Government of Delta State also dominated yam transportation and marketing of yam produce. Maize, potato, fruits and vegetable production are also dominated by females in the rural areas. However, both males and females play complimentary roles in livestock production, poultry, aquaculture, and artisanal fishery. In the riverine areas majority of the women are involved in artisanal fishery but very few were involved on haunting for game.

4.0. Rural Women and Agricultural Programmes

The women form the bulk of farmers in Nigeria and they are also involved in processing and marketing of agricultural produce. Buttressing this fact, Ifie, Onemolease, and Erie (2011) citing Adisa and Okunade (2005) opined that women are the backbone of the agricultural sector, accounting for 70% of farm labour and being responsible for 80% of food production. They concluded that these women are highly instrumental in food production and food security. Provost Ma, it is my suggestion that rural women should be top priority in the introduction of any agricultural programmes.

The sustainability of agricultural programmes has become a prerogative to women participation. Ifie *et al.*, (2011) stated that sustained improvement in the agricultural sector is inconceivable without the active participation of rural women who are responsible for substantial proportion of agricultural production in Nigeria. Therefore, according to Akinnagbe, Agwu and Igbokwe (2008), the development initiatives that ignores the impact on women participation are synonymous with the strongly criticized "trickled down" approach to development. Hence Ifie *et al*., (2011) citing Eboh and Ogbazi (1990), stated that any development devoid of women participation can at best achieve "false growth".

For sustainability and feasibility of agricultural programmes, Ifie, Ovwigho and Erie (2011) opined that an efficient and cost effective extension delivery demand an additional method of extension activity in a country like Nigeria where rural women are responsible for substantial proportion of agricultural production. However, the Women In Agriculture (WIA) which was one of the programmes that came on board in this regard, did not have the desired cumulative influence on participants (Ifie & Ovwigho, 2009).

4.1 Use of Rural Women Groups as Measure for Sustainability of Agricultural Programmes

Ifie and Erie (2007) in their study found out that the following benefits could result from the use of rural women groups by policy makers and thus lead to sustainable agricultural development:

i. Increased coverage of farming community leading to improved dissemination of extension messages and agricultural innovations among farmers.

ii. Issues requiring attention could be jointly identified by farmers and policy makers or extension staff.
iii. We will be able to tap the wealth of knowledge and experience of rural women (even though these women are being regarded as uneducated, ignorant and fatalistic) for sustainable agricultural development.
iv. Dealing with groups for policy making or extension work confers advantage of savings in time and reduction in costs per head.
v. It allows for participation (in the group) of more people.
vi. It will allow for self-improvement due to skill acquisition and educational opportunities offered through adult education and literacy programmes.
vii. It allows for the provision of supportive services (eg family health care) to compliment education function of extension.
viii. It can facilitate the rural poor access to available services and inputs for agricultural development.
ix. The use of rural women groups can also provide the structure through which the people can influence the direction and implementation of development.

Provost Ma, you can see that agricultural development will be a myth without finding every means possible to incorporate the rural women in agricultural development efforts.

Provost Ma, you may want to ask; how can these rural women that are generally termed as uneducated, fatalistic, uncivilized, and ignorant be used for or included in policy making or for agricultural extension purposes? Ifie (2010) in her studies identified some characteristics inherit in the rural women groups

that can make them effective for Policy making especially in the area of agricultural development:

i. They have roles; each person in the group structure has an associated role that consists of the expected behavior of the occupant of that position.
ii. Norms; these are the standards shared by members of the group which are often verbally communicated to members.
iii. Friendliness: People are friendly and they have an increased feeling of the group as a 'whole' and this leads the group acting as a whole and not as individuals.
iv. Cohesiveness; this is the 'stick togetherness' of the group. The cohesive nature of rural women groups enable them to stay together for longer periods and often recommend the group to others, unlike groups that are formed for the purpose of policy making. Provost Ma, you will agree with me that these characteristics are absent in the so–called rural women groups we see in our television screens because such groups are often hand picked. A group that is low in cohesiveness according to Ifie (2010), does not possess interpersonal attractiveness for members. Such groups usually come together for their selfish interest, thereafter, they go their separate ways and sometimes they never meet again. This is the reason why some policies formed based on such groups (emergency rural women groups) do not last long. Technology development and extension programmes in developing countries have not been responsive to household drudgery associated with the different production activities undertaken by women. Hence, women groups should be promoted as a strategy to expand women's access to information, increase their

comparative bargaining power, and create opportunities for collective action to access economic input (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), 2011).

5.0 The Past, Present and Future Roles of Women in Food Security



Figure 4: Cassava harvesting by a woman farmer

Some authors do not see any difference between the past, present and future. The past in this lecture spans from pre independence and post-independence up till around 1970. The present is 1970 till date. The future is from today onwards. The past, present and future contributions of rural women to household food security and behavioural characteristics are presented in Fig. 5.

PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
• BIOLOGICALLY GENDERED • Child bearing • Cooking • Fetching of firewood • Fetching of water • Serving husband • Domestic needs • Culturally stable	• BIOLOGICALLY GENDERED AND OMNIBUS • child bearing • cooking • fetching firewood • fetching water • husband cares for their food • culturally unstable • indecent dressing • Arable Crop production • Food processing • Household food security • Income for the family	• BIOLOGICALLY GENDERED AND TOTALITARIAN • some men will abandon the home for the women • some women will venture into many unpleasant things to be able to take care of the home • Indecent dressing • Tricksters, yahoo/419 • Food scavenging • Going to party to collect food and drinks for the family • Politiciian • culturally unstable • Arable Crop production • Food processing • Household food security • Income for the family

Fig. 5: The Past Present and Future Roles of Rural Women (Ifie (2021) adapted for this lecture)





Figure 6: Firewood fetching by a rural woman

5.1. Past Roles of Rural Women in Food Security

The roles of women during the colonial and shortly after independence was mainly domestic, fetching of wood and water as well as child bearing and care of the children, entire family and the home. At that time the rural woman most especially

dressed very well within and outside the home. The roles of the rural women during this period were mainly reproductive and community services (Ekong, 2003).

5.2. Present Roles of Rural Women in Food Security

The present roles of rural women in food production and other sectors of the Nigerian economy can best be described as omnibus. The present roles include reproduction/procreation, production, food security as well as family and community welfare. The role performance of the rural women dramatically changed from domestic to agriculture and production as a result of crude oil glut of the early 80s and attendant austerity measures. A lot of men were thrown out of work and women assumed both economic and social responsibilities of the family up keep**.**

Considering the enormous roles of these rural women in food production, Provost Ma, I am of the opinion that extension services reaching them is not enough. The channels used by extension agents of forming or creating groups, eg Women in agriculture (WIA) or some other policies claiming to be working with rural women groups are futile. These are mainly political groups because majority of the women we see in our television screens claiming to be rural women are not actually rural women. Indigenous rural women groups have wonderful characteristics and potentials, which have enabled them to stand the test of time (Ifie, 2010), and this is the reason why civilization has not diluted their cultural values, neither has it lowered their standards.

Provost Ma, it might interest you to note that most extension services and palliatives are hijacked by the so-called 'policy-formed groups'. For instance, during the sharing of the

Covid-19 palliatives, a governor in one of the Southern states of Nigeria, having recognized the potentials of existing indigenous rural groups, decided to share the palliatives through the local leaders of the indigenous groups, and this system of distribution was applauded because it enabled the palliatives to get to the target groups.

5.3. Future Roles of Rural Women in Food Security

The future role of rural women in food security and well-being can be described as totalitarian. Women roles will extend beyond reproduction, production, food security, and caretakers to other areas such as politics and cash crop production. On a lighter note, who knows the men may become reproductive? Essentially in the future many women and children may become food scavengers in parties.



Figure 7: Scavenging children

The future is already in the present where uninvited guests dominate social parties for the purpose of feeding the stomach. Some of the rural women will engage in unwholesome acts in order to ensure that food is available for the family. The rural

women are now in a state of despair, devastation and frustration and so on.

Provost Ma, women in rural communities live in poverty, uncertainties coupled with the risks in production activities. They also have the challenge of reduced access to land and even when these women manage to secure land for agricultural activities, labour becomes a serious challenge because the men who are supposed to give a helping hand are deserting the rural communities for urban communities in search of greener pastures. Provost Ma, you can see that the suffering of these women are unending.

6.0 Acknowledgements

My greatest appreciation goes to God almighty, the sweet Holy spirit my guard and guide for always being there for me. It is what it is today because GOD has willed it to be so. To Him alone be all the glory, honour and adoration for the journey thus far in this great institution of College of Education, Warri. To my energetic Provost who always put us on our toes. Thank you Ma, for reawakening the spirit of academics in us through these inaugural series, God bless you for being a great encourager. I thank my colleagues at the Department of Agricultural Education, Dr. Dafe Minna-Eyovwunu, Dr. Blessing Akarue (HOD), for being a patient and caring friend, Mr. Ufuoma Odjebor (my son) who will always tell me not to give up. Mr. Abel Onoriode, Dr. Dave Ajakporise, Dr. Lucky Akpere, Mr. Irekefe Ekeke Peterson, Mrs. A Obue, Mr. Joe Oharisi, Mr. John Ekperigin and Mrs Faith Okah. To all the supporting staff of the department, I say thank you.
I acknowledge the following colleagues in the School of Vocational and Technical Education, HODs of Business

Education,. Home Economics, Technical Education, Fine and Applied Arts, Dr, (Mrs.) W. I. Okpetu, Mrs. T. O. Nwankwo, Dr. (Mrs.) J. Olise , Mrs. F. Edafe, Mr. Unomah, Mr. Martins Otuedon, Mr. Johnson Iteku, Dr. (Mrs.) Mabel Ewubare, Mrs. Lawrenta Orugbo and Mabel Odibo and other lecturers too numerous to mention. I thank you Mr. College Ogodogun, Mr. F. Erume, Mr. A. A. Okwoma, Mr. W. Ofishe Mrs. U. Ewarawon . I also acknowledge my brothers in the faith Mr. J. K. Ozobokeme, Mr. C. B. Agbegha and the Committee members of the COEWA Day of Prayer Programme with whom I worked for a couple of semesters as a Chairperson , you have been very supportive.

I thank the college P.R.O. Mrs. Omovusi Ovwarieta-Enekarhire, the Registrar, Mrs. Christine Aluyi, and the Deputy Provost, Dr. (Mrs.) F. Ighrakpata. I also thank Pastor G. Osobase, for always asking after my family's wellbeing. I appreciate Mrs. Flora Ihimekpen for her advice.

My special thanks to members of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Nigeria (CCRN) Warri Diocese especially the Sisters Wing for their prayers. To my Revd Fr. Barnabas Esegine for always praying for me and giving me books and other educational materials to study.

I cannot forget to mention Mr. and Mrs. Felix Oghenerhovweya who helped me in the IT aspect of this presentation. I thank you Mrs. Ufuoma Egurefa, and Mrs. Nene Obiuwevwi for all your care.

I acknowledge and thank my mentor Prof. B. O. Ovwigho for always showing me the way forward. To my numerous teachers and mentors, Prof. A. P. Erie, (of blessed memory),

may his soul rest in peace, Prof. (Mrs.) Gladys Erie a sister and a friend, Prof. Eddy Onemolease, Prof Akinbile, Prof. (Mrs.) Meludu, Revd Fr. Associate Prof, John Mark Ikeke, I appreciate and thank you all.

To my parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. B. Oshowho of blessed memory , especially my mother who made so much sacrifice for my sisters and I to be educated, rest in peace sweet mother. I specially thank my siblings Dora, Catherine, Stella, Phidelia, Samuel and Gods power for your encouragement, I love you all. I thank all my son In-laws Emma, Victor and Sam, Rukky and Akpome, God bless you all.

My special thanks go to my darling husband, brother, friend and father, Mr. Douglas Obaromine Ifie, (JP). Thank you for always supporting and believing in me. To my lovely children, Ogheneyerhovwo and her lovely husband Sheddy, Oghenemine, Ogheneruona and my grandchildren Mejiri, Maro and Mase. Thanks for your understanding and I thank God for giving you to me. To all my friends and well wishers, within and outside the college, I thank you all.

To my alma mater, University of Ibadan and Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, thank you for giving me the opportunity to receive higher education. I cannot forget the then College of Education, Abraka that gave me a solid foundation in my academic pursuit.

7.0 Conclusion

The Provost, invited dignitaries, students, ladies and gentlemen, let us look at what I am carrying up (a paper bag containing garri). Almost everybody here consume garri made from cassava. Who produced and processed this garri? No doubt the answer is rural women. Virtually all the arable food crops (cassava, yam, sweet potato, maize, sorghum, millet, rice, soya bean, fruits and vegetables) are produced by rural women. Rural women also dominate the production of poultry, aquaculture, sheep and goats with the exception of cattle. It is known that where rural women do not dominate production they dominate in the processing and marketing.

The foregoing explains that women are the drivers of food security yesterday, today and tomorrow. One definition of driver offered by the Advanced Learner's Dictionary is one of the main things that influence something or cause it to make progress. Without women in the driving seat of agricultural development, achieving food security may just be a tall dream. Thus, women need to be put at the fore of every effort to put food on the table and ensure food security in the Niger Delta in particular and Nigeria in general. Unfortunately the rural women are not given the pride of place in agricultural production. Incentives are given to male farmers and husbands instead of the females. This situation has remained a major set-back to agricultural production and development in the country. Ovwigho and Ifie (2008) recommended that extension services should be directed more to the women folk than the men. The distribution of inputs and extension information services concerning planting materials and

agro-chemicals should be channelled to the female farmers instead of the men that hitherto enjoy these advantages. Similarly Ifie *et al*., (2011) stated that development intervention agencies should study the nature of the Nigeria agricultural industry before investing money and other resources. More incentives and support should be given to female farmers so that food will become abundant.

8.0 Recommendations

Provost Ma, achieving food security will only be a myth without the inclusion of rural women in agricultural development efforts. Therefore, conscious efforts should be made by Government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and concerned individuals to:

i. Work with existing local women leaders; rather than forming new groups for the purpose of agricultural development, indigenous rural women groups should be identified.
ii. Expose rural women to periodic trainings in their respective communities instead of inviting them to state capitals.
iii. Give them soft loans with little or no collateral.
iv. Monitor the use of such loans through the rural women leaders.
v. Train more female extension officers to meet the need of the rural women farmers.
vi. Distribute inputs and extension information services such as planting materials and agro-chemicals to female farmers.
vii. Organize to engage in bulk buying of farm produce at the "farm gate" during harvest seasons. This will reduce wastage and encourage the women farmers to increase their acreage so as to produce more.

If the above recommendations are adhered to, there will always be food on our tables, and food insecurity and its attendant vices will become history.

References

Abdul-Rahman, T. B. (1991). "The Role of Women in National Development". *New Nigeria News Paper,* August 20, p5.

Adisa, B. O.; & Okunade, E. O. (2005). Women in Agricultural and Rural Development. In Adedoyin S. F. (ed) Agricultural *Extension in Nigeria, Ilorin*. AESON ARMIT: 69-77.

Agu, V. C. (2001). The Nigeria Women in Agriculture Programme Projects Coordinating Unit Perspective. *A paper presented at the Nigeria Women in Agriculture Review Workshop* held on 10th May, Michael Okpara University, Umuahia, Abia State.

Akinnagbe, O. M.; Agwu, A. E.; & Igbokwe, E. W. (2008). Agricultural extension policy. Issues for enhancing women participation in sustainable agricultural development in Nigeria. Proceedings of the 13th Annual national conference of AESON, 8th -11th, 17-26.

Alabi, O. O.; Adebayo, K.; Sodiya, C. I.; Akintona, A. O. (2019). Influence of scavenged food on health status of food scavengers among rural household of Aramoko, Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. *Nigeria Journal of Rural Sociology* .19(2): 53-57.

Alamu, H. (1993). "Agony of the low-income wife". *Daily Times,* June, 28, p.17.

Brown, L. R.; Felstein, H.; Haadad, L.; Pena, C. & Quisumbing, A. (2001). Women as producers, gatekeepers and shock absorbers. In Anderson, P. P. & Panda-Lorch, R. (eds). The unfinished Agenda- Perspectives on overcoming hunger, poverty and environmental degradation. DFID sustainable livelihoods guidance.

Damisa, M. A. & Yohanna, M. (2007). Role of women in Farm Management Decision Making process: Ordered Probit Analysis. *World Journal of Agricultural Sciences* 3(4): 543-546

Egwunyenga, E. (2017). *Women in National Development: Challenges and Coping Strategies in Economic Recession.* Lead paper presented at the 2nd Women in Colleges of Education (WICE) South- South Zonal Conference, at College of Education, Agbor, Delta State, Agbor. 8th-11th May.

Ejunjobi, L. (1991). On the status of Africa Women. *Peace Review*, winter 1991-1992, pp 55-58

Ekanem, E. (2021). *Cassava Crop can contribute immensely to food security* - Greenhills cassava Farmstead boss. Vanguard, March 19, p28.

Ekong E. E. (2003). *An introduction to rural sociology*. Uyo: Dove Educational Publishers.

Elukpo, S. (1991). "Women in Agriculture, Problems and Potentials". *Daily Times*, April 2, p.9.

Erie, P. A. (2000) Problems and Prospects of Privatising and Commercializing Agricultural Extension Services in Edo

State, Nigeria. Ph.D. Thesis Submitted to the department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma, Nigeria.

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) (1993). *Agricultural Extension of Farm Women in the 1980s*. Rome: FAO

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) (1995). Women Agricultural and Rural Development. *Sustainable Development Department*, Rome, Italy, 1-24.

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) (1997). Gender: Key to sustainability and food security: Illustrated plan of action for women in development. Food and Agricultural Organisation, Rome.

Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) (2004). National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy. National Planning Commission, Abuja.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (1999). *Filling the data Gap: Gender Sensitive Statistics for Agricultural Development.* Rome: FAO

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) (2001). State of Food Insecurity in the World, when people live with hunger and fear of starvation. *A Report Produced by Economic and Social Department*, 2001.

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) (1994). "Food Availability and Access to Food". International Conference on Malnutrition Manual, Rome.

Food and Fertilizer Technical Centre (FFTC) (2008). Food and Pacific Regions. Enhancing the role or women farmers in the development of rural, Asia.

Gittinger, J. P. C.; Sidney, N. R.; Horestein, & Saito, K. (1991). Household Food Security and the Role of Women. *World Bank discussion papers,* 96. Washington DC. Pp.9-10.

Hawkins, J. D. (1999). Preventing Crime and Violence through that care. *European Journal on Crime Policy and Research*. 7:444-458

Hefferan, C. (2000) "Educational Challenges Facing Rural Women Worldwide"- Speech by the Administration, Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service, United States, Department of Agriculture www.wia.usda.gov/heffeanspeech

Ifie, P. A. & Erie A. P. (2011). Demographic determinants 0f the Roles of Rural Women house hold needs in Delta State. Proceedings of the 25th Farm Management Association of Nigeria (FAMAN) Conference held at the Federal College of Agriculture, Akure, 5th-8th September, pp 258-262.

Ifie, P. A. & Ovwigho, B. O. (2009). Influence of Women in Agriculture (WIA) Programme on Welfare of rural women in Uvwie Block of the Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) Delta State, Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Research and Policies,* 4(3): 62 -111.

Ifie, P. A. (2010). An Analysis of the Potential of Rural women Groups for Agricultural Extension Delivery in Delta State,

Nigeria. Ph.D. Thesis, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State, Nigeria

Ifie, P. A. (2011). Group Dynamics: Implications for Rural Women Groups (RWGs) and Agricultural Extension Delivery in Alleviating Poverty, Delta State, Nigeria. Paper presented at the 3rd world congress. Theme: Poverty and sustainable socio- Economic Development in the Third World, University Auditorium, University of Lome, Republic of Togo, 28th -30thApril.

Ifie, P. A.; Akarue, B. O.; & Moseri, B. (2011). *Women farmers and sustainability of agricultural programmes in Nigeria: The way forward.* Annual conference of farm management association of Nigeria (FAMAN). Federal College of Agriculture, Akure, 5th -8th September.

Ifie, P. A.; & Odjebor, U. (2018). Analysis of cassava production and processing technologies in Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State. *Journal of vocational and Technical Education (JOVTE),* 11(1): 221-226.

Ifie, P. A.; Onemolease, E. A.; & Erie, A. P. (2011). The Potentials of Indigenous Rural Women Groups for Agricultural Extension Delivery in Delta State, Nigeria. *Journal of Research in Agriculture,* 8(1): 106-111

Ifie, P. A.; Oroka, F. O.; & Ajokporise, D. (2002). Gender Participation in Cassava Production in Udu Local Government Area of Delta State. Paper presented at the 1st National Conference held at the School of Vocational

Education, College of Education, Warri, Delta State. 5th-7th December.

Ifie, P. A.; Ovwigho, B. O.; & Erie, A. P. (2011). Rural Women Groups' Characteristics and Participation in Agricultural Extension Activities, Delta State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Vocational Studies* 3(2): 220 - 226

Ifie, P. A. (1998). *The Role of women in household security in Udu LGA, Delta State.* M.Sc. Thesis. University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Ike-Obasi, J.; & Ogunbunka, S. O. (2019). The Roles of Women in Fish Processing Activities in some Local Government Areas of River State, Nigeria. *Agricultural Extension Journal*, 3(2) 73-77

Imoudu, P. B. (2005). Government Policies towards the Sustainability of Agricultural rebirth in Nigeria 'Challenges and Opportunities. *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Conference of Agricultural Society of Nigeria, University of Benin, Benin City.* 9th-13th October.

Jiggins, J. (1989). How poor women earn income in Sub-Saharan Africa and what works against them. *World Development*, 17(7): 953-962

Jiggins, J.; Samanta, R. k.; & Olawoye, J. E. (1997). Improving Women Farmers Access to Extension Services. In: Swanson, B. E.; Bent, R. P.; & Sofranko, A. U. (eds). *Improving Agricultural Extension: A Reference Manual* Rome: FAO, 73-81.

Kayode, A.; & Sunday, A. O. (2013). Women Participation in National Development in Nigeria: The Imperative of Education. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance,* . 3(1)

Kizilaslan, N. (2007). Rural women in Agricultural Extension Training. *Research Journal of Social Sciences,* 2:23-27.

Ladele, A. A.; & Ayoola G. B. (1997). Food Marketing and its roles in food security in Nigeria: In Sharb B. & Adedipe, N. O.; Aliyu, A. and Jir, M. M. (eds). Integrated Agriculture Production in Nigeria, Strategies and Mechnisms for Food security: Proceedings of National Workshop on Nigeria position at the World Food Summit, Abuja, Nigeria. 88

Maharjan, K. L.; & Chetri, A. K.(2006). Household food Security in Rural Areas of Nepal. Relationship between socio-economic characteristics and Food Security Status. Paper presented at the International Association of Agricultural Economist Conference.

Meludu, N. T.; Ifie, P. A.; Akinbile, L. A.; & Adekoya, E. A. (1999). The Role of Women in Sustainable Food Security in Nigerta. A Case study of Udu Local Government area of Delta State. *Journal of Sustainable Agriculture*, 15(1): 67-79

Nnadozie, B. & Ibe, I. (2000). Women in Agriculture: Problems and Prospects. In : Nwosu A. C.; Nwajiula, C. U.; & Mbanasor J. A. (eds). *Agricultural Transformation in Nigeria*, Owerri, Novelty Industrial Enterprises.

Odjebor, U. (2014). Rural Non-Farm Income generating activities: Implication for Agricultural Extension in Delta Central. M. Sc. Thesis, Delta State University, Abraka.

Okorley, E. l.; & Kwarten, J. A. (2006). Women and agro processing in Africa: a case study of the central region of Ghana. *Le bulletin de L'APAD,19.* Lesinteractions rural-urban: Circulation et mobilization des resources. www.apad.nevues.rg/docement44.html.

Oladotun, M. O. (2020). Gender Roles and Responsibilities in Yam Production in Ukwuani Local Government Area of Delta State. Unpublished B.Sc Project in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Delta State University Abraka (Asaba Campus), Nigeria

Olawoye, J. E. (1989). Difficulties for rural women in securing resources for agricultural production; two case studies from Oyo State, Nigeria. *Rural Development in Nigeria*, 3(2): 77-81

Oriole, E. O. (2009). Irrigation Agriculture: An option for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria: Journal of Geography and Regional Planning 2(7):176-181

Oseni, G.; McGee, K.; & Dabalen, A. (2014). Development Research Group Poverty and Inequality Team. *Can Agricultural Households Farm Their Way Out of Poverty?* November 2014.

Othman, M. (1996). Tapping Potential of Rural Women. Publication Archive: Africa centre for Women. News

Straits Times Press (Malaysia Berhard). www.uneca.org/eca resources/publications/acw/old/nwissues/unfpam23.htm

Ovwigho, B. O.; & Ifie, P. A, (2000). *Income generating activities and some personal characteristics of farm families in Ughelli South Local Government of Delta State.* Paper presented at 6th Annual National Conference, 10th-12th April, at University of Ibadan. Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria (AESON) Conference.

Ovwigho, B. O.; & Ifie, P. A. (2007). Socio- cultural factors affecting the Adoption of Snailery in Delta Central Agricultural Zone, Delta State, Nigeria. *Medwell Online Research Journal of Applied Sciences*, 2(1): 26-30

Ovwigho, B. O.; & Ifie, P. A. (2008). Gender Disparity in Cassava Production in Ughelli South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria: *Extension Farming Systems Journal*. 4(1): 1-5

Ovwigho, B. O.; & Ifie, P. A. (2009). *Principles of Youth Development in Africa.* Benin City: Ethiope Publishing Corporation.

Prakash, D. (2003). *Rural Women, Food Security and Agricultural Cooperatives.* Rural Development and Management Centre. The Saryu, J-102 Kalkayi, New Delhi 110019 India

Quast, N. (2005) Women and their Role in Nigeria's Development. *A memorial lecture organized by the Public Affairs Section*, U.S. Embassy, Abuja.

Rahman, S. A.; Gabriel, J.; & Marcus, N. D. (2004). *Gender differentials in Labour contribution and productivity in farm production: Emperical evidence, from Kaduna State of Nigeria.* A paper presented at the National Conference on Family, held at new Theatre complex, Benue State University, Markurdi, Nigeria. 1st-5th March.

Sabo, E. (2006). Participatory Assessment of the Impacts of Women in Agriculture Programme of Borno State, Nigeria'. *Journal of Tropical Agriculture*, 44: 82-85.

Saito, K.; & Weidemann, C. J. (1990). *Agricultural extension for women farmers in Africa*. World Bank, Washington, DC.

Saito, K.; Inekonne, A. H.; & Spurling, D. (1994). Raising the Productivity of Women Farmers in Sub-Sahara Africa. *World Bank Discussion Papers*. Africa Technical Department Service.

Sinha, F. (1983). Women , Work and Technology in Rural South Asia. Intermediate Technology Development Group. *IITA Occasional Papers 9*, Ibadan: 16-18.

Steunou, C. (2009). An Immense Love. *The Mandate*. A Magazine for Mission Awareness. 1:8-9.

Strang, H. (1980). *Some changing socio-economic roles of village women in Malaysia*. Press Pennsylvania, 15-20.

Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) (2011, August).Three steps towards Modernisation of Agriculture. *Spore: Special Edition*, 18-22

The Tide Online (2008). Women Empowerment. The Rivers Example. Friday, June, 27 www.thisphere.blogspot.com/200806-01-archivehtm

United Nations (2001). *Nigeria Common Country Assessment*. The United Nations System in Nigeria, Nigeria.

Uzokwe, U. N.; & Ofuoku, U. A. (2006). Changes in gender division of agricultural tasks in Delta State, Nigeria

Van Buren (2001). *Africa South of the Sahara. Regional Surveys of the World.* 30th edition, Europe.

World Bank. (2012). *World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development.* Washington, DC: World Bank.