

Full Length Research

Assessment of youth perception towards fish farming in Ibadan Metropolis

Adelodun O. B.*, Bankole A. F, Rafiu R.A, Morawo B.O. and Ajao F.S.

Fisheries Technology Department, Oyo State College of Agriculture. P.M.B 10, Igboora, Oyo State, Nigeria.

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This study was carried out to assess the youths' perception towards fish farming in Ibadan metropolis. A total of 60 respondents were selected using a multi-stage sampling technique. The respondents interviewed were within the active age of 25-35 years. Data collected were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The result revealed that 71.67% of the respondents were males, 66.67% of the respondents were single, and 61.70% had tertiary education while 63.33% take fish farming as their main source of income. The study also revealed the respondents perception towards fish farming and 45% agreed that fish production is hard and stressful, 53.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that fish production requires large capital and 50% strongly disagreed that fish farming is meant for the illiterates. The factors influencing youth career choice in fish production was also evaluated. 66.70% of the respondents were into fish farming just as a means of survival, 43.33% found themselves in fish production due to the unemployment rate in the country and 50% just doesn't see fish farming attractive enough. The study finally assessed the constraints faced by the youths in their involvement in fish production. The chi square analysis revealed that socio economic characteristics such marital status ($X^2=24.450$, $P<0.05$), level of education ($X^2= 34.589$, $P<0.05$) and sources of income ($X^2=8.828$, $P<0.05$) have a significant relationship with the constraints faced by the youths in the study area. From the results observed in this study, more attention from government and private organizations through provision of financial assistance and grants is recommended, as this will encourage the youth to be more involved in the sector. Orientation changing programmes should be organized to change the mindset of the youths concerning farming activities.

Key words: Constraints, perception, food security.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria with a population of over 150million people is blessed with abundant natural resources for agricultural production. The recent popularity of aquaculture is as a result of the huge potentials of the sector in the country (Adeoye et al., 2005). The demand for fish protein is about 2.7million MT and only 800,000 MT is produced locally. It shows that there is still a short in supply of about 1.9 million MT (FDF, 2008). Considering the gap in supply and the large suitable land for fish culture in the country, the potential of the aquaculture sector to meet the fish demand of the increasing population cannot be

questioned and over-emphasized. One of the problems for non-realization of our goal of food sufficiency is the condition of the Nigerian farmers and farming environment (Nwachukwu, 2008). The Nigerian farmer is ageing with an average age of 50 years (Aphunu and Atoma, 2010).

Aquaculture in Nigeria still requires some physical strength which the already ageing farmers do not poses. Youth amounts to about 80million, representing about 60% of the total population of the country (Awogbenle and Iwuamadi, 2010). This shows that the youth dominates the country in terms of population, but the apathy of the youths towards fish farming has limited their participation in the sector (Adewale, 2005). Presently, it has been observed that the number of youth involved in aquaculture is very small (NaFIRRI, 2010). Rather than

*Corresponding author. E-mail:
adelodunoluwatobi@yahoo.com. Tel: 2348033661060.

getting involved in farming activities, majority of the youth are after administrative and other office setting jobs which is not even sufficiently available. The youths have been identified to constitute the major resource base for any country that wants to embark on any meaningful agricultural and rural development project (Onuekwusi, 2005). Therefore, sustainability of the fish venture which is highly profitable is dependent on the effective participation of the younger generation. This study is carried out to assess youth perception towards fish production in Ibadan metropolis. Specifically, the study was designed to:

- i. To analyse the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area.
- ii. To evaluate youth perception on fish production in the study area
- iii. To identify the constraints faced by the youths in their involvement in fish production in the study area.

Hypothesis of the study

H₀: There is no significant relationship between the socio economic characteristics and the constraints faced by the youths in their involvement in fish production.

METHODOLOGY

Study area

The study was conducted in Ibadan which is the capital city of Oyo state and the third largest metropolitan area, by population in Nigeria. Ibadan is located in south-western Nigeria, 128 km inland northeast of Lagos and 530 km southwest of Abuja. Ibadan lies between latitude 07°39'N and 03°92'E. The city lies in the equatorial rain forest zone and has a land mass of between 445-455 km². Ibadan metropolis comprises of eleven local government areas out of the thirty three local government areas in Oyo State. The city is dominated by civil servants, public servants, traders, public officers, private business personnel, contractors and farmers.

Method of data collection

Data was collected via two sources

- 1) Primary source
- 2) Secondary source

The primary data was obtained from respondents who fall between the economic active age of 25 – 35 years through the use of a well structured questionnaire. Multi-stage sampling technique was used for the selection of

sixty respondents. The first stage involves selection of five (5) Local Government from the eleven Local Government and second stage involves selection of two (2) communities each from the selected Local Government and finally, six youths were interviewed in each of the selected communities. Secondary data were obtained from literatures, journals and internet.

Analytical procedure

Descriptive and Inferential statistics were used to analyze data collected from the study. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages were used to arrange and describe the fish farmers' socio-economic characteristics while Chi-Square analysis was used to test the relationship between the socio-economic characteristics and the constraints faced by the youths in fish production.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gender plays a very important role in fish farming and agriculture generally. From the study, most (71.67%) of the respondents were male. This result can be justified by Brummett et al. (2010) who reported that fisheries activities are mostly dominated by males. The study also revealed that majority of the respondents was single (66.7%). This indicates their ineffective participation in fish production may be as a result of many of them still depending on parents and guardians for living. Fakoya (2000) reported that marriage confer some level of responsibility and commitment on individuals who are married. Majority (61.7%) of the respondents had tertiary education and this may likely contribute to their preference for a white collar job. This statement is also supported by the findings in the study, as majority of the respondents (63.3%) have other sources as their main source of income. 81.7% of the respondents do not belong to any fish farming association which may be as a result of them not being aware of the benefits they could derive from it (Table 1).

The perception of the youths about the fish farming sector may have an influence on their production. 45% of the youths agree that fish farming is hard and stressful while 53.3% strongly agreed that fish production requires large capital. Therefore, many youths may get discouraged even if the interest is initially there. This is in line with the findings of NIFFRI (2010) that youths perceive aquaculture as a high capital investment and most of them have limited funds/income to carry out that kind of investment (Table 2).

50 and 36.7% of the respondents strongly disagree and disagree respectively that fish production is meant for the illiterates. This is in contrary to the general opinion that most farmers had no formal education or were unable to

Table 1. Socio economic characteristics of the respondents.

| Variable | Frequency | Percentage |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Gender | | |
| Male | 43 | 71.67 |
| Female | 17 | 28.33 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |
| Marital Status | | |
| Single | 40 | 66.70 |
| Married | 20 | 33.30 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |
| Level of Education | | |
| NFE | 4 | 6.70 |
| PE | 2 | 3.30 |
| ACE | 4 | 6.70 |
| SE | 13 | 21.70 |
| TE | 37 | 61.70 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |
| Main Source of Income | | |
| Fish farming | 22 | 36.70 |
| Others | 38 | 63.30 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |
| Fish farm association | | |
| Yes | 11 | 18.30 |
| No | 49 | 81.70 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2015.

complete either primary or secondary education, school system as evident in the study of Ozor (1998) and Okwoche et al. (1998). 50% of the respondents are with the perception that fish farming doesn't look attractive, as most of the younger generation prefers the "neat" white collar job with the attractive working environment to farming.

The study also examined the factors influencing youth career in fish production and discovered that only 18.3% of the respondents accepted that environmental factors contributes to their involvement in fish production while majority (66.7%) were into fish farming as just a means of survival and 53.3% of the respondents accepted that participation in fish farming is as a result of unemployment. This means that fish farming is yet to be fancied by the youths as a career (Table 3).

The involvement of the youths in fish production is still low (Jibowo, 1998) and some factors are responsible for this. The study revealed that inadequate capital for land acquisition, high cost of quality fish feed and lack of credit facilities are the major constraints hindering the participation of youths in fish production. Factors such as

parental restriction, peer group and spouse restriction were not much of a hindrance to their participation as revealed from the study (Table 4).

The chi square analysis revealed that socio economic characteristics such marital status ($X^2=24.450$, $P<0.05$), level of education ($X^2= 34.589$, $P<0.05$) and sources of income ($X^2=8.828$, $P<0.05$) have a significant relationship with the constraints faced by the youths in the study area (Table 5).

Conclusion

This study assessed the perception of the youth towards fish farming in Ibadan metropolis. It was observed that 66.7% of the respondents (25-35 years) were not married and this was suspected to have an influence to their participation in fish production, as marriage confers responsibility and commitment to individuals. The study also revealed that 61.7% of the respondents are well educated which increases their chances of being more interested in a white collar job. Although, studies have

Table 2. Youth perception towards fish production.

| Statement | Strongly agree (%) | Agree (%) | Undecided (%) | Disagree (%) | Strongly disagree (%) | Total (%) |
|--|--------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Fish farm is hard and stressful | 11(18.3) | 27(45.0) | 3(5.0) | 14(23.3) | 5(8.3) | 60/100 |
| Fish production requires large capital | 32(53.3) | 21(35.0) | 3(5.0) | 4(6.7) | 1(1.7) | 60/100 |
| Fish production is meant for illiterates | 1(1.7) | 1(1.7) | 6(10.0) | 22(36.7) | 30(50.0) | 60/100 |
| Fish farming just doesn't look attractive enough | 2(3.3) | 30(50.0) | 5(8.3) | 12(20.0) | 11(18.3) | 60/100 |

Source: Field survey, 2015.

Table 3. Factors influencing youth career choice in fish production.

| Environmental factors | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 11 | 18.3 |
| No | 49 | 81.7 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |
| Fish farming a means of survival | Frequency | Percentage |
| Yes | 40 | 66.7 |
| No | 20 | 33.3 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |
| Fish farming as a result of unemployment | Frequency | Percentage |
| Yes | 32 | 53.33 |
| No | 28 | 46.67 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

Table 4. Constraints faced by youth in fish production.

| Constraints | Strongly agree (%) | Agree (%) | Undecided (%) | Disagree (%) | Strongly disagree (%) | Total (%) |
|--|--------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Inadequate capital | 22(36.7) | 27(45.0) | 1(1.7) | 10(16.7) | | 60/100 |
| Land acquisition | 22(36.7) | 30(50.0) | 1(1.7) | 3(5.0) | 4(6.7) | 60/100 |
| Lack of credit facilities | 30(50.0) | 21(35) | 2(3.3) | 7(11.7) | | 60/100 |
| Availability and poor quality of fish seed | 18(30.0) | 29(48.3) | 2(3.3) | 10(16.7) | 1(1.7) | 60/100 |
| High cost of quality fish feed | 13(21.7) | 31(51.7) | 2(3.3) | 12(20.0) | 2(3.3) | 60/100 |
| Market price instability | 18(30.0) | 27(45.0) | 4(6.7) | 10(16.7) | 1(1.7) | 60/100 |
| Parent restriction | 5(8.3) | 11(18.3) | 7(11.7) | 22(36.7) | 15(25.0) | 60/100 |
| Peer group | 6(10.0) | 11(18.3) | 9(15.0) | 18(30.0) | 16(26.7) | 60/100 |
| Spouse restriction | 3(5.0) | 17(28.3) | 10(16.7) | 10(16.7) | 20(33.3) | 60/100 |

Source: Field survey, 2015

confirmed that fish farming is now dominated by educated class. Youths still believed fish farming is stressful and requires large capital investment while many others see it as not attractive enough despite as revealed in this study despite the profitability of this

venture. Majority of the few youths in fish farming are involved in the production as a result of unemployment in the country and therefore serve as just a means of survival to them. The effective participation of the youths in fish production have been hampered by their

Table 5. Chi-square analysis of respondent's socio-economic characteristics and constraints faced by youth in their involvement in fish production.

| Variables | χ^2 | P | |
|-----------------------|----------|-------|---|
| Marital status | 24.450 | 0.042 | S |
| Level of education | 34.589 | 0.018 | S |
| Main source of income | 8.828 | 0.021 | S |

perception towards the sector and some general constraints such as high cost of quality fish feed and lack credit facilities/financial assistance for land acquisition and others.

RECOMMENDATION

In order to improve the effective participation of youth in the aquaculture sector, more attention should be paid to this sector by the government and private organizations through provision of financial assistance and grants, as this will encourage the youth to be more involved in the sector. Enlightenment and orientation changing programmes should be organized to change the mindset of the younger generation who sees farming activities as figure of poverty rather than a viable income generating venture.

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