



Perceived Effects on Levels of Hygienic Practices, Health-Care Expenditure, Productive Time for Agricultural Activities and Children School Attendances among the Rural Farmers in Mokwa Local Government Area of Niger State

¹Mohammed, U.; ²Umar I.S.; ²Olaleye, R.S.; ²Salihu S.I.; & ³ Mohammed U.

¹Department of Planning Research and Statistics, Niger State Ministry of Agriculture, Minna. ²Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Federal University of Technology, Minna ³Niger State College of Education Minna.

Abstract

The study Assessed Perceived Effects on Levels of Hygienic Practices, Health-Care Expenditure, and Productive Time for Agricultural Activities and Children School Attendances among the Rural Farmers in Mokwa Local Government Area of Niger State. Multi-stage sampling techniques was used to select 311 of rural populace. Data were collected using structured questionnaire and interview scheduled and analyzed using descriptive statistics (percentage, frequency and mean). The mean age of the respondents was 46 years while the mean household size was 9.0 persons Also, the mean years of experience was 20.8 years while 41.4% of the respondents had primary education. The mean household ₦175,500.00. Further findings revealed that 90.8% agreed that perceived adoption had effect on level of hygienic practices. The most serious constraints to adoption of recommended practices were bad attitude (94.8%) and lack of credit facilities (89.7%). It is recommended that environmental health workers should be strengthened to

enforce sanctions on noncompliance with adoption of recommended practices and efforts should be made by stake holders to sustain this channel of sensitization.

Keywords: *Perceived; Effect; Hygienic; Practices*

Introduction

It was estimated that 60% (80.7 million) of the global burden of disease and 2.8 million deaths per year were attributed to lack of good hygienic practices (World Health Organization 2019). Related environment disease such as diarrheal are still a leading cause of mortality and morbidity in children under the age of five. Approximately, 3500 Nigerian children die each year from diarrhea and dehydration (WHO, 2019). During the 2000's there was a considerable investment in the provision of water supply and sanitation in developing countries. By 2016, however, a significant proportion of the world's population still remained without access to improve environmental hygiene. In Nigerian, rapid population, growth has not be accompanied by an increase in delivery of essential rural service, such as water supply, sewage and sanitation and collection and disposal of solid wastes. By 2017, it was estimated that only about 20% of rural population had access to reliable water

supply of acceptable quality (Federal Ministry of Water Resources,2018). Despite some improvements in coverage, a study by the FMWR (2019) reported that in 2018, only about 10 out of 36 states of the federation had more than 20litres per capita water supply and good environmental hygiene. In order to ensure strategic approach to realization of the vision statement 20:20:20 on hygienic practices, health care expenditure productive time for agricultural activities and children school attendances in Niger state, the main goals and target set out for the state are:

- Increase in state improved water supply to rural dwellers,
- Increase in state improved sanitation coverage to the rural areas and environmental hygiene
- Increase in improved health care expenditure and productive time for agricultural activities

- Increase in children enrolment in schools in the rural area.

This study seek to address this objectives describe the socio-economic characteristics, perception on effect of adoption of recommended practices and constraints of adoption of recommended practices

Methodology

Study Area

Niger State is located in the Guinea Savannah ecological zone of Nigeria. In terms of land mass, it is the largest State in Nigeria. It covers a total land area of 74,224km² accounting for about eight percent of Nigeria's land area. About 85% of its land area is good for arable crops production (Niger State Geographical Information System, 2015). It is located within Latitudes 8– 10°N and Longitudes 3 – 8°E with a population of about 3,950,249 (NPC, 2006) and with a growth rate of 3.2%, the State has an estimated population of 5,586,000 in 2017 (Niger State Geographical Information System, 2015). Niger State experiences two distinct season dry and wet seasons with annual rainfall varying from 1,100mm in the Northern part to 1,600mm in the Southern parts. The average annual rainfall is about 1,400mm. The duration of the rainy season is approximately 180days. The wet season usually begins in April/May to October, while the dry season starts from November to March. The State has maximum temperature of 29°C, average temperature of 22°C and minimum temperature of 26°C. The mean average temperature is around 32°C. Dry season commences in October (Niger State Geographical Information System, 2015). Most of the communities in the State are predominantly agrarian. Vegetables grown in the State are, Spinach, Pumpkin, bitter leaf and water leaf leave. Tree crops grown are mango, citrus, coconut, cashew, banana and pawpaw. Other non-agricultural activities engaged by the people include blacksmithing, leatherwork, mat and basket making and trading. Women on the other hand engaged in technical handicraft and trading

Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

Multi-stage sampling technique was used for the study area. The first stage involved selection of Agricultural zones 1 in the State. At the second stage, one (1) Local Government Area from agricultural zone 1 was randomly selected. The third stage involved random selection of Nine communities from the selected LGA. At the fourth stage, 10% of the farmers were randomly selected

from the sampling frame of each communities. In all, a total of 311 respondents were selected from the sample frame of the selected communities.

Data collection and Analysis

Primary data was used for the study, the data were collected by researchers and trained enumerators using structured questionnaire complimented with interview schedule. Data obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as (frequency distribution, percentage, mean score standard deviation and ranking.

Results and Discussions

Socioeconomic characteristics of respondents

Table 1 indicates that the mean age of the respondents was 46.0 years implying that majority of the respondents belong to the middle age, suggest that the respondents have the knowledge and understanding of hygienic practices as well as productive time for agricultural activities which will make it easier since respondents with middle age class are expected to have had at least the minimum level of formal education with zeal in trying new ideas of handling hygiene issues. This finding agrees with Adamu and Solomon (2018) who reported that farmers with middle age class withstanding stress and better understanding in new innovation. Table 1 further revealed that the mean household size was 8.5. This finding is in line with Olajide and Oludele (2018) who reported that 80% of the rural Nigeria had between 6-7 per household which is considered as large household size. This finding suggest that large household size will reduce family labour and improve livelihood. Table 1 also indicate that the mean income of the respondent in the study area was #175,500 per annum. This result implies that the respondents in the study area are of low income earner which might affect their level of hygienic facilities like soap, detergents and disinfectants. Year of formal education was 41.4% (primary school). This result implies that respondents had low educational level, the implication might be that the respondent will not appreciate the practices of hygienic recommended practices. This result is in line with Olagunju and Adeyemo (2017) that education forms the bases and instrumental capability for the adoption of new technologies year of farming experience. The mean year of experience fall in between 1120 years with mean of 20.8 indicates that the respondents had long year of experience in both productive time for agricultural

activities and hygienic practice long before now that will aid in improving their health care and better their standard of living. The result also shows that majority of the respondents 68.4% had access to hygienic practice, health care, productive time for agricultural activities and children school attendance that will improve their level of living. Table 1 also shows that the respondents 62.7% were visited by extension agents 1-2 times per year which will affect the level of practice of hygienic and productive time for agricultural activities.

Table 1: socio economic characteristics of the respondents

VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	MEAN
Age			
31-40	215	69.1	
41-50	80	25.7	46.0
51-60	11	3.5	
>60	5	1.6	
Household size			
1-5	97	31.1	
6-10	150	48.2	8.5
11-15	63	20.2	
16-20	1	3.1	
Year of farming experience			
1-10	53	17.0	
11-20	180	57.8	20.8
21-30	48	15.4	
31-40	28	9.0	
Above 40	2	0.6	
Educational level			
Non formal education	103	33.1	
Primary	129	41.4	
Secondary	48	15.4	
Tertiary	22	7.0	
Adult	9	2.8	

Income			
<100,000	59	18.9	#175,500
101,000-200,000	193	62.0	
210,000-300,000	51	16.3	
Above 300,000	8	2.5	
Access to extension contact			
Access	213	68.4	
No access	98	31.5	
Number of extension visit			
1-2	195	62.7	
3-4	32	10.2	
5-6	69	22.1	
Above 6	15	4.8	

Source: Field survey 2017

Perception on Effect of Adoption of Recommended Practices

Table 2 shows respondents perception on effect of adoption of recommended practices. Results showed that adoption of recommended practices led to an improved in their hygienic practices.

60.40% of the farmers agreed that adoption of recommended practice actually led to decrease in their health care expenditure. 78.80% were of the view that adoption of the introduced practices actually led to an increase in their productive time for agricultural activities and 81.0% of the respondent agreed that the adoption of recommended practices increased children's school attendance in their households, meaning that the respondent who adopted the recommended practices testified to the fact that they had positive effects on the respondents. The result further reveals that the four effect variable with combined mean score of 15.23 points which is above the cut-off of 10 points set in the measures of dispersion meant that adoption of recommended practices actually had high positive effects on respondents in the study area.

Table 2: perceived effects of adoption of recommended practices on farmer's level of hygienic practices, productive time for agricultural activities, health-care expenditure and children's school attendance.

Effects of recommended practices	mean score	Percentage of respondents
Level of hygienic practices	4.37	90.8
Level of health-care expenditure	3.26	60.40
Level of productive time for agricultural activities	3.79	78.80
Level of children's school attendance	3.81	81.00

Sources: Field survey 2017

Constraints of Adoption of Recommended Practices

Table 3 shows the distribution of respondents in their multiple responses on what they perceived as their constraints they had in adopting recommended practices in the study area. These constraints were ranked and the result indicate that bad attitude towards good hygiene ranked first as indicated by 94.81% of the respondents. This means that despite the knowledge on recommended best practices, farmers bad attitude towards good hygiene prevent them from adopting recommended practices, remember that attitude are very difficult to change until good legislation is put in place to enforce compliance. This followed by lack of credit facilities, 89.70% to buy some facilities like soap, disinfectants and build toilet. Poor living conditions 87.10% which are often overcrowded and without facilities makes it difficult for a respondent which might be willing to adopt recommended practices. From the results found, it can be concluded that bad attitude towards good hygiene constituted the biggest constraints in the adoption of recommended practices in the study area.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents based on the constraints of adoption of recommended practices.

Constraints to the adoption of recommended practices	Frequency	Percentage	Ranking
poor living conditions	258	87.10	3rd
Cultural beliefs, norms and values	197	71.00	4th

Lack of credit facilities	267	89.70	2nd
Bad attitude towards good hygiene	289	94.81	1st
Lack of sanitation staff	187	62.31	5th

Multiple responses

Source: Field survey

Conclusion:

Finding revealed that adoption of recommended practices was perceived by farmers as having some positive effects on them. Bad attitude towards good hygiene practices, lack of credit facilities and poor living conditions were important constraints to adoption of recommended practices.

Recommendations:

Based on the findings of these study, the following recommendations were made.

1. Only 5% of the farmers had positive attitude towards recommended practices, hence low level of adoption. The environmental health workers should be strengthened to enforce sanctions on noncompliance with adoption of recommended practices. This can be done through good legislation in the local government counsels by-laws. This will change the negative attitudes especially the practice of open defecation.
2. Formal education was a significant determinant of adoption of recommended practices, so concerted efforts should be made by stake holders to sustain this channel of sensitization.

References

- Adamu, M.H., and Solomon, A.F (2018). Basic Hygienic Recommended Practices for Human Activities, *International Journal of Hygiene*, 22 (9), 12-17
- Federal Ministry of Water Resources (2019). National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy Report, 2019
- Federal Ministry of Water Resources (2018). National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy Report, 2018
- Olajide, S.M. and Oludele, B.G (2018). Water and People: Perception and Management Practices in Kwara State, Nigeria. *Nigeria Journal of Society and Natural Resources*
- Olagunju, F.S., and Adeyemo, O (2017). Framers' Perception and Adoption of New Agricultural Technologies: Evidence from Analysis in Nigeria, *Journal of Agricultural Economics and Extension*, 6 (11), 22-26
- National population census (2006). Information on Nigeria Population, Pp. 1-134

Niger State Geographical Information System. (2015). Background information. Retrieved from www.nigersis.com/about-niger-state. Accessed on 13/08/2017

World Health Organization WHO (2019). UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) 2019: Target Resources for Better Results, Geneva: World Health Organization