

## Agricultural Policies in Osun State, Nigeria: The Gender Perspective

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### ABSTRACT

Women play vital roles in agricultural development of any nation especially, in Africa. In most rural Nigerian communities, they contribute over 65 percent of farming households and make 60-80 percent of agricultural labour force. However, despite their contribution to agricultural sector, gender inequality has been empirically confirmed by extant literature. Consequently, gender bias of agricultural policies, resulting to low food production is experienced in this sector. In Osun State, most agricultural policies are too generic with no inclination to the Beijing Declaration that proposed inclusion of women in policy formulation. Nigeria in general and Osun state in particular still do not consider women in agricultural policies. This study was conceptualised to analyse the various agricultural policies in Osun State with gender in focus. Focus Group Discussion sessions (FGDs) and key informant interviews were used to elicit information from 15 groups of women farmers in three different locations while questionnaires were used to obtain data from one hundred and ten (110) women based on the focus of the study. Results showed that women expressed their displeasures on the state of the various agricultural programmes under the current administration as the policies guiding their implementation were not gender inclusive. There is no significant correlation existing between women knowledge of agricultural programme policy and their involvement in their programme. Age ( $t = 3.076$ ;  $p \leq 0.01$ ), number of years spent in education ( $t = 4.424$ ;  $p \leq 0.01$ ) and size of farm in acres ( $t = 2.337$ ;  $p \leq 0.05$ ) significantly influenced women's involvement in agricultural programme in the study area. It was concluded that agricultural policies in Osun State are not gender friendly.

**Keywords:** Agricultural policy, gender, gender mainstreaming, gender inclusiveness.

### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture remains the key aspect of Nigeria's economy in terms of the number of population that it absorbs and its contributions to the Gross Domestic Products (GDP). Currently, it contributes about 40% to

the GDP and employs over 70% of the active population (FAO, 2002). The sector, has however witnessed significant neglect over the years and this has contributed immensely to the current situation of food insecurity with the common symptoms of hunger and malnutrition (Ogunsunmi *et al.*, 2013). Also, the current state of agriculture in Nigeria has been clearly manifested in high food prices nationwide as well as massive importation of foodstuffs from other countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Although, the acute food shortage that started shortly after independence informed the numerous agricultural interrupted programmes of the federal government at ameliorating the situation. In doing these, a lot of agricultural

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programmes such as the National Agricultural Food Production Programmes (NAFPP) (1972), River Basin Development Authority (RBDA) (1973), Agricultural Development Project (ADP) (1975), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) (1976), Green Revolution Program (GRP) (1980), Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS) (1980), National Agricultural Cooperative Bank (NACB) (1981), Directorate of Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) (1986), Multistate Agricultural Development Project (MADP) (1992), National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) (1999), Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP) (2000), Rapid Food Production Programme (RFPP) (2001), National Agricultural Data Bank Project (NADBP) (2001), National Special Program for Food Security (NSPFS) (2003), National Economic Empowerment and Development Skill (NEEDS) (2004), and the just concluded Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) (2011) came into existence with the primary aim of making agriculture work by boosting food production and farmers' income through provision of agricultural infrastructure, inputs by their agricultural extension sub-system (Obiora, 2014).

It is worthy to note that as laudable as these federal government intervention programmes aimed at reducing hunger were, their operations were usually, through the state Ministry of Agriculture in all states of the federation. Hence, the policy that guides the implementation of these programmes might need to be reviewed with the use of gender google and lenses, especially in Osun State considering the agrarian nature of the state as well as immense contribution of women in agricultural production in the state. Extant literature like Yemisi *et al.* (2009); Afolabi (2008); Rahman (2008); Abdullahi (2007); Damisa and Yohanna (2007); World Bank (2003); Nnadozie and Ibe (1996); FAO (1995) and Amali (1989) had discussed the roles of women in African and Nigerian agriculture as crucial to development of

agriculture in the region. These studies asserted that women played dominant roles in meeting the challenges of agricultural production and development in rural communities where over 85% of food consumed in towns and cities are produced in Nigeria. Their relevance and significance to food security, therefore, cannot be neglected if the current food insecurity is to be addressed (Rahman, 2008).

A study financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2002 revealed that women make up some 60-80 percent of agricultural labour force in Nigeria (World Bank, 2003) depending on the region and they produce 66.7% of available food crops. Despite the huge contribution of women to food production, there is still widespread assumption that 'men are *'farmers'* while women are *'farmers' wives'*'. This invariably puts men and not women as the key farm management decision makers. Thus, most agricultural programmes favour men at the expense of women who actually, till more land, produce more food crops and predominately involved in the processing and marketing of agricultural produce than their male counterparts (Ismail *et al.* 2015). Regretably, women farmers in Nigeria are among the voiceless, especially with respect to agricultural policies, as such policies, tend to either underestimate or totally ignore women's role in both production and the general decision-making process within the household as well as the community level.

Ironically, women are known to be more involved in agricultural activities than men in sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries (Damisa and Yohanna (2007). Specifically, as much as 73% were involved in cash crops, arable and vegetable production. Also, vast majority (76%) of them were involved in postharvest activities and only 15% in agro-forestry (Abdullahi, 2007). In Nigeria, their involvement in agriculture in recent years has attracted greater attention as a result of gender awareness

programmes organised by women rights groups and other related NGOs across the globe. In some states, rural women have virtually taken over the production and processing of arable crops (Afolabi, 2008), being responsible for as much as 80% of the staple food production. Estimates of women's contribution to the production of food crops range from 30% in the Sudan to 80% in the Congo; contributing substantially to national agricultural production and food security, while being primarily responsible for the food crops (Bryson, 1981).

One of the historical events that increased the population of rural women in agricultural production was the discovery of crude oil in 1956 at Olobiri in the present day Bayelsa State. During this period, most men left rural areas for cities in search of white collar jobs; leaving their wives and aged in the rural areas, thus, agriculture was left in the hands of women. Based on the foregoing, Nigerian women were saddled with most of the tasks in agricultural production 'supposedly' meant for the men but the benefits gained by them were usually not commensurate to the man-hours they spend on the task as inputs were usually given to the men or diverted, due to the non-gender inclusiveness of policies guiding the implementation of most agricultural programmes.

In Osun State, where emphasis on agricultural reforms appears in the news on daily basis. Many agricultural programmes such as Osun State Rural Enterprise Agricultural Programme (OREAP) and others like, 'O-Ram', 'O-Chicken' 'O-Meal' had been implemented while some are still ongoing under the current administration in conjunction with many agencies and organisations. However, despite the presence of these programmes, the food situation in the state seems not to have improved appreciably. Hence, the need to assess policies guiding the implementation of these programmes becomes very imperative using Longwe gender analytical framework with a view to knowing who controls what? and at what

level do women participate in these programmes? This framework centers on five levels of equality, which indicate the extent to which women are equal to men and have achieved empowerment. The levels of equality can be used to assess the likelihood of development interventions and how they promote equality and women's empowerment. These levels are in hierarchical order of control, participation, conscientization, access, and welfare. This means that if a development intervention focuses on the higher levels, there is a greater likelihood that women's empowerment will be increased than if the project focuses on the lower levels. Therefore, analysis of the programme policies will serve as a template for subsequent agricultural programme with a view to solving the problem of food insecurity and making agricultural programmes gender responsive in Nigeria and Osun State in particular.

#### **Review of agricultural programmes and policies in Osun State**

Osun State is predominantly an agrarian society with about 70% of the population engaged directly or indirectly in agriculture and agricultural related activities such as crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry and agricultural planning (Omole *et al.*, 2013). Therefore, programmes and policies in the state cover the above listed areas of agriculture, and these are implemented with a view to ensuring that the state is food secured.

According to the Nigerian Punch of 31st May, 2012, any nation or state that cannot feed herself is no doubt heading for a doom. For more than 2 decades now, food security had been a serious concern to an average Nigerian while the shortage of food has been sending bad signals that the country is heading towards crisis if drastic measures were not taken. In Osun State for example, despite the numerous agricultural programmes in the state, it is disheartening to note that no serious attention

was paid to gender inclusiveness in the policy statements that guided the implementation of the programme. Therefore, agricultural development has been unable to yield meaningful and desired results as virtually all the food items (rice, fish, flour and many others agricultural produce) consumed in the state today has been found to be imported (Omole, *et al.*, 2013). The inability of the state to provide adequate food for her citizens despite the numerous agricultural programmes in the state may not be unconnected with the fact that gender mainstreaming was not adequately considered in the policy statements that guided the implementation of the programmes.

Conscious of the fact that Nigeria is in serious food crisis, and given the need to take proactive measures to avert the looming food crisis. Osun State has left no one in doubt about its commitment to develop the state through vigorous agricultural programmes by putting in place series of intervention programmes that could assist in exploring the potential of the state in mass food production to boost local economy. This gave birth to agricultural programmes like the Osun Rural Enterprise and Agricultural Programme (OREAP), O Beef, O Ram, O Meal, O Chicken, O cocoyam and many other programmes done in the state in the past six years under the current dispensation.

For the OREAP, it was designed to drive the agricultural ministry and serve as an interface among three ministries-agriculture, commerce and empowerment, and finance for the development of the economy of the state, empower the youths and ensure massive food production. It was instructive that OREAP has within a short time been able to prepare a vast farmland of about 2,474.17 hectares in 2014 and allocated same for the use of prospective farmers across the state. The intention is aimed at promoting a private sector-led market for agricultural inputs such as equipment services, agro input dealers and seed companies/shops. Besides, the

state government lunched the quick impact intervention programme with a view to reaching the real farmers and providing them with necessary facilities. Through this alone, huge amount of money was provided to 75 Cooperative farmer groups spread over the state as revolving loans (Osun State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources Bulletin, 2015) .

Aside financial supports, the government was able to render several other assistance like provision of farm inputs such as seeds, chemicals, and fertilizers to farmers. These were highly subsidized. However, one big disadvantage of the programme observed during data collection was the lack of market for the produce. Many of the participants complained to have incurred huge amount of debt from the venture. Others also indicated untimely input distribution despite the fact that the programme has four strategic objectives of food security, job creation and youth employment, economic transformation using agriculture as a key driver and wealth creation through the sale of agricultural produce (New Nigeria Foundation, 2013).

On the 'O beef' programme, Osun state government engaged the services of leading foreign experts in beef production to train interested farmers on the best practices in this regards. The project aimed at ensuring high income from beef production. 'O meal' was another agricultural policy aimed at increasing food production in the state. Under this scheme, the state government empowered some farmers to produce poultry and eggs that were used to feed school pupils in the state owned primary schools across the state. Furthermore, government provided inputs such as day old chicks, brooding stocks, drugs and feeds to the farmers. At regular interval, government buys the products from the farmers to feed the school pupils. The school pupils in primary 1 -3 are entled to two eggs per week and a meal per day from Monday through Thursdays every week. 'O-Chicken' and 'O-ram' are

programmes that followed the same principles like ‘O meal’. However, the last two programmes were targetted at festive period like Eid- el Fiteril and Christmas when people buy ram and chickens for celebration. The aim of the programme is to make ram and Chicken available to the people of the state during festive periods at reasonable and affordable prices.

However, as beautiful as the programmes were at revolutionising agricultural sector in the state, such programmes have not yielded any desirable results. Therefore, the study was conducted to assess agricultural programmes policies in the state with gender in focus and come up with recommendations that could help in enhancing these programmes. Hence, influence of women knowledge of agricultural policies on their involvement in agricultural programmes was regressed.

#### **Methodology**

The study was conducted in Osun State of Nigeria, with three agro-ecological zones, six administrative zones and thirty local government areas. The state is located in the Southwestern part of Nigeria. It covers an area of approximately 14,875 square kilometers, lies between longitude 04.00 ‘East and Longitude 5<sup>0</sup>4’ west of the Greenwich meridian and latitude 8<sup>0</sup>10’ North and latitude 6<sup>0</sup>5’ south of the equator. The state is bounded by Ogun, Kwara, Oyo and Ondo sates in the South, North, West and East respectively (Osun State Government Bulletin, 2012). The 2006 census put the population of the state at 3.4 million, comprising of 1.69 million males and 1.71 million females.

Traditionally, the people engage in agriculture and produce food and cash crops for domestic consumption and as inputs for agro-allied industries as well as for export. There are approximately 251,000 registered farm families in the state (Osun State ADP, 2014). Reasonable segments of the populace are also traders and artisans. Other occupations of the people include cloth weaving,

mat weaving, cloth dying, soap making and woodcarving among many others.

#### **Sampling procedure and size**

All the six administrative zones in the state were selected and one Focus Group Discussion session (FDG) and three (3) key informant interviews were conducted in each of the zones. The zones were: Ife, Ilesa, Ikirun, Ede, Iwo and Osogbo. Thus, six FGD sessions and 18 key informants (stakeholders in the ministry of agriculture and the local government) were interviewed for the study. For the quantitative information, interview schedule was used to elicit information from 20 women in each of the zone. Thus, 120 women were interviewed. However, only 110 copies of interviewed schedule were found suitable for analysis. Data were descriptively analysed using frequency counts and percentages. Multiple Regression analysis was conducted the influence of women socio-economic characteristics on their involvement in agricultural programmes while Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used analyse the relationship between women’ knowledge of agricultural policy and their involvement in agricultural programmes. Twelve (12) statements were used to capture knowledge of agricultural policies in all the programmes identified using a scale of 4 points (no knowledge (1), little knowledge (2), high knowledge (3) and very high knowledge (4)). The maximum obtainable score of 48 and a minimum score of 12 were obtained.. For the dependent variable, women involvement in agricultural programmes was measured on a five (5) point scale of not involved (1), rarely involved (2), often involved (3) and involved very often (4). About eight agricultural programmes were identified and respondents were asked to indicate their level of involvement on the scale stated above. This makes the maximum obtainable score to be 32 while the minimum was 8. The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents were appropriately measured in order to

suit the type of analytical tools used.

## Results and discussion

### Demographic data

It was observed that majority (59.1%) of the respondents were between the ages of 30 and 50 years, 19.1 percent and 21.8 percent were less than 30 years and 50 years and above, respectively. This implied that most of the respondents were in their productive ages where they are expected to be mentally fit and active to participate in any agricultural programmes if the policy statement that guides such programme favour them. Similarly, majority (70.0%) of them were married with only 20.0 percent and 10.0 percent single and widowed, respectively. In the same development, 14.5 percent and 29.1 percent of the women had no formal education and primary education, respectively while about 44.5 percent and 11.9 percent of them had secondary and tertiary education, respectively.

This shows that a little below average (44.5%) of the women had only secondary education while relatively high proportion (14.5%) did not have formal education. For the level of income, it was revealed that 44.6 percent and 33.6 percent of the respondents, earned between N36,000 and N72,000 and N18,000 and N35,99, respectively with only 10.9 percent earning less than N18,000 monthly. In addition, 60.9 percent and 39.1 percent of the women practised Christianity and Islam as the religious affiliation as seen in Table 1. For the sources of income, it was observed that personal savings (60.9%), cooperative society (49.5%) and family members (53.7%) were the major sources of income to the women while other sources of funds were friends (13.3%) and others such as banks and other financial institutions represent about 10.0 percent of the women sources of income in the study area as shown in Figure 1.

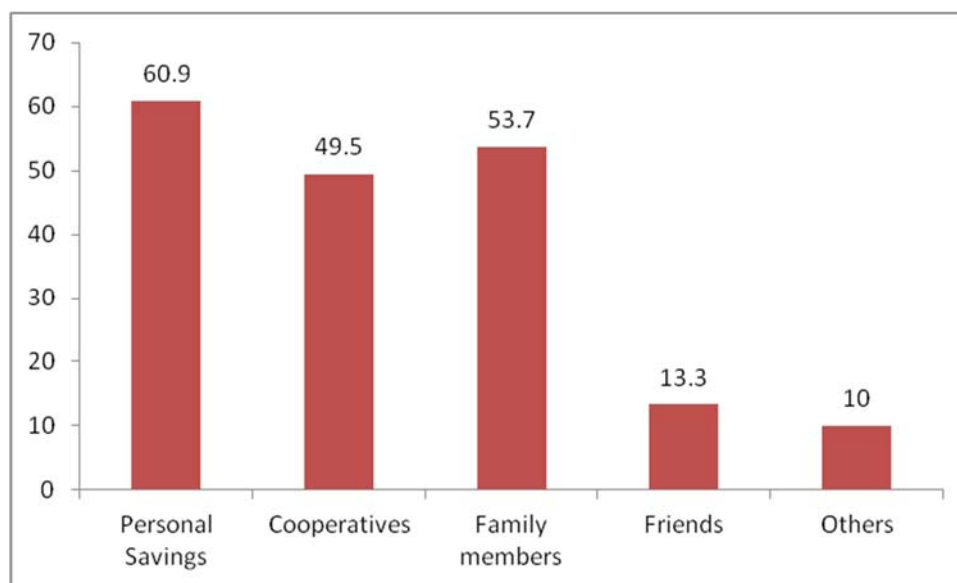
**Table 1: Results of socio-economic characteristics of women farmers in Osun state**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Age in years		
<30	21	19.1
30-50	65	59.1
50 and above	24	21.8
Marital status		
Single	22	20.0
Married	77	70.0
Widowed	11	10.0
Level of education		
No formal education	16	14.5
Primary school	32	29.1
Secondary school	49	44.5
Tertiary	13	11.9
Income level		
<N18,000	12	10.9
N18,000-N35,000	37	33.6
N36,000-N72,000	49	44.6

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
>N72,000	12	10.9
Religion		
Christianity	67	60.9
Islam	43	39.1

Source: Field survey, 2015.

₪315.25 = 1US dollar



**Figure 1: Distribution of women by their sources of savings**

Field survey, 2015.

### FGDs and key informant interviews

Participants collectively agreed that existing agricultural programmes in the state never addressed their needs as men were still found hijacking most of the programmes. For example, the fertilizer distribution recently did not meet the desired target despite the fact that it was done during the off season, men still benefited more than women in these area. Also, the correct inputs and quantity were not given. The respondents complained that even though the 'O programmes such as O-REAP, O ram, O chicken and O meal dominated the media and their children benefited from O- meal; they have never seen

any female farmer within their locality who participated in the production of eggs used to feed school pupils. In all just 10.0 percent of the women indicated that they benefited from Growth Enhancement Scheme of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda which primarily involves subsidizing fertilizers by 50%.

In contrast, agricultural programmes like Fadama favour them as women. Many of them benefited from this project in the past 3 to 4 years. On the programme, many agricultural inputs were distributed. The benefit gained by women in programme like Fadama may not be unconnected to the fact that the World Bank which is the

primary sponsor of the programme usually have a laid down gender policy stating the number of male and female that must benefit from her programme at the onset. Under the Fadama project, they got processing machine for the oil palm, many bee hives were distributed and many of them also received grinding machines, deep freezers, borehole and many others supports. For the e-wallets programme, fertilizers were purchased at subsidized rate of half the actual price but negligible number of women benefited from this programme as earlier stated.

From the key informant interviews, it was established that the only agricultural policy that uses gender framework in the state was the Fadama III project and this was being monitored by the National Fadama Coordinating Office, Abuja and the World Bank. The State owned agricultural policies were not gender-focused and they were monitored by the State Ministry of Agricultural and Natural Resources. Monthly and periodic monitoring reports, mission visits, evaluation surveys, women empowerment, economic, social and political tools were the common methodologies used to the monitor implementation of these policies.

From the foregoing, it was discovered that most agricultural programmes in Osun State were not consciously in favour of women. This might be a deliberate attempt considering the recent development of cancellation of all the girls' secondary schools and turning them to mixed schools by the current administration. This came up under the school reform programme of the state government.

#### **Determinants of women involvement in agricultural programmes**

Results of Multiple Regression indicated that age ( $t =$

3.076), number of years spent in education ( $t = 4.424$ ) and size of farm in acres ( $t = 2.337$ ) were the socio-economic variables of women that significantly influenced their involvement in agricultural programme at both 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance. The  $R$  and  $R^2$  values of 0.691 and 0.4775 implied that both the age, number of years spent in education and respondents' farm size influenced their involvement in agricultural programme and these significant variables can be used to explain about 47.5% variation in their involvement in agricultural programmes in the state. This means that a unit change in all these variables would bring about 47.7% change in their involvement in the programmes as shown in Table 2 below. Therefore, to increase women involvement in agricultural programmes by 47.7 percent, their ages, number of years spent in education as well as their farm size must be increased by 1 percent. This literally denotes that older women, more educated ones and those with large farm size will record high involvement in the programme. The above results may not be unconnected to the fact that despite the fact that women constitute the bulk of labour force in agriculture in Nigeria (Yemisi *et al.* (2009) and Afolabi (2008), older women record higher population in the profession in Osun state. Similarly, those with higher farm size recorded higher level of involvement in agriculture, compared to those with small farm size. Based on the operations of the programme, farmers with large farm size may likely be more interested as the cost of inputs is reduced by at least half. In addition, more educated women stand a better stand in such programmes as such women would be able to withstand the rigour of paper work and the bureaucratic processes that are usually involved in such programmes.



**Table 2: Results of Multiple Regression analysis showing the influence of socio-economic characteristics of women and their involvement in agriculture**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error			
(Constant)	57.73	5.183		11.139	0.01
Age	2.12	0.689	0.099	3.076**	0.02
Household size	-0.04	0.357	-0.009	-0.112	0.11
Years spent in school	2.08	0.470	-0.033	4.042	0.58
Years of farming	0.02	0.087	0.023	0.229	0.19
Size of farm	-5.14	2.199	-0.029	2.337*	0.04
Total annual income for major occupation	-0.28	0.660	-0.035	-0.424	0.67
Length of stay in the community	-0.02	0.073	-0.023	-0.275	0.78

Source: Field survey, 2015.  $R = 0.691$ ,  $R^2 = 0.4775$ **Relationship between knowledge of agricultural policies and involvement in agriculture**

In another development, results of Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) revealed that there was no significant relationship between women knowledge of agricultural policies ( $r = 0.041 \leq 0.581$ ) and their involvement in agriculture at 0.01 significant level as shown in Table 3. This implies that respondents'

knowledge of agricultural policies in the state does not in any way correlate with their involvement in agriculture. Essentially, absence of specific gender responsive agricultural policies based on the findings from the FGD may be responsible for the no significant relationship found between the two variables as people could only have knowledge of what is in existence.

**Table 3: Results of Pearson's Moment Product Correlation showing the relationship between knowledge of agricultural policies and involvement in agriculture**

Variables	Correlation coeff. (r)	Coeff. of Determination ( $r^2$ )	Decision
Knowledge of agricultural policies	0.041	0.0017	Not Sig

Source: Field survey, 2015.

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

It was observed that majority of the women were in their active and productive age of between 30 and 50 years with most of them married. Reasonable proportions of the had primary and secondary education while only about 1/10th had tertiary education. Personal savings constituted about 60% of the source of saving among

women. For the qualitative data, it was concluded that in Osun State, all policy statements and strategies on agriculture only focused on production while policies on marketing and processing of agricultural products were not given serious attention. It was also discovered that only Fadama III project deliberately targeted women in its operations and policy statement while all other

programmes focused generally on farmers with no deliberate attempt to view gender as an issue in the agricultural sector. There was no significant correlation between women knowledge of agricultural policies and their involvement in agricultural programmes in the state. However, age, years spent in education and farm size were found to influence their involvement in agricultural programme significantly, explaining about 47.75% variation in women involvement in the programme.

#### **Recommendations:**

Based on these, the following recommendations

emanated from the findings.

1. All policy statements and strategies on agriculture should mainstream gender along the agricultural value chain considering the percentage of women that are farmers. This means that every policy in agriculture should have affirmative action plan and it should be gender representative at each stage of the execution.

2. Access to resources by both gender through policy statements will go a long way in ensuring that agricultural production is given a new phase in the state.

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## السياسات الزراعية في ولاية اوسان - نيجيريا من وجهة نظر الجندر او الجنس

كوليودوي<sup>1</sup> وجاباداماسي<sup>2</sup>

### ملخص

تلعب المرأة دوراً حيوياً في التنمية الزراعية في أي دولة، خاصة في أفريقيا. وفي معظم المجتمعات النيجيرية الريفية، تساهم النساء بأكثر من 65 % من الأسر الزراعية، وحوالي 60-80 % من القوة الزراعية العاملة. وعلى الرغم من مساهمة المرأة في القطاع الزراعي، فإن عدم المساواة بين الجنسين متأصلة بحسب الثقافة والموروث الاجتماعي السائد حالياً. ونتيجة لذلك، فقد أدى هذا التحيز الجنسي ضد المرأة إلى انخفاض إنتاج الغذاء في هذا القطاع. في ولاية أسن، تعد معظم السياسات الزراعية عامة جداً ولا تميل إلى إعلان بكن الذي اقترح إشراك المرأة في صياغة السياسات. وما زالت نيجيريا بشكل عام وولاية أسن على وجه الخصوص لا تقيم أي اعتبار للمرأة في السياسات الزراعية. جاءت هذه الدراسة لتحليل السياسات الزراعية المختلفة المرتكزة على الجنس. وتم استخدام جلسات مناقشة لمجموعات معينة ومقابلات مع مصادر المعلومات الرئيسية وذلك للحصول على معلومات من 15 مجموعة من النساء المزارعات في ثلاثة مواقع مختلفة، في حين استخدمت استبانات للحصول على بيانات من 110 من النساء التي تضمنتهن الدراسة. وأظهرت النتائج عدم رضا النساء عن وضع البرامج الزراعية المختلفة في ظل الإدارة الحالية وذلك لعدم شمول السياسات المتبعة للمساواة بين الجنسين. ولا توجد علاقة ذات دلالة معنوية من الناحية الإحصائية بين درجة معرفة النساء بسياسة البرنامج الزراعي ومشاركتهن في هذا البرنامج.  $t=3.076$ ،  $P \leq 0.1$  العمر  $t=2.337$ ؛  $P \leq 0.05$ ، وحجم المزرعة بالفدان  $t=4.424$ ؛  $P \leq 0.1$  ( عدد سنوات التعليم أثر بشكل معنوي وملحوظ على درجة مشاركة المرأة في البرنامج الزراعي في المنطقة التي تمت فيها الدراسة. وخلصت الدراسة إلى أن السياسات الزراعية في ولاية أسن لا تدعم المساواة بين الجنسين.

**الكلمات الدالة:** السياسة الزراعية، الجنس، تعميم المنظور الجنسي، شمولية الجنسين.

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