

# Women Participation in Household Food Security in Ogbomosho South Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria

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## Abstract

This study is based on Women Participation in Household Food Security Ogbomosho South Local Government, Oyo State, Nigeria. A multistage simple random technique was used to select one hundred and twenty (120) women farmers from (4) wards randomly chosen in the study area, Primary Data was used for the collection with the aid of Semi-Structured questionnaire comprises of both closed and open-ended questions. Four Objectives guide this study altogether, Descriptive statistics was used through primary data to analyzed the data. The result shows that 24.2% of the respondent age are between 40-49 years, that respondent are in their active age, about 50.8% were married, about 33.3% of the respondent had no idea or knowledge on education( Non Formal), about 50.0% of the respondent practice farming as main work, 54.2% of the respondent feed thrice a day( Implies that women put enough effort in playing a tangible role in enhancing food security in the Household), 41.7% of the respondent focus on crop production.,64.2% of the respondent has Low visit experience from the extension agent and affect their means of cultivation High price of Food occur in the study area due to rate of Insecurity in the country( Farmers are hindered from going to farm). The major problems encounter during their day-to-day activities were High price of food, Lack of effective or adequate machineries, lack of access to credit, Inadequate capital to purchase enough food, Inadequate storage facilities, lack of unity within household, Harmful effect of pest, Limited finance for balance diet. The study concluded that measures that will enhance household food security should be promoted in each community according to their resources, population, needs and want.

**Key Words:** Food Security, Women, Agriculture, Smallholders, Household.

## 1. Introduction

Agriculture is the backbone of many developing countries. According to CIA agriculture contributes about 40 gross domestic product (GDP) and employ about 70 of working population [1]. Agriculture development is therefore concerned with enabling farmers to use agriculture as a means of improving the well-being of their families through food production. food production involves all the activities in agriculture field from land preparation, Ridges making, plant-

ing, weeding, fertilizer application, processing and serving of food. It is the base for the country overall development by increasing food security. Food Security refers to a condition where all people have physical and economic access to a sufficient, nutritious and safe food for a healthy and active life [2].

According to FAO Food security as a way that occur when all everyone at all period of time have physical, social and economic access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food that

meets their dietary needs and food preferences for healthy and active life [3]. The goals of sustaining food security in any country level and household are serious challenge to many developing countries. Food security includes a minimum access of nutritionally adequate and safe foods; and assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (i.e. without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing or other coping strategies). At a family level, Food Security involves participation of father, mother and member of the household Food security at the high level will not therefore guarantee that each one people, especially the rural poor, can have access to the minimum nutrition demand attributable to existing regional, social inequalities associated economic which the country has found itself in [4]. Food security for more explanation means access by all members at all times to stand meals for an active healthy life. Food security includes at a minimum, the prepared availableness of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, and an assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways that is, while not resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing or other coping ways [5].

In Nigeria Women hold the strong pole particular in cultivation of different varieties of crop, including land clearing, provide production inputs and tools, making arrangement for labor, growing of crops, weeding works, maintaining of crops, harvesting, transporting, processing, storing and marketing of produce [6]. According to Majumdar and Shah women play prime role in origin/local farming from hand using farm activities, Agro processing and home – making. However, Food security at household level is more valuable than food security in other ways [7]. The availability and consumption of good nutritional food in household depict food security. The feasibility access to food relates to issues of food supply or availability, economic access to food is concerned with enough power to purchase or acquire food while sustainability of access to food deals with food supply and demand issues that determine the ability of a household to enjoy stable sustained physical and economic access to food over time. Women play front role and choices by producing food, feed and caring for family member, but with all these women faces a lot of discrimination and segregation in Agriculture such as Gender inequality, Burden of unpaid work at home, high level of illiteracy and bargaining, Limited access to assets etc [8].

Household comprises of people who stays unitedly in a house i.e father, mother, children, relatives even their servants. Also, household can be a coming tomorrow and together of people living under the same dwelling place and consume food together with support from father and mother who are the controller of the household. Livelihoods to be is described as capabilities, assets, and activities needs to sustain a means of living and ways to obtain food [9, 10]. Indeed, eradicating gender base inequalities, in resources access and decision- making could very much enhance women's contributions to food security and its nutritional benefits. Available evidence shows that women still left behind in term of visit and training extension contact but are limited under

the unified Extension system by socio cultural barriers [11]. With only months to go until the Millennium Goals (MDGs) are achieved, current statistics show that one in four people in sub-Saharan Africa suffers from chronic hunger [12, 13]. However, it is a well-Development known fact that the demand for food and agricultural products is increasing geometrically as the world population increases to an estimated 9.6 billion people by 2050 and as incomes increase in many developing countries [14, 15].

However, there is little literature that seeks to understand the livelihood dimension to food security. In view of the fact that livelihood and food security are linked in ways that are relevant to development and human wellbeing, this study seeks to cover up the open space in literature with respect to the effect of livelihood activities of households on food security status in Ogbomoso South Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria with a view to bringing about country-wide policy implications. This study is going to described the socio-economic characteristics of households in relation to their food security level, examined respondents' level of household food security in Ogbomoso, identified various household activities and analyzed the effect of livelihood activities on households' food security.

### 1.1 Objectives of the study

The broad objective of this study is to promote women's participation in household food security in the local government of Ogbomoso South, Oyo State, Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

- describe the socio-economic characteristics of women's participation in household food security in study area
- assessing women's participation in household food security in the study area
- examining factors affecting women's participation in the study area
- identifying the constraint faced by women in agriculture in the study area

### 2. Materials and Methods

The research was carried out in Ogbomoso South Local Government area, Oyo State, Nigeria. It is situated in the southwestern part of Nigeria and northeastern part of Oyo state. The longitude of 4<sup>o</sup>c and latitude of 8<sup>o</sup>c. The climatic characteristics and vegetation type in the study area favors investment in both on-farm and off-farm business activities. The area experiences uniform rainfall of about 1500 mm per annum. Mean temperature varies from daily minimum of 18.9<sup>o</sup>c to a daily maximum of 35<sup>o</sup>c. Humidity is moderate, about seventy percent with a maximum of about sixty percent in the evening and a maximum of around eighty percent in the morning. The vegetation distribution dominating the area is guinea savanna according to the Nigerian map. The main occupations of the people inhabiting the area are farming, artisan and civil service. The target population for the study comprises women in the household in Ogbomoso South Local Government area, Oyo state, Nigeria.

Agricultural production is the main occupation of the people with about 70-85 percent of the population engaged in farming activities, which is mostly subsistent. Other secondary occupation such as civil service, casual labor and marketing are also done in the area council. Farmers in ogbomoso south local government area are producer of maize, yam, cowpea, soybeans, tomatoes and local breeds of chicken. It is also noted that shifting cultivation and crop rotation are the major farming system practices by farmers in ogbomoso south local government area, Ogbomoso South Local Government is the one of the Local Government created from the defunct Ogbomoso Local Government in 1991 by Military Administration, Idi-igba, Gaa-Lagbedu, Kajola, Kowe, Oke-ola, Adeoye, Onidewure, Molete, Arowomole, Sanuaje, Obandi, Ijeru, Ayegun and Oke Alapata, Oyo state, Nigeria.

### 2.1 Sample size

A multistage simple random sampling technique was adopted in selecting the respondents. The first stage involved random selection of four (4) Arowomole, Oke-Ola, Ayegun and Oke Alapata wards from Ogbomoso South Local Government, second stage involved selection of three (3) communities randomly from each of the selected wards giving a total number of twelve (12) communities selected, ten (10) rural women farmers were selected, which make a total number of one hundred and twenty (120) women as respondent. Primary data will be used for the study with provide information on the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, livelihood activities, food consumption and food security, monthly income and expenditure on food.

### 2.2 Data Collection

Primary Data was used for the Collection with the aid of Semi-Structured questionnaire comprising of both closed and open-ended question. The main survey focused on Socio-economic characteristics of the women such as household asset, level of awareness on the means of innovation in the area, level of education, Religion, Age, Marital status, gender distribution, farming experiences etc. Section B focused on information on women participation in household food security Ogbomoso South Local Government area, Oyo state, Nigeria. Section C of the study emphasized on examination of factors influencing women participation in household food security. Section D of the study explain constraint faced by women in household food security whereby the respondent is providing the necessary answer through thinking the correct column with this process the available answers were able to guide the research correctly in the study area. Descriptive Statistics as tables and percentages are used to achieved Objectives (1), (ii), (iii) and (iv) Descriptive statistics involves frequency, percentages and mean used to summarize data

in an organized manner. The degree of association between women's personal and socio-economic characteristics of women participation in Household food security in Ogbomoso south local government area, Oyo state, Nigeria.

## 3. Result and Discussion

### 3.1 Socio-economic Characteristics of Women in the Study Area.

Results from Table 1 reveals the socio-economic characteristics is an economic measure of persons economic and social position in related to Age, Sex, Marital status, Household size, Educational background, Access to credit, Primary occupation among others [16]. The section focuses on women participation in household food security in the study area, to elaborate the socio-economic aspects that help in boosting Agarian women contribution to food security in the home.

According to Table 1 the whole samples summary of results for socio-economic characteristics distribution of age respondent are, 21.7% of the respondent are in the of 20-29years, 21.7% of the respondent are in the age group of 30-39, 24.2% of the respondent are in the group of 40-49 years, 20.0% of the respondent are in the age group of 50-59years, 10.8% of the respondent are in the age group of 60-69years, 1.7% of the respondent are in the age group of 70-79 year, (24.2% of the respondent age are between 40-49 an indication that the respondent are still in their very active age to engage in agricultural production that will enhance towards household food security, the result is in line with the findings of Ebukiba et al., who claimed that the activeness are in those age, the mean is 43years), [17]. Based on Marital status of the respondent 14.2% of the respondent were single, 50.8% of the respondent were married, 7.5% of the respondent were Divorced, 17.5% of the respondent were widowed, 10.0% of the respondent were separated (The summary explain that majority of the respondent are married due to acquiring of knowledge based on what is meant to be Household Food security and also significance of farming labor to agricultural production in a typical or normal rural community in Nigeria) on the level of education the summary of the result implies that 33.3 of the respondents has no idea and knowledge based on education (Non formal education), 26.7% of the respondent were qualified based on primary school certificate, 20.0% of the respondent were qualified based secondary school, 20.0% of the respondent were also qualified for tertiary education, (33.3% of the respondent carried high percentage in non-formal education which lead to their level of illiteracy and this affect their production.

**Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of respondent by socio characteristics**

	Variables	Percentage (%)	Mean
<b>Age</b>			
20-29	26	21.7	
30-39	26	21.7	
40-49	29	24.2	43
50-59	24	20.0	
60-69	13	10.8	
70-79	2	1.7	
<b>Marital status</b>			
Single	17	14.2	
Married	61	50.8	
Divorced	9	7.5	
Widowed	21	17.5	
Separated	12	10.0	
<b>Level of education</b>			
Non-formal education	40	33.3	
Primary school	32	26.7	
Secondary school	24	20.0	
Tertiary	24	20.0	
<b>Religion</b>			
Christianity	64	53.3	
Islam	48	40.0	
Others	8	6.7	
<b>Primary occupation</b>			
Farming	60	50.0	
Business/trading	37	30.8	
Civil servant	14	11.7	
Student	9	21.8	
<b>Number of family</b>			
1-5	47	39.2	
6 -10	47	39.2	
11-15	26	21.7	

**Source:** Field Survey, 2023

According to Table 1, the average years of education is below the minimum nine years of basic education pronounced by the educational sector of Nigeria). The summary on religion of the respondent implies that 53.3% of the respondent were Christian, 40.0% of the respondent were Islam and 6.7% of the respondent were other religion.

Table 2 shows that the primary occupation of the respondent is that 50.0% of the respondent were farmer, 30.8% of the respondent focus on Business/ trading, 11.7% of the respondent were civil servant, 5.8% of the respondent were student, 16% of the respondent were others (It is obvious that agriculture, most especially farming has high percent-

age in employing laborer in the study area, Shehu found out that farming constituted the major occupation of the people in the rural areas in Nigeria and this aid food security [18]. Based on family size 1-5 family member has mean percentage of 39.2%, 6-10 family member has mean percentage of 29.2% and 11-15 family member has mean percentage of 21.7%. Adebayo supported assertion that the larger the family size the lesser the food availability to each person with the household and also nutritional status will be affected, this finding is in line with Alade and Eniola [19, 20].

Table 2 shows the summary result of people that rely on food implies that 1-5 members of the respondent has 42.5%, 6-10

member of the household has 30.8%, 11-15 member of the household has 25.0% and others has 1.7%. Result for read and write focus on 1-5 member of the household has 34.2%, 6-10 member of the household has 32.5%.

**Table 2: Frequency and percentage of respondent Relying on food and can read and write**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Mean
<b>Rely on food</b>			7
<1	2	1.7	
1-5	51	42.5	
6-10	37	30.8	
11-15	30	25.0	
<b>Reading and Writing</b>			8
<1	5	4.2	
1-5	41	34.2	
6-10	39	32.5	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

### Women Participation in Household Food Security

Table 2 shows the roles of women in household food security participation in the study area. Time of feeding of the respondent focus on 2.5% of the family member feed once in a day, 43.3% of the respondent feed twice a day and 54.2% of the respondent feed thrice a day, This implies that women put more effort in playing a tangible role in enhancing food security in the household by providing food for the family. Result on support from husband explain that 30.8% of women who

are respondent receive support from their husband, 67.5% of the respondent do not receive support from their husband (lack of support from husband occur due to death and un-supportive husband to the family) and others 1.7%. Primary means of getting food 44.2% of the respondent purchase food, 50.0% of the respondent focus on own production and management, 2.5% of the respondent acquire food by gift and others 3.3%.

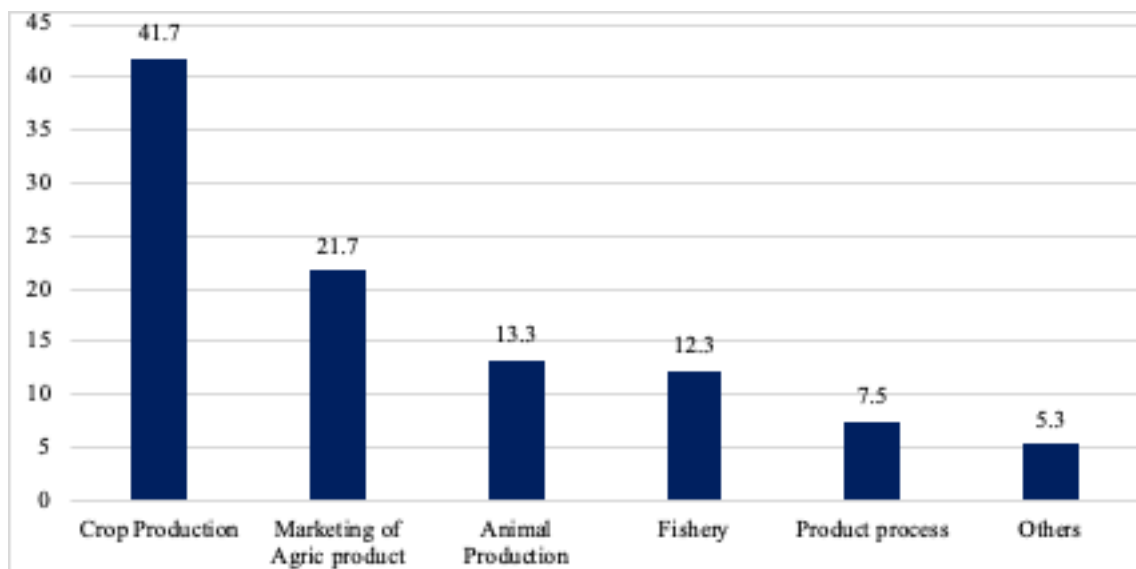
**Table 3: Women participation in household food security in frequency and percentage**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Time of feeding</b>		
Once	3	2.5
Twice	52	43.3
Thrice	65	54.2
<b>Support from Husband</b>		
Yes	37	30.8
No	81	67.5
Others	2	1.7
<b>Primary means of getting food</b>		
Purchasing	53	44.2
By own production	60	50.0
By gift	3	2.5
Others	4	3.3
<b>Aspect of agricultural production</b>		
Crop production	50	41.7
Animal production	16	13.3
Fishery	15	12.5

Product processing	9	7.5
Marketing of agric product	26	21.7
Others	4	3.3
<b>Agricultural practices</b>		
Subsistence	57	52.5
Commercial	63	47.5
<b>Objectives of production</b>		
Family consumption	48	40.0
Sales to Others consumer	46	38.3
Both	23	19.2
Others	3	2.5

**Source:** Field Survey, 2023

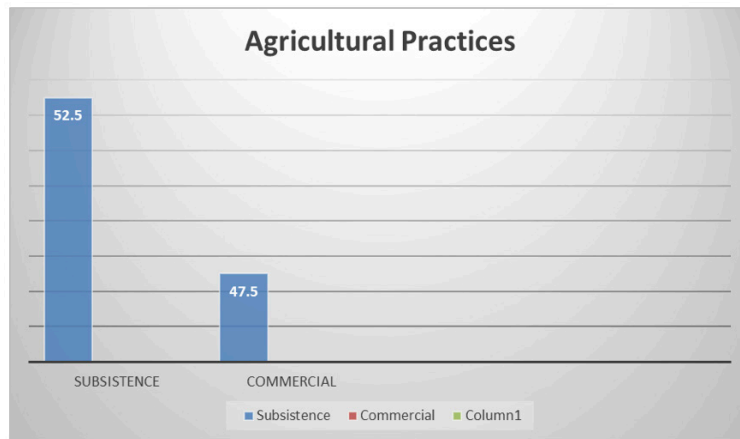
Figure 1 revealed that agricultural production 41.7% of the respondents focus on crop production, 13.3% of the respondent focus on Animal production, fishery aspect has 12.5%, product processing respondent were 7.5%, marketing of agricultural product respondent was 21.7% and other production respondent were 3.3%.



**Figure 1:** Agricultural Production

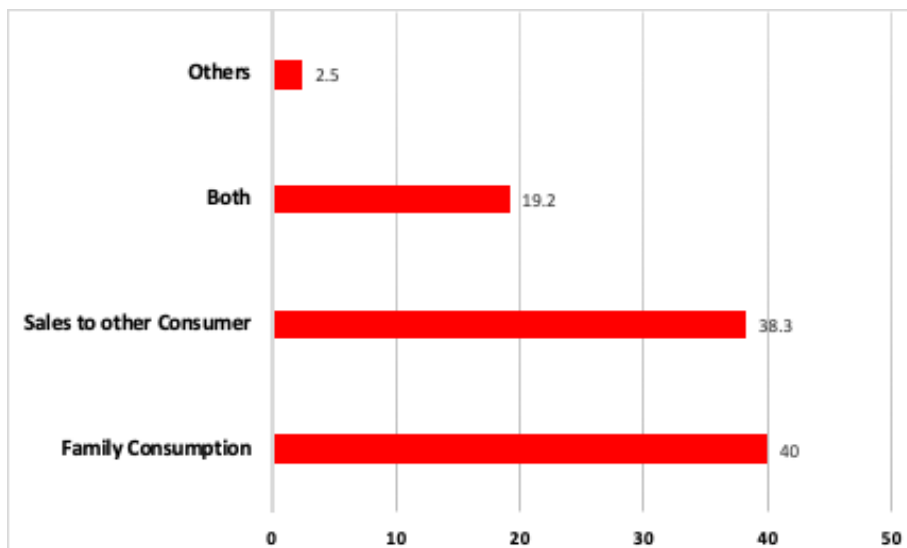
According to Zubairu and Maurice and Hadebe says women are mostly involved food crop production which ensures food security), also Adepoju says rural women were categories food insecure and food secure based on 2/3 mean percapital, food expenditure which has a relationship with income as an essential requirement for sustainable food availability, accessibility and utilization [21-23]. Figure 2 shows that based on types of Agriculture practice 47.5% of the respondent engage in subsistence farming, 52.5% of the respondent cultivate based on commercial farming (Agarian women helps in boosting farming production and their level

of food security, Rural women played a key role in providing and primarily responsible for food storage within the home to prevent an unanticipated shortage). Findings in Figure 3 shows the main objectives of the production with family consumption as 40% of the respondent cultivated based on family consumption, 38.3% of the respondent cultivate based on satisfying other customer for consumption, 19.2% of the respondent engage in both family and sales to other customer, 2.5% of the respondent cultivate based on other means of consumption.



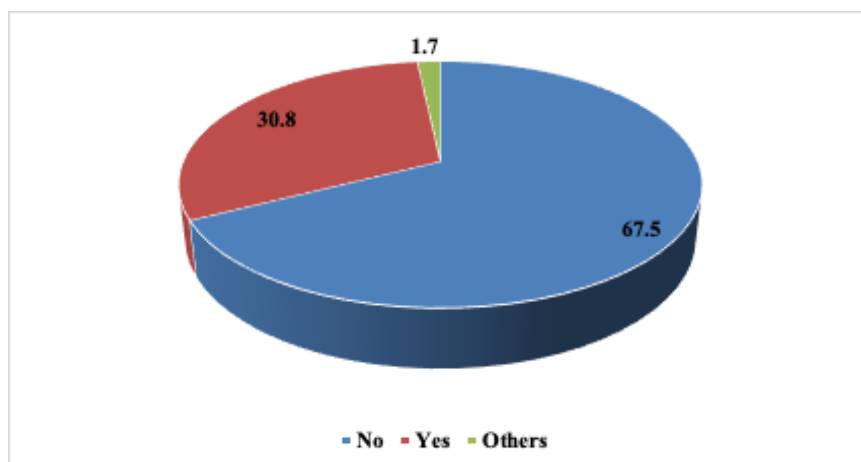
**Figure 2:** Agricultural Practices

Source: *Field Survey, 2023*



**Figure 3:** Objective of production

Source: *Field Survey, 2023*



**Figure 3:** Representation of Support from Husband

Source: *Field Survey, 2023*

### 3.3 Factors That Influence Women Participation in Household Food Security.

According to Figure 4, the result on the factors that influence the performance of women in household food security participation says, new technology the respondent result based on yes was 67.5% and 32.5% of the result of the respondent were No, The highest average percentage indicate that the women are willingly and has high interest in adoption of new technology that help their production and help to achieve food security in the household, This agrees with the findings of Feleke et.al. and Oluyole et.al. who found a positive relationship between technology and food security status [24,25].

Table 3 revealed the result of adoption based on New technology result 55.8% of the respondent answer yes while

44.2% of the respondent were No. Based on empowerment opportunities implies that 39.2% of the respondent answer Yes and 60% of the respondent has No has responds, this implies that although the women has high rate of adoption of new technology but due to lack of empowerment they are not opportune to make use of the adoption to the level of their interest and want which lead to low production. Result on extension agent visit to the farmer 35.8% of the respondent experience visit from the extension agent often whereby 64.2% of the respondent has no or low experience visit from extension agent, percentage of time extension agent visit the farmer has a high number of negative which is 64.2% and this limit the respondent from elaborating their problems and receiving solution from the agent, this makes the respondent to cultivate based on their ancient way of farming.

**Table 3: Frequency and Percentage of factors that influence women participation**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
<b>New technology</b>		
Yes	81	67.5
No	39	32.5
<b>Adoption of Techniques</b>		
Yes	67	55.8
No	53	44.2
<b>Empowerment training</b>		
Yes	47	39.2
No	60	99.2
Others	1	8
Yes	43	35.8
No	77	64.2
<b>Access to credit</b>		
Yes	53	44.2
No	67	55.8
<b>Government support</b>		
Loan	45	37.5
Grant	12	10.0
None	75	62.5

Source: field Survey, 2023

Table 3 show the result on access to credit 44.2% of the respondent has access to credit and 55.8% of the respondent do not has access to credit, access to credit is an important factor that can influence the likelihood of adoption of new technology by food crop farmers to attain food security. Farm credit is widely recognized as one of the intermediating factors between adoption of farm technologies and in-

crease in farm income among rural farmers in Nigeria this makes the food crop farmers in the study area to lack high rate of production [26]. According to result on government support to the women in the study area 27.5% of the respondent were able to acquire loan that helps them in their day to day activities for their household food security, 10.0% of the respondent were able to acquire grant from the government



and 62.5% of the respondent were not privilege to acquire either loan nor grant from government or any agencies, lack of those opportunity slow the production rate and makes the effort of the women in house food security [27].

### 3.4 Constraints Faced by Women in Participation of Household Food Security

The result shows on Table 4 showed the challenges faced by rural women participation in household food security in ogbomoso south local government Oyo state as follow inadequate capital to purchase enough food has a mean score of 3.00 (majority of the respondent does not have enough money to purchase food due to lack of support from husband and high number of household), limited finance to purchase balance diet food for the household has a mean score of 2.50 (majority of the respondent do not feed based on balance diet, but eat any affordable food in order to have savings for the education of their children), lack of effective or adequate machineries/ tools for farming has a mean score of 3.10 (Due to lack of enough contact with extension agent, majority of the

respondent cultivate based on olden days method of cultivation), lack of access to credit as a mean score of 2.26 (High percentage of the respondent can access credit through their cooperative society and microfinance bank while some have limited access to credit due to no support from the government), Harmful effect of pest on farm product has mean score of 2.28 (majority of the respondent are making use of insecticide due to knowledge they are able to acquire from new technology), lack of storage facilities for household has a mean score of 2.98, lack of adequate balanced diet calories has a mean score of 2.50, lack of unity within the household has a mean score of 2.83, High price of food has a mean score of 3.48 ( high price of food is uncontrollable in the system now and this affect the management of food security but due to majority of the respondent are farmers they are able to manage the food security in the house from their produce on farm, for instance the cost of staples like rice, sugar, millet, wheat have increased considerably in recent time and no constant price for any food.).

**Table 4: Rank order of respondents by the challenges faced by women in household food security**

Constraints	Number	Mean	Standard deviation	Rank
Inadequate capital to purchase enough food	120	3.00	864	9.000
Limited finance for balance diet	120	2.50	893	4.000
Lack Effective or adequate machinery	120	3.10	900	8.000
Lack of access to credit	120	3.25	989	8.000
Harmful effect of pest	120	2.68	872	3.000
Lack of storage facilities	120	2.98	900	4.000
Lack of adequate balance diet	120	2.50	931	3.000
Lack of unity within household	120	2.83	976	1.000
High price of food	120	3.48	998	9.000

*Source: Field Survey, 2023*

## 4. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

The study revealed the performance of women in household food security in ogbomoso south local government Oyo state. Multistage simple random technique was used where by 120 women were selected based on their occupation, majority of the women selected are vegetables farmer, cassava farmer, business/trading etc. primary data were collected with a well-Structured questionnaire which focus on the objectives of the study.

The result revealed that the average age of the respondent is from 40-49years which implies that the women are all in their active age to ensure food security in the household mean age of, 50.8% of the respondent are married, majority of the women selected in the four-ward visited are not educated and has percentage of 33.3%, while the number of family household is 6-10 with percentage of 39.2%. About 44.2% of the respondent feed from their own production and 41.7% of the respondent engage in crop production as

their major aspect of agricultural production we have 50 Respondent for it. Majority of the respondent cultivate based on commercial level 52.5% based on high percentage of adoption of new technology 67.5%. The respondent has low rate percentage in extension visit 64.2% and their ridicule their production. The major problem encountered by the women is lack of inadequate capital, lack of effective or adequate machineries, lack of storage facilities, High price of food, inadequate support from member/husband, lack of access to credit.

### 4.1. Conclusion

Balancing up the finding, summary and result together in line with the study, it is understandable and obvious that women play a significant role in enhancing food security in the household. The need to ensure food security is not only a function of food supplies but also of demand of purchasing power. It is now widely that if women can get enough empowerment supply this will serve as a critical valve in insur-

ing both the national and household food security. The reason to achieve food security is not only a function to provide and supply food but also for demand of purchasing power, as a basic need in achieving food security in different segment of policy like social, political, economic, cultural interaction etc.

#### 4.2. Recommendation

According to the collation and findings of the study, it is therefore recommended that women in Ogbomoso south local government, Oyo state can improve and achieve high household food security through the help of government, non-government and activeness in their own effort. Women should be encourage to participate in income generating activities to boost their household food security, Addressing of female education from their teenage to adult must be a primary intervention to the parent and government at large, There should be easy access to credit facilities in order to empower women in household food security capacity, Government and other society groups should organize more recommended Program that will bring more enlighten to agrarian women on household food security, there should be frequently visit of extension agent to the women farmers, there should be continuous enlighten on women in agriculture this will help to develop the home gardening and others etc.

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