ASSESSMENT OF FLORICULTURISTS IN IBADAN NORTH AND IDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Aim: The field survey study was carried out to assess florculturists in Ibadan North and Ido Local Government Areas of Oyo State.

Materials and Methods: One hundred questionnaires were administered and all were retrieved. Simple random sampling technique was used for data collection. One hundred respondents were purposively sampled.

Results: Male respondents were 81% and 19% were female which means males are more consistent in the business. Also, 81% were literate while 19% were illiterate. 37% of the respondents had acquired 6-10 years experience, while 32% had between 1-5 years experience, 14% were 11-15 years experience and 17% were 16 years and above.It was also discovered that 74% of the respondents acquired their knowledge on floriculture through vocation while 26% disagreed with the statement.67% affirms that floriculture activities generate income moderately while 31% of the respondents affirm that it generates income.Furthermore, 74% concluded that it has led to the beautification of the environment while 26% said it beautified the environment moderately.Also, the field survey shows that 82% usually make profit in the business while 18% does not make profit.

Conclusion: It was concluded that if adequately measures are taken to check the constraints of the floriculture industry with more awareness on its importance and profitability, it would create an avalanche for the flower market in Nigeria.

Key words: Field survey, Floriculturist, Nigeria, Purposive sampling.

Introduction

The origin of flower and ornamental plant growing is contemporary with agricultural crops. In the beginning their use was exclusively for aesthetic and religious purposes. Due to the change in lifestyles, living standards and increased urban affluence; floriculture has gained commercial status in recent times [1].

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Floriculture or flower farming is the study of growing and marketing flowers and foliage plants. Floriculture includes cultivation of flowering and ornamental plants for direct sale or for use as raw materials in cosmetics, perfume industry and in the pharmaceutical sector. It also includes production of planting materials through seeds, cuttings, budding and grafting. In simpler terms floriculture can be defined as the art and knowledge of growing flowers to perfection [2].

The floriculture industry consists in growing annual, biennial and perennial plants either under glass or outdoors and in the disposal of the same in wholesale or retail market. In general, business of traditional as well as non-traditional flowers and dry flower industry is called floriculture industry. It includes production, processing and marketing of all types of flowers. There are two types of production i.e. open field cultivation and green house (controlled) cultivation, while processing is concern to dry flower processing units. Marketing includes local markets, regulated internal markets and international markets. Component of marketing channels are producers, commission agents, wholesalers, retailers and consumers. Researcher considers the economics of open field cultivation [3].

Flowers have always remained an integral part of the social fabric of human life due to its essence and fragrance being essential on all social, cultural and religious functions of any society since time immemorial [4]. The production and use of ornamental plants has significant potentials for increasing food production and income in Nigeria. Like other agricultural crops production enterprise, ornamental crop production play crucial role in developing economics. A number of Nigerians now establish vegetable and ornamental gardens across the major cities of the country [5]. The economic benefits and total output values of these enterprises are tremendous in the country and the income that accrue from commercial ornamental plant production through the sales of flowers and other ornamental plants could be very significant and contribute substantially to farmers income[5].

The importance of ornamental plants in human health cannot be over emphasized; they are not only sources of medicinal herbs which are primary form of therapy for treatment of diseases: they are also known to have therapeutic values [6]. For instance walking through a botanical garden can be very relaxing and healthy; people with emotional and mental problems have been helped when deliberately exposed to ornamental plants. Another benefit of ornamentals is in the area of sports and recreation. Tufts are cultivated for sports field and community garden plots that are strategically located along walking paths which serves as convenient places where people converse and interact, they also serve as environmental stimulant that trigger pleasant memories. These plants also play crucial role in cooling the atmosphere through the evaporation and transpiration process on their leaves and other parts thereby preventing health hazard [7] reported that in many societies some flowers are associated with specific events. For example, the rose flowers are used to mark valentine season while poinsettias flowers are associated with yuletide periods.

Despite the enormous potentials of ornamental plants business in economic development, the industry in Nigeria has been hampered by many problems. It has also received very little attention in the nation's plan for agricultural development [8]. The roles of floriculture in human life notwithstanding a lot of problems still militate against the industry in Nigeria

especially the ornamental plants production which is far below average in Nigeria. Though flower business is flourishing in Nigerian metropolitan centers, their production and awareness still remain a serious problem [9].

Nigeria's diversified agro-climatic conditions make it suitable for the production of wide range of ornamental plants. Its comparative abundant land and labor as well as reasonably good water resources create ample opportunities for flower production. The country is endowed with enormous varieties of ornamental plants such as orchids, which may not be found in any part of the world, these plants when properly identified, classified and developed will be a good source of employment, income and foreign exchange for Nigeria [6].

Floriculture has finally begun to form an important component of commercial agriculture and with the increasing awareness of its potential, more and more people are getting associated with floral business [10]. In Nigeria, as in most developing countries a well-developed domestic ornamental business market is absent making the industry to contribute little or nothing to national income.

In the view of Nigerian horticulture, transformation of traditional floriculture to modern floriculture is not only one problem but also proper marketing of floriculture produce is key problem. Somehow, progressive farmers are capable of increasing productivity but lack of marketing knowledge and its importance, has led to their major losses with regards to their income. Much of the research conducted is always in respect to successful field cultivation of flowers and major key problems of the florist are neglected especially the economic breakthrough and benefits of floricultural activities. It is important to examine the value and constraints of floriculture, which will be part of an action plan to eradicate the absenteeism of floriculture industry to the national economy [10]. Therefore, this research work was meant to provide necessary facts about the socio-economic activities of floriculture and how the results can influence the floriculture industry at large.

Methods and Materials

Area of the study

Ibadan is located in south-western Nigeria, 128km inland northeast of Lagos and 530km southwest of Abuja, the federal capital and is a prominent transit point between the coastal region and the areas in the hinterland of the country. Ibadan had been the centre of administration of the western region since the days of the British colonial rule and parts of the city's ancient protective walls still stand to this day. The principal inhabitants of the city are the yorubas, as well as various communities from other parts of the country.

Ibadan has a tropical wet and dry climate (koppen climate classification), with a lengthy wet season and relatively constant temperatures throughout the course of the year. Ibadan's wet season runs from March through October, though August sees somewhat of a lull in precipitation. This lull nearly divides the wet season into two different wet seasons. November to February forms the city's dry season, during which Ibadan experiences the typical West African harmattan. The mean total

rainfall for Ibadan is 1420.06 mm, falling in approximately 109 days. There are two peaks for rainfall, June and September. The mean maximum temperature is 26.46 ^{o}C, minimum 21.42 ^{o}C and the relative humidity is 74.55%. The study was carried out in two local governments in Ibadan metropolis: Ibadan North local government area and Ido Local Government Area.

Population and Sampling techniques

The population of the study is the dwellers that are involved in the floricultural activities within the study area. The simple random sampling was used in the distribution of questionnaires while the case study was selected on purposive sampling techniques.

Data collection

The data was collected through an interview with a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into two which is 60 and 40 making a total of 100 respondents in the case study.

Data analysis

All the data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentage and frequency distribution table while inferential statistical tools like regression and gross margin were used to analyse the relationship between the variables.

Results and Discussion:

The socio economic characteristics of the respondents examined includes Gender, Marital status, Age, Education, Occupation, Native, Year of experience and Amount.

It showed that 81% of the respondents were male while 19% were female (Table 1). This indicated that there were more male respondents who were involved in floricultural activities in the study area. This was in line with the work of [11] who reported that most household heads were usually male because they were known to be the head of the family except on cases where the male was dead leaving the household head to female counterpart.

Also, the result also pointed out that 4% of the respondents were single followed by 64.0% who were married while 27% were divorced and widow were just 5% in the study area. This high marital status might suggest that large number of the respondent were married. These results were in agreement with the findings of [12] who reported that married people have more responsibility such as the provision of food, education, health and well-beings of their spouses and children.

In addition, 3% of the respondents were between the ages of 15-25 years, 5% of the respondents were between the ages of 26-35 years, 38% were between 36-45 years while 54% were between 45 years above.

Furthermore, the result revealed that 19% of the respondent had no formal education and primary recorded 10% in the study area, while secondary recorded 31% and tertiary education were 40% in the study area. Most of the respondents were educated. These results were in agreement with the findings of [8].

Table 1: socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Gender		
Male	81	81
Female	19	19
Total	100	100
Marital status		
Single	4	4
Married	64	64
Divorced	27	27
Widowed	5	5
Total	100	100
Age		
15-25	3	3
26-35	5	5
36-45	38	38
45years above	54	54
Total	100	100
Education		
No formal education	19	19
Primary education	10	10
Secondary education	31	31
Tertiary education	40	40
Total	100	100
Occupation		
Farming	37	37
Trading	39	39
Artisan	6	6
Civil servant	16	16
Others	2	2
Total	100	100
Are you a native		
Yes	82	82
No	18	18
Total	100	100
Years of experience		
1-5 years	32	32
6-10 years	37	37
11-15 years	14	14
16yrs above	17	17
Total	100	100
What exact amount can start a floricultural business		
₦10,000	13	13
₦11,000-₦20,000	11	11
₦21,000-₦30,000	4	4
₦31,000 above	72	72
Total	100	100

Thirty seven percent (37%) of the respondents were farming while 39% of the respondents reported that trading is there primary occupation, while 6% of the respondents were artisan, 16% were civil servant and 2% engage in others occupation. Majority of the respondent engaged in trading occupation in the study area. These results were contradicted with the findings of [13] who reported that agriculture has the main occupation of 75% of people in most developing nation.

Moreover, it was revealed that 82% of the respondents were native of the study area while 18% of the respondents are not the native of the study area. It indicated that majorly of native participated in floricultural activities.

Furthermore, 32% of the respondents have 1-5 years of experience, 37% were 6-10years, 14% were 11-15 years' experience while 17% were 16years and above. These results were corroborated with the findings of [7].

Lastly, 13% of the respondent reported that they use ₦5,000 - ₦10,000 to start the floricultural business, 11% use ₦1,000 - ₦20,000, 4% make use of ₦21,000 - ₦30,000. While 72% makes use of ₦31,000 above to start the floricultural business. It indicated that floricultural business is a capital intensive business with good monitoring.

Table 2: Methods of knowledge acquisition

VARIABLE	YES	NO
Learn as a vocation	74 (74.0)	26 (26.0)
Taken as a choice of career	74 (74.0)	26 (26.0)
Family Business	57 (57.0)	43 (43.0)

Source: - Field survey, 2019.

Table 3: Benefits of floricultural activities

VARIABLE	YES	MODERATE	NO
Generate income	31(31.0)	67(67.0)	2(2.0)
Employer of labor	34(34.0)	58(58.0)	8(8.0)
Influence on unemployment	41(41.0)	50(50.0)	9(9.0)
Economy of the community	41(41.0)	58(58.0)	1(1.0)
Standard of living	42(42.0)	53(53.0)	5(5.0)
Beautification of environment	74(74.0)	26(26.0)	0(0)
Land use	26(26.0)	48(48.0)	26(26.0)

Source: - Field survey, 2019.

Table 4: Interest in floriculture

VARIABLE	YES	NO
Do you have interest in floriculture activities	98(98.0)	2(2.0)
Do you use flower as a person	90(90.0)	10(10.0)
Do you make enough profit in floriculture	82(82.0)	18(18.0)

Source: Field survey, 2019

Table 5: Constraints

CONSTRAINTS	ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NEVER
Government policy	17(17.0)	53(53.0)	30(30.0)
Little knowledge about the activities	43(43.0)	53(53.0)	4(4.0)
Lack of transportation	17(17.0)	60(60.0)	23(23.0)
Insufficient capital	22(22.0)	60(60.0)	18(18.0)
Climate change	15(15.0)	71(71.0)	14(14.0)
Land tenure system	31(31.0)	51(51.0)	18(18.0)
Insecurity	56(56.0)	34(34.0)	10(10.0)
Seed/vegetative problem	10(10.0)	74(74.0)	16(16.0)
Tools/equipment problem	7(7.0)	62(62.0)	31(31.0)
Structure of the environment	26(26.0)	56(56.0)	18(18.0)

Source: - Field survey, 2019.

It showed that 74% of the respondent acquires their knowledge on floriculture through vocation while 26% disagreed with the statement (Table 2). It indicated that majority of the respondent acquires knowledge concerning the practice through learning it as a vocation.

In addition, 74% agreed that they took floriculture as a choice of career in which 26% didn't make it their career alone. It indicated that majority of the respondents in the study area are interested in floriculture as an occupation [14].

Lastly, it was observed that 57% of the respondent agreed that floriculture has become their family business while 43% disagreed with the statement. This result clearly reported that family pedigree had no influence on an individual becoming a florist [15].

It was observed that 31% of the respondents affirm that floriculture activities generate income, while 67% said that it generates moderately and 2% of the respondents affirmed that it does not generate income (Table 3). Also 34% of the respondents agreed that floriculture is an employer of labour while, 58% moderately agreed that it influences employment of labor and 8% disagreed that it is an employer of labour. It was revealed that floriculture is moderately an employer of labor in the study area. Furthermore, 41% of the respondents said that it influenced unemployment, while 50% said floriculture had a moderate influence on employment and lastly, 9% said it had no influence. In summary, the influence of floriculture on unemployment was moderate in the study area. Moreover, 41% showed that there was increase in the economy of the community while 58% attested that the benefit of floriculture was moderate and 1% affirmed that they were no benefits at all. Also 42% of the respondents affirmed that floriculture increase standard of living, 53% said it was moderate while 5% said that there was no improvement. It indicated that majority of the respondents had equal perspective on the benefit of floriculture that it increased the standard of living.

In addition, 74% concluded that it had led to the beautification of the environment while 26% said that it beautified the environment moderately while no one said that it added no beauty. These results were corroborated with the findings of [6].

Lastly, 26% of the respondents said that there is increase in land use, while 48% responded that land use was moderate and also 26% said there is no influence on land use. It indicated that floricultural activities have a moderate effect on the land use in the study area. These results were in agreement with the findings of [10].

It showed that 98% of the respondents had interest in floricultural activities while 2% disagreed with the statement which indicated that majority of the respondent had good perspective

and interest concerning floricultural business (Table 4).

Also, 90% of the respondent made use of flower to decorate their house while 10% did not make use of it. It showed that majority of the respondent opted floriculture as a means of beautifying their environment. These results were in agreement with the findings of [13].

Lastly, it was observed that 82% usually made profit in the business 18% did not make profit. It indicated that majority of the respondent made maximum profit in the business compared to those that did not make profit. These results were corroborated with the findings of [15].

It was revealed that 17% of the total respondents always faced government policy as a constraint, while 53% sometimes and 30% never (Table 5). In addition, 43% of the respondents always face problems of little knowledge, 53% sometimes had this challenge while 4% never experienced. It also revealed that 17% of the respondents were affected by lack of transportation while 60% and 23% were sometimes and never affected respectively. It also showed that 22% always faced insufficient capital, while 60% sometimes faced insufficient capital and 18% were never faced with capital challenges. These results were in agreement with the findings of [14]

Furthermore, 7% of the respondents had tools and equipment challenges always, while 62% sometimes had the issue, while 31% of the respondents never faced tool and equipment problem. Majority of the respondents concluded the tools/equipment problem was not the major problem.

Lastly, 26% of the respondents were facing the problem due to the structure of the environment always, 56% facing it sometimes while 18% disagreed. It indicated that majority of the respondents were facing environmental structure when it come to carrying out floricultural activities in the study area. These results were in agreement with the findings of [5,12].

Conclusion

It was concluded that majority of the respondents were male in the study area which revealed male dominated floricultural activities in the area. It was also revealed that majority of the respondents were married and quite a few number of them had at least primary education, while on the average some attended tertiary institutions. In addition, it can be resolved that the predominant occupation in the study area was farming which showed that floriculture is the aspect of agriculture practiced in the area. Furthermore, majority of the respondents learnt floriculture as a vocation, which also confirmed that floricultural business was beneficial in the study area.

Lastly, majority of the respondents had major challenges which were bottlenecks to their thriving business.

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