

An Assessment of the Role of Extension Officers in Enhancing Agricultural Safety Awareness in Cross River State, Nigeria

Etim, Ofem Usang*¹, Kennedy, Okoi Obu², Ntui, Oliver Effiong³
& Ayi, Nsa Akiba⁴

*¹Safety Awareness and Environmental Support Initiative (SAESI) –Nigeria.

²Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, University of Calabar, Nigeria

³Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, University of Calabar, Nigeria

⁴ Department of agricultural Economics and Extension, Cross River University of Technology, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study assesses the role of extension officers in enhancing agricultural safety awareness in Cross River State, Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to identify the qualifications needed by agricultural extension officers to ensure safety in agriculture in the study area, assess the roles of Agricultural Extension agents in enhancing agricultural safety awareness in the study area, determine the factors that constitute the extension safety awareness process in the study area and ascertain the challenges to extension officer's safety awareness to Farmers in the study area. The population of the study was all the agricultural extension agents in the Cross River State Agricultural Development Programme (CR-ADP). Both primary and secondary data were adopted and the simple random sampling technique was used to select 83 respondents for the study. The findings revealed that Agricultural Extension agents required certain qualifications to enhance safety awareness to Farmers. That the roles of Agricultural Extension officers is crucial to the development of safety awareness education in the study area as most of the variables were highly significant with a mean of 3.0. That certain factors which were all highly significant in the study constitute the agricultural extension safety awareness process. All the constraints identified were all significant. The study recommended that the poor allocation/allowance and low motivation of extension agents should be addressed by collaborating agencies including the government.

Keywords: Agricultural Extension, Agricultural safety, Role of extension, Safety Awareness

I. INTRODUCTION

The extension officer as a change agent has the capacity to cause a transformation in the livelihood of farmers, their farm families, and the rural community. He also has the synergy to arouse farmer's intellect to identify his problems and guide him to solve it. He is bequeathed with the mandate that can affect farmer's attitude, skill, and behaviour. The extension agent's role in farmer's activities is crucial to his entire development as a knowledge and information based human resource factor. Thus, he can also affect farmers and the farm community with the awareness that comes from farm safety and health.

Seifu, (2000), had categorized agricultural extension into three facet: As a discipline, as a process and as a service. As a discipline it deals with the behaviour of people. It is educational in content and

purposive in approach. As a process, agricultural extension seeks to influence the behavior of rural people through education and information exchange. The aim is to assist them in gaining a livelihood, improving the physical and psychological level of living of rural families, and fostering rural community welfare. The success of the extension process requires an atmosphere of mutual trust, helpfulness and respect on the part of both extension worker and rural people. And as a service, agricultural extension makes the government ministry, the university or voluntary agency as useful as possible to the people who support it through taxes and donations. According to her, the concept that the broader function of extension work is to help people to solve their own problems through the application of scientific knowledge is now generally accepted.

Different authors (Etim, Aboh, Idiku, and Okoi, (2021); Groot and van't-Hooft, (2016); Etim, (2018) and Better Health Channel (2018)) have opined that agriculture is the most hazardous occupation because of its multifarious sectors, activities, tools, practices, methods, value chain, personnel (farmer, farm family, children, input suppliers), the farm environment, the climate and more. Ensuring the continuous availability of persons, and the sustainability of farm practices will go a long way to improve the safety of the agricultural system, the extension agent himself, input supply, the farmer, the farm equipment and machine, the farm environment and all agricultural stakeholders and resources. There is a need for safety education and awareness programmes for farmers and all agricultural stakeholders. This will help to decelerate the incidence of accidents, injuries, deaths, environmental hazards, and health challenges. Most manufacturers have indicated the safety precautions for the use of chemical input but lots of farmers lack both the literacy and technical knowledge to utilize them. Rural farmers are fast adopting modern farm practices due to increasing level of technological advancement but their knowledge of safety about the farm methods and input or resources adopted is limited. Hence, there is a need for safety awareness for farmers, farm communities and agricultural stakeholders.

Modern agriculture has become increasingly mechanized to reduce labor and improve efficiency, but this has also increased exposure for both operators and bystanders to machinery hazards, and farmers are at a very high risk for fatal and nonfatal injuries. Accidents are preventable but all farm employees and family members should learn to recognize machine hazards and take precaution to avoid injury. (North Carolina State University (2017)). Awareness on ways to reduce farm stress, reduce the level of farm disabilities, enlighten farmers about hazardous plants, healthcare services, environmental conservation, maintenance of farm machines and systems, respiratory diseases, infectious disease, among others. The Rural Health Information Hub (2019), outlined the health risks for farmers and farmworkers which include: Exposure to farm chemicals, such as pesticides and fertilizers, as well as toxic gases which may be produced from common farm practices like manure decomposition and silo crop storage, Exposure to high levels of dust, which can contain mold, bacteria, and animal droppings, among other things, Falls from ladders, farm equipment, grain bins, or other heights, Exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun, which can result in skin cancer, Joint and ligament injuries, which can result in arthritic conditions affecting mobility, Exposure to loud noises and sounds from machinery and equipment which can result in hearing loss, Stress from environmental factors, such as droughts, floods, wildfires, pests, and diseases affecting crops and livestock, as well as from working long hours, financial concerns, and feelings of isolation and frustration, Risk of suffocation in a grain bin if a person is engulfed by the grain, Risk of heatstroke, frostbite, or hypothermia from working outside in extreme weather conditions, Risk of injury from operating farm equipment and motorized vehicles, Risk of injury from working with livestock, and Risk of electrocution to persons operating large equipment that can contact overhead power lines. Extension connects producers to mental health resources (The Rural Health Information Hub (2019)). In addition to physical injuries, farmers are also at risk of behavioral and mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, substance use, and death by suicide. Due to environmental, financial, and social factors, there are a number of stressors inherent in

farming and farm ownership.

The Rural Health Information Hub (2019), identified three major farm-related stress factors such as; The weather, Concern over the future of the farm, and Outsiders not understanding the nature of farming. Top three financial stressors also identified were; Market prices for your crops/livestock, Taxes, and Health care costs. three major social stressors also identified were: Not enough time for family, Distance from doctors or hospitals and Limited social interaction opportunities. Many of these stressors are common in the agricultural industry and are often out of the individual farmer's control. These stressors can lead to anxiety, depression, feelings of loneliness, or isolation.

Doug, (2021), in his study and experience had advised that a farm-related accident can happen in an instant; often, that one decision will change the course of a life forever. This was his case. One simple, ill-thought choice led to the amputation of his right arm. "I am no stranger to farm safety. As a previous Extension agent and a lifelong farmer and rancher, I know the importance of safety on the farm. The night of my accident, the thought of climbing in the cab an extra time to turn off the baler seemed to be too much. But that simple action would have been the thing that saved my arm" he said. Every action farmers make must be well-thought. Every job, every turn of the key, every flip of the switch is paramount to their health and well-being. No amount of work is worth losing or altering a life. The awareness and practice of farm safety is as important as life itself.

Agricultural activities consist of multiple tasks, multiple locations, fields and specialization, factors, processes, input, sectors, and so on with the extension agent being the subject matter specialist, the link, the information and communication resource or personnel, it is therefore important for the extension agent to incorporate the role of creating safety awareness as an added mandate for farmers to enhance agricultural development, professionalism, their mental and social health, their physical condition, consciousness of farm operation in regards to safety precautions, knowledge and practice. This is because of;

- the fact that most of the tasks are carried out in the open air, exposing the workers to climatic conditions.
- the seasonal nature of the work and the urgency of certain tasks in specific periods which may be done in a haste.
- the variety of tasks to be performed by the same person which will require a careful planning in line with safety precautions.
- the type of working postures and the length of the tasks performed which may cause stress and muscle pain.
- the contact with animals and plants, thus exposing workers to bites, poisoning, infections, parasitic diseases, allergies and other health problems which may reduce farmer's efficiency and susceptibility to illness.
- the use of chemicals and biological products which may cause poisoning when inhaled, and
- the considerable distances farmers travel or trek to reach their farm which will increase their stress and fatigue.

Nordstrom, (2021) further opined that the various professional disciplines working on this topic are relatively isolated from each other. Much of the agricultural engineering work is unknown to occupational safety and health experts, and much of the epidemiologic research is not regularly available to engineers and safety specialists. Another obstacle is the fact that much farm safety research is not published in the standard periodicals and professional literature. Traditionally, efforts to reduce the toll of farm-related injuries have relied on educational approaches of safety specialists in each state's agricultural extension office and on engineering approaches used by farm equipment manufacturers. Educating the farmers has been a major role for extension officers, hence, this transfer

of innovations must also incorporate safety education approaches.

11. Statement of the problem

According to Nordstrom, (2021), Several factors probably account for the paucity of sound research on the etiology of farm related injuries. Human injury is associated with accidents, a phenomenon to which science has devoted little attention because of a widespread belief that these events are unpredictable and unpreventable. In addition, rural dwellers have been the subject of many negative stereotypes, suggesting that they may be unworthy of the attention of scholars. Historically the countryside has been portrayed as a healthier environment than the city. In any case, support for injury research has been minimal. Different authors have published divers studies on the roles and practice of an agricultural extension agent (Gershon, Anthony and Willem, (2013); Mmbengwa, Gundidza, Groenewald, and Van Schalkwyk, (2009), Swanson, (2008) and Gideon, Dennis, and Robert, (2018)). However, none of the study undertook the extension role in enhancing agricultural safety awareness to farmers in the study area. This is the research gap that this study intends to fill by assessing the role of agricultural extension officers or professionals in enhancing agricultural safety awareness to farmers in Cross River State.

11.1. Objectives of the study

This study intends to assess the role of extension officers in enhancing agricultural safety awareness in Cross River State. The specific objectives were to;

1. identify the qualifications needed by agricultural extension officers to ensure safety in agriculture in the study area.
2. assess the roles of agricultural extension agents in enhancing agricultural safety awareness in the study area.
3. determine the factors that constitute the agricultural extension safety awareness process in the study area.
4. ascertain the challenges to agricultural extension officer's safety awareness to farmers in the study area.

IV. Research Methodology

The study was conducted in Cross River State. The state is situated in the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. It consists of 18 blocks, and 3 agricultural zones such as: Ikom, Ogoja and Calabar agricultural zones. The population of the study consist of all the 92 extension officers in the Cross River State Agricultural Development Programme (CR-ADP). The study adopted the simple random sampling technique to select 83 respondents for the study which is 90% of the total population. The research data was gotten through the use of a researcher structured questionnaire to obtain primary data. Secondary data was acquired from the Cross River State Agricultural Development Programme (CR-ADP) on the number of extension staff in the eighteen blocks. The descriptive statistics adopted uses the mean to analyze the data. Variables were measured using a three point Likert type of scale for: Agreed = 3, Undecided = 2, and Disagree = 1.

Table 1. Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

S/No.	Blocks	No. of Extension Staff	90% sample of the population
1.	Calabar Municipality	3	3
2.	Calabar South	3	3
3.	Akpabuyo	3	3
4.	Odukpani	5	4
5.	Biase	4	4
6.	Bakassi	4	4
7.	Akamkpa	3	3
8.	Yakurr	9	7
9.	Obubra	6	5
10.	Ikom	7	6
11.	Boki	7	6
12.	Etung	4	4
13.	Abi	9	7
14.	Itigidi	4	4
15.	Yala	5	5
16.	Ogoja	7	6
17.	Obudu	4	4
18.	Bekwarra	5	5
	Total	92	83

Source: Field Survey Data, 2022.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 – Mean rating of respondents based on the qualifications for the extension agent to ensure safety in agriculture.

S/N	Variable	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Mean	Remark
1.	He must be taught and trained on safety courses	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
2.	He must also work as a safety officer	63	4	15	2.55	Significant
3.	As a knowledge base he must be versatile with the principles of safety to reduce farm accidents and injury	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
4.	He must lead by examples	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
5.	“He must not take short cuts to perform a task	81	2	0	2.97	Significant
6.	He must have a pre-knowledge of the community of assignment before entry	69	7	7	2.74	Significant
7.	He must have the peoples interest at heart	82	1	0	2.98	Significant

Source: Field Survey, (2022). Benchmark mean ≥ 2.0 Implies significant while variables = 3.0 are highly significant

Table 2 represents the mean ratings of respondents based on the qualification for extension agents to ensure safety in agriculture. According to the result, for an extension professional to undertake safety awareness; He must be taught and trained on safety courses ($\bar{x}=3.0$), As a knowledge base he must be versatile with the principles of safety to reduce farm accidents and injury ($\bar{x}=3.0$) and He must lead by examples ($\bar{x}=3.0$), were highly significant. The findings also revealed that the extension agent must; He must have the peoples interest at heart ($\bar{x}=2.98$), He must not take short cuts to perform a task ($\bar{x}=2.97$), He must have a pre-knowledge of the community of assignment before entry ($\bar{x}=2.74$) and He must also work as a safety officer ($\bar{x}=2.55$), were all significant.

This implies that the above stated variables are crucial for extension agent in order to enhance the communication and education of safety concerns to farmers in agriculture. The training that provides or improve on these qualities of the extension agent will also enhance his efficiency in service delivery to the farm family and rural community.

The findings of this study is in congruence with the study by Seifu, (2000), which opined that as a discipline, agricultural extension deals with the behaviour of people. That it is educational in content and purposive in approach, with a process that seeks to influence the behavior of rural people through education and information exchange which aim is to assist them in gaining a livelihood, improving the physical and psychological level of living of rural families, and fostering rural community welfare. That the success of the extension process requires an atmosphere of mutual trust, helpfulness and respect on the part of both extension worker and rural people.

Table 3 – Mean ratings of respondents based on the roles of extension agents in enhancing agricultural safety awareness.

S/N	Variable	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Mean	Remark
1.	assist farmers to determine their farm safety needs, challenges,	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
2.	understand the ways of farmers adaptation to safety challenges overtime	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
3.	development of strategies to mitigate loss due to death and disease	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
4.	develop awareness programmes on ways to reduce injury	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
5.	consistent training of farmers on the importance of farm safety	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
6.	serving as a link between farmers and the research institute, agencies and government on farm safety information management	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
7.	maintaining data on the type and level of farm injury	78	0	5	2.8	Significant
8.	must work as a safety officer to prevent farm mishap	79	0	4	2.9	Significant
9.	take advantage of available NGOs and CSO with mandate to promote safety awareness	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
10.	teach the people how to avoid danger during chemical application, drug application and use of unwashed farm tools,	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
11.	assist the farmer in the decision process to select inputs such as chemicals that are less hazardous	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant

12.	provision of information to the research based on the facts and findings about safety concerns relating to adopted innovation or technology.	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
13.	promote the use of improved technology with adequate safety for farmer's health	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
14.	Develop programmes based on agricultural safety for farmers and the farm family	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
15.	Seek to improve the knowledge of farmers on the use of hazardous agro-chemicals	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
16.	Enlighten farmers on dangerous farm activities that can cause injury, stress, strain, pain, among others.	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
17.	Educate farmers on methods of use of farm tools and equipment with minimal risk	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
18.	Educate farmers on best methods of storing their farm tools to ensure safety from damage and corrosion	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
19.	Encourage farmers to participate in safety programmes in agriculture	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
20.	Seek institutional support and collaboration to host safety programmes such as the World safety day, farm safety awareness week, among others.	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
21.	Advice farmers on how to make use of safety helplines if available	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
22.	Educate farmers on how to report an unsafe condition or activity	75	3	5	2.84	Significant

23.	Educate farmers and assist farmers to get health insurance	64	4	15	2.59	Significant
24.	Build communication channels to link farmers to security and safety agencies	73	0	10	2.75	Significant
25.	Educate farmers on how to improve their security	52	11	20	2.38	Significant

Source: Field Survey, (2022). Benchmark Mean ≥ 2.0 implies significant while variables = 3.0 are highly significant

Table 3 represent the mean ratings of respondents based on the roles of extension agents in enhancing agricultural safety awareness. According to the result on Table 3, most of the roles of extension agents in enhancing agricultural safety awareness were highly significant which are; assist farmers to determine their farm safety needs, challenges ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), understand the ways of farmers adaptation to safety challenges overtime ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), development of strategies to mitigate loss due to death and disease ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), develop awareness programmes on ways to reduce injury ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), consistent training of farmers on the importance of farm safety ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), serving as a link between farmers and the research institute, agencies and government on farm safety information management ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), take advantage of any the available NGOs and CSO with mandate to promote safety awareness ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), teach the people how to avoid danger during chemical application, drug application and use of unwashed farm tools ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), assist the farmer in the decision process to select inputs such as chemicals that are less hazardous ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), provision of information to the research based on the facts and findings about safety concerns relating to adopted innovation or technology ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), promote the use of improved technology with adequate safety for farmer's health ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), Develop programmes based on agricultural safety for farmers and the farm family ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), Seek to improve the knowledge of farmers on the use of hazardous agro-chemicals ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), Enlighten farmers on dangerous farm activities that can cause injury, stress, strain, pain, among others ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), Educate farmers on methods of use of farm tools and equipment with minimal risk ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), Educate farmers on best methods of storing their farm tools to ensure safety from damage and corrosion ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), Encourage farmers to participate in safety programmes in agriculture ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), Seek institutional support and collaboration to host safety programmes such as the World safety day, farm safety awareness week, among others ($\bar{x} = 3.0$), Advice farmers on how to make use of safety helplines is available ($\bar{x} = 3.0$). Other roles were significant, which includes; Must work as a safety officer to prevent farm mishap ($\bar{x} = 2.90$), Educate farmers how to report an unsafe condition or activity ($\bar{x} = 2.84$), maintaining data on the type and level of farm injury ($\bar{x} = 2.80$), Build communication channels to link farmers to security and safety agencies ($\bar{x} = 2.75$), Educate farmers and assist farmers to get health insurance ($\bar{x} = 2.59$), and Educate farmers on how to improve their security ($\bar{x} = 2.38$),

This implies that the extension agent is saddled with a huge responsibility in ensuring the safety and creation of safety awareness programmes and collaborations for the benefit of farmers and the rural community. The recommendations of Doug, (2021), also buttresses this study that a farm-related accident can happen in an instant; often, that one decision will change the course of a life forever. This implies that the negligence of any of the roles assessed can lead to a farm accident.

Table 4 – Mean ratings of respondents based on the Extension Safety Awareness Process.

S/N	Variable	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Mean	Remark
1.	Coordination of safety and awareness programmes for sensitization for farmers and their farm families	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
2.	Analysis of the safety components in farm occupation in Cross River state	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
3.	Identifying the farm hazard associated with each farming activity peculiar in Cross River State	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
4.	Collaborate with safety and awareness agencies to sensitize farmers on the importance of safety in the farm environment	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
5.	Develop strategies to monitor the rate of injury and accidents in the farm environment for appropriate documentation and data management.	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
6.	Implement the strategies layout through collaborative planning between the extension agent and support agencies	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
7.	Supervise the execution of safety precautions, practices and guidelines	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant
8.	Evaluate the extent of implementation of farm safety strategies	83	0	0	3.0	Highly Significant

Source: Field Survey, (2022). Benchmark Mean ≥ 2.0 implies significant while variables = 3.0 are highly significant

Table 4 – shows the mean ratings of respondents based on the extension safety awareness process. The result suggest that all the extension safety awareness processes indicated in the study are highly significant with a mean of 3.0. There are; Coordination of safety and awareness programmes for sensitization for farmers and their farm families, Analysis of the safety components in farm occupation in Cross River state, Identifying the farm hazard associated with each farming activity peculiar in Cross River State, Collaborate with safety and awareness agencies to sensitize farmers on the importance of safety in the farm environment, Develop strategies to monitor the rate of injury and accidents in the farm environment for appropriate documentation and data management, Implement the strategies layout through collaborative planning between the extension agent and support agencies, Supervise the execution of safety precautions, practices and guidelines and Evaluate the extent of implementation of farm safety strategies.

This implies that the above process indicated in Table 4 will enhance an efficient safety measure to improve the activities and conditions of farmers and rural communities in the study area. Also the indication of this study support the findings of Seifu (2000), that as a service, agricultural extension makes the government ministry, the university or voluntary agency as useful as possible to the people, which in concept enhances a broader function of extension work is to help people to solve their own problems through the application of scientific knowledge.

Table 5 – Mean ratings of respondents based on the challenges to extension officer’s safety awareness to farmers

S/N	Variable	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Mean	Remark
1.	Self born project planning and implementation especially when the government is unconcerned	74	4	5	2.83	Significant
2.	High risk of insecurity in the social environment	69	0	14	2.66	Significant
3.	Inadequate support organization to enhance safety awareness to farmers	83	0	0	3.0	Highly significant
4.	Lack of complete industrialization in agricultural sector	67	5	11	2.67	Significant
5.	Very low motivation for extension agents	83	0	0	3.0	Highly significant
6.	Poor access roads to community	83	0	0	3.0	Highly significant
7.	Inadequate technological support for safety data management	83	0	0	3.0	Highly significant
8.	Very low budgetary allocation for extension service	83	0	0	3.0	Highly significant
9.	Negligence/low attention to the agricultural sector by the government	72	2	9	2.72	Significant
10.	Very high level of subsistent agriculture in the study area	59	11	13	2.55	Significant
11.	Low level of interest by investors in agriculture	73	0	10	2.75	Significant
12.	Poor institutional support from state and federal agricultural agencies	76	3	4	2.86	Significant

Source: Field Survey, (2022). Benchmark Mean ≥ 2.0 implies significant while variables = 3.0 are highly significant

Table 5 shows the mean ratings of respondents based on the challenges to extension officer's safety awareness to farmers. The result revealed that; Very low motivation for extension agents ($\bar{x}=3.0$), Poor access roads to community ($\bar{x}=3.0$), Inadequate technological support for safety data management ($\bar{x}=3.0$), Very low budgetary allocation for extension service ($\bar{x}=3.0$), and Inadequate support organization to enhance safety awareness to farmers ($\bar{x}=3.0$), were rated highly significant to other constraints such as; Poor institutional support from state and federal agricultural agencies ($\bar{x}=2.86$), Self born project planning and implementation especially when the government is unconcerned ($\bar{x}=2.83$), Low level of interest of investors in agriculture ($\bar{x}=2.75$), Negligence of the agricultural sector by the government ($\bar{x}=2.72$), Lack of complete industrialization in agricultural sector ($\bar{x}=2.67$), High risk of insecurity in the social environment ($\bar{x}=2.66$) and Very high rate of subsistent agriculture in the study area ($\bar{x}=2.55$)

VI. Conclusion and Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, it is pertinent that extension professionals must equip themselves with qualities that depict the tenet of their profession as the knowledge, information and communication resource for purposeful transformation impact in the lives of farmers, farm families, rural communities, and other agricultural stakeholders. The findings of this study implies that the possession of the specified qualities by extension agents must be their qualification to provide safety education and information to farmers. This included being taught and trained on extension causes.

The study also indicated that extension professionals have a massive role to play in enhancing agricultural safety awareness to farmers, and the farm communities. He must assist farmers to determine their farm safety needs and challenges.

The study also revealed that certain factors constitute the extension safety awareness process. That, as a process, extension agents must coordinate safety and awareness programmes for sensitizing farmers, rural people and the farm community.

The study concluded that so many problems exist in agriculture in relation to safety. These problems included inadequate support organization to enhance safety awareness to farmers, and self-born project planning and implementation by extension agents especially when the government is unconcerned. this limitation to safety and awareness campaigns or programmes had increased the accident levels and mishap in the agricultural sector which also affect the transfer of safety awareness information to farmers.

Based on the above findings, the study therefore recommended the following;

1. That extension agents should be taught and trained on safety courses and also as a safety officers to enhance their efficiency to communicate and enforce safety precautions and regulations to farmers
2. That research institutes, agencies and government must assist and support the enormous mandate that extension agents have for farmers and the farm communities on safety by improving their collaborations, improving extension agent's allowances and providing donations for extension safety and awareness programmes. This will reduce the financial stress that most extension agents undergo to carry out their roles.
3. That the factors that constitute extension safety awareness process be made into a policy statement or direction for every extension safety programme for farmers and rural communities. This will provide a step by step guide for the extension agent to follow as he ensures safety awareness services to farmers and the farm communities.
4. Extension agents suffers a very low budgetary allocation, and a very low motivation to render

their selfless services. These problems should be checked and improved upon to enhance the efficiency of the extension agent and improve his motivation to render safety awareness education to farmers.

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