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Agricultural information source use by women farmers in Orumba north local government aea of anambra state

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AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION SOURCE USE BY WOMEN FARMERS IN ORUMBA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ANAMBRA STATE

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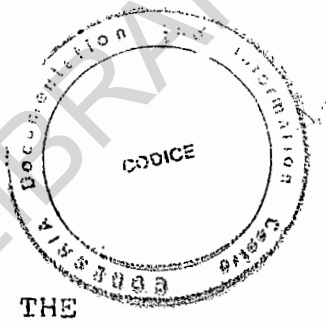

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE
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REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
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BY

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CERTIFICATION

Umeweni, Chinwe Adeline, a postgraduate student in the Department of Agricultural Extension and with the Registration Number PG/M.Sc/91/12380 has satisfactorily completed the requirements for course and research work for the degree of Master of Science in Agricultural Extension (Administration).

The work embodied in this project report is original and has not been submitted in part or full for any other University.

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D E D I C A T I O N

This work is dedicated to my parents, Mr. and Mrs N.U. Umeweni.

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Chinwe A. Umeweni

Nsukka

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A B S T R A C T

This study was aimed at identifying the various sources of farm information accessible to women farmers in Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State; determining to what extent they use the information sources; ascertaining the relationship between selected socio-economic characteristics of women farmers and their use of the sources of farm information; and also ascertaining general and specific attitudes of the women farmers towards the information source as a measure of source credibility and salience.

An interview schedule was used to elicit information from the women farmers with the aid of the women leaders in each of the towns under study, while the schedule was given to the educated ones to fill as questionnaire. A simple random sample of 100 respondents in five towns from the study area was taken.

Statistical techniques used for data analysis included percentage, mean scores, standard deviation and correlation. The major findings revealed that women farmers preferred getting farm information through interpersonal sources, such as friends, relatives, women co-operatives and meetings organised for women farmers. There was a positive significant relationship between

the socio-economic characteristics of the women farmers and the various sources of farm information. Therefore, information source use was highly related and dependent upon the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers.

Analysis of the attitude statements indicated that women felt that they should be allowed to own farmlands in rural communities and be given free hand to take decisions on farm activities so that they could increase their farm productivity.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Problem

The process of increasing efficiency of agricultural production through agricultural modernization depends mainly on the extent to which farmers can incorporate into their farming operations improved agricultural practices. To adopt improved agricultural practices, farmers must first become aware of the existence of such practices, develop interest in them, evaluate, try and become convinced of their relevance and usefulness before finally adopting the practices. Since the adoption process involves a series of stages, farmers rely on a variety of sources of information to lead them from the awareness stage to the adoption stage (Bogunjoko, 1983).

The basic tenet of the diffusion of innovation theory on which most extension work is built is that dissemination of information is the basic sociological process potentially leading to increased agricultural productivity through adoption of new and/or improved farm practices (Monu and Omole, 1982).

Studies have shown that a variety of information sources are needed in disseminating farm information

(Voh, 1979; Obibuaku and Hursh, 1974; Rogers, 1970); there are variations in the extent to which farmers use different information sources (Williams, 1968); and the use of information sources as it relates to socio-economic status (Patel and Ekpere, 1978).

Lately, there has been a great deal of interest in quantifying/acknowledging the contributions of women in agricultural development and production. Women in agriculture generally have not received equitable opportunities, rewards or decision-making privileges (FAO, 1983). Typically, they have encountered more difficulty than men in gaining access to land, credit, technical services and commercial market outlets. This potentially limit food production and family imcome. New ways to provide assistance to women directly as well as through families are therefore, needed.

It then becomes pertinent to carry out a study on identifying information sources available to women and the degree of their use and probably make some recommendations to improve the position of women in agriculture. Women farmers make significant contributions to the rural economy. First, some are farmers in their own right, while others help on their husbands' farms, particularly in planting, fertilizer application and

harvesting. Second, food processing such as sun-drying and smoking of fresh fish, converting yam and cassava tubers into flour, parboiling rice, is mainly undertaken by women (Adekanye, 1985). Enabor (1981) stated in his study of Taungya system in Nigeria that women play a very important role in Taungya farming system. Taungya farming system is a forest land management system involving joint and simultaneous production of food and forest crops. For instance, in a study on the labour input of women in sowing and tending of food crops under the Taungya system in South-West Nigeria, women accounted on the average, for forty-eight percent of total labour input in sowing and tending of food crops. Women were primarily responsible for sowing subsidiary crops, accounting for seventy-six percent of the total labour input in this activity (Enabor, 1981).

In another study on food crops production operations by women farmers in Eastern Nigeria, seventy percent of the women surveyed said they took part in clearing, sixty-one percent in stumping and removing sticks, fifty-three percent in ridging or making mounds, planting, seventy-two percent, staking forty-eight percent, weeding seventy-three percent, applying fertilizer

fifty-three percent, harvesting seventy-one percent and processing forty-two percent (Uwaka et al., 1991). Although it is increasingly being recognised that women in developing countries are important in attaining the objectives of national development, it would appear from the lack of attention paid to women farmers that planners have the assumption that either agricultural producers are all men or that the problems that women farmers face are insignificant (Lijongwa, 1981).

Despite the acknowledgement of women's important role in agriculture, women continued to be ignored by the extension service (Lijongwa, 1981; Adekanye, 1985). They had fewer opportunities than men to contact extension officers who were almost invariably men and whose services were geared to male farmers. For instance, in a survey of a village in the Morogoro region in Tanzania, no female extension officers were found. However, it is almost impossible for male extension staff to deal effectively, if at all, with the village women because customs and cultural and religious constraints make it difficult for them to contact the women directly (Lijongwa, 1981). The situation appears to be the same in Nigeria especially in the Northern parts, where religion (Moslem) prevents a man from interacting with women openly.

For instance, Uwaka et al (1991) found that, although more women than men were involved in agriculture, agricultural extension services were directed almost totally towards men. The problem, therefore, is that the women farmers have not been benefiting from extension service which is one of the major sources of agricultural information.

If dissemination of information is accepted as one of the key elements of adoption process, and that women play a dominant role in agriculture, then the need to identify those sources of information that women farmers use and their relative usefulness, considering women's socio-economic situations. It is hoped that such an analysis may help guide agricultural communicators/extension professionals in their choice of information channels for disseminating agricultural information to women farmers especially in Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

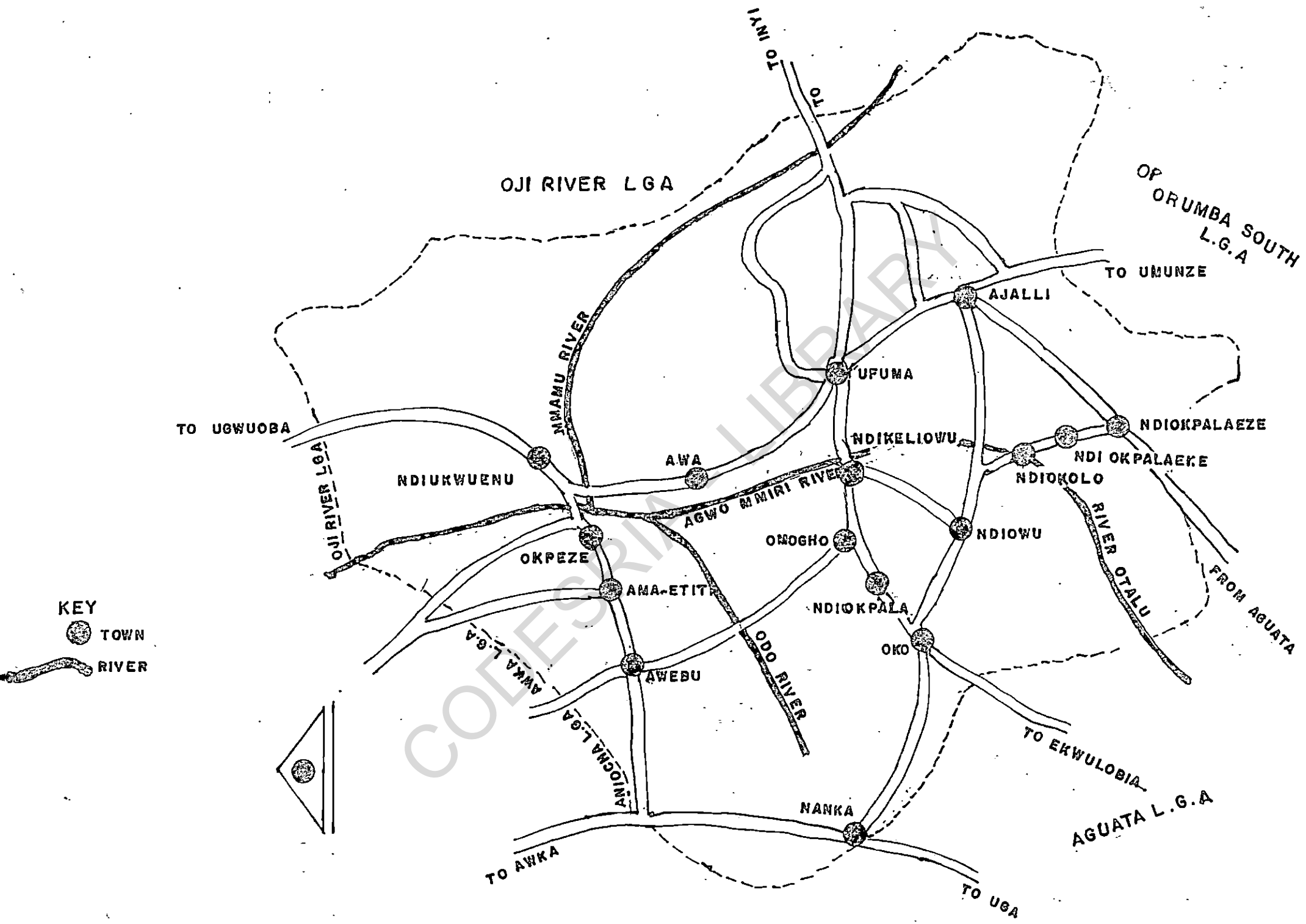
1.2 Purpose and Objective of the Study

The overall purpose of this study is to identify the various sources of farm information accessible to women farmers in Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State. Specifically, the study is designed to:

1. identify various sources of farm information used by women farmers;
2. determine to what extent the women farmers use the information sources;
3. ascertain the relationship between selected socio-economic characteristics of women farmers and their use of the sources of farm information; and
4. ascertain the attitudes of the women farmers towards the information sources as a measure of source credibility and salience.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The Federal Government policy on agriculture and rural development of the present Administration has been to raise the productivity of the farmers, a greater part of which are women. The study would therefore, examine the sources of farm information available to women farmers in order to determine focus of education/communication effort. It would reveal the sources of farm information accessible to them and would probably be able to communicate information on agriculture through those sources.



ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF ORUMBA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

The study would also identify attitude of women farmers to issues related to agriculture and information source use so that such issues could be included in agricultural programmes aimed at providing better production education for women farmers.

Finally, it would provide extension professionals empirical evidence to determine women's preferred information sources for more effective communication effort.

1.4 The Study Area

Orumba North Local Government Area is one of the newly-created Local Governments in Anambra State. It is bounded in the North by Oji-River Local Government Area of Enugu State, in the South by Aguata Local Government Area, in the East by Aniocha Local Government Area and in the West by Orumba South Local Government Area, all in Anambra State.

In terms of agricultural potentialities, the Local Government has rich and vast agricultural resources. It is also endowed with fertile land in such areas as Awa, Omorgho, Amaokpala, Ndiowu and Ufuma, where large quantities of crops, notably rice, is produced.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

There is a wide range of literature on women in agriculture and diffusion of new agricultural practices among Nigerian farmers. None of the reports has focused specifically on information sources use by women farmers. Therefore, this section reviews the general trend in farmers' use and sources of farm information, highlighting any section in which women farmers have come under focus.

Women in traditional agrarian settings contribute more to food production and family earnings in skilled labour and entrepreneurship than is generally known or accepted. In Latin America, for instance, where factory-based processing of agricultural products began in the 1950s, female labour has been overwhelmingly utilized. The sorting and packing of vegetables and fruits employs a nearly all-female labour force. In Sincelayo, Columbia, large investments in tobacco cultivation led to the opening of a local processing plant, employing women who formally made cigars in home-based industry (FAO, 1983).

The FAO (1983) reported that women made a lot of contribution in aquaculture (fish farming). Women's main

commercial role in marine and fresh water fisheries was to be found essentially in processing and trading. All over the world where traditional methods of preserving fish are still in practice, women often constitute the majority of processors.

Yap (1980) stated that a wife would look after the pond, feed the fish and prepare the feed but that her involvement declines with larger sized ponds when male labour is needed. An ESCAP Report (1981) states that women in the Philippines spend from five percent to one hundred percent of their working time on pond cultivations depending upon the scale of production.

A UN (1975) report revealed that an estimate of time rural women spend on various agricultural activities in Africa based on studies by anthropologists, sociologists and extension workers, show that women account for two-thirds of all the hours spent in traditional African agriculture, and three-fifths of the hours spent on marketing. According to FAO (1983) report, women traders handle sixty to ninety percent of the domestically-produced farm and marine produce consumed in West African countries.

From a regional case study in Cajamara (Peru), Deere and Leal (1982) provided detailed agricultural data which showed that women were the primary or secondary

persons charged with crop production in eighty-six percent of the house-holds and animal production ninety-five percent.

In another study on persons employed in agriculture in Ghana, Ewusi (1978) indicated that while women constitute more than one-half of staple crop and vegetable farmers, one-third of farmers producing cash crops such as cocoa, rice and sugar-cane, about one-fourth of tobacco, coconut and oil palm cash crop farmers and three-fifths of all cotton farmers were women. About one-fifth of all poultry farmers, farm managers and forestry workers and two-fifths of all coffee farm managers also were women.

Hansen (1969) conducted a study throughout the Near East and concluded that, whether or not women work very much in food or cash crop agriculture, they are almost everywhere heavily involved in dairy production. They are also skilled livestock breeders. In Egypt, for instance, farm women may perform less than twenty percent of all productive work in the field, whereas they may contribute more than sixty percent of the work with livestock. Poultry, egg and dairy products are also often sold by women.

The FAO (1983) reported that in many rural places, migration of men and other changes in farming systems

are placing even greater burdens on women as mainstays of small-scale agriculture, the farm labour force and day to day family subsistence. It identified two factors that brought about a stronger confirmation of the involvement of African women in food production and an increase in their world load as, (1) fiscal and corvee policies of the early colonial period drew men from the villages to work on plantations, in mines or in road building; and (2) the spread of cash crops, particularly in the 1920s and 1930s. The report further stressed that Women's labour inputs for food production often increased because men had less time to assist them. Men also found that they could not cultivate cash crops without the assistance of their wives or hired labour. Thus, women had more work producing food and were also likely to be required to assist with cash crops.

In another study by Uwakah et al (1991), they maintained that women's role in farming was progressively increasing, and that their contributions to agriculture had become crucial to Nigeria's national development. Rural women individually or in groups were taking the lead in meeting this national challenge by filling the agricultural labour gap created by the out-migration of more-active, better-educated men.

Rural women generally have poor access to agricultural information services. For example, a study conducted by Uwakah et al (1991) on the Role of Rural Women as Farmers in Eastern Nigeria, confirmed that seventy-four percent of the women said that male extension workers do not work with women.

In an investigation into channels of farm information, Monu (1983) reported that radio topped the list of the sources of information among the traditional farmers who formed part of his repondents. In another study, Monu and Omole (1982) discovered that a majority of the respondents (seventy-five percent) received information concerning agricultural innovations through radio, followed by fifty-one percent who acquired their information from extension agents. Television ranked lowest with about one percent of the respondents. Obibuaku (1976) in the study of NORCAP agricultural extension project in Abakaliki, established that radio proved to be the most effective medium for creating awareness among farmers. In a similar project, Monu (1983) studied the diffusion of innovation model in the Funtua Agricultural Development Project. He reported that radio topped the list in the sources of information among the traditional farmers who formed part of his respondents.

Another important source of farm information mentioned in other studies isnthe extension agent. For example, in an investigation into the impact of the World Bank Rice Project in Awka and Nsukka Agricultural Zones, Ononamadu (1984) reported that farmers learnt of recommended new inputs from extension agents of the World Bank Rice Project. Uzuegbunam (1981) found that eighty percent of his subjects became aware of the National Accelerated Food Production Project and its innovation packages from extension workers. In another study, Agba (1980) also found that the extension agent was the most important source followed by radio and other farmers. In their own study, Clarke and Akinbode (1968) not only found the extension agent to be an important source, but also found a significant association between farmers' adoption index and their frequency of contact with extension staff. Basu (1969) also reported similar results after a study of the adoption behaviour of farmers in four villages in Western Nigeria. He reported that farmers who had more contact with extension workers adopted new practices more than those who had less contact with them.

In some other studies, however, the predominance of some other sources of information was reported.

For example, Obibuaku and Hursh (1974) showed, in their study of farm practice adoption in the Eastern States of Nigeria, that farmers shared information on agricultural innovations with fellow farmers. Axium and Axium (1969) found in their study that inter-personal communication was the main kind of communication among farmers in some rural Nigerian villages. Feliciano (1969) identified the field worker (Extension worker) as the central character in the drama of change in the villages of the sub-region that were covered by Extension programmes.

Fernandez (1974), while commenting on other peoples' study on the best method for communication of innovations to farmers stated that alternative systems of communication, based largely on inter-personal channels but complemented with mass media messages, should be sought for the communication of agricultural development in rural areas. Feliciano (1974) enumerated other sources of farm information as the village elders, the farmer and his wife, neighbours, relatives and friends, religious leaders, community leaders (often the village council members, formal and informal groups and various types of traditional/folk media).

McEwen and Hempel (1977) were of the opinion that information source are used by audience members for specific purpose and, therefore, preference for (and use of) the sources would change according to the needs addressed.

2.1 Theoretical Considerations

In this study, information sources are categorised in terms of (i) the delivery system (inter-personal and mediated sources), (ii) topic and audience specialization (in the case of inter-personal sources whether professional or non-professional), and (iii) print or broadcast media.

Inter-personal sources, sometimes referred to as "face-to-face" channels, have a distinct feature of an almost immediate feed-back. Mediated sources, sometimes broadly referred to as the media, are those in which communication is mediated by objects other than persons and involves some delay in feed-back. More often, it is a one-way communication. Mediated sources include newspapers, television, magazines, radio and books (Foo, 1980).

Professional inter-personal sources are so called on the assumption that individuals go to them because of the sources' relevant professional back-ground. Extension agents are, for instance,

professional inter-personal sources. Non-professional sources are those arising out of informal social relationships. They include, friends, relatives, and neighbours sought for advice.

Rogers (1962) stated that sources of information can also be grouped into personal and impersonal communications. Personal information source involves a direct face-to-face exchange between the communicator and receiver and is most important at the evaluation state of the adoption process where mental judgement of the innovation is made. Impersonal information sources do not involve a direct face-to-face exchange between the communicator and communicatee. Impersonal communications nearly always are spread via the mass media and are most important at awareness stage.

Sawhney (1976) categorised information sources using a classification scheme that synthesizes those of Rogers and Meynen, Wilson and Gallup. The categories are:

1. Personal-localite sources such as family members, neighbours and friends, co-operative store-men, shop-keepers and farmers own observations from the neighbours' farm.
2. Personal-Cosmopolite sources (extension agents). This category is divided into two sub-categories on the basis of communication media cited.

a) Individual-contact media such as farm and home visits, result demonstrations and office calls.

b) Group-contact media such as method demonstration, result demonstration meetings (the attendance by a farmer in a result demonstration connected meeting at someone else's farm or home), informal group discussions and field days.

3. Mass media sources including exhibits, films, posters and flannel-graphs, publications (pamphlets and bulletins), radio and newspaper.

Looking at the information sources as categorised by the above authors, there appears to be no major differences amongst them except that some, such as mediated sources, are better used at awareness stages, while personal sources are used at the evaluation stages of adoption process. Also, no one source is assumed to be the best. Rather, the type of information to be disseminated determines the source to be used. Again, the sources appear to be more effective where, for instance, mass media complements personal communication.

Source credibility is provided as an important factor in information source use. Studies in source credibility were the concern of researchers interested in attitude change. Prominent among them were Hovland, et al (1952). Source credibility has two components - trustworthiness and expertness.

The concept of source credibility is best explained by Hovland et al (1953).

> An individual's tendency to accept a conclusion advocated by a given communicator will depend in part upon how well-informed and intelligent he believes the communicator to be. However, a recipient may believe that a communicator is capable of transmitting valid statements, but still be inclined to reject the communication if he suspects the communicator is motivated to make non-valid assertions. It seems necessary, therefore, to make a distinction between (i) the extent to which a communicator is perceived to be a source of valid assertions (his expertness) and (ii) the degree of confidence in the communicator's intent to communicate the assertions he considers most valid (his trustworthiness).

Studies by Hovland and his associates indicate that a person exposed to a "low credibility" source would learn as much as what is said as would a person exposed to a "high credibility" source, but there would be a lower acceptance of the recommendation in the former case.

Other researchers have suggested that credibility be considered in terms of message-related (crddibility) and purely source-related (likeability) components of source evaluation (Stone and Eswara, 1969). In this study, the researcher examined information source use from the perspectives of factors related to source credibility, that is, expertness, trustworthiness, likeability and credibility.

Concept of "Salience"

Salience of an event or object to a person implies how much the event or object means to that individual (Foo, 1980). One effect of salience is that it cognitively prepares an individual to react to a topic, an object or event. Salience results in a perceptional readings to attend and recall events (Grantz et al, 1976).

In information seeking studies, the concept salience seems to have three implications. First, salience implies "importance" of a topic, object or event, that is, what is important is more likely to be cognitively kept for later use. Second, salience implies interest in a topic, that is, an interesting topic or event would more likely be attended to. Third, salience also implies familiarity, as it influences recognition of topic or event. According to Grantz et al (1976), salience is positively related to the number of sources attended and to the extent of information diffusion. Salience is seen to also influence an individual's information-processing behaviour which is related to information utilization, hence its relevance in information source use studies.

In summary, the extent of use of any new information about an innovation will, in general, depend on (1) the person or group originating the message, that is, the

communicator, or source; (2) the content of the message, that which is to be communicated; (3) the medium or media employed; and (4) the communicatee, that is, the person receiving the message.

These components are in general affected by a factor in information source use known as source credibility. The receiver may have a negative attitude towards the source and still accept the message if he feels that the message is valid and vice-versa. The communicatee may also accept the source and the message as being valid assertions depending on how knowledgeable (expertness) the source is and the source's capability in transmitting valid statement. Salience is a concept that also moderates the relationship between the receiver and perception of source/message credibility. The implication here is one of interest and importance of the message to the receiver. If the message is important and the receiver is interested, he is likely to accept it irrespective of his perception of the source credibility. But where the receiver is not interested in the message, no matter the degree of trust in the source and the source expertness, the receiver is unlikely to be interested. The exposition in this section is schematically represented in Figure 1. The figure indicates that information source use is a function of

source orientation and the degree to which a message tends to be moderated by source credibility (expertness, trustworthiness, salience).

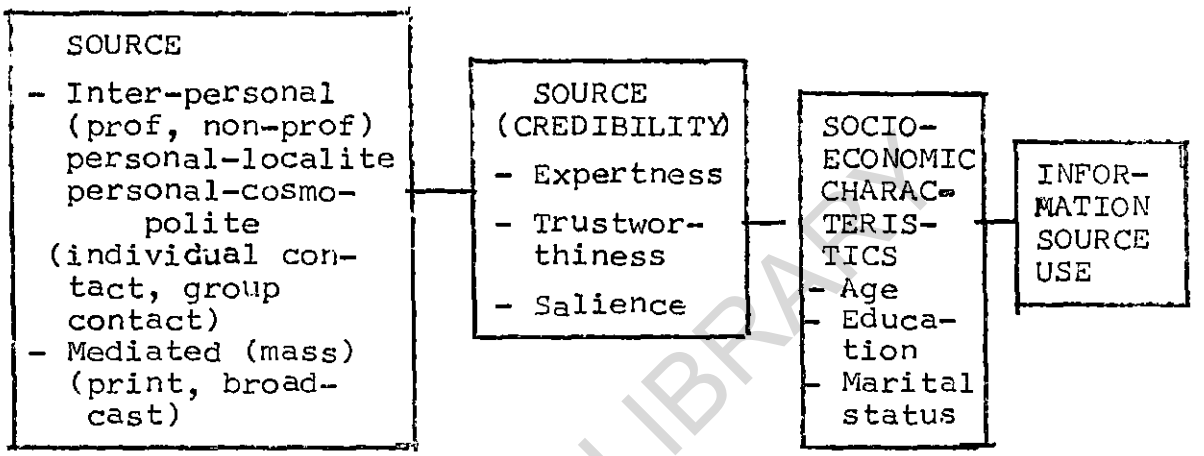


Fig. 1: A Conceptual Representation of Information Source and Use

2.2 Hypotheses Statement

Based on the pattern of finding reported in the studies reviewed and the objectives of this study, the following main hypotheses and sub-hypotheses are proposed for testing in this study:

G.H: There is no significant relationship between socio-economic characteristics of women farmers and their use of identified sources of farm information.

S.H.1: There is no significant relationship between women farmers' level of educational achievement and perceived usefulness of the various sources of farm information.

S.H.2 There is no significant relationship between farmers' age and their use of professional inter-personal sources.

S.H.3 Use of farm information is independent of the farmers' marital status.

S.H.4 There is no significant relationship between farmers' attendance to training workshops and frequent attention to professional inter-personal source of farm information.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sampling Technique

The lottery-type random sampling technique was used. The names of the fifteen towns that make up the Local Government under study were written separately on a sheet of paper and folded. These were put in a bag and five towns randomly selected from them by dipping hand into the bag. They are Ndikerionwu, Nanka, Omoghor, Awa and Amaokpara.

3.2 Sample Size

Using the same lottery-type sampling technique, a sample of 20 women farmers (per town) was drawn from a list of women farmers in each of the five towns under study. This amounted to a sample size of one hundred respondents.

A woman farmer was defined in this study as a woman who devotes at least fifty percent or more of her time to farming.

3.3 Instrument and Methodology

Interview schedule was used to elicit information from the women farmers with the aid of the women leaders in each of the towns, while the schedule was given to the educated ones to fill

as questionnaire. The interviewers were given a short training to standardize procedures.

3.4 Methods of Data Analysis

One hundred (100) copies of questionnaire were duly completed and returned. Data collected from the one hundred respondents were coded and computerized. Data relating to personal profile of respondents such as educational attainment, age and socio-economic status were presented, using frequency distribution by numbers, percentages and means. The results were used to describe the biographic characteristics of the farmers.

In terms of the hypotheses developed for testing, the variables involved in each hypothesis were analysed, using the correlational analysis to determine the degree of relationships between the farmers' source use and their socio-economic characteristics. The results of these tests were used to determine the significance of relationship between the variables and, therefore, to reject or accept the hypotheses.

Means and standard deviation were used to analyse opinion statements or attitude statements of the farmers. In addition, a four-point Likert-type scale was developed and used to determine how often the respondents pay attention to the various

sources of farm information, and the usefulness of the various sources of farm information to the respondents. A three-point Likert-type scale was used to assess the degree to which the respondents believed the information obtained from various sources. The responses from the respondents were weighted as follows:

How often they Pay Attention to the Various Scources

Never	-	1
Sometimes	-	2
Often	-	3
Very often	-	4

Usefulness of the Various Sources

Not Useful	-	1
Fairly Useful	-	2
Useful	-	3
Most Useful	-	4

Credibility of the Sources

Not Credible	-	1
Sometimes	-	2
Always	-	3

Responses from the 4-point and 3-point scales for each information source were later categorized by finding the mean scores of response for each source of farm information.

Distribution Based on How Often the Respondents Pay Attention to Information from Each Source

Using the 4-point Likert scale, the respondents were asked to tick how often they read or listen (pay attention) to information from the various sources of farm information (see Table 6). Mean scores of 2.5 or above were classified as frequent attention to the item or frequent use, while the mean scores below 2.5 were classified as infrequent attention or occasional use of information sources.

Distribution Based on the Usefulness of Each of the Sources

The same 4-point scale was used to determine how useful each of the sources of farm information were to the respondents. The women farmers were asked to tick the sources they found useful to their interest and needs concerning farming. Mean scores of 2.5 or above were classified as moderately useful and most useful, respectively, while mean scores of less than 2.16 were classified as of little use.

Distribution Based on the Degree to Which the Farmers Believe Information from the Various Sources as True

A 3-point Likert scale was used to determine the credibility of each of the sources to the women farmers. The respondents were asked to tick the sources they believed that the information from them was true.

Mean scores of 2 or above were classified as high credibility, while mean scores below 2 were classified as having low credibility.

Respondents' Disposition Toward Information Source Uses

Several Likert-type statements were included in the survey instrument to assess the respondents' attitudes towards some aspects of information source use and some general statements. These were presented as

a) attitude towards active search for information
b) locus of control
c) attitude towards information credibility
d) perceptions of land rights
e) attitude towards seeking for information.

These attitude items were assumed to be metric measures which would thus justify the use of parametric statistics (Napier and Camboni, 1988). Possible responses to the items ranged from "Strongly disagree" weighted 1, to "Strongly agree", weighted 5. To prevent a response set, both positive and negative items were included.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The findings of the study were presented in three parts. First is a description of the distribution of the relevant variables. It is a descriptive analysis of some characteristics of the respondents. The second part deals with the testing of hypotheses. It is a relational analysis between sources of farm information and other variables (socio-economic characteristics) of the farmers. The third part deals with analysis of women farmers' attitude toward general and specific issues in farming and information source use.

BIOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

4.1 Table 1: Age of Respondents (N = 100)

Age	Percentage
30-40	41.0
41-50	44.0
51-60	2.0
61 and above	2.0
No response	11.0
Total	100.0

Table 1 shows the percentage distribution of the respondents according to age categories. The mean age of all respondents was 48 years. Of the one hundred farmers who participated in this study, forty-one percent were between 30 and 40 years, forty-four percent between

41 and 50 years and two percent between 51 and 60 years of age, while two percent were 61 years or older. Eleven percent of the respondents did not indicate their ages.

Table 2: Educational Level of Respondents (N = 100)

Educational Level	Percentage
No formal education	42.0
Primary school	27.0
Post-primary/Teacher Training College	25.0
Tertiary Institution	6.0
Total	100.0

4.2 Educational Level of Respondents

Table 2 shows the percentage distribution of the respondents' educational level. More than half (fifty-two percent) of the respondents attended primary and post-primary schools. Forty-two percent of the respondents indicated they had never attended any formal school. Twenty-seven percent had primary school education. Twenty-five percent said they had secondary school education, while six percent indicated they attended tertiary instituion.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status (N = 100)

Marital Status	Percentage
Married	91.0
Widowed	8.0
Single	1.0
Total	100.0

4.3 Marital Status of Respondents

Table 3 shows the percentage distribution of the respondents according to their marital status. Ninety-one percent of respondents were married, eight percent widowed, while one percent was found to be single.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Training Workshops Attended (N = 100)

Number of Times	Percentage
None	57.0
One to two times	24.0
Three to four times	1.0
More than (four times)	15.0
No response	3.0
Total	100.0

4.4 Distribution of Respondents Based on Training Workshops Attended

Table 4 shows the percentage distribution of respondents based on training workshops attended.

When asked to indicate how many agricultural training workshops they had attended in the past two years, three percent of the respondents declined to give any response. Out of the remaining ninety-seven women farmers, fifty-seven percent said they had never attended any. Twenty-four percent said they attended one to two times, one percent attended three to four times, while fifteen percent participated in more than four training workshops.

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents by Years of Farming Experience (N = 100)

Years of Farming Experience	Percentage
1 - 10	19.0
11 - 20	65.0
21 - 30	14.0
No response	2.0
Total	100.0

4.5 Farming Experience of the Respondents

Table 5 shows the distribution of the respondents by farming experience. The table indicates a mean farming experience of fifteen years. Nineteen percent of the respondents said they had farmed for one to ten years, sixty-five percent for eleven to twenty years, while the remaining fourteen percent had spent between twenty-one and thirty years.

4.6 Sources of Farm Information Used by Women Farmers

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents by How Often they Pay Attention to Information from Each Source

(N = 100)

S/No.	Farm Information Sources	Mean Score ($\bar{X}$)
1	Husband	3.24
2	Neighbours	3.03
3	Friends	2.86
4	Relatives	2.77
5	Other farmers	2.57
6	Radio	1.74
7	Television	1.73
8	Male Extension Agent	1.64
9	Agricultural books	1.47
10	Female Extension Agent	1.44
11	Newspaper	1.43
12	Extension bulletin	1.16

The data in Table 6 show that invariably women farmers pay attention or listen to farm information fron non-professional inter-personal source more often than mediated and professional inter-personal sources (e.g. husbands ($\bar{X}$ = 3.24), extension agent ($\bar{X}$ = 1.44), television ($\bar{X}$ = 1.73), female extension agent ($\bar{X}$ = 1.44), etc. This may be due to the fact that they were more disposed to non-professional inter-personal sources than they were to professional sources.

4.7 Usefulness of Each of the Sources

Table 7: Distribution of Respondents Based on the Usefulness of Each of the Sources

S/No.	Farm Information Sources	Mean Frequency Use ($\bar{X}$)
1	Husbands	3.47
2	Other farmers	3.20
3	Relatives	3.07
4	Friends	2.91
5	Women Co-operatives	2.73
6	Meetings organised for women farmers	2.21
7	Female extension agents	2.17
8	Meetings organised for all farmers	2.16
9	Radio	1.94
10	Television	1.81
11	Male extension agents	1.73
12	Newspaper	1.69

The data in Table 7 indicate that generally women farmers found the various sources of farm information useful to their needs and interest concerning farming. However, they also found interpersonal sources more useful than mediated sources. Women co-operatives and other farmers, for instance, have a mean usefulness scores of 2.73 and 3.20, respectively. On the other hand, radio and television have mean usefulness scores of 1.94 and 1.81, respectively. This may be because almost seventy

percent of the respondents had primary or no formal education. So, they preferred inter-personal sources where everything was explained to them probably in their local language or dialect. Moreover, inter-personal communication is a two-way communication where the farmer could ask questions and get feed-backs.

4.8 Credibility of the Information Sources

Table 8: Distribution of Information Sources Based on Credibility and Salience (N = 100)

S/No.	Farm Information Sources	Mean Score ($\bar{X}$)
1	Husbands	3.10
2	Friends	3.01
3	Other farmers	3.00
4	Relations	3.00
5	Women Co-operatives	2.75
6	Meetings organised for women farmers	2.54
7	Female extension agents	2.10
8	Meetings organised for all farmers	2.01
9	Television	1.17
10	Radio	1.04
11	Male extension agents	1.32
12	Newspaper	1.12

Table 8 shows that the respondents perceived inter-personal sources as more credible than mediated sources. This is confirming the women farmers'

preference for inter-personal sources over mediated and other sources and also in agreement with Axium and Axium's (1969) studies which indicated that inter-personal communication was the main kind of communication among farmers in some rural Nigerian villages.

Table 9: Summary Table of the Correlational Analysis of the Items

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
	Use of Friends	Use of Husbands	Use of Relations	Use of Other Farmers	Use of Women Co-operatives	Use of Meetings Organised for Women Farmers	Use of Meetings Organised for all Farmers	Use of Female Extension Agents	Use of Male Extension Agents	Use of Newspapers	Use of Television	Use of Radio
Age	r.063	r-.043	6.066	r-.0413	r.1969	r.3836*	r.2581*	r-.0680	r.1409	r-.0958	r-.0262	r-.0166
Marital Status	r.1089	r-.0748	r-.0680	r-.2172*	r-.2019*	r-.0939	r-.1180	r-1719	r-.0626	r-.1328	r-.0976	r-.1025
Educational Level	r.4726*	r.3131*	r-.0899	r.0601	r.0100	r.0695	r.2159*	r.3070*	r.0007	r.2259	r.1073	r.5095*
Land Holding	r-.0850	r.0500	r.1756	r.2235*	r.3392*	r-.0836	r-.0688	r.1582	r-.1917	r.2129*	r-.1354	r-.1709
Training Workshops	r.2146*	r.1761	r-.1768	r-.0021	r.3877*	r.3406*	r.2198*	r.3918*	r.0610	r.3691*	r.1340	r.3564*

*Significante at .05 level (P < .05)

4.9 Testing of Hypotheses

Five hypotheses were tested to answer the key questions undergirding this study.

General Hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between socio-economic characteristics of women farmers and their use of identified sources of farm information.

S.H.1: There is no significant relationship between farmers' age and their use of professional inter-personal sources. The ages of the respondents were correlated with the various sources of farm information and the following results were obtained:

The result, presented in Table 9, reveals that ages of the respondents correlated positively and significantly with use of professional inter-personal sources (meetings organised for women farmers and meetings organised for all farmers) at .05 level. Their ages also correlated positively with non-professional inter-personal sources including friends, relatives and women co-operatives as sources of farm information (Table 9). This means that as the farmers get older, they seek more and more information from professional inter-personal sources. However, age correlated negatively with husband and other farmers.

The analysis shows significant relationship between age and professional inter-personal sources. Therefore, the null hypothesis of no significant relationship is rejected.

S.H.2: There is no significant relationship between farmers' level of educational achievement and perceived usefulness of the various sources of farm information.

Using correlational analysis, the various sources of farm information were correlated with educational achievements of the respondents and the results showed that there was a positive significant relationship between educational achievement and the use of the following information sources: radio, newspapers, female extension agents, meetings organised for all farmers, meetings organised for women farmers, husbands and friends at .05 level (Table 9). This shows that educational achievement predisposes one to using different sources of farm information, emphasis being more on professional. The positive correlation obtained also indicates that the more educated an individual, the more exposed the person becomes to sources of information. The finding is supported by Foo (1980) whose study indicated that more educated fathers and mothers tend to perceive general media sources as more useful. Null hypothesis is therefore rejected.

S.H.3: Source use of farm information is independent of the farmers' marital status.

A cross-tabulation of use of sources of farm information and marital status shows a negative correlation with all the sources except friends (Table 9). But marital status correlated significantly but negatively with use of other farmers and women co-operatives at .05 level. Null hypothesis is therefore rejected.

S.H.4: There was no significant relationship between farmers' attendance to training workshops and their frequent attention to professional inter-personal sources of farm information.

Attendance to training workshops was correlated with use of professional inter-personal sources. There was a positive significant relationship between attendance to training workshops and the use of professional inter-personal sources, but did not correlate significantly with male extension agents (Table 9). The correlation with female extension agents was highly significant at .05 level. This shows that the respondents tend to accept and feel free with female extension agents, may be because of sex similarity. Positive correlation existing between attendance to training workshops and use of

professional inter-personal sources shows that the more farmers were exposed to training workshops the more they sought information from professional inter-personal sources. The null hypothesis of no significant relationship is therefore rejected.

Analysis of the Attitude Statement of the Respondents 4.10:

Table 10: Respondents' Attitude Towards Active Search for Information

S/ No.	Statements	Mean Score $\bar{X}$	Standard Deviation (SD)
1	A woman should be willing to actively search for information that will aid her agricultural activities	4.31	0.7
2	A married woman should depend on her husband for information that will help her improve her farm practice	2.96	1.1
3	Female extension agents are the best source of farm information	3.48	0.9
		Mean Scale Value = 10.8	

To assess the respondents' perceptions about the need to actively search for farm information, a set of three attitude statements were developed. The distribution of the responses were presented in Table 10. The data tend to suggest that women farmers strongly agreed

that they should actively search for information that would aid their agricultural activities ($\bar{X}$ = 4.31); that female extension agents were the best source of farm information ($\bar{X}$ = 3.48). However, the respondents were undecided on whether or not married women should depend on their husbands for information that would help improve their farm practice ($\bar{X}$ = 2.96).

Table 11: Respondents' Locus of Control Orientation

S/ No.	Statements	Mean Score $\bar{X}$	Standard Deviation (SD)
1	There is really no need seeking for information on farm practices, a woman farmer is better off using traditional farm practices	2.62	1.6
2	A woman is really helpless in our society; she is not capable of changing anything	2.46	2.6
3	For the most part, a woman is a victim of circumstances beyond her control	2.89	0.8
		Mean Scale Value = 7.97	

4.11 Locus of Control Orientation

The concept of locus of control is concerned with the extent to which individuals believe they have a right to control activities/issues around them. A high locus of control is a reflection of the individual's perceived ability to influence societal issues. Such a state tends to advance the individual's self-esteem, and the

development of a positive attitude towards such issues.

Respondents tended to be undecided about whether or not women were victims of circumstances beyond their control ($\bar{X}$ = 2.89). The respondents disagreed that "there was really no need seeking for information on farm practices, a woman farmer was better off using traditional farm practices" ($\bar{X}$ = 2.62). They basically disagreed with the statement that a woman was really helpless in our society, that she was not capable of changing anything (Table 11). These findings tended to suggest that women farmers had more positive attitude towards self, towards society and towards their capability for controlling their destiny.

Table 12: Respondents' Attitude Towards Credibility of Information from Government

S/ No.	Statements	Mean Score $\bar{X}$	Standard Deviation (SD)
1	Information from government on agricultural practices is often not reliable	3.56	2.04
2	Government exaggerates its achievements on agricultural developments	3.85	1.6
3	Often, government promises more than it can deliver	3.7	2.2
4	If I had a choice, I would rather engage in other activities than farming	2.35	2.4
		Mean Scale Value = 13.5	

4.12 Attitude Towards Credibility of Information from Government

Credibility which was an important component in this study was defined by Hovland et al (1953) as "An individual's tendency to accept a conclusion by a given communicator which would depend, in part, upon how well-informed and intelligent he believes the communicator to be".

Table 12 shows the distribution of the respondents' perception of source (information) credibility. As the table indicates, the respondents agreed that information from government on agricultural practices were often not reliable ($\bar{X}$ = 3.56); government exaggerated its achievements on agricultural developments ($\bar{X}$ = 3.85); and often,

government promised more than it could deliver ($\bar{X}$ = 3.7). Low credibility, therefore, may be one of the factors militating against acceptance of governments' programme on agriculture by women farmers. The respondents, however, disagreed with the statement that if they had a choice, they would rather engage in activities other than farming.

Table 13: Distribution of Respondents According to Perceptions of Land Rights

S/No	Statements	Mean Score $\bar{X}$	Standard Deviation (SD)
1	A woman farmer should be treated as an independent farmer, not an appendage of her husband	3.55	0.9
2	Women should be allowed to own land, independent of their husbands	3.26	1.3
3	Women should really not bother about owning personal land as long as their husbands own land	3.48	2.1
		Mean Scale Value = 10.3	

4.13 Attitude Towards Land Rights

Table 13 shows the distribution of the responses to attitude statements related to land rights by women farmers. Respondents strongly agreed that a woman farmer should be an independent farmer ($\bar{X}$ = 3.55). They also agreed that women should be allowed to own land ($\bar{X}$ = 3.26); and that women should not bother about owning personal

land as long as their husbands own land ($\bar{X}$ = 3.48). Because this was a negative statement, a higher mean score would indicate a disagreement with the statement. These responses suggest that women were increasingly becoming very inclined towards owing personal farm lands.

Table 14: Respondents' Attitude Towards Seeking Information in Decision-Making

S/ No.	Statements	Mean Score $\bar{X}$	Standard Deviation (SD)
1	Information on improved agricultural practices is a necessity to a farmer in making decisions	4.15	0.9
2	If there is a problem on the farm, I try to solve it, I don't wait for my husband	3.89	0.9
		Mean Scale Value = 8.04	

4.14 Disposition Towards Seeking Information for Decision-Making

Two attitude statements were included in the survey instrument to measure the respondents' perception about the need to seek for information in decision-making. Responses to these items were shown in Table 14. The table indicated that women farmers totally agreed that information on improved agricultural practices was a necessity to a farmer in making decisions ($\bar{X}$ = 4.15); they solve problems in their farms without waiting for

their husbands ($\bar{X}$ = 3.89). This supported earlier finding in this study that a woman farmer preferred to be independent as far as farm work was concerned.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The main objective of the study was to investigate the source of farm information used by women farmers in Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Specifically, the study was designed to:

i) - identify various sources of farm information used by women farmers;

ii) - determine to what extent the women farmers use the information sources;

iii) - ascertain the relationship between selected socio-economic characteristics of women farmers and their use of the sources of farm information; and

iv) - ascertain the attitude of the women farmers towards the information sources as a measure of source credibility and salience.

One hundred respondents were randomly selected from five towns which had also been randomly selected from 15 towns/communities in the study area.

The major findings of this study are outlined hereunder.

1. Invariably, women farmers frequently use and find more useful information from non-professional inter-personal sources than from other sources. The reason is probably because non-professional inter-personal sources, like other farmers, are more accessible to the farmers.

2. The primary sources of farm information to the women farmers were husbands, neighbours, friends, other farmers, extension agents (male and female), and mediated sources like radio and newspapers.

3. Women farmers perceived husbands and other farmers as most credible and salient information sources This is expected considering the kind of relation-ship existing between husbands and wives and among farmers.

4. There was a significant positive relationship between farmers' age and their use of professional inter-personal sources of farm information. Farmers' age correlated negatively with husbands and other farmers as sources of farm information.

5. The result reveals a significant positive relation-ship between educational achievement and use of the following information sources: radio, newspapers, female extension agents, meetings organised for all farmers, meetings organised for women farmers,

husbands and friends. Education also correlated positively with all the sources of farm information.

6. The findings indicate a significant positive relationship between farmers' attendance to training workshops and their frequent attention to professional inter-personal sources of farm information except with male extension agents. The correlation with female extension agents was highly significant, indicating women farmers' preference to extension agents of the same gender.

7. Source use of farm information appeared to be dependent on the farmers' marital status. There was a significant relationship between marital status and use of other farmers and women co-operatives as sources of farm information.

8. Findings from the attitude study on opinion statements in this work tend to suggest that overall, women farmers were positively disposed towards active search for farm information. Their attitude toward active search for information suggests that they saw the need for active search for farm information and that women extension agents were the best source of farm information. However, the respondents disagreed that a woman should depend on her husband for farm information.

9. The mean scale value (10.3) for perceptions on land rights, indicates that the respondents agreed that a woman farmer should be allowed to own farm land and be treated as an independent farmer not an appendage of her husband.

10. The respondents generally believed that information on improved agricultural practices would help them in making good decisions irrespective of the source of the information. They, however, declined the idea of waiting for their husbands to solve problems occurring on their farms.

11. In general, the respondents disagreed that a woman was helpless in our society and not capable of changing anything. They were undecided on whether or not a woman is a victim of circumstance. They also disagreed that there was no need seeking for information on farm practices.

12. The respondents believed that the Government was not reliable. They agreed that information from Government on agricultural practices was often not reliable, that Government exaggerated its achievements on agricultural developments, and that often, Government promised more than it could deliver.

5.2 Conclusions

Findings from this study suggest that women farmers utilized various sources of farm information. It was discovered that women farmers received farm information mostly from inter-personal sources and also that women farmers frequently used and found useful information from non-professional inter-personal sources than from other sources. The finding also indicated a positive significant relationship between farmers' age and their use of professional inter-personal sources of farm information. It also revealed that use of farm information appeared to be dependent on the farmers' marital status. The result of this study also showed a significant positive relationship between educational achievement and use of professional inter-personal and mediated sources. It could therefore be inferred that educational achievement played a dominant role in source use. The result showed a positive significant relationship between attendance to training workshops and use of professional inter-personal sources. The correlation with female extension agents as professional sources was highly significant at .05 level. This shows that the respondents tend to accept and feel free with female extension agents.

Findings from the attitude study on opinion statements in this work suggest that overall, women farmers were positively disposed towards active search for farm information. The women farmers also saw the need for active search for farm information and that women extension agents were the best source of farm information. It also revealed that the respondents agreed that a woman farmer should be allowed to own farm land and be treated as an independent farmer not an appendage of her husband. The result of this study further showed that, generally, the respondents disagreed that a woman was helpless in our society and not capable of changing anything. They also disagreed that there was no need seeking for information on farm practices.

Finally, the respondents believed that the Government was not reliable; that Government exaggerated its achievements on agricultural developments; and often promised more than it could deliver.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The various sources of farm information should be utilized in disseminating farm information, especially inter-personal sources.

2. Emphasis should be laid on professional interpersonal sources of information, while supplementing them with mass media sources.

3. More female extension personnel should be trained for the intensification of extension services among rural women farmers since the women tend to prefer female extension agents.

4. Women farmers should be given adult education so that with better education they could contribute more tangibly to agricultural development in Nigeria.

5. Women should be given free hand in taking decisions concerning their farm operations.

6. Women should be allowed to own farm lands in rural communities to help boost agricultural production.

7. A woman farmer should be treated as an independent farmer not an appendage of her husband.

Finally, considering the role that women now play in agriculture and in the economic lives of their communities, they should be given adequate training in scientific farming methods to enhance their level of awareness, professional practice and productivity. This is particularly relevant as modern trends in rural development demands a depth of knowledge of agricultural innovations and technology. Failure to teach women modern farming techniques will inhibit agricultural development, depress rural income and perpetuate poverty and under-development.

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A P P E N D I X

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Hello,

I am undertaking a research work which aims at exploring Agricultural Information Source used by farmers.

The success of this work depends a lont on your co-operation in giving candid answers to the questions that follow. Your views will be treated most confidentially.

Thanks for your co-operation.

========= ========= =========

1. Age ( ) (2) Marital Status ( )

3. Level of Formal Education:

a) Never attended school ( )
b) Attended Primary ( )
c) Attended Post-Primary ( )
d) Attended Post-Secondary ( )

4. How much of your time do you devote to farming:

a) Below 50% ( )
b) 50% ( )
c) Above 50% ( )

5. Number of plots planted last year _____

_____

6. Type of Crop-Mixed Cropping

	Sales from Plot	Amount (Income)
a)		
b)		
c)		
d)		

7. Where did you grow up?

a) Village ( )
b) Small town, e.g. Ekwulobia ( )
c) Big township, e.g. Awka ( )

8. How long have you been a farmer? ( )

9. How many organisations do you belong to? ( )

10. Current place of residence?

a) Village ( )
b) Small township ( )
c) Big township ( )

11. If village, how many times on the average did you visit a city last two years (1991-1992)?

a) less than once ( )
b) one-three times ( )
c) four-six times ( )
d) more than six times ( )

12. How many times have you visited a city/cities this year (1993)? ( )

13. Below are sources of farm information. Please, indicate how often you pay attention (read, listen to, etc.) to information from each source.

Source: How often do you read or listen to information from each source?

a)	Relatives	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
b)	Friends	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
c)	Neighbours	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often

d)	Husband	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
e)	Other farmers	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
f)	Female Extension Agent	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
g)	Male Extension Agent	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
h)	Newspapers	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
i)	Radio Programmes	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
j)	Television Programmes	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
k)	Extension Bulletin	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
l)	Agricultural Books	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very Often

14. Considering the kinds of information available in each of these sources, how useful is each source to your needs and interests concerning farming?

Source: How useful is each source?

a)	Friends	Not Useful	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful
b)	Husband	Not Useful	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful
c)	Other Relations	Not Useful	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful
d)	Other farmers	Not Useful	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful
e)	Women Co-operatives	Not Useful	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful
f)	Meetings Organised for Women farmers	Not Useful	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful

g)	Meetings Organised for all farmers	Not Userul	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful
h)	Female Extension agent	Not Useful	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful
i)	Male Extension agent	Not Useful	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful
j)	Newspapers	Not Useful	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful
k)	Television Programmes	Not Useful	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful
l)	Radio Programmes	Not Useful	Fairly Useful	Useful	Most Useful

15. Below are sources of farm information. Please, indicate to what degree would you believe information from the following sources as true:

	Sources	Not Viable	Sometimes	Always
a)	Friends			
b)	Husband			
c)	Other relations			
d)	Other farmers			
e)	Female extension agent			
f)	Male extension agent			
g)	Women co-operatives			
h)	Meetings organised for women farmers			
i)	Meetings organised for all farmers			
j)	Newspapers			
k)	Television programmes			
l)	Radio Programmes			

16.

Sources	What unique problem do you encounter in using any of the sources of farm information?	How do you think these can be solved?
a) Friends		
b) Husband		
c) Other relations		
d) Other farmers		
e) Female extension agent		
f) Male extension agent		
g) Women co-operatives		
h) Meetings organised for women farmers		
i) Meetings organised for all farmers		
j) Newspapers		
k) Television programmes		
l) Radio programmes		

17. How many training workshops/meetings have you attended for the past two years?

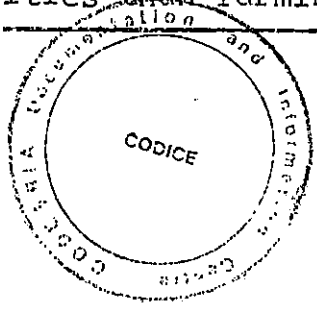
a) None ( ) (b) 1 - 2 ( )
c) 3 - 4 ( ) (d) More than 4 times ( )

18. Below are statements about women and farming and life in general. We are interested in your feelings or opinions about each statement.

After each statement, there are five numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. If you strongly agree with the statement, please, circle the 5. If you strongly disagree with the statement, please circle 1. If you are fully and completely undecided about a statement, then circle the 3 indicating that you neither agree nor disagree. For some statements, the number 2 or 4 may better describe how strongly you agree or disagree with the statement. When this is the case, circle the appropriate number.

Statements		Responses				
		SA	A	NOT SURE	D	SD
1.	A woman should be willing to actively search for information that will aid her agricultural activities	5	4	3	2	1
2.	A married woman should depend on her husband for information that will help her improve her farm practice	5	4	3	2	1
3.	Female extension agents are the best source of farm information	5	4	3	2	1
4.	There is really no need seeking for information on farm practices; a woman farmer is better of using traditional farm practices	5	4	3	2	1
5.	A woman farmer should be treated as an independent farmer, not an appendage of her husband	5	4	3	2	1
6.	Women should be allowed to own land, independent of their husband	5	4	3	2	1

	Statements	Responses				
		SA	A	NOT SURE	D	SD
7.	Women should really not bother about owning personal land as long as their husbands own land	5	4	3	2	1
8.	A woman is really helpless in our society; she is not capable of changing anything	5	4	3	2	1
9.	For the most part, a woman is a victim of circumstances beyond her control	5	4	3	2	1
10.	Information on improved agricultural practices is a necessity to a farmer in making decisions	5	4	3	2	1
11.	If there is a problem on the farm, I try to solve it, I don't wait for my husband	5	4	3	2	1
12.	Information from government on agricultural practices is often not reliable	5	4	3	2	1
13.	Government exaggerates its achievements on agricultural developments	5	4	3	2	1
14.	Often, government promises more than it can deliver	5	4	3	2	1
15.	If I had a choice, I would rather engage in other activities than farming	5	4	3	2	1



A B S T R A C T

This study was aimed at identifying the various sources of farm information accessible to women farmers in Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State; determining to what extent they use the information sources; ascertaining the relationship between selected socio-economic characteristics of women farmers and their use of the sources of farm information; and also ascertaining general and specific attitudes of the women farmers towards the information source as a measure of source credibility and salience.

An interview schedule was used to elicit information from the women farmers with the aid of the women leaders in each of the towns under study, while the schedule was given to the educated ones to fill as questionnaire. A simple random sample of 100 respondents in five towns from the study area was taken.

Statistical techniques used for data analysis included percentage, mean scores, standard deviation and correlation. The major findings revealed that women farmers preferred getting farm information through inter-personal sources, such as friends, relatives, women co-operatives and meetings organised for women farmers. There was a positive significant relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of the women farmers and the various sources of farm information. Therefore, information source use was highly related and dependent upon the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers.

Analysis of the attitude statements indicated that women felt that they should be allowed to own farmlands in rural communities and be given free hand to take decisions on farm activities so that they could increase their farm productivity.