

ASSESSMENT OF MARKET PARTICIPATION AMONG ARABLE CROP FARMERS IN ILORIN EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT KWARA STATE OF NIGERIA

CHAPTER ONE

1.0. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Agriculture is the backbone of Nigeria's economy, providing employment and income for millions of people, particularly in rural areas (Olayemi, 2011). The sector accounts for about 25% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs about 70% of the labor force (Adeoye, 2015). However, despite its importance, the agricultural sector in Nigeria faces numerous challenges, including limited access to markets, lack of market information, and poor market infrastructure (Okuneye, 2013).

Arable crop farming is a significant agricultural activity in Ilorin Local Government Area, with many farmers engaging in the production of crops such as maize, sorghum, and cowpeas (Kwara State Ministry of

Agriculture, 2016). However, despite the importance of arable crop farming in the area, many farmers face challenges in accessing markets for their produce. This is partly due to the lack of market information, poor market infrastructure, and limited access to financial resources (Adebayo, 2015).

Market participation is critical for farmers to sell their produce, increase their income, and improve their livelihoods (Oyewole, 2011). However, limited access to markets, lack of market information, and poor market infrastructure can hinder farmers' ability to participate in markets (Adebayo, 2015). Several studies have examined market participation among small-scale farmers in Nigeria. For example, Adekunle (2017) found that market participation was positively correlated with income among small-scale farmers in Nigeria. Similarly, Ojo (2019) found that access to market information and financial resources were significant factors influencing market participation among small-scale farmers in Nigeria.

The concept of market participation is complex and multifaceted. It involves the ability of farmers to access markets, negotiate prices, and sell their produce (Adekunle,

2017). Market participation can be influenced by a range of factors, including access to market information, market infrastructure, and financial resources (Ojo, 2019).

Additionally, studies have shown that market participation can have a positive impact on farmers' income and livelihoods (Abubakar, 2019; Oyedele, 2018). However, market participation can also be influenced by external factors such as market fluctuations and government policies (Afolabi, 2020).

1.2. Problem statement

Despite the significant role of arable crop farming in Ilorin Local Government Area (LGA), smallholder farmers face major challenges in market participation. Poor infrastructure, including inadequate roads and storage facilities, increases transportation costs and leads to post-harvest losses, forcing farmers to sell at low prices (Adeoye et al., 2011). Limited access to credit further restricts investment in improved inputs and technologies, reducing productivity and competitiveness (Omonona & Oni, 2011). Additionally, lack of market information weakens

farmers' bargaining power, making them vulnerable to middlemen (Gebremedhin & Jaleta, 2011)

Despite government interventions, weak institutional frameworks and poor policy implementation have hindered effective market access for farmers (Afolami et al., 2011). This study seeks to assess the key factors affecting market participation among arable crop farmers in Ilorin LGA and recommend solutions for improving their market engagement and economic outcomes.

1.3. Research Question

The problem highlighted above gives rise to the following research questions

1. What are the social economic characteristics of the arable crop farmers in ilorin east local government area?
2. What is the level of market participation of farmers in the study area?
3. What are the factors influencing market participation in the study area?
4. What are the constraints of market participation facing farmers in the study area?

1.4. Objective of the study

1. To describe the social economic characteristics among arable crop farmers in ilorin east local government area
2. To determine the level of market participation among arable crop farmers in the study area
3. To identify the factors influencing market participation among arable crop farmers in the study area
4. To examine the constraints faced by arable crop farmers in participating in the market

1.5. Hypothesis of the study

The hypothesis of the study is stated in null form. There is no significant relationship between selected social economic and market participation among arable crop farmers in ilorin east government area.

1.6. Significance of the study

The finding of this study will provide valuable insights into the market participation of arable crop farmers

in ilorin east local government area. It will also contribute to the existing literature on market participation among farmers in Nigeria.

1.7. Operational definition of terms

1. Market Participation – The extent to which arable crop farmers engage in selling their produce in formal or informal markets beyond subsistence consumption (Barrett, 2011).
2. Smallholder Farmers – Farmers who cultivate small plots of land, typically less than five hectares, and rely on family labor for production (Afolami, Obayelu, & Vaughan, 2011).
3. Arable Crops – Crops that are grown primarily for food and cash purposes, including maize, cassava, yam, and vegetables, which are commonly cultivated in Ilorin LGA (Adeoye, Yusuf, & Balogun, 2011).
4. Infrastructure – Physical facilities such as roads, storage facilities, and market stalls that facilitate the transportation, preservation, and sale of agricultural produce (Gebremedhin & Jaleta, 2011).
5. Market Information – Data on product prices, demand

trends, buyer preferences, and trading conditions that influence farmers' selling decisions (Afolami et al., 2011).

6. Credit Access – The ability of farmers to obtain financial resources from banks, cooperatives, or microfinance institutions to invest in agricultural production and marketing (Barrett, 2011).

7. Middlemen (Intermediaries) – Traders who buy agricultural produce from farmers at lower prices and resell it in larger markets at higher prices, often controlling market access for smallholder farmers (Adeoye et al., 2011).

8. Commercial Agriculture – The practice of farming primarily for market sales rather than for household consumption, which requires significant investment in inputs, labor, and technology (Omonona & Oni, 2011).

9. Extension Services – Government or private-sector programs that provide farmers with training, technical advice, and market information to improve agricultural productivity and market participation (Gebremedhin & Jaleta, 2011).

CHAPTER THREE

3.0. Research Methodology

3.1. Study Area

The study was conducted in ilorin metropolis Kwara state Nigeria. Ilorin is the capital of Kwara state, Nigeria. Ilorin is made up of five local government area which are ilorin east local government, Asa local government area, Moro local government area, ilorin west local government area, ilorin south local government area.

Ilorin east local government area is one of the 16 local government area in kwara state, Nigeria. It is situated in the northern part of the state and has its headquarters in the town of OKE - OYI.

3.2. The population of the study

The population of the study comprised all the arable crop farmers in ilorin east local government Area.

3.3. The sampling procedure and sample size

The study will employ a multi stage sampling procedure to select the respondents. The first stage will involves a purposive selection of ilorin east local

government due to the concentration of arable crop farmers in the area. The second stage will involve the random selection of 5 wards from the local government area. The third stage will involve the random selection of 24 arable crop farmers from the selected wards making up at total of 120.

3.4. Method of Data Analysis

The method of data analysis will include the use of descriptive statistics, Binary logistic regression (BLR) and Pearson product moment correlation (PPMC).

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