

Full Length Research Paper

Assessment of Roles of Rural Community Leadership in Promoting Agricultural Extension Programmes in Kebbi State.

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This study assessed the roles of rural community leadership in promoting agricultural extension programmes in Kebbi state. A Multi stage sampling technique was employed to draw a sample of 352 respondents from Kebbi state comprising eight LGAs. A set of structured questionnaires were used to obtain information from the respondents. Descriptive statistics, and Logit regression analysis were used for data analysis. The result of the study showed that majority (95.5%) were male while (4.5%) were females respectively. The research study found out that 33.2% had access to extension services while 66.8% does not have access to extension services. Similarly, the research study unveiled that 43.4% respondents had leadership experience of between 10-19 years while the lowest category of leaders of 0-9 year's leadership experience constituted 4.5%. The survey further identified that 93.8% of respondents were involved in decision making process regarding programmes and projects of community interest, 93.5% and 89.0% respectively showed the percentage of respondents who were into community mobilization and project legitimization while the least 3.1% of the level of involvement of community leaders in agricultural extension service delivery. The study further revealed that 8.82% mean rank of the respondents determined feasible agricultural extension programmes, 8.73 were into consulting community members prior to project implementation, 8.70 and another 8.70 mean rank of the respondents performed roles of monitoring and evaluation of agricultural extension programmes and making decisions on different issues relating to agricultural extension programmes. Logit regression analysis showed that the coefficient of coordinating all agricultural extension programmes (0.18) positively and significantly influenced leadership role performance at 5% level of significance. Similarly, the estimated coefficient of t-value of ensuring cordial relationship among farmers (109) and ensuring all assistance from government and non-governmental organizations reaches farmers (303) significantly influenced leadership role performance in the study area. The study also unveiled that 7.1%, 9.7 and 8.5% representing farmer training, provision of credit facility and provision of agro-input respectively were some of the extension roles performed by leaders in the study area while the extension approaches adopted were training and visit 9.7%, community specialized extension 9.9%, farm research extension 9.7% and participatory extension 9.1%. It is concluded that community leaders in the study area performed significant roles of decision making process, coordinating all agricultural extension programmes, project legitimization and monitoring and evaluation of programmes which impacted positively on the livelihood of the farmers. It is recommended that rural community leaders should be given enough reward in order to sustain their interest and perception of their ascribed roles in agricultural extension programmes, more female should be encouraged to perform leadership roles in agricultural extension activities, provision of extension services to farmers in groups should be encouraged by the local leaders due to scarcity of AEAS, provision of extension services through non-visits such as radio and television programmes should be intensified by community leaders, organizing refresher courses and in-service training for community.

Key words: Assessment, Roles, Rural community leadership, Extension programmes, Kebbi State.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of leadership is very crucial to the survival of any society. Even where there are

established norms, leaders are still needed to ensure compliance with such norms for societal orderliness

and healthy being. Van den Ban and Hawkins (1996) defined leadership as the “directing, influencing and controlling of others in pursuit of a group goal”. This implies that the function of making decisions lies on the leaders. Ekong (2003) sees leadership as being synonymous with decision-making and therefore regards decision makers as community leaders. He further posits that an effective means of identifying leaders should include a systematic observation of which decision-makers are for various community issues.

Leadership is a very critical factor in the formulation, pursuance, attainment and sustenance of collective endeavor. The success or failure of formal organizations, nations and other social units has been largely attributed to the nature of their leadership style (Oladipo, *et al* 2013). The leadership role is a necessity in any organization, in order to co-ordinate the activities and aspirations of a group, the head plays the role of a leader in any organization, leadership cannot be separated from a group and there cannot be a group without a leader (Oladipo, *et al* 2013). This is as a result of interdependence of both concepts for organizational effectiveness. The term leadership connotes a different meaning to different people. Many have attempted several definitions of the term leadership, no one definition has been universally accepted as an authoritative explanation of leadership. The exercise of influence in a social situation can be defined as leadership. A leader may be defined as an individual with an ability to induce subordinates to work towards the group goal with confidence. A special type of influence activity that affects and enhances individual in an organization is being seen in all kinds of social situation, which is especially apparent demand that makes people work together towards the attainment of common aims, goals and objectives, is called leadership, (Oladipo *et al.*, 2013).

Based on Ngambiet *al.* (2010) and Ngambi (2011), reported in Jeremy *et al.* (2011), leadership is really a procedure for impacting on others commitment towards recognizing their full potential in achieving value-added, shared vision, with passion and integrity. The nature of the influence is that the people from the team cooperate under their own accord with one another to be able to attain the objectives of the leader as well as another group of the organization. The associations between leader and worker, gives additional to the standard of employees' satisfaction, which are considerably affected through the leadership style adopted by the leader (Jeremy *et al.*, 2011).

Community leaders are those that can influence and direct the activities of a group of people towards the achievement of their target goal. They constitute a part of the people structure in the community and may also belong to one higher economic class or the other. Community leaders are

those that ensure that progress is made in line with group needs. Jeremy *et al* (2011) regards the local leaders as the people who have some amount of influence in the community even though they may not be holding any formal position. Other villages look up to them for advice, consultation and others tends to imitate them. They are sociable, generally interested in the community problem and have wills to solve the problems. They are people with integrity and repute. These groups of people are also sincere and trustworthy and their people like and trust them. Asabiaka (2002) posited that the attitude of local leaders would influence the success or failure of the rural development. With their position in their community, they are expected to help the community solve some pressing rural problems such as traditional farming and thus increase both food and standard of living of farmers especially as it concerns youth in the rural community.

According to Ipaye (1995) and Oladosu (2000) Agricultural leadership programs have been implemented through different strategies in Nigeria. There is a need for leadership programs that teach citizens how to cope with the barrage of change in the rural environment. In particular, citizens must be educated and prepared with essential knowledge and skills abilities in order to assume leadership positions that concentrate on the concerns of rural dwellers. Agricultural Development Programmes are especially critical in the Northwest as the region faces problems symptomatic of a declining economy and a lack of leadership capacity to solve them. Community leadership should also act as a continuity factor in the execution of agricultural development projects between incumbent agricultural development interventionists and their successors. Generally, the key elements of successful community-driven agricultural development projects have been identified to be participation, sustainability, social inclusion and enabling policy environment (Dahl-Ostergaard *et al.*, 2003).

In the past few years, it has become obvious that the demand for food in Nigeria has out stripped the supply. It is important therefore, that we explore measures that will enhance agricultural production and increase the achievement level of the technology/innovation to spread in our respective region of operation. This can be achieved through agricultural extension service. The introduction of agricultural extension services in Nigeria has tremendously improved the nation's agricultural practices and production. Mgbada (2010) defined agricultural extension as an informal educational system which assists rural people in improving farming methods and techniques and other agro-based occupation, increasing production and service efficiency, income and improving the socio-economic and educational levels of the rural dwellers. Agricultural

extension service achieves its goal of information dissemination through use of print and electronic media regarded as mass media. Mass media which is a means of information dissemination are spreading agricultural technologies to the farmers at a faster rate than personal contact (Khusuk and Memon, 2004). They opined that production and distribution of printed material helps farmers in the transfer of new information and technologies. The involvement of information dissemination to agricultural extension services enhances even development and brings wider coverage of new agricultural research findings meant to reach farmers. Similarly, local leaders are very important means of information dissemination.

A leader is one who goes first or have the authority to direct others. Leaders assume responsibilities for certain activities in extension agents' absence; help to organize local extension groups, assist directly in the spread of new ideas and practice by demonstrating them in their fields; and generally serve as a point of contact between the agent and the farmer. The principle of use of these local leaders is that they serve as loud speakers for extension for without their use, most of the planned programmes will not be achieved (Adereti and Ajayi, 2011). For agriculture to improve in our country there is a need to select local leaders, train, equip and use them in the different agricultural extension works. Local Leaders are those whose interest centres in the community and whose leadership rest on elaborate network of personal relationships (Ekong, 2003). The local leaders join voluntary organizations in order to make contacts, tend to hold political offices and if they are educated, tend to read the local newspapers and other printed materials which assist them in information gathering and dissemination (Williams, 1984).The study achieved the following specific objectives. To:

1. Describe the socio economic characteristics of the local leaders.
2. Examine the specific roles and duties performed by community leaders in promoting agricultural extension programmes in the study area.

METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted in Kebbi State. Kebbi State was created out of the then Sokoto State in 1991.it lies in Northwestern region of Nigeria with its capital in Birnin Kebbi. Kebbi State is bordered by Sokoto to the north and east, Niger to the south. Dosso region in the Republic of Niger to the Northwest and Republic of Benin to the west. Kebbi State has a total land Area of about 37,698,685 square kilometers. Based on projections from 2006 census figure, Kebbi State is estimated to have a population of 4,629,880 (NPC, 2006: projected to 2018). Kebbi State is made

up of 21 Local Government Areas (LGAs).It has four emirate councils (Gwandu, Argungu, Yauri and Zuru) and has four Agricultural Zones namely Argungu, Bunza, Yauri and Zuru zones respectively, for ease of administration. Kebbi State falls between latitude 12⁰46N and 12⁰.27N and longitude 4⁰19E and 4⁰11E.Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the state especially in rural areas. Crops produced are mainly grains like Rice, Millet, Sorghum etc; animal rearing and fishing are also common agricultural activities that feature prominently in the State. The weather of the State is often dry with lots of sunshine. The wet season last from May to October while the dry season lasts for the remaining period of the year. Mean annual rainfall is about 800mm- 1000mm. Temperature is generally high with mean annual temperature of about 26⁰C and above in all locations of the state. This climatic peculiarity allows for meaningful investment in agriculture.

Sampling and sampling Procedures

A multi stage sampling techniques was used to select respondents. The first stage involved a random selection of eight local governments, two (2) each out of the four Agricultural zones (Emirate councils) in the state. From each of the 8 Local Government Areas, 2 Districts were purposively selected. A total of 312 randomly selected community leaders and 40 extension workers were drawn which together gave a sample size of 352 respondents for the study.

Method of Data Collection

Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected with the aid of a structured interview that were scheduled with open and close ended questions. The secondary data was obtained through journals, literature review and some text books.Primary data was obtained through field survey with the use of structured questionnaire designed in line with the objectives of the study. The copies of which were administered to the respondents selected for the study. Data collected included information on the socioeconomic characteristics of the Extension workers and community leaders of the study area.

Method of Data Analysis

Frequency counts and percentage were used to analyze the demographic and non-demographic characteristics of the respondents, Binomial Logit Analysis test was used as inferential statistics.

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics such as frequency, tables, mean and percentages were used to analyze

objectives 1 Logit regression analysis was employed to analyze objective 2.

Logit Regression Analysis

Logit Regression Analysis was employed to analyze objective 2

The Logit Regression Model is mathematically expressed as:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \dots + \beta_9X_9 + U \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where Y = Role of community leaders in extension services (1= high, 0= if otherwise)

X_i =Age of the local leaders (In years)

X_2 =Marital status

(1=Married/Single/widow/widower/divorced = 1 or otherwise)

X_3 =Household size (Number)

X_4 = Level of education (Years)

X_5 =Gender (1 =for male, 0= for female)

X_6 =Access to Extension Services (1= for access, 0= for otherwise)

X_7 = Membership with Cooperative organizations (1=For member,2=Non-member)

X_8 =Access to credit facility (1 = Yes, 0 = No)

U=Error term

β_i =Constant term

$\beta_i - \beta_9$ =regression coefficients

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Socio-Economic Characteristics of community leaders (n=352)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
20 – 29	50	13.5
30 – 39	55	15.0
40 – 49	79	25.8
50 – 59	69	20.6
60 – 69	58	15.7
70 – 79	41	9.4
Total	352	100
Gender		
Male	340	95.5%
Female	12	4.5%
Total	352	100
Marital Status		
Married	333	93.5%
Separated	4	1.2%
Widow	13	3.7%
Single	1	0.8%
Divorced	1	0.8%
Total	352	100
Level of Education		
Non formal	323	90.7%
Secondary	5	1.4%
Post-Secondary	24	7.9%
Total	352	100
Membership with Association		
Member	340	95.5%
Non Member	12	4.5%
Total	352	100
Household Size		
2 – 11	265	81.2%

12 – 21	79	16.8%
22 – 31	8	2.0%
Total	352	100
Access to Extension		
Access	117	33.2%
No Access	235	66.8%
Total	352	100
Access to Credit		
Access	95	26.2%
No Access	257	73.8%
Total	352	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents according to specific Role of Rural Community leaders in Agricultural Extension programme (n=352)

Leadership Role	Mean Rank	Ranking
Determine feasible Agric Extension programmes	8.82	1 st
Consulting Community Before project implementation	8.73	2 nd
Developing plan work for community	8.70	3 rd
Monitoring and evaluation of project	8.70	3 rd
Making decisions on different issues	8.70	3 rd
Coordinating all Agric Extension Programmes	8.63	6 th
Ensuring cordial relationship among farmers	8,63	6 th
Maintenance of peace & Harmony	8.57	8 th
Providing Technical advice to farmers	8.70	9 th
Legitimization of Agric Extension Project	8.54	10 th
Acting as liaison between Government & NGO's	8.47	11 th
Diffusing & educating People on Gov't & Non Gov't project	8.43	12 th
Providing Information to community	8.36	13 th
Raising funds for project	8.11	14 th
Ensure all assist from gov't get to community	7.95	15 th
Developing proposal for funding	7.95	15 th

Source: Field Survey, 2018 * Multiple responses recorded

Table 3: Regression results of leadership Roles performed by community leaders in promoting agricultural extension programme

S/N	Constant		Estimated parameters	Coefficients	Standard error	t-value
1.	Constant	12.644	X ₀	0.00	661	19.117
2.	Coordinating all Agric extension programmes in the community		X ₁	-18	227	-(335)**
3.	Ensuring aerial relationship among farmers		X ₂	109	218	(2.126)**
4.	Maintaining of peace and harmony between communities		X ₃	-005	208	-098
5.	Providing information to communities		X ₄	077	155	1.438
6.	Determining feasible agric. Ext. programme		X ₅	089	612	1.358
7.	Legitimization of agric. Ext. project		X ₆	037	228	533
8.	Ensuring that all assistance from gov't & Non gov't		X ₇	303	180	(3.739)**
9.	Diffusing and educating people on gov't informs		X ₈	091	175	-1.615
10.			X ₉	028	149	(521)*
11.	Developing proposal for funding by the communities		X ₁₀	117	149	1.739
12.	Providing information & technical advice to communities		X ₁₁	048	200	(872)*
13.	Developing plan work for community programmes		X ₁₂	145	286	(2.562)***
14.	Monitoring and evaluation of projects		X ₁₃	036	287	(633)*
15.	Raising funds through levies		X ₁₄	059	211	-(678)*
16.	Making decisions on different issues affect community		X ₁₅	046	306	749
17.	Consulting members of the community prior to project implementation		X ₁₆	210	388	-(2.936)***
18.						

Source: Field Survey, 2018. * Multiple responses were recorded

DISCUSSION

Table 1 showed the socio-economic characteristics of the respondent. In the table it is revealed that 13.5% respondents fell within the age bracket of 20 – 29, 15.0% were within age grade of 30 – 39 years old while 25.8% were between the age

group of 40 – 49 years. Similarly, 20.6%, 15.7% and 9.4% respondents fall under age group of 50 – 59 years, 60 – 69 years and 70 – 79 year respectively.

It is clear from the table that greater percentage of the respondents constituting 13.5% fell

within active farming and leadership age. While the age group constituting the lowest percentage were those under the ages of 50 – 59 years. However, this group of respondent may have gathered a lot of experiences in farming and leadership considering their maturity.

The table showed that 95.5% of the respondents were male while only 4.5% of the respondents were female. This is a clear indication that male dominate leadership position in the study area. This would be because of the norms and values of the communities that do not regard women in leadership of communities.

Table 1 also showed that 93.5% of the respondents were married, separated 1.2%, widow 3.7% single 0.8% and divorced 0.8%. From the table it can be seen that greater percentage of the respondents were married and thus posed with the responsibility of catering for their family needs of education, health, nutrition, clothing and shelter. The lowest percentage were those category of the respondents who separated from their families due to perhaps differences in opinion, extra marital misbehaviors, mistrust, poverty or hunger.

Table 1 also indicated that 90.7% respondents obtained non-formal education, 1.4% obtained secondary education, 7.9% schooled up to post – secondary school. It can be seen from the table that most of the respondents obtained non-formal education and thus may not possess the requisite knowledge and skills needed for effective leadership in the communities, as only very small percentage the respondents schooled up to secondary and tertiary levels respectively.

Based on membership with cooperative association, it is shown 95.5% belonged to one cooperative association or the other, only 4.5% of the respondents does not belong to any membership association. 81.2% of the respondents had household members of 2 – 11 members, 16.8% had household member of 12 – 21 members, 2.0% possessed household members of 22 – 31 members. Based on results, it can be deduced that greater percentage of household member (2 – 11) fall within percentage of 81.2%. This large numbers of household members contributes significantly to provision of family labour which will in turn lead to improved agricultural productivity and higher standard of living.

Table 1 showed further that 33.2% respondents had access to extension services, 66.8% do not had any access to extension services considering the percentage of the respondents who does not have any access extension services, it is obvious that access to modern, farming technologies/innovations may be affected. Therefore increased agricultural productivity may not be guaranteed.

In the table it is also showed that 26.2% respondents had access to credit facility, 73.8%, does not have access to credit. This might be attributed to the fact that most respondent's lacks collateral security and the requirements for obtaining bank loans may be cumbersome. Some of these respondents might have limited source of income and this might hinder the bank or cooperate individuals from grant of loans and credits to the respondents.

This research work agrees with the studies of Baba (2016) who found out that 40% of local leaders are within the range of 41 – 50 years, while 60% of non-local leaders fell within the age bracket of 20 – 30 years. The results also showed that majority (75%) of local leaders are male, while 66% of non-local leaders are female. The result further indicated 36.7% of local leaders had tertiary education, while 33.3% of non-local leaders had primary education. The findings also revealed that the major role played by local leaders in community development projects are arrangement of funds in the form of levies, donations to finance projects (=4.35), determination of feasible projects based on available resources (=4.33) and determination of feasible projects based on community needs and priorities (=4.23). Similarly, Ipaye (1995) and Siyanbola (1996) agreed that respondents with many years of leadership experience will be more effective than those with lower years of experience.

Rural community leaders play a very crucial role in agricultural extension programmes. In table 2 it is showed that 98.3% respondent played roles in the area of determining feasible agricultural extension programmes, 97.2% were involved in consulting community members prior to project implementation 96.9% were found to be engaging in developing plan work for community, another 96.9% were also engaged in monitoring and evaluation of projects. Similarly, another 96.9% were into making decisions on different issues relating to the progress of the communities, 96.1% were found to be engaging in coordinating all agricultural extension programmes, another 96.1% were involved in ensuring cordial relationship among farmers, 95.2% were discovered to be involved in the maintenance of peace and harmony and 94.9% were fund to be providing technical advice to farmers on new technologies or inventions that could transform traditional agriculture to modern one through the application of new agricultural innovations.

It is clear from the results community leaders were found to be deeply involved in various agricultural programmes that could enhance increased agricultural productivity and/or output. This can be seen from the coordination of the various programmes relating to agriculture, monitoring and evaluation of the projects, maintaining peace and harmony among community members among others. A clear indication to move the community affairs forward. 94.1% were involved in the

legitimization of agricultural extension projects, 93.8% were intermediary acting as liaison between government and non-governmental organization, 93.5% engaged in diffusing and educating on government and non-governmental project 92.7% were engaged in the provision of information to communities, 89.6% were into raising funds for projects, 87.6% ensured that all assistance from government get to community, 87.6% were into developing proposal for funding.

It is obvious from the results that community leaders played significant roles in various agricultural extension programmes such as ensuring that all agriculturally inclined projects gets to communities, provision of information relating to agriculture and developing proposal for funding agricultural and other community development project and programmes.

This research work is in tandem with the findings of Baba (2016) whose research study asserted that the major role played by local leaders in community development projects are arrangement of funds in the form of levies, donations to finance projects (=4.35), determination of feasible projects based on available resources (=4.33) and determination of feasible projects based on community needs and priorities (=4.23). However, the prominent activities engaged by local and non-local leaders in community development projects include; the actual implementation of community development projects, planning (designing) community development projects and in selling the idea of community development projects to other members of the community. Community leaders were found to be effective in the performance of agricultural extension roles according to (Ogunjimi (1992) and Ipaye (1995)). This result is supported by the findings of Ifanyi-Obi (2010), Onwumere, and Nmesirionye, (2011) showing that there are important socio-economic factors affecting local leaders roles in information dissemination.

Table 3 revealed that coordinating all agricultural extension programmes in the community was negative (-352) and significant at 5% level of significance and its coefficient (-18) showed that rural community leaders were effectively involved in coordinating various agriculturally inclined programmes in their communities. The coefficient (109) of ensuring cordial relation among farmers positively (2.126) and significantly assist farmers in effectively discharging their roles in the community. Similarly, ensuring that all assistance from government and non-governmental get to farmers and in good time (3.739) was significant at 5% level of significance. Acting as liaison between government and non-governmental agencies with (5.21) as positively and highly significant at 1% level of significance. However, providing information and technical advice to communities with t-value (8.72) as positive and significant at 10% level of significance.

It is obvious from the findings that community leaders were highly effective in the performance of roles in their respective communities through ensuring that members of their communities are always carried along and/or benefit with all governmental intervention introduced in their communities.

Developing plan work for community programmes was significant at 1% level of significance indicating that it is highly significant. However, monitoring and evaluation of projects, raising funds through levies with t-values (633) and (-678) respectively were both significant at 10% level of significance. The coefficient of (21) consulting members of community prior to project implementation was positive and significant influence the effectiveness of community leaders roles in promoting various agriculture extension programmes.

The studies is in consonance with the findings of Ozor and Nwanko (2008) whose research study showed that the most important roles played by local leaders in community development in the area constituted about 78% of the perceived roles and they include; making decisions on different issues affecting the community that require integrated approach (= 3.82); acting as liaison between governmental and nongovernmental agencies and the community for financial and technical assistance (= 3.80); monitoring and evaluation of projects for proper implementation (= 3.78); and raising funds through levies, donations, launchings, etc to finance community development projects in the area (= 3.76). The study is line with Akinwale (1990) who opined that other functions performed by respondents include visiting farmers to assess farming progress, linking other farmers with source of input, taking part in demonstration, taking part in planning of extension programme. The results presented above demonstrates that both groups of respondents took active part in extension functions at the level.

According to Laogu, (2011), satisfaction in one's job or role encourages one to more action. Also satisfaction from one learning experience stimulates desire for learning in other fields. Roles like educating farmer on improved practices, taking farmers problems to research stations were not performed satisfactory by them. This implies that these were purely extension agents' roles.

CONCLUSION

The study ascertained the roles of rural community leaders in promoting agricultural extension service delivery in Kebbi State, Nigeria. Results showed that among the prominent roles played by the rural community leaders include; making decisions on different issues affecting the community, acting as

liaison between governmental and non-governmental agencies and the community for financial and technical assistance, legitimization of projects prior to implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects for proper implementation, and raising funds through levies, donations, launchings, etc to finance community development projects in the area among others. Further results showed that the main source of information on community development in the area was through the rural community leaders. It was found out that women were not actively involved in rural community leadership in the area. The respondents identified incompatibility of government policies with community programmes, insufficient sources of funds, poor implementation of programmes, and gender bias among others as the major constraints that limit rural leaders from achieving results in agricultural extension in the area. Extension policy must legitimately recognize the potentials of rural community leaders in agricultural extension programmes and partner with them in the overall efforts to provide innovative solutions to the hydra-headed nature of problems related to effective extension service delivery in the rural areas. There must be gender balance in leadership in order to give the often marginalized groups (women, youths, and children) opportunity to participate in rural community leadership and extension programmes.

A review of the findings of this study resulted in the following conclusions: 1. Majority of the respondents were males. 2. Respondents were aged between 20 and 76 years, of which the mean age was 53.97 years. 3. Nearly 90.7% percent of the respondents had completed a. Non formal education, whereas 7.3 percent had education beyond primary education. 4. 81.6% Respondents had households' members of 2-11, while 49.0% had household members of 12-21 among others. 5. Nearly 31.1% were in leadership position from 0-9 years, 52.8% respondents were in leadership from 10-19 years while 25.2% respondents were into community service from 20-45 years among others with a mean of 9 years. Analysis of leadership activities performed by rural community leaders indicated that: Collaborating with extension agents in conducting extension programmes will greatly assist in promoting the service in the study area. There was significant statistical relationship or difference between the leadership activities performed by rural leaders and the following demographic data: age, education level, experience, gender and marital status. A significant statistical relationship existed between the leadership activities performed and the position held in leadership. Analysis of perceptions regarding selected leadership roles performed by the rural leaders indicated that: 98.3% of the respondents played role in determining feasible agricultural extension programmes, 97.2% were involved in

consulting community members prior to project implementation, 96.9% were involved in both developing plan for the community and monitoring and evaluation of projects among others.

Significant relationship or difference existed between the perceptions regarding selected leadership roles and demographic data such as age, gender, marital status and educational level. Statistically significant relationship existed between perceptions regarding selected leadership roles performed by rural leaders in extension programmes and leadership adopted. Respondents indicated a need for training in: a. Organizing, coordinating and conducting extension programmes in cooperation with extension agents. b. Establishing rapport with government officials and other organizations. c. Organizing and using extension staff committees. B. significant relationship or difference existed between need for leadership training and demographic data: such as age, education level, and amount of gross income of the community leaders. C. There was a significant relationship between 1 the need for leadership training and the positions held in rural community leadership.

Most local leaders in the study area belonged to one social organization or the other and obtained their agricultural information from different sources. Extension agents were assisted by local leaders in legitimizing their extension efforts in their communities. Despite constraints that affected the effective performance of the roles of the local leaders, most of them were satisfied with the roles they played. Sex, age, education, occupation, experience, extension contact and membership of social organizations were significant socio-economic factors that affected the roles they played in agricultural information dissemination in the study area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were proffered.

1. The results of this study should be shared with agricultural extension administrators, rural community leaders, and private training institutes responsible for planning and providing the training to community leaders and agricultural extension agents.
2. Because most of the significant differences in the ratings of the leadership activities performed by rural leaders, perceptions regarding selected leadership roles, and need for leadership training were attributed to the differences of position held by the community leaders, it is important to consider this factor when planning and conducting leadership training or agricultural extension programmes for leaders and extension agents.
3. The rural community leaders should increase the

involvement agricultural extension agents in planning and conducting the extension programmes in their communities. Training should be conducted for rural leaders in the study area, Training should also be made available for agricultural extension personnel on how to involve rural community people in programme planning.

4. Develop and use models of leadership training appropriate to local leaders and organizational situations in the study area.

5. Local leaders should be more involved in agricultural extension activities in order to ensure that their needs are met. This will facilitate acceptance of programmes by other farmers.

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