

Constraints Associated with Farmers from Being Satisfied with NDDC Agricultural Activities in Etche LGAs of Rivers State, Nigeria

Harry, A. T. & Wechie, E.

Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development
Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo
P.M.B. 5080 Port Harcourt, Nigeria
harryariamebo@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study examined constraints associated with farmers from being satisfied with Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Agricultural activities in Etche local Government Area of Rivers State. Primary data were collected using structured questionnaire from 120 respondents using multistage procedure. Data were subjected to descriptive statistics. The result of educational level shows, majority (54.2%) of the respondents were school certificate holders and very low level of satisfaction (1.32) with the NDDC agricultural activities. The results also showed that the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers did not significantly influence the level of satisfaction with NDDC agricultural activities. NDDC credit loan assumed a high extent with a mean of 3.38% farmers constraints on agricultural activities was high with a grand mean of (3.29) with lack of demonstration farm (3.97) and lack of agricultural shows and awareness as the major (3.98) constraints. The study recommends frequent training activities with demonstration farm and provide credit loan with low interest rate to benefit farmers in the area.

Keywords: *Satisfied, Agricultural activities, farmers & NDDC.*

Introduction

Niger Delta Development commission (NDDC) was created by the Olusegun Obasanjo administration in June 5th 2000. In the word of its mission statement, it states thus, to facilitate the rapid, even and sustainable development of the Niger Delta into a region that is economically prosperous, socially stable, ecologically regenerative and politically peaceful (NDDC, 2008). The commission is headed by indigenes of the Niger Delta, which justifies the expectation that this mandate would be fulfilled with utmost assiduity. Niger Delta Development Commission is a federal Government Agency. The main focus of NDDC is the reduction of poverty in the nine (9) Niger Delta States of Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers (Osewa, 2016). The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) is an interventional Commission mandated to pull the Niger Delta Region (NDR) out of the Socio-economic, environmental and political problems that have engulfed the region prior to Nigeria's independence (Isidiho and Sabran 2015a). The Bank of Agriculture (BOA) and the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) under a collaborative arrangement disbursed a N1 billion facilities to youths involved in agriculture in the Niger Delta region (Bank of Agriculture 2016). The programme was flagged off on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at the Bank of Agriculture Zonal office in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Under the first phase of the programme, 2550 Niger Delta Youths in 255 co-operative group received loans for use in various enterprises ranging from aquaculture and feed formation to poultry, rabbitry, snailry and processing. The youths were trained in various fields agricultural production under the NDDC skills Acquisition programme in the Niger

Delta will receive varying amounts of money ranging from ₦100,000 to ₦250,000 individually as loans to start them off in their various enterprises. Etche forming the fourth largest ethnic group in Rivers State is mostly engaged in agriculture. Oil palm, plantain, cassava and yam are important agricultural produce in Etche local government area serving as food store house for other neighboring states and communities (wikipedia 2009). Niger Delta Region (NDR) is highly underdeveloped and is poor even by Nigeria's standard for quality of life (NDDC 2015a). There is need to promote agriculture in the Niger Delta region for increased food production and ensure food sufficiency, in the country as well as support the federal Governments drive toward the diversification of the nations economy (Ahon 2016). Job satisfaction is the level of contentment a person feels regarding his or her job (Boundless 2016). This feeling is mainly based on an individuals' perception of satisfaction (Biswas-Diener 2002). Job satisfaction is a concept based on the premise that the happiest worker is also the most productive worker (Wright & Staw 1999). The people happy in their work, their job does not feel as if it is work at all. (Wright & Cropanzano 2004) many variables make a difference in the levels of job satisfaction experienced by workers (Oswald 1997). These variable according to (Elias et al 2015), includes, personal and farm, attributes (age, education, family size, land size and livestock ownership), perceived economic return, perceived package appropriateness, participatory nature of extension programme, use of multiple communication methods access to credit and training, frequency of extension contact and year of experience in extension participation. The higher clients education level the greater their livelihood of satisfaction in extension service (Israel and Terry 2004).

Statement of the Problem

Customer satisfaction is the most important element for developing and sustaining organizational priorities and practices (Elias et al. 2015). After more than a decade of existence of the NDDC Regional Master plan. Critics of the plan have questioned whether the quality of people lives has improved. According to the critics, Niger Delta Development projects is fazed with increasing incidence of incomplete and abandoned development projects in the region (Wali 2008). Niger Delta region has suffered tremendously over the activities of cultist and militant groups which have led to kidnapping, killing and maiming of innocent citizens. This also has affected farming leading to scarcity of agricultural produce and increase in poverty level of farmers in affected rural communities. After over 54 years of the discovery of oil and gas in over 500 communities in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria, the people are still 'poor', neglected, under-developed and backward.' Resulting from suffocation occasioned by the Nigerian state, and the hazards and conflicts associated with oil and gas exploration/exploitation (Okolo, 2014). Environmental degradation has contributed to the decline in fisheries and other agricultural activities like farming and lumber businesses that dominated the traditional economy (Aiyedogbon et al 2012). Gas flaring and oil spillage have impaired the yield and nutrient value of crops cultivated in the Niger Delta (Edino et al 2010).

Objective of the Study

The main objectives of the study was to identify constraints Associates with farmers from being satisfied with NDDC agricultural activities in Etche LGA of Rivers State, Nigeria. Specifically the paper was designed to

- (1) Describe the socio-economic characteristics of farmers in the study area.
- (2) Determine the extent to which farmers were satisfied with agricultural activities of NDDC and
- (3) Identify the constraints faced by farmers from being satisfied with NDDC agricultural activities.

Hypothesis

There was no significant relationship between socio-economic characteristics and satisfaction of farmers in NDDC agricultural activities.

Methodology

This study was carried out in Etche local Government Area LGA in Rivers State. Etche LGA has a boundary with Imo State in the North, Ikwerre Local Government Area in the West, Omuma Local Government Area in the East and Oyigbo local Government Area in the South. Etche is one of the 23 Local Government Area of Rivers State. It is located between $4^{\circ}59'27''N$ and $4.990^{\circ}N$ and between longitude $7^{\circ}03'160''E$ and $7.004^{\circ}E$. It has an area of 805 square kilometer and population density of 310.51n/Kilometer square. According to Nigerian population Census (2006). The area has a population of 249,939. Etche Local Government Area has its headquarters at Okehi Traditional Rulers Council in the thirty communities that make-up the LGA is spread in five clans of Etche Local Government Area in Rivers State of South-South Nigeria. Data for the study were obtained by the use of structured questionnaire. The population of the study comprised registered farmers in five communities. Multistage Random Sampling Techniques was employed to select the respondents. One hundred and twenty (120) respondents made up of male and female farmers. These were randomly selected from the five communities from clans of the area of study. The five communities include: Afara, Egwi, Igbodo, Okehi and Umuechem. Twenty four respondent was selected in each of the clan. Descriptive statistics such as percentage, means, standard deviation, correlation and regression were used to analyses the data

Table 1: Sampling design

Community	No. of Contact Farmers
Afara	24
Egwi	24
Igbodo	24
Okehi	24
Umuechem	24
Total	120

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic characteristics of Respondents

The results in Table 2 shows 46.7 of the respondents were male while majority of the respondent were females 53.3%. The result implies that the female were household keepers and great farmers who may not necessarily migrate to the city in search of white collar jobs. According to the international labour organization (2016), more than 67 percent of African Women work in agriculture, mostly as small holder subsistence farmers. In Table 2 majority (45%) of NDDC farmers were between the age ranges of 26-35 years, 35% were between 36-45 years while 17.5% were between 16-35 years. The mean age is 32.73 which showed that, this group dominates the work force because they were in their active stage. According to United Nation (2014), agriculture is a sector of opportunity for young people in Africa. Moreover, the marital status of the respondents showed that majority (46.7%) of the farmers were married while 38.3% were single. The implication is that more get married in order to expand their farm size and share household responsibility. This is in agreement with Benson et al (2015) rural farmers who are married are more likely to participate in agricultural activities than unmarried ones. This is due to the fact that, married farmers have more family responsibilities than unmarried farmers. In terms of educational level, majority (54.2%) of the respondents are school certificate holder, while 29.2% tertiary Educations. The implication of

this finding is that greater proportion of the respondents are literates and can interact freely. Agbamu (2006) states that educational level is one of the factors that influence adoption of new technology by farmers. The result further shows that the mean household size for respondents was 6.45. This implies that when the family size is more, the demand for food increases. This will invariably boost agricultural production in the rural area. Large family size has a positive influence on agricultural production. Also, the family size institutes a major source of labour availability Olowatusin and Shittu (2014). Farming experience revealed that majority (38.3%) the farmers had 16-20 years of experience in farming business while 31.7% NDDC farmers had 11-15 years of experiences then 21.7% of the farmers had 6-10 years of experience. Least was 8.3% which was 1-5 years experience. The implication of this finding is that it is assumed that for the rural livelihood, farming is the traditional heritage as they are born into it. Ifeanyi-Obi and Issa (2013) stated that the long years of farming experience may have helped them to acquire wealth of knowledge as well as be able to identify barriers faced by farmers. The farm size of 1-3 plots had the highest rating in size with 45.8% while the farmer's with 10 plots and above had the least rating in size with 9.2%. The implication in Africa particularly, a lot of farming, up to 90 percent is done on land held under customary tenure, people gain access to land as a social right, granted by virtue of their membership in a community (Lawry 2015). This system of land ownership limits the farm families to subsistent farming. Hence, they cannot own large hectares of land for agricultural purposes except by grant or acquisition.

Net income per month of respondent's further shows above 30,000 was the highest with 54.2%. This represents a reasonable income when compared with the minimum wage of N18,000.00 paid to civil servant in Nigeria.

Table 2: Shows Socio-Economic Characteristic of the Respondents

S/n	Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Mean
1	Sex	Male	56	46.66	
		Female	64	53.33	
		Total	120	100.00	
2	Age of respondent	16-25 Year		17.50	32.73
		26-35 Years	21	45.00	
		36-45 Years	54	35.00	
		46-55 Years	42	2.50	
		Total	3	100.00	
		120			
3	Marital Status		46	38.33	
		Single	56	46.66	
		Married	4	3.33	
		Divorced	8	6.66	
		Separated	6	5.00	
		Widowed	120	100.00	
		Total			
4	Educational Qualification	No Education	8	6.66	
		Primary	12	10.00	
		Secondary Education	65	54.16	
		Tertiary Education	35	29.16	
		Total	120	100.00	
5	Household Size	1-3	18	15.00	6.45
		4-6	48	40.00	
		7-9	32	26.66	
		10-12	22	18.33	
		Total	120	100	
6	Years of Farming Experience	1-5 Years	10	8.33	13.00
		6-10 Years	26	21.66	
		11-15 Years	38	31.06	
		16-20 Years	46	38.33	
		Total	120	100.00	
7	Farm Size (Hectares)	1-3	55	45.83	4.63
		4-6	36	30.00	
		7-9	18	15.00	
		10-12 hectares	11	9.17	
		Total	120	100.00	
8	Net Income per month	₦00,001-10000	3	2.50	29,708
		₦10,001-20,000	16	13.33	
		₦20,001-30000	36	30.00	
		₦30,001-40,000	65	54.16	
		Total	120	100.00	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Level of Satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural Activities

Table 3 shows level of satisfaction with Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Agricultural Activities none of the agricultural activity met the cut of mean point 2.50 as

indicator, showing the level of satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural Activities. However the beneficiaries in the one billion naira agricultural credit scheme in Etche Local Government Area were thirty one farmers in 2011. According to NDDC (2016b), the Niger Delta Development Commission has handed over a cheque of one billion naira to the bank of Agriculture for disbursement to beneficiaries of the first phase of its agricultural and fisheries credit and entrepreneur development scheme. This implies most NDDC projects were only discussed but not carried out. According to Otto and Ukpere (2014). We emphases that new projects should be full discussed before commencement and once started, the initiators must take responsibility for the completion of the projects.

Table 3: Level of Satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural Activities

Level of Satisfaction			
S/No	Activities	Total Score	Mean
1	Credit and Entrepreneurship Development	167	1.39
2	Frequent from visit	132	1.10
3	NDDC Farmers Training	180	1.50
4	NDDC Extension agents contact with farmers	150	1.25
5	Cooperative societies formation	186	1.55
6	Development of community based farming	195	1.63
7	Maintenance of friendly economic environment	181	1.51
8	Palm oil Processing	138	1.15
9	NDDC Credits Loan	170	1.42
10	Aquaculture Business skill	176	1.47
11	Poultry Production	152	1.27
12	Bee and Honey Production	123	1.03
13	Rabbit Production	154	1.28
14	Cassava Production	182	1.52
15	Snail Business Skills	138	1.15
16	Piggery Production	136	1.13
17	Grass Cutter Production	126	1.05
	Grand Mean		1.32

Source: Field Survey 2016, cut of mean = 2.50

Constraints to Farmers Satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural activities

Table 4 revealed major constraints to farmer's satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural activities. Lack of agricultural shows and awareness has a mean score of 3.98, it was therefore identified as a constraint (mean score of $3.98 > 2.5$) and it was ranked first. Lack of demonstration farmers has a (mean score of $3.97 > 2.5$) ant it was ranked second followed by insufficient agricultural loan (Mean score of $3.85 > 2.5$) ranked third. This may be linked to the finding according to Isidiho (2015b) that lack of adequate monitoring and evaluation coupled with misappropriation and mismanagement of fund has been prominent. Insufficient NDDC training activities has a (mean score of 31872.5) which was ranked fourth. Corruption and lack of interest in agricultural activities results to insufficient training activities. This agree with first quarter report in December 18,295 – March 18, 2016 that revealed delay in release of fund for the capacity building of selected farmers from the mandate state and lack of adequate funds to empower backlog of 726 cooperative trained by the Agric/Fisheries Directorate (Majee and Hoyt 2011). The study also revealed scarcity of land for farming was not identified as, a constraint and (mean score of $1.79 < 2.5$) and ranked the seventh. However, within the area of the study, agricultural land is not necessarily a constraint as it may be in other part of the state were urbanization may taken over agricultural lands.

Table 4: Constraints to Farmers' Satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural Activities

S/n	Constraints	Total Score	Mean	Remark	Ranks
1	Insufficient agricultural loan	462	3.85	NS	3
2	Lack of form input	372	3.10	NS	6
3	High cost of farm input	377	3.14	NS	5
4	Insufficient NDDC Training activities	382	3.18	NS	4
5	Scarcity of land for farming	216	1.79	S	7
6	Lack of agricultural shows and awareness	478	3.98	NS	1
7	Lack of demonstration farms	476	3.97	NS	2
Grand Mean			3.29	NS	

Source: Field Survey 2016, cut of mean = 2.50

Hypothesis

Regression Analysis showing the Influence of Socio-economic Characteristics on Farmers Satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural Activities

Result indicate the influence of socio-economic activities on level of satisfaction with NDDC agricultural Activities showed that F-calculated of 2.002 had a corresponding significant f-value of $0.053 > 0.05$ level of significance; therefore the overall model is poor. Conventionally $F\text{-Cal } 2.002 < F\text{-tab}_{(0.05, 119)} = 2.03$ hence the decision of a poor model utility is upheld. Sex: $t\text{-cal } 0.76 < t\text{-tab}_{(0.05, 119)} = 1.96$, we accept the null hypothesis. Therefore, sex of the respondents does not significantly influence the level of satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural Activities. Age: $t\text{-cal} = -1.947 < t\text{-tab}_{(0.05, 119)} = 1.96$ consequently, the null hypothesis is accepted and it is concluded that age of the Respondents does not significantly influence the level of satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural Activities. Marital Status: $t\text{-cal} = -1.894 < t\text{-tab}_{(0.05, 119)} = 1.96$ therefore the null hypothesis is accepted and it is thus concluded that marital status Of the Respondents does not significantly influence the level of satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural Activities. Educational qualification: $t\text{-cal } -0.431 < t\text{-tab}_{(g.05, 19)} = 1.96$ hence the null hypothesis is accepted and it is concluded that Educational qualification of the Respondents does not significantly influence the level of satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural Activities. Household size: $t\text{-cal } -0.320 < t\text{-tab}_{(o.05, 19)} = 1.96$ hence the null hypothesis is accepted and it is consequently concluded that Household size of the respondents does not significantly influence their level of satisfaction with NDDC agricultural Activities. Years of Farming Experience: $t\text{-cal } 0.341 < t\text{-tab}_{(0.05, 119)} = 1.96$ hence the null hypothesis is accepted and it is consequently concluded that years of farming experience of the Respondents does not significantly influence the level of satisfaction with NDDC agricultural Activities. Farm size: $t\text{-cal } 1.514 < t\text{-tab}_{(0.05, 119)} = 1.96$ the null hypothesis is therefore accepted and it is consequently concluded that Farm size does not significantly influence the level of satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural Activities. Net Income: $t\text{-cal} = -0.517 < t\text{-tab}_{(0.05, 119)} = 1.96$, the null hypothesis consequently accepted and concluded that Net Income per Month of the respondents does not significantly influence the level of satisfaction with NDDC agricultural Activities.

Table 5: Regression Analysis showing the Influence of Socio-economic Characteristics on Farmers Satisfaction with NDDC Agricultural Activities

Variables	Coef	t-cal	Sig-t	t-tab (0.05,119)	R	R2	F-cal	F-tab (0.05,8,1113)	Sig f
Constraint	1.435	6.754	.000						
Sex	-162	-761	.448						
Age	312	1.947	.054						
Marital Status	166	1.894	.061						
Educational Qualification	-065	-431	-.667	2.05	0.35	0126	20.02	2.02	
Household Size	-.041	-.320	.749						
Years of Farming experience	-.042	-.345	.731						
Farm size	-.217	1.514	-.133						
Net Income per month	-.068	-.517	.606						

Dependent Variable; Satisfaction Source SPSS 22.0 Output

$$SA = a_0 + a_1sex + a_2Age + a_3Mar + a_4Edu + a_5HS + a_6Exp + a_7FS + a_8Inc + U1$$

$$SAP = 1.4 + 0.2Sex - 0.3Age + 0.2a_3Mar - 0.07Edu + 0.04HS + 0.04Exp + 0.2FS - 0.07Inc$$

t-values: (6.75) (0.76) (-1.95) (1.89) (-0.065) (0.04) (0.042) (0.217) (-0.068)

Conclusion and Recommendations

None of the indicators met the (cut of mean point 2.50) level of satisfactions with NDDC Agricultural activities in Etche LGA of Rivers State. Furthermore lack of agricultural shows and awareness ranked first as a major constraint to farmers satisfaction with NDDC. Agriculture activities while scarcity of land for farming was not a constraints to farmers.

Recommendation

The following recommendation can give direction for the constraints associated with farmers from being satisfied with NDDC Activities in Etche LGA of Rivers State

- (1) The commission should make available credit loan with low interest rate to boost the moral of farmers in the Niger Delta Region.
- (2) NDDC should embark on constant farmers training activities in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria.
- (3) Niger Delta farmers should be encouraged with adequate support through the provision of farm inputs to alleviate the cost to farming.
- (4) NDDC should set-up demonstration farm in Etche Local Government Area to enhance modern farming technique and food sufficiency for the teeming population.

References

- Agbamu, J.U (2006). Essential of Agricultural Communciaiton in Nigeria Malthouse Press Ltd. 11B Gorola Street of Adeola Victoria Island. Lagos Retrieved from www.sciepub.com.
- Ahon, F. (2016) Niger Deltans entitled to benefit from NDDC Project Retrieved 20th June, 2016. from www.Vangarkipr.com/2016/04/ndetans-entitled - benefit - nddc – projects – semeitari/....
- Bank, OF. Agriculture (2016) Cross Rivers State to Partner with BOA, Most outstanding Agricultural Project. Retrieved on 20th June. 2016 from www.citanline.tu.
- Benson, H, Kimaro, P.J & Towo, N.N. (2015) Determinants of Rural Youths Participation in

- Agricultural activities the Case of Kahe East Ward in Moshi Rural District, Tanzania. Boundless (2016) Defining Job Satisfaction. Boundless Management. Retrieved 26th July, 2016.
- Elias, A, Ishida, A. Nohmi, M & Yasunobu, K. (2015) Farmers Satisfaction with Agricultural Extension Services and its influencing Factors. Journals of Agricultural Science and Technology, (17,39-53).
- International Labour Organization (2016). Barriers Faced by Cassava Farm in Adapting to Climate Change in Oron Agricultural Zone of Akwa Ibom State, IOSR Journal of Agriculture and Veterinary Science (4) 6. 19-26.
- Isidiho, A.O. & Sabran, M.S.B (2015b) Challenges Facing Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Projects in Imo State and Niger Delta Region in Nigeria. International Journal of Hamanities and Social Science (5), 6 June 2015.
- Israel, G.D. & Terry, B.D. (2004) Agent Performance and Customer Satisfaction, J. Extension, 42(6) Available at <http://www.joe.org/joe/2004december/04.php>.
- Lawry, S. (2015) How does Tenure Affect Agricultural Product A Systematic Review. Retrieved on 15th May 2016 from <https://www.tandfonline.com>.
- Majee, W. & Hoyt, T. (2011) Cooperative and Community Development A Perspective on the use of Cooperative in Development. jOurnal Community Practice. (19) 1. Retrieved 20th June 2017 from <http://www.taudfenline.com>.
- Niger Delta Development Commission (2008) Retrieved ib 12t April, 2016 from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NigerDelta> Development Commission.
- Niger Delta Deveopment Commission (2015c) Challenges Facing Niger Delta Development Commission NDDC Retrieved on 18th June, 2016 from <https://www.researligate.net/publication/28129248>. Challenges Facing Niger Delta Development.
- Niger Delta Development Commission NDDC, Retrieved on 20th June, 2016 from [http://www.ijhssmetcom/journals\(5\)6](http://www.ijhssmetcom/journals(5)6) June 2015/5 Poff.
- Nigeria Population Causes (2006) Population Causes Arranged by State Percentages calculated by Nigerian Muse.com).
- Okolo, P.O. (2014) NDDC Conflicts. Peace Building & Community Development in the Niger Delta Region Global Journal of Political Science & Administration (2) 1, 36-54. European Centre for Research Training and Development UK (www.eajournal.org).
- Oluwatusin, F & Shittu, G. (2014) Effect of Socio-Economic Characteristics on the Farm Productivity Performance of Your Farmers in Nigeria. Research on Humanities in Social Science (4) 6.
- Osewa, O. (2016, May 2) Naira Forum. Massive Recruitment at Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).
- Ukperere "Executive Summary Retrieved on 20th November, 2017 Nwangbu, 2017 from: http://www.usaidgema.org/Documents/FAA&Reg/FAA_118119/West_Africa_2013.pdf.
- Wali, A.I. (2008) Oil Wealth and Local Poverty: Exploitation Neglect in the Niger Delta. Pro-quest dissertation for Masters' Thesis in International Relation, Webster University; Geneva Switzerland.
- Wikipedia (2009) Etche People. Retrieved on 20th May, 2016, from <http://hometown.ng//listing-item/Etche-people/>
- Wright, T.A., & Staw, B.M., (1999). After and Favour Work Outcomes, Two Longitudinal Test of the Happy-Productive Worker Thesis, Journal of Organization Behaviour, (20) 1-13.