

GENDER DIFFERENCE IN EXTENSION SERVICES OF SOUTH – EAST NIGERIA : IMPLICATION FOR TECHNOLOGY DISSEMINATION

*Amanze, A. N. and A.O. Chukwu

Imo Community and Social Development Project,
Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Imo State University, Owerri
Email: amanzealice@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The study investigated gender difference in the extension services of South – East Nigeria : implication for technology dissemination. The objectives were: to identify factors affecting gender mainstreaming in extension services, ascertaining a framework for the achievement of gender mainstreaming in extension services and ascertain the difference in involvement of male and female extension workers in extension service delivery. The respondents (75 male extension workers and 75 female extension workers) were sampled through a multi – stage sampling technique using the questionnaire forms. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the objectives and hypothesis of the study. Results showed that both male and female extension workers were influenced by factors affecting gender mainstreaming. However, more female respondents than the males identified gender capacity, work segregation, availability of gender-based information system, staffing policy, availability of gender friendly technologies and traditional practices as factors affecting their participation in extension service delivery at the ratio of 80.0% : 29.3%, 86.7%: 80.0%, 88% : 52%, 32%: 3.3% , 36% : 10.7% and 46.7% : 28% respectively. Both were also involved in the dissemination of extension services of identification of farmers problems, testing new technologies before transfer to farmers, regular training of farmers, regular visit to farmers, input delivery to farmers, planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects. The mean of involvement in the various extension services were greater than 3.0 indicated adequate involvement of male and female extension workers in the extension services. The dependent variable for this study was gender mainstreaming and was measured in terms of equality in the enshrinement of the independent variables between men and women in agricultural extension. The test of difference in the involvement of male and female extension workers in dissemination of extension services is significant at 1% level of probability leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis of no significance difference.

Keywords = Extension service, Gender, Gender Equity, Technology dissemination

INTRODUCTION

In order to benefit both male and female farmers, delivery approaches should attempt to focus on gender balance. This can be achieved by improving

communication training techniques to enhance the dissemination capacity of male and female extension workers. It may be necessary to modify the curricula to incorporate gender equality in resource persons offering courses in agricultural techniques. The MOA(2011) identified some major tools for gender mainstreaming like making use of sex and gender disaggregated data across all aspects of human resource project implementators / program beneficiaries and practicing gender responsive budgeting. Ignoring gender mainstreaming has made many government to fail in their obligation to ensure that extension services are delivered effectively to disadvantaged groups especially to rural farmers. One reason for this is the social bias that has hindered women extension workers active participation in extension training centers, extension meetings and extension services (UNDP, 2009). Issues raised in most developing countries is that extension services is mostly staffed by men which has resulted in systematic exclusion of female farmers and female headed households from direct access to many forms of extension services (Swanson and Rajahlahfi, 2010). This is because many very little is documented on how extension service reforms have mainstreamed gender concerns and on the likely factors hampering gender mainstreaming in extension organizations. Specifically, the objectives of the study were to identify factors affecting gender mainstreaming in agricultural extension services, ascertain a framework for achievement of gender mainstreaming in extension services and ascertain difference in involvement of male and female extension workers in extension service delivery.

Hypotheses

Ho :It is assumed that there is no significant difference between male and female extension workers in their involvement in extension service delivery.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in Southeast Nigeria geopolitical zone. It falls within the tropical rain forest zone. It is found between longitude^o 50' and 8° 15' E of the prime meridian and latitude 4° 30' and 7° 15' N of the equator (Federal of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, 2012).It covers land area of 29,323.82 sq kilometers(National Bureau of Statistics,2017). It is made up of Imo, Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi and Enugu states with a population of

26,287,760 comprising of 13,159,437 males and 13,175,556 females (NPC projected 2006 census).

The Southeastern rainforest zone of Nigeria is a zone of tall trees with dense undergrowth of shorter species (Nwajiuba and Onyeneke, 2010). Agriculture is the main occupation of the people. Agricultural activities include cultivation of tropical food crops like yam, cassava, vegetables, rice etc and livestock production.

Multi-stage random sampling technique was used to select states and respondents used for the study. First stage involved the selection of three states out of the five states of southeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The second involved the selection of respondents. A representative sample of 150 respondents was chosen from the ten zones of the study area with the guidance of the Zonal Extension Officers. In order to sample equal number of male and female extension workers, the sampling frame became comprehensive list of extension workers posted to the zones from the ADP headquarters of each state. From the list of each state, 50 extension workers were purposively selected for sampling (25 male and 25 female).

Data Analyses

Data were analysed using descriptive statistics like frequency, mean and percentages. Factors affecting gender mainstreaming were also achieved using frequency, percentages and Rank. A framework for gender mainstreaming was achieved by integration of the economic characteristics, perception of gender sensitivity, gender capacity training, extension decisions, extension services, overcoming factors affecting gender mainstreaming and intervening variables. The hypothesis was achieved using mean statistics, standard deviation and t – test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 contains information on factors affecting gender mainstreaming in agricultural extension services of South – East Nigeria. It indicated that more female respondents identified gender capacity, work segregation, staffing policy, availability of gender friendly technologies and traditional practices as factors affecting their participation in extension service delivery at the ratio of 80.0% : 29.3%, 86.7% : 80.0%, 88% : 52%, 32% : 3.3%, 46.7% : 28% respectively.

Table 1 :Distribution of the respondents by factors affecting gender participation

Factors	Male	%	Rank	Female	%	Rank
Gender capacity	22	29.3	3	60	80	3
Segregation of work	60	80.0	1	65	86.7	2
Availability of gender friendly technologies	39	52.0	2	66	88	1
Staffing policy	10	13.3	5	24	32	5
Traditional practices	21	28.0	4	32	46.7	4

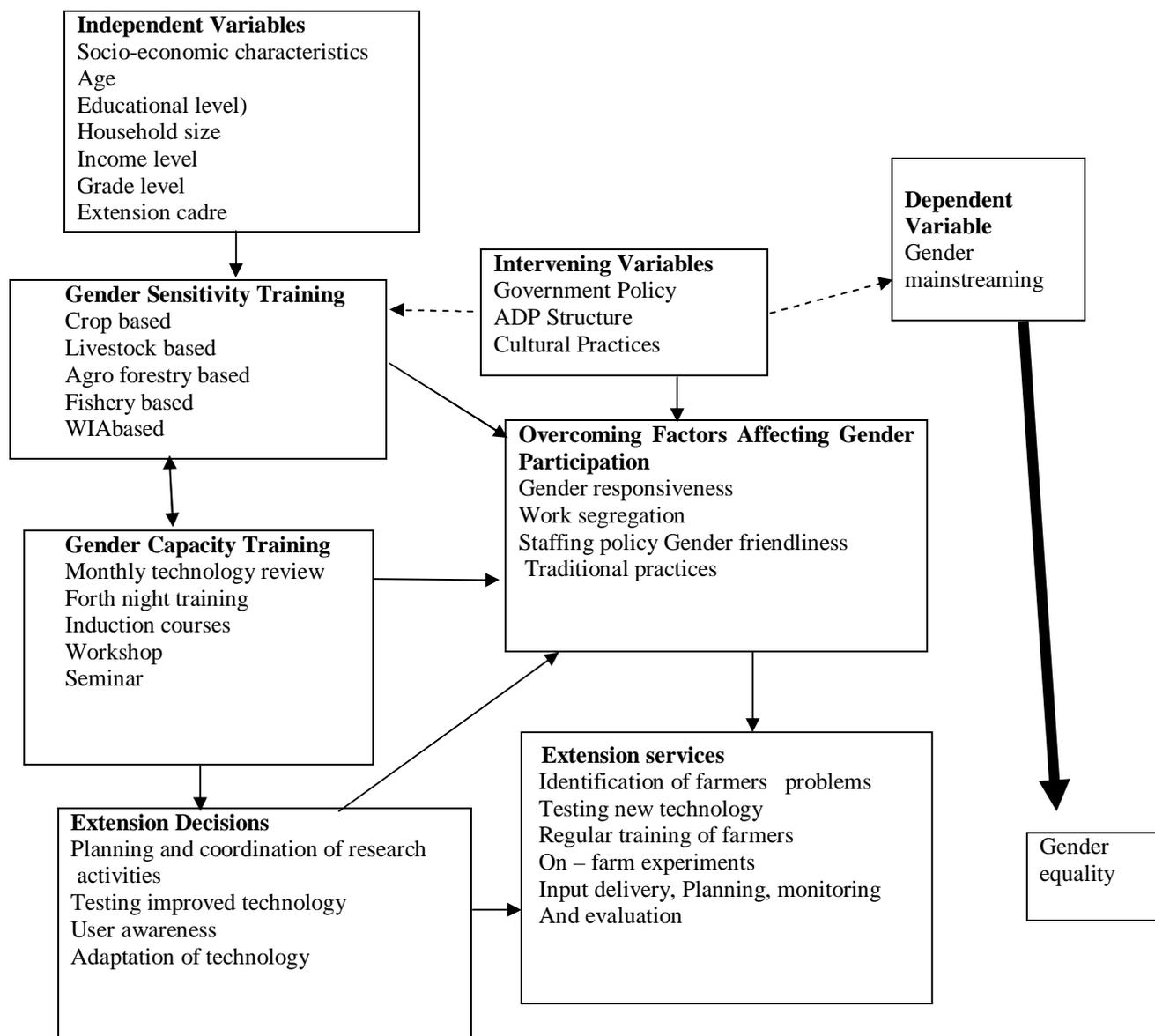
Source: Field survey, 2018

*Multiple responses

For the male extension workers, segregation of work rank first, followed by availability of gender friendly technologies. Then gender capacity while for the females, availability of gender friendly technologies ranked first followed by segregation of work then gender capacity. Staffing policy was considered as the

least problem. The findings are in agreement with FAO (2014) which stated that inadequate gender responsiveness capacity in extension organizations is influencing full participation of men and women extension workers in extension services.

FIGURE1 :CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



Researcher’s Construct, 2018

In figure 1, the dependent variable for the study is gender mainstreaming and is measured in terms of the equality in the enshrinement of the independent variables between men and women in agricultural extension.

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy and its ultimate aim is to achieve gender equality in extension organization. It is used for making women as well as men concerns an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies so that men and women can benefitequally and inequality is not perpetuated (UNIDO, 2015).

It is hypothesized that gender is not well mainstreamed in agricultural extension services of Agriculture Development Programme (ADP) due to factors affecting gender mainstreaming and consideration of the socio – economic characteristics of both male and female extension workers. It should be noted that the socio – economic characteristics of extension workers is considered before subjecting them to gender sensitivity training and gender capacity training. Extension decisions direct gender participation in the extension services.

However, efficient enshrinement of gender mainstreaming in the above issues involves

overcoming factors affecting gender mainstreaming in extension services delivery. The intervening variables like government policy, ADP structure and cultural practices cannot be controlled to yield gender equality.

Therefore, gender mainstreaming as a strategy in agricultural extension involves equal participation of both male and female extension workers in the above issues to yield gender equality.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents on perception of male extension workers in various extension services

Extension services	Male scales					Total	Mean
	5	4	3	2	1		
Identifying farmers problems	39	18	0	5	9	75	3.81
Testing new technology	39	19	7	6	4	75	4.11
Regular training of farmer	23	5	9	11	7	75	3.61
Regular visit to farmers	31	16	17	5	10	75	3.87
On farm experiments	6	19	13	9	18	75	3.08
Input delivery	37	11	11	8	8	75	3.81
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of project	55	10	10	0	0	75	4.90
Total	240	118	67	44	56	525	3.88
SD							0.057

Source : Field survey, 2018

Results in Table 2 show male extension workers responses on their perception of involvement in extension services delivery in South – East Nigeria. The mean score was used to derive the discriminating index of 3.0.

Their responses were recorded on a five point Likert – type scale of Very Adequate (VA), Adequate (A), Moderate (M), Low (2), None (1). Based on

the discriminating index, the male extension workers are adequately involved in extension service delivery. Identification of farmers problems recorded (mean = 3.81), testing new technologies before transfer to farmers (mean = 4.11), regular training of farmers (mean = 3.68), On – farm experiments (mean = 3.08).

Table 3: Distribution of respondents on perception of female extension workers in various extension services

Extension services	Female scales					Total	Mean
	5	4	3	2	1		
Identifying of farmers problems	42	18	0	2	13	75	3.98
Testing new technologies	27	24	7	5	10	75	3.63
Regular training of farmers	27	29	8	3	6	75	3.83
Regular visit to farmers	16	27	18	10	4	75	3.55
On – farm experiments	10	23	4	21	13	75	2.95
Input delivery to farmers	27	20	8	10	11	75	3.60
Planning, monitoring & Evaluation of projects	41	21	18	0	0	75	4.57
Total	190	162	67	51	57	525	3.73
SD							0.050

Source : Field survey, 2018

Table 4: Test of difference between responses of male and female extension Workers involvement in various extension services.

Item	Mean	Standard Deviation	T – value	Significance
Male extension workers	3.88	0.057	4.0011	1.281
Female extension workers	3.73	0.050		

Source : Field survey, 2018

Results in Table 4 shows test of difference between responses of male and female extension workers involvement in various extension services. Test of difference in their responses was determined and tested for statistical Significance at 1% level of probability. The outcome was found to be statistically Significance at 1% leading to rejection of the null hypothesis of no difference between male and female extension workers involvement in extension service delivery.

CONCLUSION

The dissemination of extension services require full participation of both male and female extension workers in order to achieve gender responsiveness in extension organizations. Based on the findings, it is recommended that there should be equitable advancement of both male and female extension workers across all cadres to strengthen their technical capacity and enhance their income.

This will achieve gender balance in extension service delivery.

REFERENCES

- Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (2012). Draft Nigerian national report for sustainable urban development from www.landsandhousing.gov.ng
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (F.A.O) (2014). A review of technology adoption in Africa with country case studies in Nigeria. FAO publication available on www.fao.org on 6/3/18
- Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) (2011). Guideline for gender mainstreaming in the agricultural sector prepared by Women Affairs Directorate, MOA Addis Ababa October, 2011
- National Bureau of Statistics (2017). Statistical report on women and men and in Nigeria from www.nigerianstat.gov.ng
- National Population Commission (NPC) projected census (2006). Official population report of South – East Nigeria from <https://www.jstor.org/stable>
- Nosheen, F. (2008). Exploring the gender involvement in agricultural decision making. A case study

- of District Chakwal, Pakistan journal of agricultural science vol (45) 3, 2008
- Nwajiuba, C.U and R. Onyeneke (2010). Economic effects of climatic change on agriculture of sub saharaAfrica : Lesson from Nigeria. Paper presented at the global conference on business economics. St Jude College Oxford University June 28 – 29
- Swanson, B.E and Rajahlahfi R. (2010). Strengthening agricultural extension and advisory systems. Procedure for assessing, transforming and evaluating extension systems. Washington, D.C
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2009). Gender equality and UNDP. Accessed from www.undp.org
- United Nations Industrial Development Programme (UNIDO) (2005). Guide on gender mainstreaming. Agri business development projects from <https://www.unido.org>