Road Transportation Challenges to Food Security in Ikere-Ekiti Local Government Area of Ekiti State, Nigeria

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1. Introduction

- The need for the eradication of poverty and hunger forms a major objective of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Africa.

- Most rural areas in Africa constitute people who are poor and suffer a great deal of hunger.

- Notwithstanding, these Africa rural areas offer the greatest potential for the sustainable development of the continent through increased agricultural production supported by efficient transportation and distribution.

*The efficiency of transportation is essential to permit farmers to obtain inputs and information at reasonable cost and time, and sell their output at realistic prices to cover their overall cost (Angmor, 2012).*
Transportation challenges had served as impediment to the production of food as contributed by increased cost of transport, and difficulties in moving products from the farm areas to urban centres.

This resulted into high rate of poverty among rural dwellers not because they are lazy but because the results of their handiwork do not get to where economic value will be attached to them.

This is reflected in the fact that farmers will have to sell their products among themselves at shamefully low prices in order to reduce the quantity that will perish.
Food security as an essential component to facilitate sustainable development of Nigeria will require that farm produce are transported to market areas.

This implies that all products from agricultural activities are demanded and consumed at a value that will transform into the wealth of farmers.
This study aims to **examine the road transportation challenges to food security in Nigeria.**

- This study looks beyond the need to increase agricultural productivity, technology or improved varieties,

- but takes a look at the critical fact that *food wastages and poverty will continue in the face of increased agricultural productivity* if efficient transportation and distribution system is not put in place.
3. Objectives of the study

- assess the road condition of Ikere- Ekiti Local Government Area.
- Identify the major transport challenges facing farmers in the study area, and
- investigate the efficiency of the ministry/agency in charge of road transportation in the Local Government.
4. **Study Area**

- Ikere-Ekiti is one of the major towns and Local government headquarters in Ekiti State.

- Ikere Local Government Area was created on the 11th of May, 1989 with the headquarters at Ikere-Ekiti.

**Figure 1**: Map of Ikere Ekiti in its National and Regional Settings
• The local government comprise of Ikere town and a total of 143 other towns and villages.
• It has a total land area of about 202.38 square kilometres and population of 148,558 as at 2006 population census.

Figure 2: Map of Ikere Local Government showing the Selected Settlements and their ward number
Data and Methods

- Major data for the study were sourced using **primary techniques** of data collection involving **personal observation and questionnaire administration**.
- **Desk research** was also used to gather relevant information from literature.
  - The study found a total of **1714 members** of various **farmers’ association** from the records of Ikere local government.
  - In order to determine the sample size for the study, **10 percent of the total population** was taken to be adequate to represent the entire population.
  - This makes a total of **171 farmers** that were surveyed for the purpose of the study.
Data and Methods cntd....

Table 1: Population and Sample Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Association</th>
<th>Membership Size</th>
<th>10% Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ikere Farmers Association</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebira Farmers Association</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Igala Farmers Association</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1714</strong></td>
<td><strong>171</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The study employed a combination of **purposive and random sampling techniques** to collect data.

- **The purposive sampling** is to ensure that only farmers who are registered member of any of the farmers associations were surveyed.

- **The random technique** is to ensure that individual farmer has equal rights to be sampled for the purpose of the study.

- The data collected for the study were analysed using **simple descriptive statistics and correlation analysis**.
Results and Discussion

- The gender result revealed that Male has the highest percentage of farmers in Ikere-Ekiti being 68% of the total population.

- The educational status of the farmers in the study shows
  - 36% had no formal education,
  - 53% possessed primary school education while,
  - 9% had secondary education and
  - 3% acquired tertiary education.

- Majority of the farmers in the area fall within the age 46-60 years.

- The highest earners among the farmers surveyed are those that earn above N400,001-N500,000 ($1101-$1373) annually.

### Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Farmers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th></th>
<th>2.</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>117</td>
<td></td>
<td>18-30 Years</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td>31-45 Years</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>171</td>
<td></td>
<td>46-60 Years</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60 Years and Above</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Educational Status</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Years of Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Former Education</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
<td>Less than 5 Years</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
<td>5-10 Years</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secondary School</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>11-15 Years</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tertiary</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>15 Years and Above</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>171</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Annual Income Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>₦ 100,001 - N200,000</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>₦ 200,001 - N300,000</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>₦ 300,001 - N400,000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>₦ 400,001 - N500,000</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>₦ 500,000 and Above</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>171</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The highest earners among the farmers surveyed are those that earn above N400,001-N500,000 ($1101-$1373) annually.
• **Road Condition and Means of transport to the Market Centre**

  • Majority (89%) of the respondents highlighted that the condition of road networks in the study area are poor.

  Road Condition to farmlands in Ikere LGA
**Road Condition and Means of transport to the Market Centre**

- Majority of the farmers (56%) cover an average distance of 5 kilometres to and from market

### Distance from Farm Settlements to the Market Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance from Farm Settlements</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1KM</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2KM</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4KM</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5KM and Above</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Authors’ Field Work, 2017
Results and Discussion cntd.…

• **Road Condition and Means of transport to the Market Centre**

  • 67% of the farmers transport their goods to market with the use of motorcycles.
  
  • Notwithstanding, it should be noted that motorcycles has a highly limited capacity to carry goods that can substantially contribute to sustainable food security in the study area.

  • As a result of this, **a huge volume of agricultural products perish in the farm.**
The results of Pearson Correlation analysis presented in Table 3 to examine the relationship between the distance of farmers’ locations and markets in the study area. It can be deduced from the analysis that there exists a relationship between the distance of farmers and number of markets in the area because the correlation value of 0.981 is significant at 1%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance of farm settlements</th>
<th>Pearson Correlation</th>
<th>Number of Markets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.991*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Number of Markets | Pearson Correlation | 0.991* | 1.000 |
| Sig. (2-tailed)   | 1.000               |        |

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2 tailed)**

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2017

This implies that as the distance of farm settlements is far from one market in the area, there is usually a point of market where production areas complement each other.
Results and Discussion cntd....

- Other Road Transport challenges in the study Area

- Results on this showed that **18% of the farmers** claimed **poor road condition**, 29% opined high cost of transport,
- **8%** indicate inadequate road transport service,
- **5%** responded to be wastage of farm produce on transit,
- **6%** noted it to be overloading and
- **35%** of respondents see all the identified problems as transport challenges hindering movement of agricultural produce in the Local Government

Specific Transport Problems in Ikere LGA
Source: Authors’ Field Work, 2017
Efficiency of the Ministry/Agency in Charge of Road Development

- The results showed that 83% of the farmers noted that the agency in charge of the road management is not efficient

The Head of the Works Department of the Local government agreed that the department has not been efficient in carry out her responsibility in the area due to lack of fund, inadequate man power, and equipment.

Source: Authors Field Work, 2017
The study examined road transportation challenges to food security in Ikere Ekiti Local Government Area of Ekiti State, Nigeria. The findings revealed that the study area is characterized by poor transport service consequent upon poor road condition which is serving as threat to sustainable food security.

**To ameliorate the challenges, there is need to:**

- improve food marketing that will sustain food security in the study area and Nigeria at large through provision of adequate road transport facilities.
- Certification of Local government autonomy in the country.
- Establishment of private-public partnership in road and agricultural development.
Thanks for Listening