

THE CHALLENGES OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: IN IKOLE EKITI

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

EKITI-STATE

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CERTIFICATION

KAMORUDEEN MARIAM an under graduate student of the department of sociology with Matriculation Number SOC/13/1295 has satisfactorily completed the requirement for research work for the award of the bachelors' degree in sociology. The work embedded in this project work is original and has not been submitted in part or in full for any other diploma or degree of this or any other University.


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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to theALMIGHTY ALLAH (the beginning and the end) who made available forme his wisdom, knowledge, understanding and unending mercy through it all

Also to MY FATHER, and MY BELOVED MOTHER who taught me how great the light of truth and knowledge is, that even in deep darkness, a little candle will show the way and make the going easier.

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is not only one of the most important sources of rural livelihoods in Nigeria but also makes vital contributions to the country's economy. Rural women are major agricultural producers especially at the household level. But unfortunately they have least access to agricultural extension services. There are many constraints which are being faced by farmwomen in attaining access to extension services. To explore challenges women face in accessing agricultural services, the present research was undertaken in Ikole Ekiti, Ekiti state Nigeria. The study was hinged on radical feminist theory to generate the themes for the challenges of women in agriculture

. Quantitative methods of data collection were used A convenient sampling technique was employed to select the study respondents 120 women (respondents) in order to draw conclusions about their experiences through the administration of a questionnaire.. Data were collected over a two and half week period in the month of September to October 2017 from women who undertakes farming and analysis was done by using statistical package for social sciences software.

The results showed that women into farmer 'role in the agricultural sector is important and unavoidable, However, the role of women in the agricultural sector is yet to be applauded. Similarly, the present standard of women in agriculture is relatively poor. The study pinpoints that women have contributed a great deal to the agricultural sector with their contributions sometimes greater than men the study also reveals that women have been marginalized in socio-cultural settings. In addition, unfavorable land tenure has served as a major constraint to the participation of women in agriculture, lack of education is also constraint to women growth in the agricultural sector. Also, they are seen as child bearing instruments and under-represented in agricultural extension and training. The study further reveals that agricultural challenges affected women productivity as farmer and their social life and. Also In addition, agricultural challenges affect their success as women in agriculture.

The study suggests that for women to embrace modern agricultural practices there is an urgent need for the challenges identified to be addressed and for further studies to be undertaken involving larger samples. The main weakness of this study is that findings cannot be generalized beyond the sample of women who provided the information used in this study.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study.

Over the years, there have been different findings and variegated movements to analyze the social order and place of women in it. Various summit, research and conferences have proved the existence of a male dominated social structure that indisputably relegates the participation of women in key areas in the society. Investigations have revealed that there is astute and obvious alarming disequilibrium between the feminine gender vis-à-vis their male counterparts. Brain and Martin (2010) demystifies this phenomenon by emphasizing that “women are being oppressed especially within the confines of African countries.

Agricultural production is an important activity of any country. In Nigeria, in the early sixties agricultural exports were primarily responsible for the gross domestic product growth of five percent per annum provided mainly by the employment of unused labour of men and women. (Onwubuya, 2007).

Women’s fundamental activities in agriculture are numerous. In Nigeria, as noted by Chole (1991), women play a particular important role in crop production, including land preparation, planting of crops, maintaining of crops, harvesting, transporting, processing, storing and marketing of produce. They are involved in animal husbandry activities. They feed and care for farm animals such as poultry, goats, pigs and rabbits they also process and market animal products.

The study aimed to explore the challenges rural women face in Agriculture, Agriculture is the cornerstone of the Nigeria economy. Besides being one of the sources of foreign exchange

earnings for the country, it also produces the bulky of the food consumed locally. Specifically the sector contributes about 5% of the country's Gross domestic Product (GDP) and accounts for 65 percent of the export earnings and provides livelihood (employment, income, and food security needs) for more than 80 percent of the Nigerian people. In Nigeria, as in many other regions of the developing world, women constitute more than 80% of the agricultural labour and they participate in all aspects of production, Ukonze (2001). Buserup (1970) agreed that women also do transplanting and weeding work. The author also noted that women provide production inputs, organize labour and participate in the processing and sales of the crops. Ogbonna (1989) stated that women also grow secondary crops in small fields near the major food and cash crops. The author went further to say that secondary crop such as Bambara nut and groundnut are intercropped with stable cereals, roots and tubers. They balance soil nutrients, provide ground cover which improves water retention and erosion control and may help to reduce crop diseases and pests. Ogbuibe (1984) added that women's concern with family food supplies sometimes leads them to cultivate some fields of early maturing grains.

While women in Nigeria produce more than 60-80% of the food consumed in the country, they face severe constraints than men in accessing productive resources including markets, credit, education and training, and support service. Closing the gender gap in agriculture would produce significant gains by increasing agricultural productivity, reducing poverty and hunger and promoting sustainable rural development. Although the participation of rural women in agricultural production at the household level is higher and they spend more time than men in agricultural related activities their work has not been recognized and documented both at the national and international levels. Even though the Agriculture sector is increasingly becoming more technologically sophisticated, commercially oriented and globally integrated;

women have little or almost no access to agricultural information. In the process women who constitute more than 70% of the farmers are overlooked. Due to that reason, rural women face a number of constraints which negatively affect their role in agricultural production. This study was therefore designed to find out challenges women in Nigeria Ekiti state ,ikole ekiti sub location face in the agricultural sector\ . Recently the Nigerian government has identified the agricultural sector as one of the key drivers of Vision 2020, a new blue print for Nigerian development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Towards this end, various policy measures and programmers' have been put in place to increase agricultural productivity and production. One of these measures is the provision for women participation in agriculture.

1.2 Statement of the problem

For some years now, the various governments have made massive effort towards modernizing agriculture to transform traditional systems into modern systems of food production. Women are rarely involved and their participation not sought for. In most case, especially in rural areas, they are denied the right to full social equality and equal economic opportunity.

Nigerian Women constitute a majority of smallholder farmers providing most of the labor and managing a large part of the farming activities on a daily basis, The problem is that in spite of their central role in agricultural production, they face numerous constraints and challenges in agriculture These range from insufficient fund,Limited Access to and Control over Land,Access to Credit, agricultural inputs and technology, Labour Shortages and Women's Time Constraints, Poor and limited access to markets, This challenges and due incentive inevitably

results in loss of interest in farming and non-acceptance of innovations on the part of women .The overall result is therefore low agricultural productivity leading to low food supply in the state. The need therefore arises to assess the participation of women farmers in agriculture Thus, this study sought to understand the challenges women in agriculture sub location of Nigeria.

1.3 Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following research questions:

- What are the roles of women farmers in agriculture?
- What are the statuses and contributions of women in different agricultural sector?
- What are the challenges women faces in the agricultural production?
- How doss the challenges women face affect their access to agriculture?

1.4 Research Objectives

The main objective of this study was to investigate, document and highlight the challenges of women in agriculture sub location face. The following specific objectives were identified:

- To assess the roles of women in agriculture
- Indentify the status contributions of women in different agricultural sector
- Identify the constraints to participation of women farmers in agriculture
- To describe the effect of the challenges that women face in agriculture.

1.5 Justification of the study

There were a number of practical reasons for doing this research. At this time when food production in the country is declining and cannot adequately feed the growing population, there is an urgent need to look into the constraints of those who produce food (in our case women). Identification of the challenges women farmers face will be a first step towards addressing them and thereby increasing agricultural production, the focus must be on the needs of women farmers who are currently the major food producers. Which may bring about benefits and possible Changes, least of which is increased potential of women in agricultural production.

This in turn will benefit the whole country. The study was also justified in the sense that it has generated empirical data that not only fills the gaps in knowledge and literature on this important issue but also useful information that will be of interest to many different types of stakeholders in the agricultural sector. These include: Policy makers, development workers, county government and academicians. This research will also give women unbiased passion to be actively involved in agriculture and other sectors of the economy to facilitate peaceful coexistence and equal participation in the society as a whole.

1.6 Scope of the study

This study was confined to women farmers in Nigeria, Ekiti state. Ikole Ekiti sub location. This research was limited to adult women directly involved agriculture. The research aims to gather the real life experiences of women in agriculture.

1.7 Operational Definition of concepts

For clarity in this research there is need for definition of various concepts which are:

Woman: is a femalehuman; the term woman is usually reserved for an adult, which could be single, married or divorced

Agriculture: Agriculture is the practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, fiber, biofuel, medicinal plants and other products used to sustain and enhance human life.

Challenges: The hindrances or difficulties faced by an individual in a particular position that prevent them from performing well ,challenges is also a form limiting or holding back an individual in the course of operation.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVEIW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter is based on the review of literature and theoretical framework on “challenges of women in agriculture”. It focused mainly on the factors that make up or rather pose as the challenges of women in agriculture, how these factors affect women generally.

Agriculture is relegating in many third world countries for a several reasons; Among these is the fact that women lack the resources and opportunity that they need to make the most productive use of their quality time. Women are farmers, workers and also entrepreneurs, but almost everywhere they face more severe constraints than their counterpart (men) in accessing productivity resources, market and service. A myriad of problems affecting women in agriculture and profitability and Women play pivotal roles in developing, maintaining and innovating agricultural enterprises (McGehee, Kim, and Jennings 2007) In spite of the active contribution of women in agriculture, studies show that women operators earn significantly less than male ones. However, little research has specifically explored the obstacles women agriculture entrepreneurs face in conducting their businesses (McGehee 2007). To respond to this knowledge gap, this research was conducted to identify the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs involved in farming and agriculture in Nigeria.

2.2 Historical trends of women in agriculture

2.2.1 A brief history of women in agriculture from the early 20th century to the present day

Although history shows that women have been at the center of grassroots activities influencing, shaping, and growing farm organizations and that they have made enormous contributions to the survival of family farm agriculture and the growth and development of rural institutions and communities, Women's political participation in the agriculture industry has roots in women trading goods particularly in local markets. By the 1910s, women financially contributed to their Families by bartering goods and selling cash crops, including poultry, dairy, and garden produce in local, regional, as well as national markets. Women's participation in these markets was not only financially beneficial, but also created opportunities for fostering community networks, connecting social and economic life within their communities, and defining a separate sphere for women to connect with each other in rural communities.

History as shown that Women's role on family farms served to benefit the agriculture industry as the landscape of farming changed at the turn of the twentieth century, with the transition of family farms to agribusiness. The diminishing number of operating family farms was largely the cause of this transition. In fact, by the 1900s, about half of the population in the country lived on farms. However, by 1920, thirty percent of the population lived on family farms. Furthermore, by 1980, only three percent of the population lived on family farms. Therefore, to ensure the survival of agriculture, agribusiness leaders looked to women to assist farmers by participating in promotional advertisement and education programs. These farm organizations were established by men, which welcomed women's participation. Women were deemed important to these organizations because they were held as figures morally superior to men and as they had the ability to provide social cohesion and foster group loyalty Still, some farm organizations excluded women from fully participating, claiming that men are the

producers; women help increase the demand for their product, educate the public about the farmers' problems, and lobby for favorable legislation, reinforcing patriarchal traditions.

Therefore, women split from these male-dominated farm organizations to form auxiliary groups. Today there is an abundance of volunteer, auxiliary, and women's agricultural organizations formed to expand the voice of women in the industry

2.3 Roles of Women in Agriculture

Agriculture is an important engine of growth and poverty reduction (Cheryl Doss; 2011). But the sector is underperforming in many countries in part because women, who are often a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy, face constraints that reduce their productivity. Facts show that women comprise about 43 percent of the agricultural labour force globally and in developing countries. But this figure masks considerable variation across regions and within countries according to age and social class although a number of research works have been done regarding the contribution of women workforce contribution of world food production, but controversies arises in quantifying their involvement. According to Dommati Devender and Reddy Chittedi Krishna (2011) women produce between 60 and 80 percent of the food in most developing countries and are responsible for half of the world food production.. On the contrary to this fact another group of researcher argues that despite their significant role agricultural production, a precise measure of women's contribution to food production is impossible to establish. In most cases women do not produce food separately from men and it is impossible to disaggregate men and women involvement either in terms of labour supplied or in terms of output produced. It is sufficient to recognize that women are important to agriculture and agriculture is important to women (Cheryl Doss 2011). Various studies across worlds have

recognized women's contribution in various economic activities. But it is quite difficult to compare women's economic activities precisely across countries and even compare within countries over time. Africa has been described as the region of female farming Damisa and Yohanna (2007) stated that the role of women in agricultural production can never be underestimated. They perform crucial roles in the domestic and economic life of the society. Rural and national developments can hardly be achieved with the neglect of this important and substantial segment of the society.

Ogbonna (1989) also observed that Africa is a continent where the bulk of daily farm labor has traditionally been done by women rather than by men, husbands, wives, or extended family groups; women do the planting, weeding and harvesting all year round. She added that in most West African countries essentially, agricultural labour is performed by women because men regard it as a mark of degradation to stop and dig ground like women. Over the years, women have established more defined roles in agriculture. According to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, women account for 75 percent of the farming population and working as farm managers, and suppliers of labour.

The role of women in agricultural production has however not widely been explored. Male dominance in decision making in the household and economy as well as agricultural production has continued even in areas where women are the type providers of labour since the weight of women has not been renowned The women have more or less been relegated to play second fiddle in homes and the economy. Considering therefore the importance of active participation of rural women in agricultural production, it is necessary to correct for this anomaly. In Accordance to the World Bank participation resource book, in Nigeria, women play an important role in agricultural production setting. This was confirmed by the findings of a

study financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in which the study revealed that women make up 60-80 percent of the agricultural labor force, depending on the region, and produce two-thirds of the food crops. Yet, despite the facts, widespread assumptions that men-and not women-make the key farm management decisions have prevailed. Consequently, agricultural extension services have habitually been focused on men and their farm production needs, while neglecting the female half of the production vigor

Ezumah (1988) observed that women have taken a recognizable part in production of food crops, rearing of animals, storage, processing and marketing of agricultural produce. Women play a significant role in food production. Ogbanna (1989) found out that women often gather wild food and feed on their way home from the farm. He pointed out that the cultivation of secondary crops such as legumes and vegetable in gardens near their home may be more compatible with women's domestic and child care duties than field crop cultivation.

However, Adekanye (1988) observed that once men move from farming into such non-farm occupations as factory work, mining and distribution of industrial goods, the women take up food production for home consumption and for sale. He further noted that the rural women are mainly engaged in the production processing and distribution of such food crops as yam, maize, rice, cassava and palm oil. Olajuwon (1980) stated that , the women folk contribute a formidable and significant source of labor in small scale and that woman have been actively involved in farm product processing, so as to develop high level of expertise in the field. The numerous research sponsored by the united Nations food and Agricultural organization (UNFAO) showed that women produce much of the world's food and that they process and cook almost all of it. In appreciation of the extent of women's participation in agriculture, Adegbenro

(2010) reported that there is a loss of potential for economic growth in many agricultural policies that neglects the role of women in food production.

2.4 Status and Contribution of Women in Different Agricultural Sector

2.4.1 Women as Livestock Keepers

Within pastoralist and mixed farming systems, livestock play an important role in supporting women and in improving their financial situation and women are heavily engaged in the sector. An estimated two thirds of poor livestock keepers, totaling approximately 400 million people, are women (Thornton *et al.*, 2002). They share responsibility with men and children for the care of animals, and particular species and types of activity are more associated with women than men. For example, women often have a prominent role in managing poultry (FAO, Guèye, 2000; Tung, 2005) and dairy animals (Okali and Mims, Shapiro, 2000) and in caring for other animals that are housed and fed within the homestead. When roles or duties are alienated, men are more likely to be involved in constructing housing and the herding of grazing animals, and in marketing products if women's mobility is constrained. The authority of women is strong in the use of eggs, milk and poultry meat for home consumption and they often have organize over marketing these products and the income derived from them. Perchance for this reason, poultry and small-scale dairy projects have been popular investments for development projects that aim to improve the lot of rural women. In some developing countries, small-scale pig production is also conquered by women. Female-headed households are as successful as male-headed households in generating income from their animals, even though they tend to own smaller numbers of animals, almost certainly because of labour constraints. Livestock ownership is

particularly attractive to women in societies where access to land is constrained to men (Bravo-Baumann, 2000). While the role of women in small-scale livestock production is well predictable, much less has been documented about women's engagement in intensive production and the market chains connected with large commercial enterprises. This has implications for the rendezvous of women in the livestock sector because of the different roles, farm duties and access to resources that are apparent within different scales of production system and at different points on the production and marketing chain. The available evidence suggests that the role of women in meeting these changing stress may reduce, for two reasons. The first is that when livestock enterprises scale up, the control over decisions and income, and sometimes the entire enterprise, often shifts to men. The second important factor is that all smallholders face challenges when the livestock sector intensifies and concentrates and many go out of business.

This is predominantly evident for pig and poultry owners (Rola *et al.*, 2006) but is not confined to those species. Given the more limited ability of women to start their own businesses, this implies that they will tend to become employees rather than self-employed. In dedicated activities such as the production of day-old chicks, and in slaughtering, dispensation and retail, women are noticeable wherever painstaking semi-skilled work is to be done, but very little research data are available about the extent of their involvement compared with that of men, or their be in charge of over resources.

2.4.2 Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture

In 2008, nearly 45 million people wide-reaching were directly engaged, full time or part time, in the fishery primary sector. In addition, an estimated 135 million people are employed in the secondary sector, including postharvest activities. At the same time as comprehensive data

are not available on a sex-disaggregated basis, case studies suggest that women may comprise up to 30 percent of the total employment in fisheries, including primary and secondary activities. Information provided to FAO from 86 countries indicates that in 2008, 5.4 million women worked as fishers and fish farmers in the primary sector. Women have rarely engaged in commercial offshore and long-distance capture fisheries because of the energetic work involved but also because of their domestic farm duties and/or social norms. They are more universally occupied in subsistence and commercial fishing from small boats and canoes in coastal or inland waters. Women also contribute as entrepreneurs and make available labour before, during and after the catch in both artisanal and commercial fisheries. For example, in West Africa, the so called “Fish Mamas” play a major role: they usually own capital and are directly and vigorously involved in the coordination of the fisheries chain, from production to the sale of fish. Studies of women in aquaculture, especially in Asia where aquaculture has a long tradition, indicate that the contribution of women in labour is often greater than men’s, although macro-level sex-disaggregated data on this topic is approximately non-existent. Women are reported to constitute 33 percent of the rural aquaculture workforce in China, 42 percent in Indonesia and 80 percent in Viet Nam (Kusabe and Kelker, 2001). The most significant task played by women in both artisanal and industrial fisheries is at the processing and marketing stages, where they are very active in all regions. In some countries, women have become momentous entrepreneurs in fish processing; in fact, most fish processing is performed by women, either in their own household-level industries or as wage labourers in the large-scale processing industry

2.4.3 Women in Forestry

Women contribute to both the formal and informal forestry sectors in many significant ways. They play roles in agro forestry, watershed management, tree improvement, and forest protection and conservation. Forests also often represent an vital source of employment for women, particularly in rural areas. From nurseries to plantations, and from logging to wood processing, women make up a notable proportion of the labour force in forest industries throughout the world. However, although women donate substantially to the forestry sector, their roles are not fully recognized and acknowledged, their wages are not equal to those of men and their working conditions tend to be underprivileged (World Bank, FAO and IFAD, 2009). (The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010) reports that the forestry sector worldwide employed approximately 11 million people in 2005; however, sex disaggregated data on the number of women employed by the sector are not available on a comprehensive basis (FAO, 2010c). Indication from developing countries suggests that women are often employed in menial jobs in sawmills, plantation nurseries and logging camps (World Bank, FAO and IFAD, 2009). Studies conducted by FAO in Africa and Europe indicate that women do not hold senior or policy-making positions in the sector. Rather, they are primarily employed in administrative and support roles, with professional women foresters tending to have specialist roles (e.g. research) or first-line junior management positions. There is narrow information on the numbers and roles of women in constricting or freelance forestry work (FAO, 2006, 2007).

The study indicates that even though women are still underrepresented in the production, examples of good practice are up-and-coming, especially in Europe (FAO, 2006a). This shows that intensive and sustained commitment and planning at senior organizational levels can

outcome in quantifiable improvements in the number of professional women foresters employed and the level of seniority they can attain.

2.5 Challenges of Women in Agriculture

Agriculture is essential to women, but female farmers have less right to use to the productive resources and services necessary by agricultural producers. right of entry to productive resources such as land, modern inputs, technology, education and financial services is a serious determinant of agricultural productivity. (Bruni, Gherardi, & Poggio, 2004; Coleman, 2000; Ragasa, 2012; Winn 2005) Women are less likely than men to own land or livestock, adopt new technologies, use credit or other financial services, or receive education or extension advice. In some cases, women do not even control the use of their own time. at the same time as the size of the gender gap differs by resource and location, the essential causes for the gender asset gap are frequent across regions: social norms methodically limit the options available to women. Regardless of cause or magnitude, however, the gender asset gap reduces the agricultural productivity of women and thus involves broader economic and social costs. Women in agriculture face challenges inherent to their multifaceted livelihoods. These challenges are exacerbated when their entrepreneurial efforts are related to farming due to the complexity of the agricultural industry. Our literature review unearthed several challenges that tend to affect the success of women in agriculture and female entrepreneur.

2.5.1 Limited Access To Land And Control Over The Land:

In some African countries, women are rarely allocated land in their own right, particularly in matrilineal areas. Land is allocated to men, who are the heads of household. Women in matrilineal societies on the other hand are allocated land in their own right, but the land is still commonly controlled by their husbands or male clan heads (FAO, 2009). Men are the

ones who have full ownership of property and any valuable goods in the household must belong to the head of the household. For example, if someone purchases a lounge suite for the house, the minute the lounge suite enters the door it becomes the property of the household head, the father.

This, of course, is in line with culture. Women's lack of self-sufficient land privileges rules out one of the main reserve positions for women seeking sustainable livelihoods in the face of rising poverty. While there is enormous variation from one communal tenure system to another, women do not usually qualify to hold land independently from men. Rules of access and inheritance generally tend to favour men over women and women with children over those without (Mutangadura 2004) Kabane (2010) argue that constraints which are faced by women farmers differ from country to country and culture to culture. In Nigeria, Afghanistan and other patriarchal societies for instance, women lack independent rights to land. Land rights are only allocated through men, either sons or husbands. The FAO (2009) agrees with the sentiment that women be allowed to access land either directly or indirectly, as the majority have limited or no access to or control over land. Land is the most important household asset for households that depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Access to land is a basic requirement for farming and control over land is synonymous with wealth, status and power in many areas. Studies have shown that the main challenge for female farmers Women in Nigeria generally own less land due to traditional authority.

According to the 2012 Gender in Nigeria' report by the British Council, women own 4% of land in the North-East, and just over 10% in the South-East and South-South, less than 10% of Nigerian women own land. Thus, the lack of access to land ownership significantly reduces the chances for women's access to financing because of the need for collateral. While both men and women farmers lack sufficient access to agricultural resources, women generally have less

access to resources than men this is mainly due to statutory legislation and customary laws and practices that limit their rights to land. Women farmers also experience challenges associated with the patriarchal structure of farming. In this regards, the most pressing challenge women farmers face is unequal land rights (Ogunlela and Mukhtar 2009) This patriarchal structure is also evident in the institutional support system which is dominated by male extension agents (Ragasa 2012; Puskur).

Amu argues that in Ghana, although there are Constitutional provisions that protect the right of women with regards to land, land is held in trust by the leaders of the stool/family, who more often are men (2005: 39, Akua, et al. 2004). In Africa, land titles are usually registered in the name of a male household head, regardless of how much a woman has contributed to the buying of that land (Takyiwaa 1998). Lack of ownership of land restricts women's choice of crops to be grown as well as their access to credit since land is used as collateral. African women are therefore disadvantaged in both statutory and customary land tenure systems (Argawal 1994; Kevane 2004). Even where existing legislation protects women's property rights, lack of legal knowledge and weak implementation may limit women's ability to exercise these rights (Quisumbing, et al. 2009: 582). In countries where ownership and inheritance laws have been reformed in favour of women, women still do not necessarily have more rights to land, as local customs and lack of information act as barriers (Ogunlela, et al. 2009).

The factors that constrain women in acquiring land rights as in many countries include: firstly, the application of the customary law of patriarchy, which discriminates against women, secondly, the short of women representatives on community land committees and participation in traditional community decision-making structures. Although in some communities, women are now allowed to attend and participate or actively speak at public meetings, observations noted by

an NGO working with rural women indicate that women bear the legacy of entrenched traditional values that make it difficult for them to freely in the presence of men (Hargreaves, 1999). Lastly, there is widespread ignorance among women of their rights to land from the provisions of the constitution due to factors such as illiteracy and lack of dissemination of the legislation to the grassroots levels. Women in the village are not aware of the existence of the laws in the country, which are meant to protect them against traditional laws and social norms.

The majority of these women are old and some of them have not progressed to higher education, one of the places where they can be exposed to such laws and policies. The laws they are aware of are those which are imposed to them by society and culture and those are the laws they are obliged to abide by. The presence of these statutory laws that affect women does not make sense if they are not known and utilized by those who are meant for, like the women of the village hence the implementation or rather introduction of such laws is necessary for the rural women.

2.5.2 Limited Access to Education

Education is one of the noteworthy factors affecting the sharing of women in agricultural development. Radet al. (2010) agrees that education is one of the important factors that help development to be realized. The purpose of education (formal and informal) as stated by Rad et al. (2010) is to communicate accumulated wisdom and knowledge from one generation to the next. Secondly, education enhances active participation in innovation and the development of new knowledge. Aniet al. (2004) further argue that education enhances the ability to derive, decode and evaluate useful information for agricultural production.

The Food and Agricultural Organization United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organization (FAO/UNESCO) (2002) note that better education and training have

become essential for sustainable development and for rural economies to Survive. Manuh (1998) is of the view that the lack of education and training has been identified as a key barrier to women's advancement in the society. She argues that in Africa, female illiteracy rates were over 60 percent in 1996 compared to 41 percent of men. Certain countries have extremely high rates of low education on women. In many African countries parents still prefer to send boys to school, seeing little need for sending girls. Hence, illiteracy is still evident in most African countries (Ravinder et al., 2009). A study conducted by the Natural Resources Management and Environment Department (2010), reveals that, illiteracy is a major constraint facing women in development. Women are unable to understand and utilize technical information because they lack basic formal education on. This department also reveals that, because of their illiteracy, women farmers are unable to read and understand the written material provided by extension programs that educate farmers. Penin (1999) supports the latter sentiment by arguing that, education has a relationship with farm progressiveness. The reason is that there is positive correlation between education and farming. Through education, farmers are able to acquire new improved and effective written material. Educated farmers are able to acquire more information in the form of written material such as magazines, newsletters and farming instruction pamphlets, booklets, and on packaged hybrid seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and many more (Penin 1999). In addition, as noted by Anselm et al. (2010), education plays a significant role in positively influencing the status of women in farm decision-making. He states that highly educated women are likely to make a higher contribution to farm decision-making than uneducated ones.

A study conducted by Ani et al. (2004) on the relationship between socio-economic characteristics of rural women farmers and their adoption of technology in Nigeria showed that

educated women farmers adopts farm technologies at a higher rate than less educated people who continue to use more rudimentary technology. Therefore, the education of rural women is important for their progressive participation in sustainable development. Revinder et al. (2009) notes that, socio cultural factors also play a role in hindering women from accessing and furthering their educational interests. They argue that, factors such as early marriage place a greater burden on household labour and acts as a barrier to girls' progress in education. In her study, Blaai (2009) notes that ignoring the empowerment of women adds to the challenges faced by women in rural areas. As a result, women received limited training while their developmental responsibilities demand more skills and more extension services. She adds that, the study subjects lacked basic skills in literacy and mathematics which were very crucial for the success of a project.

2.5.3: Limited Access to Extension Services:

In today's global cost-cutting measure, access to information about new technology and existing new market opportunities are vital for commercial farming. While some women may have access to such information and extension services, a preponderance of women farmers have no right of entry because they either live in rural areas where such information and services may not be available or urban areas where such information may be limited to a few. Amu (2005) stated that in Nigeria women's low level of education to some extent hampers their access to information about existing/new technology. With this low access to information regarding available markets, appropriate technology, and better farming methods, African women's output continue to be low (Amu 2005). even in cases where women's participation in extension services is average, their participation is still constrained by a variety of practices, including the anticipation that a woman's husband must endorse any legal transaction in which she is involved.

For socio-cultural and other reasons, this lack of access to or inadequate provision of education and the resulting low literacy levels have in a weak position their ability to access information about support and extension services for improving their farming business. Rural women are the most deprived in terms of access to agricultural extension services, education and other forms of formal and informal training programmes (Nabbumba 2008).

2.5.4: Access to Credit, Agricultural Inputs and technology:

A woman chipping in farmers training is low due to the lack of consciousness society barriers, and transportation facilities. Cultural norms restrict women from accessing ICT. Due to poor financing, In Nigeria, women farmers receive less than 10% of the acknowledgment offered to small-scale farmers. Women farmers are deterred from applying for formal loans because of the density of the administrative process, unsuitable loan sizes and credit rates. Typically, women are not found in farmer clusters. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, in 2007, some 20,098 men accessed loans compared to 8,550 women. Women are unable to access agricultural inputs such as improved seedlings and fertilizer. Women farmers have indicated that they are unable to use inputs due to high cost in the open market. Studies have discovered that women basically lack access to credit due to their low levels of savings as well as the lack of the necessary guarantee needed for the acquisition and repayment required for a loan (World Bank 2001; Amu 2005). Women's lack of access to credit is a direct outcome of women's lack of access to land (Still and Walker 2006; Winn 2005)

Amu(2005) stated that in most Africa countries, land is used as collateral in banks, and husbands have to approve before a bank administers a loan to the wife but men most times do not support their wives' applications (Amu 2005). A study carried out a survey that men had access to credit from banks, money lenders, and cooperatives while women's sources of credit were the

kin/friends, and rotating credit and savings associations, locally referred to as '*esusu*' or *ajoin* Yoruba setting in Nigeria (Mikalitsa 2010), termed '*njagi*' in Cameroon (Ngangriyap 2007:_25). in addition, the bureaucracy involved in acquiring a loan is too complex for most women farmers, especially those with little or no educational background. Slama argues that in African countries, obtaining a loan usually means lengthy visits to the nearest town which may be several hours' journey away, and men do not like the idea of women travelling to town. In addition, with their heavy workloads, it is difficult for most rural women to be absent from their homes for long periods of time.). Women's traditional family roles are often acknowledged as a challenge because of the pressure family members tend to exert on them to not compromise their family obligations in favor of running their businesses (Bruni, Gherardi, and Poggio 2004), Some women farmers did not in practice to have access outstanding to beliefs that they would be taken to court once they failed to repay the loans. Women Farmers lacked enough information about procedures to access loans since social norms banned them from receiving information from outside lenders.

The access of women farmers to agricultural inputs and technologies is also constrained by their lack of access to credit (Doss 2001; Ragasa 2012)) and the poor socio-economic status of women in rural Africa impinges strongly on the production tools and implements they use. The Plan of Modernization of Agriculture summarizes the women's challenge of credit access in a Africa by highlighting four issues. First, the procedures and process to access credit and financial services are bureaucratic and intimidate and discourage the poor, illiterate women. Furthermore, women are not considered credit worthy by credit institutions; they are used to informal credit systems, and the high transaction costs in the provision of rural financial services also deject MFIs to operate in the rural areas (PMA 2005).

2.5.5: Labour Shortages and Women's Time Constraints:

Diverse studies have identified and documented the invaluable role of women in agricultural production in various parts of the world (Ejembi, et al. 2006; FAO 1994; World Bank 2001). Sub-Saharan African women contribute 60–80 percent of agricultural labour in food production, both for household consumption and for sale (Takyiwaa 1998). A appraisal on women's contribution to food crop production carried out in 9 countries by FAO indicated that women contribute They contribute between 70 and 80 percent in Nigeria where rural women take part in the processing of agricultural produce, 30 percent in Sudan, 80 percent in the Congo, and 48 percent in Burkina Faso (FAO 1994). , while Zambian women donate up to 80 percent of their labour for household food production (Ogunlela, et al. 2009). While there are significant variations in Africa, there is the same division of roles in agriculture and women are to a large extent involved in almost all the sub-sectors of agriculture including farming, processing and distribution (Amu 2005; Duncan 2004). The immediate labour supply for an African woman farmer comes from her family.

However, there have been shortfalls in family labour as a result of husbands', older sons' and daughters' immigration into urban centers, leaving the women and small children whose capacity to supply labour is very limited (Amu 2005). This dilemma is especially serious for African rural women farmers who have to support their husbands in the planting and harvesting of their crops besides their own individual farms. In Ghana, for instance, a wife is by tradition under obligation to help her husband on his own farm and they tend to respond to this by abandoning their own farms or by acquiring smaller portions of land (Amu 2005:_ 40). Women in Anambra State of Nigeria contribute more than the men in terms of labour input in farming and are solely responsible for household management duties (Ejembi, et al. 2006). Amu (2005)

indicates that to solve the problem of labour shortages, most rural women farmers join shared labour supply associations where the group work together to help clear, crop and harvest each member's farm (Nnobia system).). Time budget studies have shown that women generally have longer hours of labour and therefore far less hours for leisure than do men in their Households in both the Western and developing worlds (Amu 2005). Women also take time off work for reproductive purposes as well as caring for the children and the home.

This hampers their participation in viable farming as it reduces the time available to them for working on their own farms, as well as their mobility to search for information necessary to improve their productivity or to explore alternative markets for their produce (Amu 2005). The 2002 Participatory Poverty Assessment on the gendered division of roles showed that women have the prime responsibility for domestic duties and food production while men spend time on productive activities or on spare time Both women and men contribute to agricultural production, with the women playing a larger role and in most cases being entirely responsible for food production (MFPED 2002).

2.5.6: Poor and Limited Access To Markets:

In addition to typical production and market risks, such as theft and inadequate information about current market prices, African female farmers face many gender-specific barriers to accessing markets (Quisumbing, et al. 2009). Modes of transportation may be culturally inappropriate for women. Market or health officials often harass women who market their agricultural produce just outside the market boundaries owing to the high cost of permits. Time burdens constrain women from seeking the best prices for their output. And marital conflict may break out if fluctuating prices incite husbands to suspect that their wives are withholding money (Quisumbing, et al. 2009).

Men may also appropriate crops for which women are traditionally responsible once they enter into the market economy and become profitable. In fact, female farmers risk losing control of their products as they move along the value chain from farm to market value (World Bank 2001; FAO 1994; Clarke1994). Market-oriented interventions are influenced by gender norms that place women at a disadvantage when seeking new market opportunities (Quisumbing, et al. 2009). This challenging environment diminishes women credibility (Gundry, Ben-Yoseph, and Posig 2002), which often leads to negative self-perception and isolation.

2.6 Effect Of The Challenges Faced By Women In The Agricultural Sector

Today, most women in the society are faced with numerous challenges and problems in the agricultural sector. Some of the major challenges that women face in these sector today include gender discrimination and marginalization. A person who do not have certain traits that the society considers desirable may be marginalized from receiving certain benefits in the society or may be excluded from being involved in certain social activities within the society, for example, employment or getting access to quality education. Individuals who are marginalized in the society often live desperately lives, through these, the society often sets certain limits which an individual can reach or achieve. And these have various effects on them (the women) they often get demoralized and discouraged from working. Consequently, they develop low self-esteem, lack of self-confidence and lack of intrinsic motivation, hence may perform poorly at the work. This finally results into reduced productivity at the sector which negatively affects the society as a whole. The challenge of women in the sector has also resulted into reduced number of female role models within our communities.

2.7 Theoretical Framework

Different theories have been used to explain and address gender inequalities in society. These include Liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, Psychoanalytic Feminism, Radical feminism and Socialist feminism. These theories generally agree that there is oppression and inequality based on gender. These different theories have been used to explain gender inequality. All the theories are based on the rationale that organization of society has contributed to inequality between women and men and such inequality has contributed to women and girls having less access to power, economic empowerment, lower social status and generally limited opportunities than men and boys. Whilst they generally agree on this notion, the theorists differ on the approaches that can be employed to deal with issues of gender related inequality and oppression they only differ on the approaches they advocate to have these imbalances within addressed. This paper focuses on the radical Feminist Theory, radical feminism theory.

2.7.1 Defining Radical Feminist Theory

Radical Feminist Theory can be explained by examining the term theory first. Owens (1994) defines theory as a thought process or way of thinking about reality which becomes a model of that reality. There are at least two important ideas that come out of the definition of the term theory by Owens (1994). These are firstly, a theory is a thought process that guides us, and secondly, it can be used to explain practice and action taken. Radical feminism is a perspective within feminism that focuses on the hypothesis of patriarchy as a system of power that organizes society into a complex of relationships based on the assertion that male supremacy oppresses women. Radical feminists believe that men use social systems and other methods of control to keep non-dominant men and all women suppressed.

Radical feminism maintains that women's oppression is the first, most wide spread and deepest oppression radical feminism focuses on the theory of patriarchy. Patriarchy is a form of male dominance exercised by society over women. One of the first feminists to insist that the root of women oppression are buried deep in patriarchy's sex/gender system was Kate Millet (1970) Radical feminism argues that men inflict physical and sexual violence over women through their supremacy which extends beyond the family, as it affects employment condition, distribution of wealth, provision of opportunities among others. Such supremacy has been accepted as normal by society and it is the philosophy of the theory that this supremacy can be challenged and changed. The central idea behind this approach is that the position of women in the labour market is governed by patriarchy, or rather, male dominance. It was successful not only in exposing the male bias of the existing theories, but in bringing out the primacy of the gender relations as well. The philosophy underlining the theory is characterized by an opposition to male dominance, the need to challenge the status quo in order to radically reorder society and reorganize families and other institutions. This view about radical feminism is also expressed by Gutsa et al (2011: 24) who noted that "men create and maintain patriarchy not only because they have the resources to do so but also because they have real interests in making women serve their interests".

Relating the theory of patriarchy to the challenges of women in agriculture, patriarchy has hindered different opportunity for women in that sector due to the domination of men. the agricultural sector favour men than the women even if the women plays a vital role in the sector because of the societal norms and mentality that it is the men world things that women should be allowed to benefit from would deviated to the men .women in this sector have limited access to various facilities and resources which is on platter of gold for men limited access to

education, Credit, land, technology, markets, Extension Services and other service, Due to the to these limited access to this service it has cause various challenge to women in the sector.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the procedure which was used in this study, in order to illuminate the challenges of women in agriculture. The chapter focuses on the study site, research design, and population for the study, sample and sampling techniques, instrument for data collection, validation of the instrument, reliability of the instrument, method of data collection and method of data analysis.

3.0 Study Site

Ekiti is a state in western Nigeria, got her independence in October 1996 from the Old Ondo state. Bounded on the south by Ondo state, on the north by Kwara state and on the East by Kogi state. On creation, it had sixteen local government areas, having had an additional four carved out of the old ones.

Ikole is one of the 16 kingdoms of Ekiti land. Ikole Local Government is bounded by Ido/Osi Local Government Area, Ilejemeje Local Government Area, Moba Local Government Area, Oye Local Government Area.

Ikole ekiti people are a group of the south-western Yoruba, inhabiting the administrative headquarters of the old Ikole District Council, the defunct Ekiti North Division and the Headquarters of defunct Ekiti North Local Government and now Headquarter of Ikole Local Government. Ikole is about 65 kilometers from Ado, the capital of Ekiti State of Nigeria. The town is situated on a very plain and well-drained land on the northern part of the State about 40 kilometers from the boundary of Kwara State. Its comprises of twenty four town and villages. Town that comprise the LGA are: Ikole, Ijesha Isu, Oke Ayedun, Odo Oro, Ipao, Itapaji, Ara, Isab

a, Usin, Orinodo, Odo Ayedun, Ayebode, okeAko, Irele, Iyemero, Ikosi, Igbona, Asin, Esun, Temidire, Ikunri, Ijebu-Agege, Ilamo Ekiti

Among the villages in the LGA are: AbaDam, ItaGbangba, AbaAudu, AbaFatunla, Arinta, AbaEbira, Ayedun, Abaoko, Ijebu, Iwetin, Aba Oke Oko, Igbona Ekiti

There are no distinctive ethnic groups in the Local Government as a greater percentage of the people residents are of the Yoruba Language race. Nearly all the people speak Yoruba Language with negligible dialectical variations. (Wikipedia)

It has an area of 321 km² and The population of the town according to the to the 1952 national census was 13,696, in 1963 census is about 52,000 and a population of 168,436 at the 2006 census. The state is predominantly occupied by Christians and Muslims, though there are still some Atheist therein. Christianity, which has many denominations such as Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic, the Aladura Sects and Baptist. Christianity has the largest adherents among the three. Islam has the Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria as the only denomination. Since its inception, its influence has continued to expand among the townspeople. Only recently, there is the Nawa-Ud-Deen Sect. The third group is made up of various traditional worshippers. This group continues to lose its adherents to both Christianity and Islam. Both Christianity and Islam have contributed immensely to the rapid socio-economic development of the town especially on the field of education while the traditional worshippers continue to remind us of our past and try to keep our cultural heritage alive.

The educational advancement of the town owes much to the efforts of various religious denominations in the town, Local Government as well as self-help spirit of the people. The first Primary School in Ikole was founded by the Anglican Mission in 1926 while the Premier

Secondary School (Egbe-Oba High School) which came through the Methodist Mission and funded by Ikole Community was founded in January, 1956. In addition to these, there are four secondary schools, a technical secondary school and an agricultural training institute established some years ago by the defunct Ondo State Government.

The people of Ikole are predominantly farmers. About 80% of the population engage in farming. They have large plantations of food crops such as yams, cocoyam, cassava, maize, beans, rice and plantains. Some male adults have and maintain plantations mainly through hired labour. The farmers also plant cash crops such as cocoa which used to be the mainstay of the economy of this area. kolanuts, palm produce, coffee, cotton and tobacco are planted in smaller scales. In addition we have some people who are Tailors, Traders, Carpenters, Mansions, Bricklayers, Goldsmiths, Blacksmiths, Shoe-makers etc by profession. The women-folk engage in various trades – selling of cloths, food stuffs etc.

Within the last few years some industries sponsored by small scale industrialists have sprung up in various parts of the town. Such industries include block-making and lumbering industries and two big factories currently under construction. The first one is the multi-million Naira **Electronic Bulbs Manufacturing Factory** jointly owned by an indigenous industrialist and Polish foreign partners. The second one is a **Wood Processing venture**. It is jointly owned by an indigenous industrialist and foreign partners.

3.1 Research Design

The research design refers to the overall strategy that you choose to integrate the different components of the study in a coherent and logical way thereby, ensuring you will effectively

address the research problem; it constitutes the blueprint for the collection, measurement, and analysis of data. This is simply the archetype with which the research would be carried out, it is a guide line as to how the research would be carried out so as to help the researcher have clarity in research and enable him or her not to digress.

An adequate research design would do the following

- Highlight the research problem and justify its selection when compared with other researches
- Describe the data collection method which would be necessary for testing hypothesis

An exploratory research design was adopted in the process of this research design to study the challenges of women in Agriculture. Research design is one which involves the assessment of public opinion using different data collection and sampling method. Osuala (2001) observed that research design focuses on people, the vital facts of people and their opinions, attitudes, motivations and behavior. An exploratory research design is used when the researcher wants to gain new knowledge about a particular phenomenon. It also gives answers to the answer of what, why and how. This method was less time consuming, relatively cheap and also allowed me get the necessary information necessary for the validity of this research

3.2 Study Population and Unit of analysis

A population can be defined as a group of inhabitants in a particular location. A research design on the other hand can be defined as a large collection of individuals that are the main focus of a particular scientific research. A research population can simply be seen as all the people in which the research is about and data is going to be collected from. The study

population comprised women (married, widowed, separated or divorced women) farmers in ikole ekiti sub location whose main occupation is farming. The unit of analysis was the individual woman who lives in ikole ekiti sub location and undertakes farming.

3.3 Sample Size/Sampling Technique

Sample is a part of statistical practice concerned with the selection of individual observations intended to yield some knowledge about a population of concern, especially for the purpose of statistical inference. For the quantitative collection of data, multi stage sampling technique was adopted; this refers to sampling plans where the sampling is carried out in stages using smaller and smaller sampling units at each stage. Multistage sampling can be a complex form of cluster sampling; cluster sampling is a type of sampling in which the population is divided into clusters. Then, one or more clusters are chosen at random and everyone within the chosen cluster is sampled. In the application of this technique, constructing the clusters is the first stage, and then deciding what elements within the cluster to use is the second stage. Ikole ekiti is divided into twenty-four towns: ikole ,ijeshaisu, OkeAyedun OdoOro,Ipao,Itapaji, Ara,Isaba,Usin,Orinodo,Ayebode,okeAko,IreleIyemero,Ikosi,Igbona,Asin,Esun,Temidire,Ikunri, Ijebu-Agege, ilamo ekiti and questioners were distributed in some selected area of this town. A total of 120 (one hundred and twenty) questionnaires were carried out in total.

3.4 Data Collection methods

A single method of data collection was employed in this research as quantitative technique enabled the researcher achieve width in my research which means that it enabled me get different opinions of a wide range challenges of women in agriculture questionnaire was used in the collection of data. It enables the researcher acquire a deep understanding of what some women feel about the challenges they face in the agricultural sector

3.5 Data Collection Instrument

The instrument of data collection was standard questionnaire and the questionnaire was drawn by the researcher with the help of the Supervisor. The questionnaire was self-administered.

The Questionnaire

A questionnaire is simply a series of questions to be answered by the respondent. It usually includes an introductory letter informing the person and the purpose of the questionnaire, how the respondent was chosen, reasons encouraging the person to respond and assurance of anonymity.

For this study, the questionnaire contained both open-ended and close-ended questions.

It was made up of six sections viz.

Section A, which contains questions on socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. These include question about the age, marital status, religion, ethnic group work duration etc of the respondents were asked here. Respondents were given the liberty of free choice since care was taken not to include questions that could betray their identity.

Section B consists of information to assess the role of women in agriculture. Questions here were to elicit responses on the respondents 'of whether the role of women is important and its manifestations in the country. **Section C** was devoted to questions the contributions of women in different agricultural sector from the point of view of the respondent **Section D**.to find out how women acquire their land that Land acquisition land crop productivity **Section E** address the constraints to the participation of women farmers in agriculture While **Section F**: attempts to find out the effect of the challenges that women face in agriculture

3.6 Ethical Considerations

This research was conducted with the consent of women in agriculture, while putting into consideration their emotional and intellectual capacity as well as their need to remain anonymous if requested for. The identities of the respondents will not be divulged and the information provided was used strictly for the purpose of this research.

3.7 Method Of Data Analysis

Osula (1972) defined analysis as the ordering and breakdown of data into constituent parts. The knowledge and attitude of the respondents will be quantified and analyzed using appropriate statistics.

Data generated from the data collected through questionnaire were manually edited and analyzed quantitatively by using statistical package for social science IBM (SPSS) 20 version software in line with details of both descriptive and inferential statistics.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF DATA

This chapter presents results of analysis conducted in the quest of identifying the challenges women face in agriculture. Questionnaires were issued to 120 respondents as mentioned in chapter three. The population of the study was only women. The study samples 120 women in Ekiti State. The presentation includes descriptive analysis of variables.

Descriptive Analysis of Variables

4.0 PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA COLLECTED

The following are the demographic information gathered from the respondents during the quantitative section of data collection.

SECTION A: BIODATA

This section is about the demographic characteristic of the respondent. It contains the age, sex, marital status, religious affiliation, ethnicity, educational quality, working period of the respondent.

TABLE 4.0

➤ Age at last birthday

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
30-40 years	29	24.2
41-50 years	45	37.5
51-60 years	29	24.2
61-70 years	10	8.3
71+ years	7	5.8
Total	120	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 4.0 above presents the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. From the table, the age distribution of the respondents shows that 24.2% representing 29 of the respondents were between ages 30-40 years, 37.5% representing 45 of the respondents were between ages 41-50 years, 24.2% representing 29 of the respondents were between ages 51-60 years, 8.3% representing 10 of the respondents were between ages 61-70 years, 5.8% representing 7 of the respondents were between above 70 years.

➤ **Sex of the respondent**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Female	120	100
Total	120	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2017

Similarly, table 4.0 above presents the sex of the respondents. From the table, 0% representing 0 of the respondents were male, 100% representing 120 of the respondents were female

➤ **Marital status of respondent**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Marital status		
Married	67	55.8
Never married	22	18.3
Separated	12	10.0
Divorce	4	3.3
Widowed	15	12.5
Total	120	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 4.0 above also presents the marital status of the respondents. From the table, 55.8% representing 67 of the respondents were married, 18.3% representing 22 of the respondents were

never married. 10.0% representing 12 of the respondents were separated. 3.3% representing 4 of the respondents were divorce. 12.5% representing 15 of the respondents were widowed.

➤ **Religious affiliation of respondent**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Religion		
Christianity	79	65.8
Islam	31	25.8
Traditional religion	5	4.2
Freethinkers	5	4.2
Total	120	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 4.0 above presents the religion of the respondents. From the table, 65.8% representing 79 of the respondents were Christians. 25.8% representing 31 of the respondents were Muslims. 4.2% representing 5 of the respondents were traditionalist worshipper, while, 4.2% representing 5 of the respondents were Freethinkers. .

➤ **Ethnicity of respondent**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
ETHNICITY		
Igbo	8	6.7
Yoruba	93	77.5
Hausa	0	0
Ebira	19	15.9
Total	120	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2017

Also, based on the table above it is visible that the Yoruba tribe was the most represented with an enormous percentage of 77.5% followed by the Igbo tribe with 6.7% and igbira with 15.9% Although this comes as no surprise because the research was carried out at a Yoruba

populated area, it will serve as limitation to the research because the research findings will be lump sided, representing only the opinions of the Yoruba ethnic group, and therefore may not adequately serve as justifiable and empirical representation of the entire nation because of differences caused by culture, ethnographic disparities, geography location etc.

➤ **Educational qualification of respondent**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	13	10.8
Primary education	20	16.7
Secondary education	28	23.3
Tertiary education	59	40.8
Total	120	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2017

From the table above Respondents with the without formal education topped the group with 40.8% of the population while Secondary education holders followed suit with 23.3%. Followed by Primary education with 16.7% and those with tertiary education 10.8%. This means that most of the respondents were not learned.

➤ **Period of working**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 6 months	10	8.3
6 months-1 year	15	12.5
1-3 years	17	14.2
3-5 years	8	6.7
More than 5 years	70	58.3
Total	120	100.0

, Source: Field survey, 2017

From the table above, presents the period of working of the respondents; 8.3% representing 10 of the respondents have been working for less than 6 months. 12.5% representing 15 of the respondents have been working for 6months-1year. 14.2% representing 17 of the

respondents have been working for 1-3years. 6.7% representing 8 of the respondents have been working for 3-5years. 58.3% representing 70 of the respondents have been working for more than 5years.

TABLE 4.2 Role of Women in Agriculture

VARIABLES	YES		NO		
	F	%	F	%	
Do you think women are seen as important in the agricultural sector?	68	56.7	52	43.3	
Due to the role women perform in agriculture can you that the role of women is unavoidable?	93	79.2	27	20.8	
Do you think the role of women have affected the agricultural sector in anyways?	94	78.3	26	21.7	
Do you agree that the role played by women in agriculture is an engine of economic development in Nigeria	110	91.7	10	8.3	
	120	100	120	100	TOTAL

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 4.1 above presents the role of women in agriculture. Majority (56.7%) of the respondents said the role of women is seen as important in agricultural sector, while 43.3% of the respondents said the role women is not seen as important in agricultural sector.

Also, with respect to the question above, some of the respondent reveals how women are not seen as important in the agricultural sector who said they are dissatisfied highlighted the following reason as the cause of their dissatisfaction.

- ❖ 34.2% of the respondents said men are given upper in the agricultural sector
- ❖ 9.2% of them said women are only seen as domestic workers
- ❖ 56.7% said Unequal gender treatment

Furthermore, table 4.1 also reveals if the role women perform in agriculture is unavoidable. The respondents, majority (79.2%) of them said it is unavoidable, while only 20.8% of them believe it is not unavoidable.

Table 4.1 similarly reveals whether the role of women has implemented the agricultural sector in anyways. 78.3% of the respondents believe the role of women has implemented the agricultural sector, while 21.7 of them believe the role of women has not implemented the sector in anyway

Also, table 4.1 also reveals whether the role played by women in agriculture is an engine of economic development. Majority (91.7%) of the respondents reveal that the role played by women in agriculture is an engine of economic development, while 8.3% of the respondents said the role played by women in agriculture is not an engine of economic development.

Table 4.2.1 Roles of Women in Agriculture

VARIABLES	RESPONSE (%)				
	SA	A	U	D	SD
I feel alot has been done to applaud the role of women in agriculture	26.7	58.3	17.1	1.7	3.3
I am satisfied with the present standard of women in Agriculture	2.5	20	72.5	5
Women are the cause of the present status they are in	43.3	1.7	8.3	45.8	0.8

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 4.2.1 reveals the opinions of the respondents on if they think alot has been done to applaud the role of women in agriculture. 26.7% of the respondents strongly agree that alot has

been done to applaud the role of women in agriculture. 58.3% of the respondents agree that alot has been done to applaud the role of women in agriculture. 10% of the respondents could not decide. 1.7% of them disagree that alot has been done to applaud the role of women in agriculture. 3.3% of them strongly disagree that alot has been done to applaud the role of women in agriculture.

From the table above 2.5% of the respondents strongly agree they are satisfied with the present standard of women in agriculture. 20% of the respondents agree they are satisfied with the present standard of women in agriculture. 0% of the respondents could not decide, majority (72.5%) of the respondents disagree they are satisfied with the present standard of women in agriculture. 5% of the respondents strongly disagree they are satisfied with the present standard of women in agriculture. This means majority of women are dissatisfied with the present situation they found their self in the agriculture.

From the table above 43.3% of the respondents strongly agree that women are the cause of the present status they are in. 1.7% of the respondents agree that women are the cause of the present status they are in. 8.3% of the respondents did not decide. 45.8% of the respondents disagree that women are the cause of the present status they are in. 0.8% of the respondents strongly disagree that women are the cause of the present status they are in.

➤ **Table 4.3 Contributions of Women in Different Agricultural Sectors**

VARIABLES	YES		NO	
	F	%	F	%
Have women contributed to agriculture?	120	100

Do you think the contribution of women to agriculture is sometimes greater than men's?	108	86.7	1	13.3
Do women grow or plant for their immediate consumption?	21	17.5	99	8.5

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 4.3 presents the contributions of women in different agricultural sectors. Majority (100%) of the respondents agree women contributed to agriculture. While none of the respondents disagree women contributed to agriculture

Majority (86.7%) of the respondents agree that women contribution is sometimes greater than men's. 13.3% of the respondents disagree that women contribution is sometimes greater than men's.

17.5% of the respondents agree women grow or plant for their immediate consumption, while majority (82.5%) of the respondents disagree women grow or plant for their immediate consumption

TABLE: 4.3.1

VARIABLES	RESPONSE (%)				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Women farmers contribute significantly to agricultural production?	72.5	25	1.5	1	
Women contribute to the economic development of the nation through agriculture	60	27.5	11.5	1	
The contribution of women improve food supply and supplement the staple food need of the family while also reducing malnutrition among women	45	49.2	5.8		

Contribution of women to boosting the income-earning capacity of the nation has been impactful	31.7	58.3	10		
Women contribute substantially to household welfare and farm income	48.3	43.3	8.4		
Women contribute to the subsistence/commercial agriculture	55.7	32	9.3	1	2

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the table above Majority (72.5%) of the respondents strongly agree that women farmers contribute significantly to agricultural production. 25% of the respondents agree that women farmers contribute significantly to agricultural production. 1.5% of the respondents did not decide, 1% of the respondents disagree that women farmers contribute significantly to agricultural production. While none of the respondents strongly disagree that women farmers contribute significantly to agricultural production

Majority (60%) of the respondents strongly agree that women contribute to the economic development of the nation through agriculture. 27.5% of them agree that women contribute to the economic development of the nation through agriculture. 11.5% of the respondents did not decide 1% disagree that women contribute to the economic development of the nation through agriculture, while none of the respondents strongly disagree that women farmers contribute significantly to agricultural production .this mean that women contribution from agriculture to the economic development of the nation cannot be compared to.

45% of the respondents strongly agree that the contribution of women improve food supply and supplement the staple food need of the family while also reducing malnutrition among women. 49.2% of the respondents agree that the contribution of women improve food

supply and supplement the staple food need of the family while also reducing malnutrition among women, while 5.8% did not decide. None of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree that the contribution of women improve food supply and supplement the staple food need of the family while also reducing malnutrition among women.

31.7% of the respondents strongly agree that contribution of women to boosting the income-earning capacity of the nation has been impactful. 58.3% of the respondents agree that contribution of women to boosting the income-earning capacity of the nation has been impactful. While 10% did not decide, none of the respondents disagree nor strongly disagree that contribution of women to boosting the income-earning capacity of the nation has been impactful

48.3% of the respondents strongly agree that women contribute substantially to household welfare and farm income. 43.3% of the respondents agree that women contribute substantially to household welfare and farm income. 8.4% of them did not decide, while none of them disagree nor strongly disagree.

Majority (55.7%) of the respondents strongly agree that women contribute to the subsistence/commercial agriculture. 32% of the respondents agree that women contribute to the subsistence/commercial agriculture. 9.3% of the respondents did not decide. 1% of them disagrees that women contribute to the subsistence/commercial agriculture. 2% of the respondents strongly disagree that women contribute to the subsistence/commercial agriculture. This means women contribute to both subsistence and commercial agriculture.

➤ **Table 4.4 Land Acquisition and Land Crop Productivity**

How do you acquire your land?

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Inheritance from parent	31	25.8
Husband property	79	65.8
Lease	5	4.2
Bought	5	4.2
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 4.4 presents the land acquisition and land crop productivity. 25.8% of the respondents acquired their land from inheritance, 65.8% of the respondents are using their husbands' property. 4.2% of them leased the land, and 4.2% of them bought the land. This means women don't usually own Land in the society of ours.

➤ 4.4.1 How do you measure your productivity?

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Not encouraging	67	55.8
Normal	22	18.3
Improving	12	10.0
Encouraging	4	3.3
High	15	12.5
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey, 2017

From the table above 55.8% of the respondents measured their productivity as not encouraging. 18.3% of them measured their productivity as normal. 10.0% of the respondents measured their productivity as improving. 3.3% of the respondents measured their productivity as encouraging. 12.5% of the respondents measured their productivity as high. This means most of the respondents are not happy with their productivity.

➤ 4.4.2 How many people help in the production?

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
1-3	8	6.7
4-6	93	77.5
7-9	8	6.7
10+	11	9.2
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey, 2017

From the table above 6.7% of the respondents get helps from 1-3 people. Majority (77.5%) of the respondents get help from 4-6 people. 6.7% of the respondents get help from 7-9 people. 9.2% of them get help from 10 people or more. This means most of the respondent don't have enough hand to help in the work .

Table 4.5 Constraints to the Participation of Women in Agriculture

VARIABLES	RESPONSE (%)				Strongly Disagree
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	
Marginalization of women in socio-cultural settings	59.	28.3	3.3	9.2	
Lack of education	61.7	20.8	4.1	11.7	1.7
The perception roles of women as in domestic affairs and child bearing	50	35.8	8.4	5.8	
Cultural and religious taboos	47.5	37.5	2.5	10.8	1.7
Unfavorable land tenure system	58.3	18.3	3.4	7	13

Inadequate storage facilities	14.2	38.3	4.2	35.8	7.5
Inadequate infrastructure facilities	39.2	26.7	10	13.3	10.8
Inadequate medical care towards the women	55.2	10.7	10	13.3	10.8
Under-representation of women in agricultural extension and training	61.7	10.8	5.8	8.4	13.3
The use of un-improved working implements	59.2	28.3	3.3	9.2	
Loans/Incentives/fertilizer/ agricultural empowerment is not equally distributed between men and women	61.7	20.8	4.2	11.7	1.6

Source: Field survey, 2017

Furthermore under Table 4.5 presents the constraints to the participation of women in agriculture. 59.2% of the respondents strongly agree that marginalization of women in socio-cultural settings is a constraint. 28.3% of the respondents agree that marginalization of women in socio-cultural settings is a constraint. 3.3% of them did not decide. 9.2% of the respondents disagrees that marginalization of women in socio-cultural settings is a constraint. 0% of the respondents strongly disagree that marginalization of women in socio-cultural settings is a constraint.

59.2% of the respondents strongly agree that marginalization of women in socio-cultural settings is a constraint. 28.3% of the respondents agree that marginalization of women in socio-cultural settings is a constraint. 3.3% of them did not decide. 9.2% of the respondents disagrees

that marginalization of women in socio-cultural settings is a constraint. 0% of the respondents strongly disagree that marginalization of women in socio-cultural settings is a constraint

50% of the respondents strongly agree that the perception roles of women as in domestic affairs and child bearing are constraint to participation of women in agriculture. 35.8% of the respondents agree that the perception roles of women as in domestic affairs and child bearing are constraint to participation of women in agriculture. 8.4% of them did not decide. 5.8% of the respondents disagrees, while none of the respondents strongly disagrees the perception roles of women as in domestic affairs and child bearing is a constraint to participation of women in agriculture.

Also, 47.5% of the respondents strongly agree that cultural and religious taboo is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 37.5% of the respondents strongly agree that cultural and religious taboo is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 2.5% of them did not decide. 10.8% of the respondents disagree that cultural and religious taboo are constraints to the participation of women in agriculture. 1.7% of the respondents strongly disagree that cultural and religious taboo are constraints to the participation of women in agriculture.

58.3% of the respondents strongly agree that unfavorable land tenure is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 18.3% of the respondents agree that unfavorable land tenure is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 3.4% of them did not decide. 7% of the respondents disagree that unfavorable land tenure is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 13% of the respondents strongly disagree that unfavorable land tenure is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture.

50% of the respondents strongly agree that inadequate storage facilities are constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 43% of the respondents agree that inadequate storage facilities are constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 7% of the respondents did not decide. 5% of the respondents disagree that inadequate storage facilities are constraint to the participation of women in agriculture, 15 %of the respondents strongly disagree.

39.2% of the respondents strongly agree that inadequate infrastructure facilities are constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 26.7% of the respondents agree that inadequate infrastructure facilities are constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 10% of the respondents did not decide. 13.3% of the respondents disagree that inadequate infrastructure facilities are constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 10.8% of the respondents strongly disagree that inadequate infrastructure facilities are constraint to the participation of women in agriculture.

55.2% of the respondents strongly agree that inadequate medical care towards the women is a constraint to participation of women in agriculture. 10.7% of the respondents agree that inadequate medical care towards the women is a constraint to participation of women in agriculture. 10% did not decide.13.3% of the respondents disagree that inadequate medical care towards the women is a constraint to participation of women in agriculture, 13.3% of the respondents strongly disagree that inadequate medical care towards the women is a constraint to participation of women in agriculture

Majority (59.2%) of the respondents strongly agree that under-representation of women in agricultural extension and training is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 28.3% of the respondents agree that under-representation of women in agricultural extension and

training is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture 3.3% of the respondents did not decide. 9.2% of the respondents disagree that under-representation of women in agricultural extension and training is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. None of the respondent strongly disagree that under-representation of women in agricultural extension and training is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture.

it was deduce that majority (61.7 %) of the respondents strongly agree that the use of un-improved working implements is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 20.8% of the respondents agree that the use of un-improved working implements is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 4.2% of them did not decide. 11.7% of the respondents disagree that the use of un-improved working implements is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 1.7% of the respondents strongly disagree that the use of un-improved working implements is a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture.

68% of the respondents strongly agree that loans/incentives/fertilizer/agricultural empowerment is not equally distributed between men and women hence a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 31% of the respondents agree that loans/incentives/fertilizer/agricultural empowerment is not equally distributed between men and women hence a constraint to the participation of women in agriculture. 1% of them did not decide. While none of them disagree nor strongly disagree

➤ **TABLE 4.6 Effect of the challenges on the women in agriculture**

VARABLES	YES		NO		
	F	%	F	%	
Have agricultural challenges affected your social life?	6	5.0	114	95.0	
Have agricultural challenges affected your productivity?	94	78.3	26	21.7	
Due to agricultural challenges, do you desire for a change of job	50	41.7	70	58.3	
Have agricultural challenges affected your success as women in agriculture	99	82.5	21	17.5	
	120	100	120	100	TOTAL

Source: Field survey, 2017

From the table above 5.0% of the respondents said agricultural challenges affected their social life, while, 95.0% of them said agricultural challenges did not affect their social life.

78.3% of the respondents said agricultural challenges affected their productivity, while, 21.7% of them believe agricultural challenges did not affect their productivity.

When asked if they will accept another job elsewhere, 41.7% of the respondents due to agricultural challenges desired a new job. 58.3% of the respondents due to agricultural challenges never desired a new job.

In conclusion, from the table above 82.5% of the respondents said agricultural challenges affected their success as women in agriculture. 17.5% of them said agricultural challenges did not affect their success as women in agriculture.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

The analysis of this study provides an insight into the challenges women face in agriculture.

The first research question is to assess the role of women in agriculture. The study reveals that the role of women is important and unavoidable in the agricultural sector. In addition, the role women play in the agricultural sector is an engine of economic development. However, the role of women in the agricultural sector is yet to be applauded. Similarly, the present standard of women in agriculture is relatively poor.

The second question seeks to identify the status and contributions of women in different agricultural sectors. The study pinpoints that women have contributed a great deal to the agricultural sector with their contributions sometimes greater than men. Over the years, women have contributed to the economic development of the nation and boosted the income-earning capacity of the nation through agriculture.

The third question is to know the challenges women face in agriculture. The study reveals that women have been marginalized in socio-cultural settings. In addition, unfavorable land tenure has served as a major constraint to the participation of women in agriculture, lack of education is also constraint to women growth in the agricultural sector. Also, they are seen as child bearing instruments and under-represented in agricultural extension and training.

The fourth research question describes the effect of the challenges women face in agriculture. The study reveals that agricultural challenges affected women productivity as farmer and their social life and. Also In addition, agricultural challenges affect their success as women in agriculture.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this study, attempts have been made to analyze the challenges of women in agriculture. This study was aimed at uncovering the problems women face in their work environment. It also investigates their opinion on how they have adjusted to the said problems thus far.

5.0 Summary

Previous researches have emphasized the restructuring and reviewing the place of women in the agricultural sector so as to ensure better productivity but even after all these researches and recommendations, little or nothing has been done to change or alleviate the situation and this is because of the following reasons: gender based empowerment, unfavorable policies, corruption, lack of adequate funds, poor personnel placement, poor working facilities. Therefore the general objective of this research was to investigate the challenges of women in agricultural sector.

There were other specific objectives however, which were to; investigate To assess the roles of women in agriculture, Identify the status contributions of women in different agricultural sector, Identify the constraints to participation of women farmers in agriculture, To describe the effect of the challenges that women face in agriculture.

This study hinges on the theory of patriarchy theoretical paradigm as the back bone of it's review of extant literatures For the purpose of this research, single method of data collection and analysis was employed which means that data was collected through questionnaires on field to extract raw data. which is quantitative The data collect through questionnaires were analyzes through SPSS (statistical package for social sciences).

5.2 Conclusion

Several barriers affecting women's participation in agricultural activities have been identified in the above discussion. As the discussion suggests women are inhibited from practicing activities they desire and their rights are denied them by the social norms and customs of their societies. It has been noted that systemic gender based biases or inequalities are one of the major issues limiting women in engaging and accessing agriculture related resources. One of the issues discussed in this literature is that credit constraints for women put a severe limit on the full participation of women in agricultural related activities, thereby leading to less contribution to the economic development and self sufficiency of the rural community. In spite of several attempts at achieving gender equality and women empowerment in the country, gender gaps remain abysmally unacceptable and gruesome. A central factor in this issue is the role of cultural values and the tendency to romance with age long traditions which are often detrimental to national development goals. It is impossible to sustain democratic governance where about half of the human population (women) are denied rights to livelihood skills, education; health leadership roles, and or encumbered with unpaid care work which are supposed to be valued and share across gender groups all in the name of cultural identities and cultural distinctiveness.

The cultures of the various groups in Nigeria provide the base for individual gender discrimination, which are sometimes contradictory to elements of nation building, and having a true national identity. For example, the Nigeria tripartite legal system (statutory-customary-Sharia legal systems) presents contradictory evidence on the status of the Nigerian woman and the girl child. It is therefore important for those who govern the Nigerian state, to first and foremost see the country as a secular state, and to clearly separate state interests from those of religious and other traditional institutions, and to ensure that the interests of its citizenry are

protected by law irrespective of religious and or other cultural affiliations .Patriarchy and other socio-cultural practices and traditions play very fundamental roles in shaping the structure of gender inequality, gender role relations, and the relation of power and the sexes.

The paradox of ‘Patriarchy is that it is adapted across various Nigerian ethnic groups depending on a number of factors socioeconomic class; religion and ethnic cultures. While patriarchy bites hard on some women because of ethnic culture and or religion, for others, it is somehow bearable, especially for women who have gained economic autonomy and or those from privileged class. Policy makers may need to be more eclectic in dealing with systemic disparities caused by unequal treatment of women and men in our society. For example, ‘one-size fits- all’ policy intervention, such as universal basic education my not successfully address the development problems faced by certain subgroups, such as low literacy and low school completion among ethnic minority women. Exposing girls to school without investing in ‘gender education’ for both boys and girls may not necessarily change gender stereotypes, discrimination and gender abuses in our society.

Also building institutional mechanisms for gender equity and women’s rights in Nigeria at the macro level many lead to intended positive outcomes without social engagement with men and women who hold the cord of power of traditional local structures at the community and household levels. No doubts, unlike other social issues, bringing about a gender equitable social order necessitates building bridges, and partnerships with a variety of interest groups, including the executives; the legislatures; the judiciary; law enforcement agents; policy makers; health and social workers; leaders of industries; civil society organizations; and the development partners.

5.3 Recommendations.

On the basis of the findings of the study, the discussions and conclusions therefore, the following recommendations were made and it will be a key ingredients for success it include:

- 1) Technical skill in gender analysis and gender mainstreaming, Investing in gender statistics that is providing evidence of gender equity engagements Bridge gender gaps across sectors through appropriate macro-economic framework and plans.
- 2) Institutionalization of gender responsive budgeting in key sectors to ensure that gender equality commitments are translated into realities through appropriate funding.
- 3) Re-awakening of political will for gender equality and women empowerment mandates in the country. The first step will be to review the Constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria from the gender perspective.
- 4) Institution an enabling environment for gender equality engagements across Nigerian ethnic group through intensive media engagements, gender equality value, re-orientation; and massive social mobilization of the rural communities to imbibe gender equality standards and practices.
- 5) Additionally, women should be empowered by providing them with adequate resources such as finances that would enable them start their own business. This would reduce over-dependence of women in the society. Women should also form professional groups where they can share their experiences on leadership and learn from one another.
- 6) Since majority of the women are illiterate, adult education programmes should be mounted for them in their various communities and prize awarded for good work. This will help them to understand how to use new agricultural techniques and understand instruction on

agricultural handouts. As much as possible audio-visuals aids should be used to teach women farmers.

- 7) Aspects of agricultural production that are largely the responsibility of women farmers must be given adequate attention. Such areas include, for example, food crop production, livestock production, processing, storage and marketing of agricultural produce, pest and disease control.
- 8) There is need to ensure that extension training activities enable extension staff to identify and subsequently handle effectively the extension needs of women farmers. It should aim not only at making staff aware of the need to take account of the need of women farmers and serve them effectively, but should also guide staff to identify those areas where women farmers need extension support.
- 9) The state government should help women farmers to obtain land, capital, credit, loan and other incentives, improved crop varieties, pesticides and fertilizer, farm machines among others. These will enhance productivity.
- 10) To help facilitate extension support for women farmers is for more women to be employed in the extension service. This will make more women farmers to participate more in extension programmes and in acceptance to innovation device and methods.

5.4 Limitations of the Study

There are some notable limitations to this study which are:

- The time frame of the research and monetary constraints did not allow the researcher get the needed in-depth and wide variety of knowledge needed
- Some of the women did not want to reveal some of their personal feelings towards this research topic due to the abandon of women in these sector
- The researcher cannot generalize the conclusion of this study to all women farmers in Nigeria. There exists no known register of all women who are small scale farmers in Nigeria The study therefore is limited in drawing up a representative sample.

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