

**NIGERIAN RURAL YOUTHS' UTILIZATION OF  
AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION ON SELECTED  
ARABLE CROPS: AN EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE.**

**OLANIYI, O. A.**

# Outline of presentation

- **Introduction**
- **Statement of the problem**
- **Objective of the study**
- **Methodology**
- **Results & Discussion**
- **Conclusion & recommendations**

# Introduction

- **Defining youth.....**
  - **Psychological view**
  - **Sociological view**
  - **chronological view**
- **Relevance of rural youth in agriculture**
  - **They are an active workforce**
  - **They possess unique characteristics**

- **Information plays a pivotal role in the development process in rural development.**
- **Information - a relevant resource in agriculture**
  - **acquired through access and utilized for rational decisions, and**
  - **such information should be timely.**
  - **using information is a key issue in this present information age.**

# Statement of the Problem

- **Youth : the future farmers are not being adequately empowered .**
- **The underdevelopment of many rural areas has created problems for young people.**
- **Moreover, agricultural information research as a component of agricultural development in Nigeria has often focused its attention on adults.**

- **And it has failed to effectively address the utilization of available information that are relevant to rural youth in agriculture.**
- **Rural youth has specific information needs .**

## The specific objective

- **Ascertained the level of utilization of agricultural information on selected arable crops among rural youth in the study area.**
- **Determined the factors that influences utilization of agricultural information on selected arable crops among rural youth in the study area.**

# Methodology

## Study Area

- This was carried out in Oyo and Osun states, Southwest Nigeria.

## Target Population of the Study

- Rural youth that are engaging in agricultural activities in Oyo and Osun states.

## Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

- Multistage sampling technique was adopted in the selection of 455 respondents for the study.



**Table 1 : Sampling Procedure of respondents from selected states and respective local government areas .**

State	No of LGAs	Selected LGAs (15%)	Selected LGAs	No of villages in the selected LGAs	No of villages selected (5%)	No. of Rural youth selected (50%)
OYO	33	5	IREPO	241	12	53
			SURULERE	294	15	63
			IBARAPA EAST	254	12	32
			IBARAPA CENTRAL	321	16	43
			OGO-OLUWA	163	08	49
OSUN	30	5	BOLUWADURO	206	10	45
			OLAOLUWA	121	6	30
			ATAKUMOSA WEST	213	11	41
			OROLU	225	11	58
			IREWOLE	281	14	41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>2319</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>455</b>

## Instrument for Data Collection

- **Structured and validated interview schedule was used to elicit relevant information from the respondents.**

## Data analysis

- **Frequency counts, percentages, Means and standard deviation ( descriptive ).**
- **Tobit regression (Inferential).**

# Tobit model

- **Age ( $X_1$ )** – age of rural youth in years
- **Marital Status ( $X_2$ )** – Dummy  $D = 1$  for married, and Otherwise  $D = 0$
- **Years of formal Education ( $X_3$ )**= Actual Number of Years Spent in Schooling.
- **Farming Experience ( $X_4$ )** - Actual year
- **Household size ( $X_5$ )** - Number of people eating in the same pot (Actual).
- **Farm Size ( $X_6$ )**- Actual in hectares

- **Sex ( $X_7$ ) = Gender of farmers (Dummy  $D = 1$ , if Male, otherwise  $D = 0$ )**
- **Membership of social organization ( $X_8$ ) = Dummy ( $D = 1$  for members, otherwise  $D = 0$ )**
- **Extension contact ( $X_9$ ) = Dummy ( $D = 1$  for having contact, otherwise  $D = 0$ )**
- **Frequency of use of information sources: ( $X_{10}$ ) = Actual frequency of use score**
- **Perception of utilization of agricultural information ( $X_{11}$ ) = Actual perception score**
- **Socio economic Status ( $X_{12}$ ) = Actual SES score**
- **Availability of information ( $X_{13}$ ) = Dummy ( $D = 1$  for available information, otherwise  $D = 0$ )**
- **Accessibility to information: ( $X_{14}$ ) = Actual accessibility score**

# Results and discussion

Summary of findings on personal characteristics of rural youth in the study area.

- More than half (58.5%) of the sampled rural youth are within the age of 30 to 35 years.
- About 63.1% of the respondents were married.
- Majority (85.5%) of respondents were males.
- The mean year of formal education of the respondents was about 8.3 years.
- The mean household size of the respondents was 4 members
- Majority (80.6%) of the respondents fell into low and average SES
- The mean farm size was 2.12 ha
- About 52.5 percent of the respondents were members of social organization.

# Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to utilization agricultural information on cassava production

Agricultural information on cassava	WMS	S.D	Rank
Improved cassava varieties	2.85	1.83	1 <sup>st</sup>
Method of fertilizer application e.g. folia, ring, broadcasting and type of fertilizer	2.63	1.63	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Stem cutting for cassava	2.54	1.86	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Selection and rate of chemical application for weed control	2.41	1.92	4 <sup>th</sup>
Use of tractor for ploughing	2.39	1.64	5 <sup>th</sup>
Labour availability for cassava production	2.36	1.82	6 <sup>th</sup>
Improved planting distance for cassava	2.36	1.74	6 <sup>th</sup>
Improved method of preventing pest and disease of cassava	2.22	1.80	7 <sup>th</sup>
Use of tractor for ridging	2.22	1.73	7 <sup>th</sup>
Soil management practice	1.93	1.74	8 <sup>th</sup>
Use of tractor for harrowing	1.92	1.81	9 <sup>th</sup>
Loan acquisition / credit facilities	1.90	1.71	10 <sup>th</sup>
Prevailing cassava crop prices in the market	1.57	1.84	11 <sup>th</sup>
Use of tractor for land clearing	1.50	1.97	12 <sup>th</sup>
Weather forecast information on cassava planting	1.40	1.38	13 <sup>th</sup>
Market outlet for harvested cassava	1.40	1.69	13 <sup>th</sup>
Improved method of storage and preserving fresh cassava tubers	1.36	1.57	14 <sup>th</sup>
Control of pest and disease of cassava	1.32	1.91	15 <sup>th</sup>
Soil fertility test	1.24	1.54	16 <sup>th</sup>
Payment of compensation for crop grown on government acquired land	1.19	1.28	17 <sup>th</sup>
Information on loan interest rate	1.18	1.80	18 <sup>th</sup>
Environmental protection on land	1.14	1.35	19 <sup>th</sup>
Better record keeping on sales of cassava produced	1.11	1.51	20 <sup>th</sup>
Availability of input on cassava at subsidized rate	1.10	1.84	21 <sup>st</sup>
Government policies on land acquisition	1.04	1.22	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Marketing of cassava produce through cooperatives	1.02	1.33	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Mechanized method of harvesting cassava tuber	0.99	1.45	24 <sup>th</sup>
Modern method of cassava processing	0.98	1.46	25 <sup>th</sup>

**Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to utilization agricultural information on maize production**

Agricultural information on maize	WMS	SD	Rank
Improved maize varieties	3.42	1.82	1 <sup>st</sup>
Selection and rate of chemical application for weed control	3.30	1.97	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Method of fertilizer application e.g. folia, ring, broadcasting and type of fertilizer	3.25	1.96	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Treated maize seeds for planting	3.24	1.98	4 <sup>th</sup>
Improved method of preventing pests and diseases of maize	3.05	2.06	5 <sup>th</sup>
Improved method Controlling of pests and diseases of maize	3.04	2.10	6 <sup>th</sup>
Use of tractor for harrowing	3.00	1.99	7 <sup>th</sup>
Use of tractor for ploughing	2.99	2.06	8 <sup>th</sup>
Use of tractor for ridging	2.98	2.02	9 <sup>th</sup>
Use of tractor for land clearing	2.91	2.19	10 <sup>th</sup>
Availability of input on maize at subsidized rate	2.84	2.15	11 <sup>th</sup>
Improved planting distance for maize	2.80	2.09	12 <sup>th</sup>
Loan acquisition / credit facilities	2.57	2.72	13 <sup>th</sup>
Mechanized method of shelling of maize grains/cobs	2.56	2.23	14 <sup>th</sup>
Storage of maize in modern cribs / silo	2.56	2.24	14 <sup>th</sup>
Soil management practices	2.53	2.25	15 <sup>th</sup>
Mechanized method of harvesting maize	2.52	2.10	16 <sup>th</sup>
Market outlet for harvested Maize	2.45	2.23	17 <sup>th</sup>
Prevailing maize crop prices in the market	2.44	2.16	18 <sup>th</sup>
Soil fertility test	2.24	1.90	19 <sup>th</sup>
Weather forecast information on maize planting	2.02	1.17	20 <sup>th</sup>
Information on loan interest rate	1.97	1.78	21 <sup>st</sup>
Better record keeping on sales of maize produced	1.78	1.66	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Payment of compensation for crop grown on government acquired land	1.65	1.52	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Marketing of maize produce through cooperatives	1.51	1.51	24 <sup>th</sup>
Environmental protection on land	1.51	1.44	24 <sup>th</sup>
Government policies on land acquisition	1.36	1.35	25 <sup>th</sup>

Source: Field survey, 2009

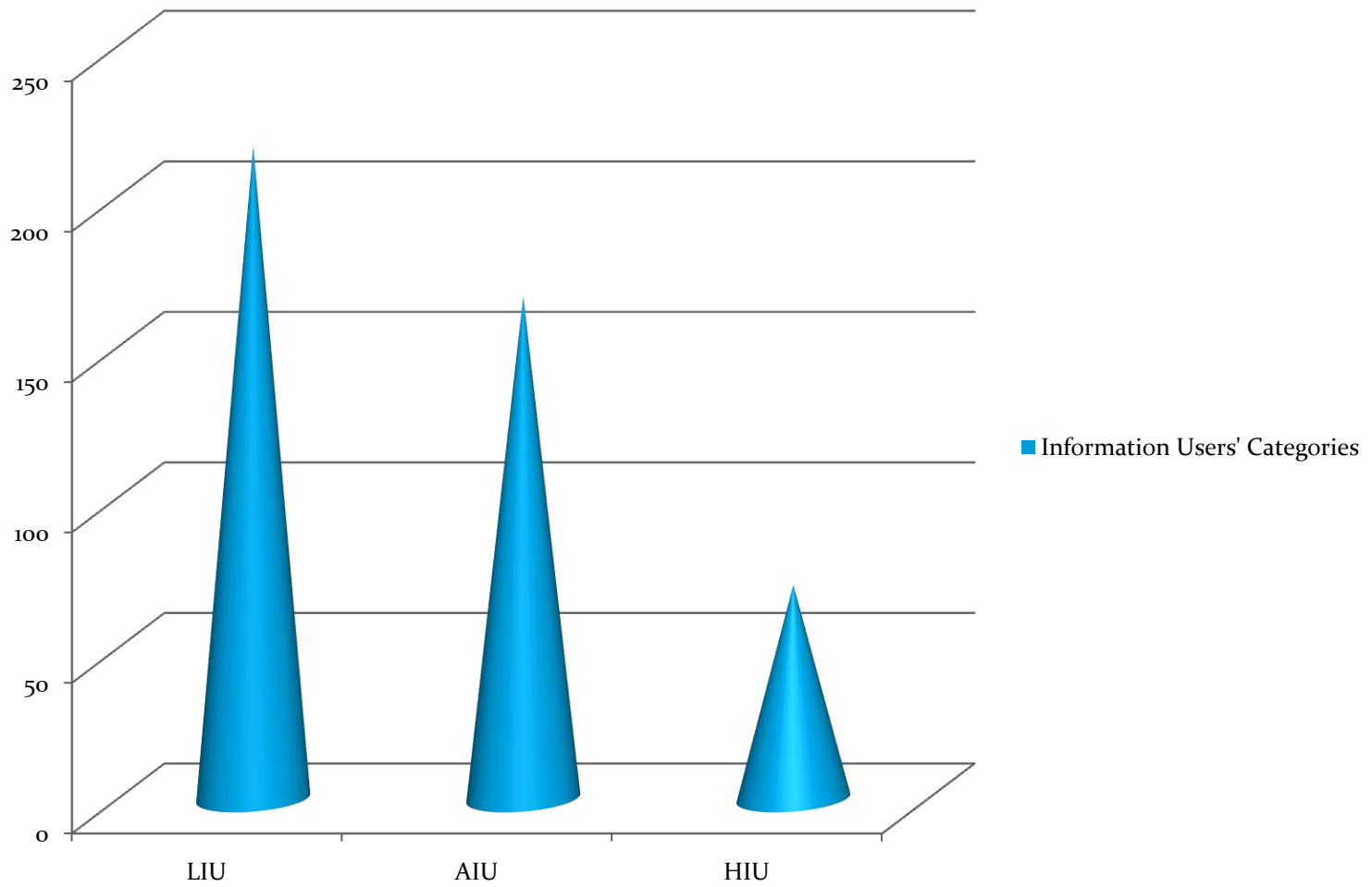
WMS- Weighted Mean score, SD- Standard Deviation

**Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to categorization of users of agricultural information on selected arable crops based on t scores**

Category of users of agricultural information	Utilisation scores	Frequency	Percentage
Low information user	$(\bar{X} - \text{ISD to } ) < 50$	217	47.7
Average information user	$(\bar{X} \text{ to } \bar{X} + \text{ISD}) 50 - 59$	167	36.7
High information user	$(> \bar{X} \text{ to } \bar{X} + \text{ISD}) > 60$	71	15.6
<b>Total</b>		<b>455</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field survey, 2009  
 Mean t score =50, S.D = 10





**Fig. 1: Chart showing Categories Information Users**

# The determining factors influencing utilization of agricultural information on selected arable crops in the study area.

**Table 5: Tobit Estimates of determining factors influencing utilization of agricultural information on selected arable crops among rural youth**

Selected variables	Coefficient	Standard Error	T value	P value
Constant	25.435	5.148	4.940	0.0000
Age	0.347	0.973	3.573*	0.0004
Marital Status	2.386	1.045	2.283**	0.0224
Years of formal education	-0.17E-01	0.965E - 01	-0.179	0.8579
Farming Experience	-0.126	0.973E - 01	-1.295	0.1950
Household size	0.402	0.242	1.662***	0.0965
Farm size	-0.861	0.205	-4.194*	0.0000
Sex	0.448	1.048	0.427	0.669
Membership of social Organization	1.986	0.793	2.506**	0.0122
Extension Contact	-0.204	0.911	-0.223	0.8232
Frequency of use of information sources	-0.791E - 02	0.317E - 01	-0.249	0.8032
Perception of utilization of agricultural information	0.375	0.561E - 01	6.685*	0.0000
Socio economic status	0.197E - 03	0.181E - 01	0.011	0.9913
Availability of Information	0.247E - 02	0.439E - 01	0.056	0.9532
Access of information sources	-0.628E - 01	0.558E - 01	-1.127	0.2597

**Sigma = 8.646; Significant at  $p < 0.001$  \* - Significant at  $p < 0.01$ , \*\* - Significant at  $P < 0.05$**

**\*\*\* - Significant at  $P < 0.1$**

# Conclusion

- **The study concluded that agricultural information on selected arable crops were made available and moderately utilized by the respondents.**
- **Age,**
- **membership of social organization,**
- **household size, farm size**
- **perception of utilization of agricultural information were significantly influenced the utilization of agricultural information on selected arable crops.**

# Recommendations

- **Dissemination of agricultural information on economic and legal issues should be highly promoted by the extension institutions.**
- **Rural youth should be re-orientated on the need to acquire useful information on selected arable crops as the scale of operation changes.**
- **Rural youth should be encouraged to form formidable groups especially cooperative societies in order to facilitate access to loan, input and credit facilities from governmental and Non governmental agencies.**
- **Those factors that have positive associations with utilization of information should be considered in planning rural youth extension programmes.**



- **Thanks**  
**for**  
**listening.....**