UTILISATION OF AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AMONG ARABLE CROP FARMERS IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
The study investigated utilisation of agricultural information among arable crop farmers in Oyo State. One hundred and thirty arable crop farmers were sampled using a two-stage sampling procedure. Data were collected on respondents' socioeconomic characteristics, attitude, benefits derived, constraints faced and level of utilisation through structured questionnaire with interview schedule. Results revealed that the mean age of respondents was 56.77±10.835, most respondents (95.4%) were male, majority (92.3%) were married, while the mean years of farming experience was 16.82±9.9343. Majority (60.8%) of the respondents had favourable attitude towards utilisation of agricultural information. Increase in yield ranked first among the benefits derived while inadequacy of capital to purchase farm inputs ranked first among constraints to utilisation of agricultural information. Level of utilisation of agricultural information was high among majority (67.0%) of the respondents. The study concluded that arable crop farmers exhibited a high level of utilisation of agricultural information and maintained a favourable attitude towards its use. The study recommended that agricultural extension agencies and policymakers should strengthen farmer-centred agricultural information delivery to sustain attitude and continued utilisation of agricultural information.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture remains one of the most important sectors of the global economy, serving as the primary source of food, raw materials, employment and income for billions of people, particularly in developing countries (FAO, 2023). In sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture contributes substantially to national gross domestic product (GDP), rural livelihoods and food security, with smallholder farmers accounting for a significant proportion of agricultural production. Despite its importance, the sector continues to face numerous challenges, including climate variability, declining soil fertility, pest and disease outbreaks, limited access to improved technologies, market uncertainties and increasing production costs (Morton, 2020). These challenges have heightened the need for timely, accurate and relevant agricultural information to support informed decision-making and sustainable agricultural production. Agricultural information encompasses all forms of knowledge, advice, technologies, innovations and market intelligence generated through scientific research, extension services, educational institutions, digital platforms and farmers' experiential knowledge for the purpose of improving agricultural production and livelihoods (Klerkx et al., 2021). It includes information relating to improved crop varieties, agronomic practices, pest and disease management, soil fertility improvement, weather forecasts, mechanisation, post-harvest handling, marketing opportunities and government agricultural policies (Ragasa et al., 2022). As agriculture becomes increasingly knowledge-driven, agricultural information has evolved into a strategic production resource comparable to land, labour and capital because it enables farmers to make evidence-based decisions that minimise production risks, optimise resource utilisation and improve productivity (Klerkx et al., 2021).

While the generation and dissemination of agricultural information have expanded considerably through agricultural extension systems, research institutes, mass media, information and communication technologies (ICTs), farmer organisations and digital advisory platforms, the developmental benefits of such information can only be realised when farmers effectively utilise it in their farming activities (Klerkx et al., 2021). Utilisation of agricultural information refers to the process by which farmers access, interpret, evaluate, integrate and apply agricultural knowledge in making production, management and marketing decisions (Davis & Sulaiman, 2021). It extends beyond mere exposure or access to information and reflects the extent to which acquired information influences actual farming practices and behavioural change. Effective utilisation enables farmers to adopt improved technologies, optimise input use, improve pest and disease management, respond to climate variability, reduce production risks and increase farm productivity and profitability (Aryal et al., 2020). Nevertheless, utilisation is influenced by several interacting socioeconomic, institutional, technological and psychological factors, including farmers' educational attainment, farming experience, information literacy, attitudes, perceived usefulness, extension contact, social networks, accessibility of communication channels, trust in information sources and compatibility of recommended practices with existing farming systems. In many developing countries, including Nigeria, substantial investments have been made in agricultural information dissemination through extension programmes and digital agriculture initiatives; however, evidence consistently suggests that access to information does

not automatically translate into effective utilisation (Klerkx et al., 2021). Farmers frequently encounter barriers such as untimely information delivery, inadequate localisation of recommendations, technical complexity, poor extension coverage, language constraints, limited digital literacy and weak feedback mechanisms between researchers and end-users (Davis & Sulaiman, 2021). These challenges often reduce the practical value of available information and limit its contribution to agricultural productivity, highlighting the need to better understand the factors influencing farmers' utilisation behaviour.

Arable crop farming constitutes one of the most important subsectors of agriculture, involving the cultivation of annual food and industrial crops such as maize, rice, cassava, yam, sorghum, millet, cowpea, soybean and vegetables that are essential for household nutrition, national food security and agro-industrial development (Bezner Kerr et al., 2021). Arable crop farmers operate within highly dynamic production environments characterised by unpredictable weather patterns, emerging pests and diseases, fluctuating input and output markets, changing government policies and increasing environmental pressures (Abegunde et al., 2020). These conditions require continuous access to current and reliable agricultural information to support appropriate farm management decisions throughout the production cycle (Klerkx et al., 2021). The successful utilisation of agricultural information among arable crop farmers is therefore fundamental to improving crop productivity, enhancing resilience to production shocks, promoting sustainable land management and increasing farm income (Aryal et al., 2020). Furthermore, effective utilisation facilitates the adoption of climate-smart agriculture, integrated soil fertility management, improved seed varieties, precision input application and environmentally sustainable production practices that contribute to long-term agricultural sustainability. However, utilisation patterns vary considerably among farmers due to differences in socioeconomic characteristics, institutional support, information needs, attitudes towards innovation and the quality of agricultural advisory services available to them (Davis & Sulaiman, 2021). In many rural communities, farmers continue to rely heavily on indigenous knowledge and informal information networks, sometimes limiting the adoption of scientifically generated recommendations where such information is perceived as inaccessible, irrelevant or inconsistent with local realities. Consequently, understanding the extent to which arable crop farmers utilise agricultural information, together with the factors that facilitate or constrain its utilisation, is critical for designing responsive agricultural extension programmes, improving information delivery systems and formulating evidence-based policies aimed at increasing agricultural productivity, strengthening rural livelihoods and achieving sustainable agricultural development. Such understanding provides an important basis for enhancing farmer-centred agricultural information systems capable of addressing the evolving information needs of arable crop farmers in contemporary agricultural production systems.

Despite sustained investments by governments, research institutions and development partners in generating and disseminating agricultural information through extension services, mass media and digital communication platforms, productivity among many arable crop farmers remains below potential, particularly in developing countries such as Nigeria (Davis & Sulaiman, 2021). This persistent gap suggests that the availability of agricultural information alone does not guarantee its effective utilisation in farm decision-making and production practices. Many arable crop farmers continue to experience low crop yields, recurrent pest and disease outbreaks, poor adoption of improved technologies, climate-related production risks and limited market competitiveness, partly because relevant agricultural information is either inaccessible, untimely, poorly understood, perceived as irrelevant or inadequately applied (Aryal et al., 2020). In Oyo State, where arable crop farming constitutes a major source of livelihood and food production, farmers are exposed to multiple sources of agricultural information, including extension agents, research institutes, farmer associations, mass media and information and communication technologies. However, empirical evidence indicates that variations exist in the extent to which farmers utilise available information, with utilisation often constrained by socioeconomic, institutional and communication-related factors (Klerkx et al., 2021). Furthermore, while previous studies have largely focused on farmers' access to agricultural information, information sources or adoption of specific technologies, relatively fewer studies have comprehensively examined the utilisation of agricultural information as a behavioural process encompassing the application of acquired knowledge in production decisions among arable crop farmers (Davis & Sulaiman, 2021). This knowledge gap limits the ability of policymakers, extension organisations and other stakeholders to design demand-driven information delivery systems that effectively respond to farmers' information needs. It is against this backdrop that the study assessed the utilisation of agricultural information among arable crop farmers in Oyo State.

The following specific objectives were stated for the study:

1. Describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.
2. Examine the attitude of the respondents towards the use of agricultural information.

3. Identify the benefits derived from utilising agricultural information by the respondents.
4. Identify the constraints to utilisation of agricultural information among the respondents.
5. Ascertain the level of utilisation of agricultural information by the arable crop farmers.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Oyo State, Nigeria. The State is geographically located in the Southwest region between latitude $7^{o}02^{1}$N and $9^{o}10^{1}$N and longitude $2^{o}04^{1}$E and $4^{o}30^{1}$E. Oyo State is bordered to the north by Kwara State, to the east by Osun State, and to the south by Ogun State and Republic of Benin, with a projected population of 7,840,864 in 2016. A two-stage sampling procedure was used to select arable crop farmers for the study. The first stage was a random selection of 75% of the ADP zones in Oyo State, which were Ibadan/Ibarapa, Oyo and Ogbomoso. At the second stage, 25% of the arable crop farmers were proportionately sampled from the total number registered in each zone as contained in the membership records of All Framers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Oyo State Chapter, 2024. Ibadan/Ibarapa zone had 49 farmers sampled while Oyo and Ogbomoso zones had 36 and 45 farmers selected respectively. This gave a total of 130 farmers sampled for the study. Data for the study were gathered through structured questionnaire and interview schedule. The dependent variable of the study was utilisation of agricultural information, this was measured using a four-point scale of Always (3), Occasionally (2), Rarely (1) and Not at all (()). The items covered issues such as use of agricultural information for; selecting crop varieties for cultivation, planting dates determination, seed rate determination, fertilizer application guide among others. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages, and standard deviation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

The result in Table 1 revealed that 48.5% of the respondents were within the age range of 55-65 years, while 20.8% were within the age range of 46-55 years. The mean age of respondents was 56.77 $\pm$ 10.835, which implies that majority of the respondents were within economically active age, though a fairly aging population. This is in tandem with Fawole and Adebayo (2022), which stated that majority of farmers who utilise agricultural technology and information are middle-aged. The sex distribution in Table 1 revealed that majority (95.4%) of the respondents were male. This implies that there are more male farmers than female farmers in the study area. This result is in tandem with a study by Ukwu *et al* (2022), which highlighted that male farmers had greater access to agricultural information. Table 1 revealed that majority (92.3%) of the respondents are married, which implies that majority of respondents have a family. This result agrees with Taiwo *et al* (2022), which affirmed that majority of vegetable farmers in Lagos are married.

The distribution of respondents by educational qualification in Table 1 shows that 57.7% of respondents had secondary education and 33.1% had tertiary education. This indicates that many of the respondents have one form of formal education or the other and therefore will be able to comprehend agricultural information disseminated to them. This affirms the study of Bamiro *et al*. (2021) and Taiwo *et al* 2025, who pointed out that majority of arable farmers in Oyo State had one form of education or the other. Table 1 further showed that the mean years of farming experience was 16.82±9.9343 years. This indicates that the respondents are not new entrants in farming hence may appreciate the importance of information for increasing output and guarding against agricultural production problems. This result agrees with Adeniyi and Yekinni (2020) which highlighted that most farmers in Oyo State have high years of farming experience. The result in Table 1 showed that 85.4% of the respondents used hired labour while 11.5% used family labour. This implies that most of the farmers used hired labour. This agrees with Aminu *et al*. (2020), which stated that majority of arable crop farmers utilised hired labour for farm operations. Table 1 indicated that 60.0% of the respondents acquired land through purchase, 20.8% acquired through rent, while 10.0% and 9.2% acquired through lease and inheritance respectively. This implies that traditional land ownership by inheritance is not prominent among the respondents

Table 1: Socio-economic Characteristics of the Arable Crop Farmers

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Mean±S. D
Age			
26-35	10	7.7	
36-45	15	11.5	56.77±10.835
46-55	27	20.8	
56-65	63	48.5	
66-75	15	11.5	
Gender			
Male	124	95.4	
Female	6	4.6	
Marital Status			

Single	8	6.2	
Married	120	92.3	
Widowed	2	1.5	
Education qualification			
No formal	1	0.8	
Primary	11	8.5	
Secondary	75	57.7	
Tertiary	43	33.1	
Years of Farming Experience			
1-10	40	30.8	
11-20	56	43.1	16.82±9.93
21-30	23	17.7	
31-40	7	5.4	
41-50	4	3.1	
Source of Labour			
Family	15	11.5	
Hired	111	85.4	
Communal	4	3.1	
Land acquisition means			
	12	9.2	
Purchased	78	60.0	
Lease	13	10.0	
Rent	27	20.8	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Attitude of Respondents towards Utilisation of Agricultural Information

Results in Table 2a indicate that majority (91.6%) of the respondents agreed that agricultural information is essential for improving crop production. This implies that it enhances farm productivity. Similarly, 91.5% agreed that agricultural information helps reduce production risks, while 88.4% indicated their intention to continue utilising agricultural information in future farming activities. These imply that there is a widespread recognition of the value of agricultural information as a strategic resource for improving farming outcomes and strengthening farmers' commitment to sustained information use in the study area. This finding aligns with Abdullahi, *et al* (2021) who posited that current farming information and improved market monitoring had contributed to increased farm production.

Furthermore, 87.7% of the respondents agreed that agricultural information enhances their ability to solve farming problems and make informed decisions, whereas 83.9% agreed that it contributes to sustainable agricultural production. Also, 81.5% of the respondents expressed confidence in the usefulness of information provided by agricultural experts, while 77.7% acknowledged that utilising agricultural information increases the profitability of arable crop farming. These findings imply that respondents perceive agricultural information as a reliable tool for improving farm management, supporting informed decision-making, and enhancing both economic and environmental sustainability. This finding is in tandem with Badiru, *et a*l (2022) who reported that farmers in Osun State perceived agricultural information as credible and relevant, hence, resulting in a high level of information utilisation.

However, while 63.8% of the respondents agreed that agricultural information helps farmers make better farming decisions, a considerable proportion (31.5%) disagreed, suggesting that the practical benefits of available information may not be consistently realised across all respondents. More importantly, 79.2% agreed that agricultural information rarely addresses the actual needs of arable crop farmers, 73.1% believed that the effort required to utilise agricultural information outweighs its benefits, and 53.1% considered agricultural information too complicated to understand and apply. These findings point to persistent challenges related to the relevance, accessibility, and user-friendliness of agricultural information, which may pose challenges to effective utilisation despite favourable attitudes. Also, majority (70.7%) of the respondents agreed that traditional farming knowledge is sufficient and that agricultural information is unnecessary. This suggests that indigenous knowledge continues to exert a strong influence on farming decisions and may reduce farmers' willingness to adopt scientifically generated information.

Generally, attitude towards utilisation of agricultural information was high among 60.8% of the respondents (Table 2b). This implies that the respondents had favourable attitude and found

agricultural information useful to their livelihood. This finding is in tandem with Adekeye *et al*. (2024) who reported that positive perceptions and attitudes towards agricultural information significantly enhanced information utilisation among crop farmers in southwestern Nigeria.

Table 2a: Attitude of Respondents towards Utilisation of Agricultural Information (n=130)

Perception statements for agricultural information dissemination and utilisation	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	$\bar{x}$
Agricultural information is essential for improving crop production	35.4	56.2	4.6	3.1	0.8	4.22
Using agricultural information helps farmers make better farming decisions	22.3	41.5	4.6	29.2	2.3	3.52
Agricultural information helps reduce risks associated with crop farming	24.6	66.9	4.6	3.1	0.8	4.12
Agricultural information is often too complicated for farmers to understand and use	20.8	32.3	10.8	30.0	6.2	3.30
I have confidence in the usefulness of agricultural information provided by agricultural experts	16.9	64.6	10.8	6.9	0.8	3.90
Traditional farming knowledge is sufficient; therefor agricultural information is unnecessary	23.8	46.9	6.9	16.2	6.2	3.66
Agricultural information enhances my ability to solve farming problems effectively for decision making about arable crops.	28.5	59.2	6.2	5.4	0.8	4.09
Agricultural information rarely addresses the actual needs of arable crop farmers	28.5	51.5	3.8	12.3	3.8	3.88
Utilising agricultural information increases the profitability of arable crop farming	30.0	47.7	6.9	12.3	3.1	3.89
The effort required to use agricultural information is greater than its benefits	22.3	50.8	6.9	17.7	2.3	3.73
Agricultural information contributes to sustainable agricultural production	25.4	58.5	6.2	7.7	2.3	3.97
I intend to continue using agricultural information in my farming activities in the future	31.5	56.9	4.9	6.2	0.8	4.12

Field survey, 2024

Table 2b: Categorisation of Attitude of Respondents towards Utilisation of Agricultural Information (n=130)

Level	Range	Freq.	Percent	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. d.
Unfavourable	3.30 – 3.86	51	39.8	3.30	4.22	3.87	0.29
Favourable	3.87 – 4.22	79	60.8				
Total		**130**	**100.0**				

Benefits derived from Utilisation of Agricultural Information

Results in Table 3 presented the mean ratings of benefits derived from the utilisation of agricultural information among the respondents. Increased yield was the leading benefit ($\bar{x}$ = 2.43). This finding indicates that agricultural information utilisation substantially enhances farm productivity. This implies that access to timely and relevant information strengthens farmers' production efficiency and output performance, thereby reinforcing the main objective of agricultural extension services. The finding agrees with Danso-Abbeam *et al* (2018) whose research showed a positive effect of formal extension programmes on farm productivity and income: Pest and disease management ($\bar{x}$ = 2.38) and increased knowledge on sustainable practices ($\bar{x}$ = 2.38) ranked second among the benefits. This suggests that utilisation of agricultural information significantly improves farmers' technical competence in managing production risks and adopting environmentally sustainable practices. This finding emphasizes the role of information dissemination in promoting adaptive capacity, reducing crop losses, and fostering long-term agricultural sustainability. However, improved social and economic status was the least benefit ($\bar{x}$ = 2.28) derived. This implies that although agricultural information contributes to productivity and technical gains, its direct translation into broader socio-economic transformation remains relatively limited. The finding suggests that productivity-related benefits may not automatically result in substantial improvements in farmers' overall welfare.

Table 3: Benefits Derived from Utilisation of Agricultural Information (n=130)

Benefits derived from agricultural information disseminated	Extent of benefits derived					
	High (%)	Moderate (%)	Low (%)	Not a benefit (%)	$\bar{x}$	Rank
Increased yield	46.2	50.8	3.1	0.0	2.43	1st
Pest and disease management	45.4	47.7	6.9	0.0	2.38	2nd
Increased knowledge on sustainable practices	44.6	49.2	6.2	0.0	2.38	2nd
Increased Income	43.1	51.5	4.6	0.8	2.37	4th
Improved product quality	39.2	55.4	5.4	0.0	2.34	5th
Better soil and environmental condition	44.6	45.4	8.5	1.5	2.33	6th
Improved market for products	41.5	49.2	9.2	0.0	2.32	7th
Improved social and economic status	38.5	51.5	9.2	0.8	2.28	8th

Source: Field survey, 2024

Constraints facing Respondents in the Utilisation of Agricultural Information

Results in Table 4 presented the mean ratings of constraints associated with the utilisation of agricultural information among the respondents. Inadequate capital to purchase farm input was the most severe ($\bar{x}$ = 1.44) constraint. This indicates that financial limitation constitutes the most critical barrier to effective utilisation of agricultural information. This implies that even when relevant information is accessible, farmers' inability to mobilize sufficient capital restricts the practical adoption of recommended innovations and technologies. Poor infrastructural facilities, such as lack of electricity, poor network connectivity, and inadequate transportation ($\bar{x}$ = 1.40), ranked second in severity. This suggests that structural deficiencies within the production and communication environment significantly impede information utilization, hence, emphasizing the importance of supportive infrastructure in facilitating timely access, interpretation, and implementation of agricultural information. This finding is in tandem with Shitaye *et al* (2024) who found out that poor network connectivity, transportation, and lack of reliable electricity were among the top constraints hindering access to agricultural advisory services and information. High technical expertise/complexity of information ($\bar{x}$ = 1.38) and agricultural information inconsistency with farmers' needs ($\bar{x}$ = 1.38) were found to be severe. This implies that both the sophistication of information content and its relevance to local farming realities influence utilisation outcomes. Religious/cultural barriers to agricultural information dissemination ranked the least severe ($\bar{x}$ = 1.26). This suggests that socio-cultural factors are comparatively less restrictive in the utilisation process.

Table 4: Constraints facing Respondents in the Utilisation of Agricultural Information (n=130)

Constraints of utilisation of agricultural information disseminated	Extent of constraint				
	Severe constraint (%)	Mild constraint (%)	Not a constraint (%)	$\bar{x}$	Rank
Inadequate capital to purchase farm inputs	51.5	40.8	7.7	1.44	1st
Poor infrastructural facilities, e.g. lack of electricity, poor network and transportation facilities, etc.	50.0	40.0	10.0	1.40	2nd
Inadequate follow-up of agricultural information disseminated	45.4	46.2	8.5	1.37	5th
High technical expertise/complexity of information disseminated	45.4	47.7	6.9	1.38	3rd
Religious/cultural barrier to agricultural information disseminated	40.8	44.6	6.9	1.26	9th
Irregular feedback opportunity	40.0	53.1	6.9	1.33	7th
Agricultural information inconsistent with needs	45.4	46.9	7.7	1.38	3rd
Presentation of agricultural information in a way that is not practicable	40.0	53.8	6.2	1.34	6th

The ambiguous content of agricultural information disseminated	40.0	51.5	8.5	1.32	8th

Source:2024

Utilisation of Agricultural Information by the Arable Crop Farmers

Results in Table 5a presented the respondents' utilisation of agricultural information across different farm operations. The use of agricultural information when selecting crop varieties recorded the highest ($\bar{x}$ = 2.47) utilisation. This indicates that information on crop variety selection constituted the most frequently applied aspect of agricultural information among the respondents. The finding implies that farmers recognise the importance of adopting suitable crop varieties for enhancing productivity, resilience and farm performance. This finding corroborates the report of Ben-Enukora et al. (2023), who observed that farmers predominantly utilised agricultural information that directly contributed to improved crop productivity and production efficiency.

Agricultural information on fertiliser application ($\bar{x}$ = 2.42) ranked second, while information on the safe handling and use of agrochemicals ($\bar{x}$ = 2.41) and disease prevention and management ($\bar{x}$ = 2.40) ranked third and fourth, respectively. These findings suggest that respondents placed considerable emphasis on utilising information related to crop nutrition, safe input use and crop protection. The implication is that farmers are more likely to apply agricultural information that offers immediate benefits in terms of increased yields, reduced production losses and improved environmental and human safety. However, agricultural information on determining seed rates for planting ($\bar{x}$ = 2.25) and land preparation techniques ($\bar{x}$ = 2.25) were the least utilised among the respondents. This implies that the farmers may be relying more on accumulated farming experience and indigenous knowledge when making decisions regarding these routine agronomic practices.

Generally, Table 5b reveals that utilisation of agricultural information was high among 67.0% of the respondents. This implies that majority of the farmers actively engaged with and applied the agricultural information received in their farming operations. However, 33.0% of the respondents were within the low utilisation category, suggesting that a considerable proportion of farmers still experience limitations in fully engaging with agricultural information.

Table 5a: Utilisation of Agricultural Information by the Farmers (n=130)

Statements on Agricultural Information Dissemination and Utilisation	Frequency of use: Always (%)	Occasionally (%)	Rarely (%)	Not at all (%)	$\bar{x}$	Rank
I use agricultural information when selecting crop varieties	51.5	43.8	4.6	0.0	2.47	1st
I apply the information for planting dates determination	46.9	44.6	6.9	1.5	2.37	6th
I use the information to determine seed rates for planting	40.8	45.4	12.3	1.5	2.25	13th
I apply the information on land preparation techniques	36.2	53.1	10.0	0.8	2.25	13th
I use agricultural information to guide fertiliser application	52.3	36.9	10.8	0.0	2.42	2nd
I apply the information on soil management practices	40.0	53.1	6.2	0.8	2.32	8th
I use agricultural information when selecting herbicides for weed control	45.4	43.1	10.8	0.8	2.33	7th
I apply agricultural information on recommended methods of weed management	46.2	41.5	8.5	3.8	2.30	11th
I use agricultural information to identify and control crop pests	43.8	44.6	10.0	1.5	2.31	10th
I apply the information on disease prevention and management	47.7	45.4	6.2	0.8	2.40	4th
I use the information on safe handling and use of agrochemicals	50.8	41.5	5.4	2.3	2.41	3rd

I use agricultural information to improve harvesting practices	45.4	49.2	5.4	0.0	2.40	4th
I use agricultural information to reduce losses during storage and transportation	43.8	45.4	9.2	1.5	2.32	8th
I apply information obtained to identify market opportunities	39.2	52.3	6.2	2.3	2.28	12th

Source: Field survey, 2024`

Table 5b: Categorisation of level Utilisation of Agricultural Information by the Farmers (n=130)

Level	Range	Freq.	Percent	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. d.
Low	< 1.50	43	33	0.00	3.00	2.30	0.07
High	≥1.50	87	67				
Total		**130**	**100.0**				

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concluded that arable crop farmers in Oyo State exhibited a high level of utilisation of agricultural information and maintained a favourable attitude towards its use, demonstrating that agricultural information is a vital resource for improving crop productivity, farm management, and sustainable agricultural practices. However, the effective utilisation of agricultural information was constrained by inadequate capital, poor infrastructural facilities, the technical complexity and limited relevance of disseminated information. The study concluded that agricultural extension agencies and policymakers should strengthen farmer-centred agricultural information delivery by providing timely, simplified, and locally relevant information through effective communication channels while enhancing the capacity of extension personnel to address the specific information needs of arable crop farmers. Also, government and relevant stakeholders should improve farmers' access to affordable production credit and invest in rural infrastructure, including transportation, electricity, and digital communication facilities, to facilitate the effective utilisation of agricultural information and enhance sustainable arable crop production.

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