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**TRAINING NEEDS OF CASHEW FARMERS IN SURULERE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA**

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**Abstract:**

Farmers continue to rely on the traditional method of farming for cultivation of cashew and this has been reducing its bumper production. This study therefore assessed training needs of cashew farmers in Surulere Local Government Area. Multistage sampling technique was used to select 100 cashew Farmers in the study area. Data were collected using interview schedule. Descriptive statistical tools and logit model were used. The mean number of years spent in school was 6 years. The training status of respondents includes; fellow farmers (55%), village leaders (50%), extension agents (50%), radio (50%), television (65%), cashew buying agents (80%) and Villagers leaders (72%). It was concluded that most of the respondents received training on cashew production from buying agents while the least received training from village leaders, extension agents and radio. It was recommended that government and non -governmental organization should employ more



extension agents. Extension agents should also, be re-engineered into more efficient extension service delivery to the Farmers.

**Keywords:** Cashew, Extension agents, Radio, Television and Training

### **1. Introduction:**

Cashew (*Anacardium occidentale L.*) is cultivated in all the agro-ecological zones of Nigeria including the semi-arid areas, but with a high concentration in the middle belt areas. Cashew production comes from 27 out of 36 states in Nigeria. These includes: Kogi, Oyo, Kwara, Enugu and Edo. Others are Abia, Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Benue, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Ekiti, FCT, Imo, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Taraba, Plateau, River and Lagos. In the past 12 years, production has increased almost thirty-fold from 30,000 metric tonnes in 1990 to 836,500 Metric tonnes from estimated land area of 366,000 ha (Adeigbe *et al.*, 2015). The main product derived from cashew are, raw nut, cashew kernels and cashew nut shell liquid (CSNL).

Agricultural extension, or agricultural advisory services, comprises the entire set of organizations that support people engaged in agricultural production and facilitate their efforts to solve problems; link to markets and other players in the agricultural value chain; and obtain information, skills, and technologies to improve their livelihoods (Birner *et al.*, 2009). The agricultural extension approach is currently demand driven, involving farmers' groups in the planning and implementation process. The system is also integrating different extension providers. "The extension services use a combination of dissemination pathways such as demonstration plots/Farmer Field Schools (FFS), farmer field days and exchange visits/study tours" (Mvuna, 2013).

Every day, the total human population increases worldwide (URT, 2013), especially in Africa and specifically in Nigeria. As the population grows, the basic needs of the entire populace increase among which nutritional and industrial needs are. In other to meet these demands, a crop like cashew which is of great nutritional and economic importance is needed.



But despite its need economically it has been found that production of cashew is low (Mkinga District Council, 2013). Also, it's evident that since farmers are not really interested in cashew production they still continue to rely on the traditional method of farming for cultivation of cashew and this has been affecting its production.

It is quite pitiful that in a country like Nigeria where production of cashew is possible because of the suitability of our climate for its cultivation, our industries which are in need of some products from cashew are going abroad for raw materials and this in turn has effects on their production cost and consequently the price of the finished products from the industries are high.

The specific objectives are to:

1. Describe the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents in the study areas;
2. Identify the training status of respondents in the study area

Hypothesis of the study:

H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant relationship between training received by cashew farmers from extension agent and selected characteristics in the study area.

## **2. Research Methodology:**

The study was conducted in in Surulere Local Government Area, Oyo-State, Nigeria. Its headquarters is in the town of Iresa-Adu. It has an area of 23 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 142,070 at the 2006 census (NPC, 2006). The annual growth rate of 3.4% was estimated (National bureau of Statistics, 2018). Therefore, in 2024 the State's population is 229, 016. Some of the towns in the local government are Iresa-Adu, Igbon and Iresa-Apa. The main economic activities of the residents of the towns that make up Surulere local government is farming. The main produce from there farming activity is: Yam, Cocoa, Palm oil, Maize and Tobacco.

The population for this study consisted of all cashew farmers in Surulere Local Government Area of Oyo State.



Multistage sampling technique was used to select the respondents. The first stage was the purposive sampling of four (4) villages. The second stage was the proportionate sampling of 10% of registered cashew famers. Thus, a total of 100 respondents were interviewed.

Descriptive Statistical Tools that were used include frequency counts, percentages and means. These were used to describe socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents and the training status of respondents. Also, Logit model was used to test for the null hypothesis.

### **3. Result and Discussion:**

#### **Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents:**

Table 1 illustrates the Socio demographic characteristics of respondents.

Most (60%) of the cashew Farmers were males. The cashew farming is dominated by males. This is probably because; cashew crop is a perennial crop that is usually been inherited by male folks.

The farmers which were less than 40 years of age were 62.00%. Thus, a good number of the respondents were in their youths. The respondents that were within ages of 40 to 44 years and 45 to 49 years were 18.00% and 11.00% respectively. Also, the respondents that were greater than 50 years of age were 7.00%. Therefore, the aged respondents were less than the younger ones. Moreover, the mean age of the respondents was 37 years. This was an indication that the farmers were young, productive and agile. This could enable them to adopt and diffuse innovative technologies and/or training that could improve their cashew production.

The marital status of respondents were single (31.00%), married (66.00%) and divorced (3.00%). The married category were the main category (66.00%). The married status could encourage the use of household members as cheap family laborers to the respondents.

The household size of respondents were 3 (55.00%), 4-6 (34.00%) and > 6 (8.00%). The 3 individual's category was the main category (55.00%) and the mean household size was 4 individuals. This implies that the respondents have very few household members that were



depending on them. This could reduce diversion of resource that is meant for cashew farming to household up keeps.

The number of years spent in school were < 7 (67.00%), 7-12 (28.00%) and > 12 (6.00%). The mean number of years spent in school was 6 years. This implies that most of the respondents were mainly primary school leavers. Education could improve adoption of improved training on cashew farming.

**Table 1: Socio economic demographic characteristics of respondents**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	60	60.00
Female	40	40.00
<b>Age (years)</b>		
<40	62	62.00
40–44	18	18.00
45–49	11	11.00
>50	7	7.00
Mean = 37		
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	31	31.00
Married	66	66.00
Divorced	3	3.00
<b>Household size</b>		
3	55	55.00
4-6	34	34.00
> 6	11	11.00
Mean = 4		



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### Number of years spent in school

< 7	67	67.00
7-12	28	28.00
> 12	6	6.00
Mean = 6		

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Source: Field Survey, 2023.

### Training status of respondents

Table 2 shows the distribution of training status of respondents. The training status of respondents includes; fellow farmers (55%), village leaders (50%), extension agents (50%), radio (50%), television (65%), cashew buying agents (80%) and Villagers leaders (72%). Most of the respondents received training on cashew production from buying agents while the least received training from village leaders, extension agents and radio. This result implies that the activities of the extension agents were not adequate in the study area. It also implies that most of cashew farmers received training on cashew production from wrong personnel (buying agents). This could be disadvantageous to the cashew production of the Farmers. The results of Uche *et al.* (2021) was in line with the findings of this study. They reported that extension services of the extension agents rank last for cashew producers in Ogaji, North Central Nigeria.

**Table 2: Training status of respondents**

Training Status	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Fellow farmers</b>		
Yes	55	55.00

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No	45	45.00
<b>Village leaders</b>		
Yes	50	50.00
No	50	50.00
<b>Extension agent</b>		
Yes	30	30.00
No	70	70.00
<b>Radio</b>		
Yes	25	25.00
No	75	75.00
<b>Television</b>		
Yes	65	65.00
No	35	35.00
<b>Cashew buying agent</b>		
Yes	80	80.00
No	20	20.00
<b>Villagers</b>		
Yes	72	72.00

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No	28	28.00
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Source: Field Survey, 2023.

#### Test of formulated hypothesis

**Table 3: Relationship between training received by cashew farmers from extension agent and selected characteristics**

Dependent variable	Independent variables	Coefficient	P> t
<b>Training received by cashew farmers from extension agent</b>			
	Number of years spent in school	-0.356	0.187
	Household size	0.382	0.308
	Years of farming experience	0.494	0.091
	Constant	0.144	0.598

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

In Table 3, relationship between training received by cashew farmers from extension agent and selected characteristics was presented. The first null hypothesis stated that there is no significant relationship between training received by cashew farmers from extension agent and selected characteristics. The coefficient of years of farming experience was positive and significant at 10 percentage level. Therefore, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between training received by cashew farmers from extension agent and selected characteristics was rejected.

#### 4. Conclusion and Recommendation:





It was concluded that farmers were in their productive years. The respondents were not highly educated. Most of the respondents received training on cashew production from buying agents while the least received training from village leaders, extension agents and radio. It was recommended that young and educated individuals should be encouraged to participate in cashew farming. Government and non-governmental organization should employ more extension agents. The extension agents should also, be re-engineered into more efficient extension service delivery to the Farmers.

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