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CONSTRAINTS TO EFFECTIVE PROVISION OF THE TRAINING ON FISH FARMING PRACTICES IN ANAMBRA STATE

Ikenga Esther Ekpemikoghene (PhD)
08160725888

Obiora, Charles Chukwuma (PhD)
charlesobiora113@gmail.com
07032472530
Department of Agricultural Education
Federal College of Education (Technical) Asaba Delta State

ABSTRACT

The study assessed the constraint to the provision of the training on fish farming practices with the view to correcting the identified constraint. Fish management practices needed by farmers. Anambra State served as the study area. The population for the study comprised of all the fish farmers in the state 120 fish farmers were selected through the random sample method to obtain the sample size. Data was obtained from the respondents through the questionnaire techniques and the questionnaire items border on issues relating to various socio-economic problems. The study revealed that inadequate supply of qualified instructors, in adequate training efficiencies among other things pose as constants to training on fish farming. The study recommended among other more experts in fishery should be employed and engaged in fish farming training in the state to boost the fish farming competence and also enhance their productivity.

Keywords: Constraints; Effective Provision; Training; Fish Farming; Practices

Introduction

Besides agricultural produce such as food grains like cereal and pulses; horticultural produce such as food and vegetables. Fish farming is defined as an act of rearing fish for commercial purpose. This involves building the earthen, tarpaulin or concrete pond, fertilizing the pond, stocking the fingerlings in good water and feeding the Mackerel, Tilapia or catfish until market size (Steve, 2015). Kassam, Subasinghe and Phillips (2011), asserted that aquaculture entered the global prominence at a time when governments were striving to ensure food security among communities. Fish farming is an approach for economic transformation and poverty alleviation. It focuses on mitigating the significant barriers faced by fish farmers, traders, processors and other related actors in the value chain. This inevitably includes various activities such as ensuring success to a full range of necessary resources, inputs and technology (Mwaijande and Lugendo, 2015).

In the recent times, Nigeria has become one of the fastest and highest aquaculture producing Countries in sub Saharan Africa and second to Egypt in Africa due to present pace of growth in Fish farming production (fejika, Uzokwe and Oladosu, 2013). Fish and fish products are Known widely as a very important diet because of their high nutritive quality and significant in improving human health (Olaoye, Ashley-Dejo and Adekoya, 2014). Fish plays a vital role in feeding the world's population and contributing significantly to the dietary protein intake of Hundreds of millions of the populace (Amao, Oluwatayo, and Osuntope, 2006). According to Nidhi (2015), fisheries sector has a significant strategic role in food security, international trade and employment generation Olaoye, Ezeri, Akegbejo-Samsons, Awotunde and Ojebiyi (2016) noted that fishery Sector has continued to maintain its crucial position through its contribution to agriculture's Share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Nigeria. Fish is relatively cheap and easily available source of protein in dietary supplement for the poor, who cannot afford animal protein and depend mainly on food of low nutritional value (Ume, Ebeniro, Ochiaka and Uche, 2016). Apart from dietary source, fish is source of fish oil, a raw material for pharmaceutical Companies, provision of livestock feeds, and provision of employment for different categories of people in the area of fisheries production, processing, packaging and marketing (Fleuren, 2006). According to Folayan and Folayan (2017), trials have shown that fish oil Supplementation is effective in the treatment of many disorders including rheumatoid, arthritis, Diabetes, ulcerative colitis and Reynard's disease.

According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2018), strong evidence underlines How consumption of fish and in particular oily fish. Lowers the risk of Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) mortality. Similarly, it has been estimated that fish consumption reduces the risk of Dying of coronary heart diseases by up to 36 percent due to the long-chain omega3 fatty acids Found in fish and fishery products (FAO, 2019a). Fish farming has become an enviable Subsector which provides employment to a large proportion of the nation's population (about 65-70%), especially those in riverside areas (Olaoye, 2010; Shettima, Mohammed, Ghide and Zindam, 2014). Olaoye and Oluruntoba (2011) recorded that Nigerians are high fish consumers and offers the largest market for fish and fishery products in Africa. According to Federal Department of Fisheries (2014), the contribution of fishery subsector to agriculture Gross Domestic Product was estimated at 0.48% in the year 2014, out of the total estimate of 20.24% being contributed by agriculture to the GDP.

Asiru and Ahmed (2016) noted that among the different food production systems around the World, fish farming is widely seen as an essential weapon in the global fight against poverty, Nutritional disorder and food insecurity, particularly within a developing country like Nigeria and Anambra State in particular. Fish farming is regarded as a vital

domestic provider of much Needed high-quality animal protein and other important nutrients. Okoronkwo and Ume (2013) Noted that Anambra State is crisscrossed by numerous rivers, swamps, abundant rainfall, Effective harvesting and storage surface water, run off undoubtedly favour fish farming. It is Pertinent to note that the bulk of fish production is in the hands of numerous landless, marginal and small farmers in the state. To most of them, fishing is only a supplementary or Complimentary enterprise. Hence, next to crop production, fish production has the largest employment capacity and income generating potential for the poor. This aligns with Nidhi (2015) who opined that the most important feature of fish production process is that it provides Subsidiary occupation, offer gainful employment at the location itself and make better Utilization of family labour.

According to Gerster-Bentaya and Hoffmann (2011), training need assessment is a gap between the present and the desired future. Benefits of training need assessment include determining Telt need, categorization of trainees, identification of adequate training methodology and knowing the appropriate time to deliver. Whereas, Famuyiwa, Adesoji and Lawal (2012) opined that training programmes in agriculture are aimed at developing farmers to make them better entrepreneurs and decision makers. Similarly, Sajeev, Singha and Venkatasubramanian (2012) highlighted that training plays an important role in the advancement of human Performance in a given situation. In order words, training provides a systematic improvement of knowledge and skills, which in turn helps the trainees to function effectively and efficient in their given task on completion of the training. According to Osei, Bakang and Nimoh (2013), Farmers' training is conducted with view to changing their behavior and improving their performance through the acquisition of increased knowledge, improved skills and positive changes in attitude and aspirations. However, Iwuchukwu, Udoye and Onwubuya (2013) observed that it is counterproductive to offer training to individuals who do not need it or to offer the wrong kind of training to farmers.

Farmers' competency in fish production depends on the effectiveness of the training they received. According to Aphunu and Ajayi (2010), an effective training on fish productive confers new knowledge, better skills and effective performance in farmer's productivity. As fisheries technology is continuously changing, the fish farmers in increasing production, needs many skills for the use of these technologies. For this reason, it is necessary to arrange timely training programmes for farmers, in order to acquire necessary knowledge and skills in different aspects of improved fish farming. Since training in agriculture is necessary to support the adoption of emerging aquaculture innovations and technologies for positive impact on wellbeing (Shava and Gunhidzirai, 201 7). More so, Hempel (2010) advocated for training of fish farmers and extension agents to get the desired result among end

users in order to sustain present tempo of the booming enterprise in fish farming. The global fishing industry has nearly exhausted fish stocks and catches are declining. The United Nations and major fishery countries have placed significant mp on the Development of the aquaculture industry (Patrick and Kagiri. 2016). Fish farmers Maximize fish productivity can be attributed to lack of adequate knowledge and training towards integrated fish farming. However, there are other numerous challenges confronting fish farming practices, among which are poor management, inadequate supply of good quality Seed, lack of capital, and high cost of feed. Availability of extension services and the products (Yeasmin, Hoque and Zulfikar-Rahman (2014). In addition, increased populace encouraged the drastic changes in livestock consumption and production patters, paving the way for what can be referred to as food reyolution". This implies that other sources of protein intake have to be looked into. Of which fish is a common one (Zilberman, Ote, Roland-Holst and Pfeiffer, 2011).

With the efforts of research and extension services, there are improved packages on fish production. However, farmers are not adequately utilizing them and this may be as a result of lack of information on those improved production packages or there is no adequate training on them (Ofuoke, Emah and Itedjere, 2008). In addition, research by Adinya, Cffem and Ikpi (2011) stated that fish farming projects fail because of limited skills to use modern technology.

The results of the study reflected that there was a huge skills gap, which inhibited fish farming to expand which calls for education provision for fish farmers to enhance food security and employment creation. Based on these Findings, it Temans a challenge to both the government and non-governmental organizations to impalement effective fish farming in Anambra state that can enhance production and increase income and food security among the farmers. Hence in view of this development, fish farmers need training to remove barriers, improve technical competency and efficiency for better resource utilization, increase productivity and performance. Despest the huge investment of the government and fish farmers in fish farming and production, the output is still relatively low as fish products is not enough to meet the with population of Nigeria sociality. This is tied to poor knowledge in fish farming among farmers (Robest, 2022). Therefore, there is need to identify the constraints to the effective provision of the training needs on fish farming practices to fish farmers.

Purpose of this study

The purpose of this study is to ascertain the constraints to the provision of the training needs on fish farming practice to fish farmers.

Research Question

The study seeks to answer this question

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1. What are the constraints to the provision of the training needs on fish farming practice to fish farmers?

Population of the study

The population of the study comprise all the 120 fish farmer in the state.

Sampling technique

Multi-stage involving purposive and random sampling techniques was used to select one hundred and twenty respondents that were used for the study.

Method of data collection

Data for the study was collected from a primary source using a well-structured questionnaire. The questionnaire contained relevant questions and was divided into sections according to the number of objectives in the study. The information collected from the fish farmers bordered on the various management practices in fish farming.

Method of data analysis

Descriptive statistics such as frequently count, percentage and mean score were used analysis the data collected.

The table of data analysis: Constraints to training needs of the fish farmers

Benefits of training	Mean(x)	Rank	Remarks
Lack of qualified instructor	3.78	1st	Serious
Limited number of instructors	3.54	2nd	Serious
Lack of facilities for training	3.09	3rd	Serious
Inadequate fund for training	2.98	4th	Serious
Corruption among trainers	2.81	5th	Serious
Poor transportation network	2.71	6th	Serious
Financial resources	2.66	7th	Serious
Physical location of the trainers	2.58	8th	Serious
Political interference	2.19	9th	not Serious
Poor level of involvement	2.03	10th	not Serious
Farmers' attitude and expectation	1.83	11th	not Serious
Physical location of the trainee	1.67	12th	not Serious

Discussion of Result

Analysis of the constraints was achieved by comparing the calculated mean scores with e cut-off point (mean) of 2.50, obtained using a 4-point Likert-type scale. Items with mean scores of 2.50 and above were regarded as constraining factors to rice production while those below 2.50 were not seen as constraints. Analysis of constraints to fish farmers' training needs in the study are, revealed that lack of qualified instructors, limited number of instructors, lack of facilities for training and inadequate fund for training were among the major constants militating against training needs of the fish farmers in the study area with mean score values of 3.78, 3.54, 3.09 and 2.98 respectively. More so, factors such as corruption among trainers (x-2.81), poor transportation network (x-2.71), financial resources (x-2.66) and physical location of the trainer (x-2.58) were equally identified by the fish farmers as major constraints.

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However, factors such as political interference (2.19), poor level of involvement on the part of the fish farmers (2.03), farmers' attitude and expectations (1.83) and physical location of the trainee (1.67) were not identified as major constraints to training needs. The problem of lack of qualified instructor and limited number of instructors may be due to the fact that fish farming is relatively new in the state, however only a few tertiary institutions are offering Aquaculture and Fisheries in the study area and hence the relative scarcity of experts in the field. Lack of qualified instructors and limited number of instructors threatens fish farmers' ability to learn and the instructors' shortage makes it more difficult to establish a sustainable and reputable fish farms for teaching. More so, lack of facilities for training and inadequate fund for training may be attributed to government's inability to manage resources or as a result of corruption practices among the administrative staff who are not enlightened about trainee's welfare and the programmes goals and objectives.

Conclusion

Lack of qualified instructors, limited number of instructors, lack of facilities for training and inadequate fund for training were among the major constraints militating against training need of the fish farmers.

Based on the identified challenges, it is recommended that more experts in fish farming should be employed and engaged in the agricultural extension service provision in the state. The fishery experts to be employed should have the educational qualification of at minimum of Bachelors degree special training centers for fish farming practices should be established by the government in various local government areas of the state to meet with the facility needs for training and all relevant equipment should be provided as well. The government through the ministry of agriculture, and relevant stakeholders in agriculture should provide funding for training and fish farming support to fish farmers.

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