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Food Security Status of Farming Households in Ogbomoso Agricultural Zone

T. A. Olaoye
Department of Agricultural Economics, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, P. M. B 4000, Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT
This study analyzed food security status of farming household in Ogbomoso agricultural zone, Nigeria. Multistage random sampling technique was used in selecting the respondent for the study. In the first stage, 60% of the total number of villages in Ogbomosho North (3 villages) and Ogbomoso South Local Government Areas (4 villages) were randomly selected while 10% of the villages in Ogo-Oluwa LGA (16 villages) were selected making a total of 23 villages. The third stage, 10% of the number of household in Ogbomosho North and South Local Government Areas were randomly sampled as well as 0.5% of the number of household in Ogo-Oluwa Local Government Area, to give a total of 148 households as respondents for the study. Data were subjected to descriptive statistics and food security index. The household made food (42.6% and mean of ₦13122.09) and education (21.95% and mean of ₦6761.49) priorities in their expenditure profile. About 37% of household are not food secured. Thus, an appreciable number of the respondents were not food secured. Food insecurity should be totally eradicated by given credit facilities of low interest rate and technical support to farmers.

Keywords-

Food security index; household expenditure

1. INTRODUCTION

It is a widely accepted fact that food is a basic necessity of life. Its importance at the household level is obvious since it is a basic means of sustenance (Helen, 2002). Adequate intake of quality food is a key requirement for healthy and productive life (Helen, 2002). However, it has been established that the quantity and quality of food consumed by households affects their health and economic well being (Adesimi and Ladipo, 1979). These in turn have significant repercussions on the general level of economic activities and productivity.

A country and its people are food secure when production, markets and social systems work in such a way that food consumption needs are always met (Maxwell, 1992). Food insecurity, in turn, is the lack of access to enough food and may be chronic or transitory. Chronic food insecurity is depicted by continuously inadequate diet caused by inability to acquire sufficient food in terms of quantity and quality. It affects households that persistently lack the ability either to buy enough food or to produce their own. Transitory food insecurity is a temporary decline in a household's access to enough food. It results from instability in food prices, food production, or household incomes and in its form, produces famine.

The per-capita growth of production of major foods in Nigeria has not been sufficient to satisfy the demands of an

increasing population (Karmawa, 1999). The result is a big gap between national supply and national demand for food. Progress in the agricultural sector has also remained unsatisfactory (Abdulahi, 1999). Common staples in most Nigeria homes are insufficient and do not provide a balanced diet, as malnutrition is prevalent in most homes.

The objectives of this are to;

- describe the socio-economic characteristic of the farming households in the study area,
- estimate the expenditure profile of household in the study area,
- ascertain the food security status of household in the study area.

2. METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Ogbomoso Zone of ADP in Oyo State. Ogbomoso zone was made of 5 Local Government Areas, Viz Orire, Ogo-Oluwa, Surulere, Ogbomoso North and Ogbomoso South. Ogbomoso was located approximately on Longitude $4^0$15' east of Greenwich and on latitude $8^0$7' north of the equator. The town was situated 104 kilometers north of Ibadan Oyo State capital; 51 kilometers South-West of Ilorin Kwara State capital' 53 kilometers North-West of Oyo town and 98 Kilometers North-East Oshogbo capital of Osun State.

Population of the study comprises of the selected samples of the total population of the entire farm households in Ogbomosho agricultural zone. Going by the village listing survey in Oyo State (OYSADEP, 2001) a multi stage random sampling technique was used in selecting the respondent for the study. In the first stage, 60% of the total number of villages in Ogbomosho North (3 villages) and Ogbomoso South Local Government Areas (4 villages) were randomly selected while 10% of the villages in Ogo-Oluwa LGA (16 villages) were selected making a total of 23 villages. The third stage, 10% of the number of household in Ogbomosho North and South Local Government Areas were randomly sampled as well as 0.5% of the number of household in Ogo-Oluwa Local Government Area, to give a total of 148 households as respondents for the study. Method of data collection was mainly with the use of well structured questionnaire.

Descriptive statistics was used to analyze socio-economic characteristics of household, expenditure profile of household and food security status of the household in the study area. This involved frequency tables and percentages.

Food security index:

Household were classified into food secure and food insecure status using food security index.

It is given by;

$$F_i = \frac{per\ capita\ \ food\ \ expenditure\ \ \ of\ the\ ith}{2/3\ mean\ \ per\ capita\ \ food\ \ expenditure\ \ \ of\ \ all\ \ house\ hols}$$

Where,

F_i = Food security index

$F_i \geq 1$ = Food secure ith household

$F_i \leq 1$ = Food insecure ith household

The household were classified into food secure and food insecure households using food security index, which was used to establish the food security status of various households.

A food secure household is therefore that whose per capital monthly food expenditure fall above or is equal to two-third of the mean per capital food expenditure. On the other hand, a food insecure household is that whose per capital food expenditure falls below two-third of the mean monthly per capital food expenditure.

3. DISCUSSION

Table 1, showed that majority of the respondents fell within the age range of 51-60 years. The mean age was 53 years. This indicated that the respondents had agility and vigor to carry out farming activity. Another interesting aspect, worthy of note, was that of age group less than or equal to 30 years which was just 4.1%. These respondents with an average of 55 years represented about 40.1 percent. The respondents that fell between age 31-40 were 8.2 percent, age 41-50 carried 32.5 percent while age 60 and above were 15.6 percent. This finding therefore agreed with Gbadegesin (2008) who found that the highest percentage of respondents of his study was between the age range of 30-60 years.

Table 1 showed the marital status of household heads in the sample for this study. Almost all the household heads were married and there were 8 widows. That is 94.6 percent were married while 5.4 percent were widows. Since majority of them were married, it was likely that they would be more stable in the study area and thus having a positive influence on their output and is expected to influence their level of contribution to household food security in the area. This study was in conformity with (Akintonde, 2009) that marital status was a fact that may suggested a high degree of level headedness and great capability or sound rational decisions among the farmers.

Table 1: Socio –economic characteristics of respondents and their household

Socio Economic Characteristics	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Age (years)		
< 30	6	4.1
31 – 40	12	8.2
41 – 50	48	32.5
51 – 60	59	40.1

>60	23	15.6
Mean = 53 years		
Marital status		
Married	140	94.6
Widowed	8	5.4

Field survey, 2010.

The summarized expenditure profile was presented in table 2. In all the thirteen basic items had been identified on the expenditure menu of the respondents. Out of the average household expenditure of ₦13,122.09, about 42.6 percent was spent on food. The expenditure on of food was the highest. Expenditure on education constituted the second largest at 21.95 percent.

Table 2: Distribution of household expenditure profile (₦/month)

Basic Item	**Mean**	**Percentage**
Food	13122.09	42.6
Cloth	2735.81	8.9
Rent	734.12	2.4
Transportation	2196.35	7.1
Health	1375.65	4.5
Education	6761.49	21..95
Electricity	445.34	1.5
Kerosene	1483.65	4.8

Water	178.04	0.5
Remittance	1662.16	5.3
Other expenses	94.59	0.31
Number of farm plots	3.86	0.01
Area of land holding	5.431	0.01

Field survey, 2010.On the Table 3, 63.5 percent of the household were food secure while 36.5 percent of the household were food insecured. This result was not in line with result obtained by Omotesho *et.al*, 2009 who revealed that 65.45% of the rural households were food insecured. Rice, maize, cowpea, gari, fish and palm oil consumed at 4.17, 18.59, 2.92, 2.66, 8.53 and 3.10 kg per week respectively constituted the least-cost food plan for the rural households.

Table 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of food security status

Food security status	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Food insecure	54	36.5
Food secure	94	63.5

Field survey, 2010.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The household made food and education priorities in their expenditure profile. Government should enact and implement policies aimed at improving food security: and education should be made free at all levels. An appreciable number of the respondents were not food secured. Food insecurity should be totally eradicated by given credit facilities of low interest rate and technical support to farmers.

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