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Contribution of Farming and Non-Farm Labour Activities To Household Income in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: The study was carried out on the contribution of both farming and non-farm labour supply activities to households' income in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Nigeria. Data were obtained using structured questionnaire. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to randomly select three (3) districts out of the six (6) districts in the first stage. In the second stage six (6) wards were randomly selected from the three (3) districts to reflect areas where the farm and non-farm labour supply activities -were mainly practiced. These are Bahuli, Vimtim, Lokuwa, Polere, Saban layi, Yelwa Digil and Mudala. A total of 100 households were randomly and proportionately selected from the districts for the analysis. Descriptive statistics such as frequency, rank order and percentage were used as analytical tools. The result indicates that majority (98%) of the farming household members indicated that ₦2,426,916.67 (40.51%) of their household income per year was earned through crop and livestock production while only 16% of the farming household members indicated that ₦115,208.33 (1.91%) was earned from crop production. Labour intensiveness, lack of personal connection, required skills, inadequate extensive agent to guide and lack of contact with officials of organisation amongst others as the major problem associated with farming and non-farm labour supply activities in the study area. It was recommended based on the finding that Extension agents in the State should be properly trained and provided with the necessary technological packages required to teach and guide farmers on new technology and officials of organisation on the non-farm sector should employ labour based on merit and discourage sentiments.

Keywords: Farming activities, Non-farming labour activities; Household; Income

Introduction

Rural development which includes progress both in farm and non-farm activities seems to be the only hope to bring better days in the developing countries of the world. Non-farm activities provide not only alternative sources of income and employment for the rural poor but also stimulate agricultural production. Knowledge of the nature, determinants and effects of the non-farm activities provide clues about the character of socio-economic changes which might be induced by the adoption of employment-oriented strategy to promote the rural non-farm economy. Non-farm income in rural India contributed on an average, about one third (34 percent) of the total household income in 1993/94 compared to about 55 percent from cultivation and 8 percent from agricultural wage labour. Thus, non-farm sector is an important source of income, even at this highly aggregated national level (Lanjouw and Shariff. 2002). Furthermore, non-farm sources total income across different per capital income quintiles indicates that among the middle three quintiles the contribution from non-farm sources is nearer two fifths than a third, while for the lowest and highest quintile the share is around 31 percent.

This is in contrast with agricultural wage labour incomes which contributes only negligible amount to total income among the rural households. Similarly, Shittu *et al.* (2006) reported that non-farm sources, contributes about half of the rural farming households' income. The largest share was found to come from non-farm labour (48.24%) while income yielding assets like building, shareholding, land and equipment leasing also contributes about 5.94% of an average household's income generating capabilities of women and in so doing, also improve the care and nutritional status of children since a high proportion of cash income in the hands of women tends to be spent on family welfare. Against this background, this article focuses on the rising incidence of poverty in Nigeria which is most prominent among the rural households most especially those that rely mainly on farm income, limited information is available on the contributions of non-farm sector to movement of labour away from farm to the non-farm sector in Nigeria and the current pace of rural-urban migration among the youths suggest that a meaningful development planning would not be possible without a clearer understanding of the roles of the non-farm sector in Nigeria, most especially in the rural areas. There appears to be no attempt made to examine the contribution of farm and non-farm labour activities to households' income in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Nigeria towards bridging the gap in non-farm labour activities research in the study area.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the contribution of non-farm labour supply activities to households' income in Mubi North of Adamawa State, Nigeria. The specific objectives are to: examine the relative contribution of farm and non-farm labour supply activities to household income and identify the problems associated with household members in farm and non-farm labour supply in the study area

Research Questions:

- (i) Is there any relative contribution of farm and non-farm labour supply activities to household income?
- (ii) What are the problems associated with the household members in farm and non-farm labour supply in the study area?

Significance of the Study

This study will serve as a guide in assessing the pattern of farm and non-farm labour supply activities among members of farming households in supplementing their household's income to help them to diversify their income sources and improve their living standards. This work will serve as reference material for future studies on non-farm labour supply activities; the study will be useful to extension agents to provide information on non-farm labour supply activities so as to extend the idea to farmers for further adoption. To policy makers, it will serve as a guide for appropriate policy formulation which will be targeted towards improving the living standards of the farming households in the State and the country as a whole.

Scope and limitations of the study

The study covered farming households that are engaged in non-farm activities in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Nigeria. It also relied on memory recalled by the farming households and primary data for its analysis. Lack of record keeping by farmers, high cost of transportation and refusal of some farmers to be interviewed were some of the limitations encountered during the course of the study. Despite these limitations, efforts were made to collect reliable data, the findings can therefore, be generalised to the entire local government area.

Methodology

Study Area

Mubi North Local Government Area is one of the 21 local government areas in Adamawa State, Nigeria. It occupies a total land area of about 6,424 square kilometres (ADP,1997); it shares common borders with Mubi South, Hong and Maiha Local Government Areas to the west, south and North respectively, The population of the area is 216,854 peoples with estimated annual growth rate of 2.8% (NPC. 2006).

The communities in Mubi North are Fulani, Gude Margi and Fali. It has minimum and maximum rainfall ranging from 900mm to 1050mm while the maximum and minimum temperatures are 28.9 and 21.9°C- (Agboola, 1979). The area is a very fertile land for the cultivation of crops and rearing of livestock. This has made agriculture production activities a profitable venture. Crops grown in the area include cassava, cowpea, groundnut and maize, etc.

Sampling Technique

Multi-stage sampling technique was used to randomly select three (3) districts out of the existing 6 districts in the area in the first stage. These are Bahuli, Vimtim and Lokuwa. In the second stage six (6) wards were randomly selected from the three (3) districts to reflect areas where the farming and non-farm labour supply activities were mainly practised. These are Polere, Sabon layi, Yelwa, Digil and Mudala. A total of 100 farming households were randomly and proportionately selected from the wards for the analysis.

Data Collection

The data for this study were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data was collected on household income sources and problems associated with household members in farming and non-farm labour supply activities.

The secondary source of information include: textbooks, government publications, past projects, thesis Journals as well as the internet-

Analytical Techniques

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics employed for this study include frequency, rank order and percentage. These techniques were used for analysis relative contribution of farming and non-farm labour supply activities to household's income and problem associated with household members in farm and non-farm labour supply to achieve the specific objectives.

Relative Contribution of various Farming and Non-Farm labour Activities to Household Income

Table 1: Contribution of Farm and Non-farm Labour Activities to Household Income

Household Income Sources	Frequency	Percentage	Income mean/year	Percentage
Crop and Livestock production	98	98	2,436,916.67	40.51
Crop and Non-farm labour	37	37	405,750.67	6.74
Livestock and non-farm labour	20	20	118,291.67	1.98
Crop, Livestock and Assets	21	21	163,000,000	2.71
Crop, Livestock, Non-farm, Labour and Assets	22	22	220,208.33	3.67
Crop production	16	16	115,208.33	1.91
Livestock production	81	81	1,091,708.33	18.14
Income yielding assets	78	78	11,179,083.33	19.60
Crop, livestock and non-farm labour	30	30	247,500.00	4.11
Livestock and farm labour	63	63	38,337.5	0.63
Total	466	466	6,016,004.16	100

Source: Field survey, 2008

*Multiple responses existed; hence percentage is greater than 100

The finding reveals that most 98% of the respondents indicated that ₦2,426,916.67 (40.51%) of their household income per year was earned through crop and livestock production, 81% of the respondent earn about N1091708.33 (18.14%) from livestock production and 78% of the respondent earn N1,179,083.33 (19.60%) from income yielding

assets while 63% earned about N38,337.50 (0-63%) from livestock and farm labour supply. The result shows that most of the respondents earn higher income from crop and livestock production in the study area. This is not unconnected with the findings that most of the respondents indicated farming as their major occupation in the study area.

Problems Associated with Household Members in Farm and Non-Farm Labour Supply Activities (n= 100)
Table 2: Major Problems Associated with Household Members in Farming and Non-farm Labour Supply Activities

Major Problem	Rank order	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Inability to pay bribes	8	36	36
Lack of personal connection	2	82	82
Limited number of establishment	7	38	38
Lack of relations working in non-farm sector	6	39	39
Lack of contact with officials of organization	5	46	46
The wage is low compared agriculture	9	28	28
It requires skills	3	49	49
Inadequate extension agent to guide	4	48	48
Highly labour intensive	1	85	85
Total		451	451

Source: Field survey, 2008

*Multiple responses existed; hence percentage is greater than 100

The findings in Table 3 indicates that majority (85%) of the household members indicated labour intensiveness as a major problem associated with farm and non-farm labour activities in the study area. This might be because the labour rate required for traditional agriculture is high and consumes time.

Lack of personal connections was also indicated as major problem by 82% of the respondents in the study area. This suggests that respondents who lack personal connections would not be employed in the non-farm sector.

The findings in Table 3 reveal that about 49% of the respondents indicated non-farm sector requires skill- Lack of technical skills to carry out some operations effectively prevents the household members to work in the non-farm sector.

The result also indicates an inadequate extension agent to guide is a problem as indicated by 48% of the respondents in the study area. The implication here is that extension agents lack the adequate training to guide them on improved agricultural technologies appropriately.

Lack of contact with officials of organisations was also indicated by 46% of the household members as a problem. This might be because the officials of the various non-farm organizations were not available for the household members to contact them and find out more details about the organizations that prevented some household members to work in the non-farm sector.

Lack of relations working in non-farm sector was a problem associated with household members as indicated by 39% of the household members in the study area. This suggests that relations working in an organization can influence their close relatives to secure employment in their place of work.

The findings also reveal limited number of establishments as a problem associated with household members as indicated by 38% of the respondents in the study area. Limited number of establishments may deprive some individuals from securing a job especially, when the number of applicants looking for a job is large.

Inability to pay bribes was also indicated by 36% of the household members as a problem in the study area. This might be due to the corrupt acts of some officials in the various organizations that collect gratification either in-kind or cash before employing an applicant into their organizations that stop some household members who are not able to pay such bribes from getting employed in the non-farm sector.

Low wage compared to agriculture was also identified as a problem by 28% of the respondents in the study area. The reason for the low wage might be due to the unskillful labour that the respondents supplied to the non-farm sector. Since the wage paid to a labour depends on his skill and training.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that majority of the farming household members earned their household's mean income per year from crop and livestock production. High labour intensiveness, lack of personal connections, requires skills and inadequate extension agents to guide amongst others were some of the major problems militating against household members in farm and non-farming labour supply activities in the study area. Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made.

Government should motivate the farmers to use modern farm inputs such as tractor to reduce the drudgery in agricultural production cost of hired labour. Extension agents in the state should be properly trained and provided with all the necessary technological packages required to teach and guide farmers on new technology. And officials of organisation on the non-farm sector should employ labour based on merit and discourage sentiments.

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