DETERMINANTS OF THE ADOPTION OF FARM MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE CROP PRODUCTION AMONG FARMERS IN SOUTHERN PART OF KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract: This study examines the determinants of farmers' adoption of farm management practices (FMPs) that enhances sustainable crop production and ultimately facilitates food security in Southern Kaduna, Nigeria. A total of 1137 registered members of Fertilizer Farmers Association (FFA) during the 2016/2017 farming season were identified in which 286 farmers were purposively sampled for the study. Data were elicited through questionnaire administration. Descriptive statistics and logit regression were adopted in the analyses of the data. The results of the study showed that crop rotations, mixed cropping, use of inorganic/organic fertilizer, traditional tillage system, and minimum tillage/mulching were the common FMPs used by farmers. However, intermittent fallow system and surface irrigation practice were not popular because of poor infrastructural facilities. Similarly, the most common FMPs adopted in Katugal was minimum tillage/mulching, surface irrigation system in Madakiya, mixed cropping was very common in Mailafiya and Zankam, while intermittent short fallow in Kurmin Sara. Age, family size, land tenure, farm size and distance of plot from homestead had influenced significantly on the choice of FMPs. Also, the major determinants of farmers' adoption for FMPs were farming experience (75.9%) and soil fertility status of the farmlands (68.9%). The study therefore, recommends the revitalization of abandoned irrigation infrastructures in Kagoro and Madakiya, and improves the popularity of traditional tillage and soil mulching among the Southern Kaduna farmers to achieve sustainable crop production and food security.

Key words: land, management practices, food security, sustainability, agro-ecological zone

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INTRODUCTION

Pressure on land resources and demand for food throughout the world has resulted for increase of agricultural land use and intensive agricultural purposes. In Nigeria, there is fast growing human population as well demanding the natural resources couple with agricultural activities. Geissen et al. (2009) observed that intensive land use may cause an important change in soil characteristics that can affect fertility, increase erosion and compaction as well as food security. Similarly under this circumstance, significant soil deterioration and depletion of soil nutrient fertility can lead to reduction in land productivity. However, Ersado et al. (2004) observed that adoption of technical efficiency and productive farming practices can enhance agricultural productivity and improve environmental sustainability that remains the most practical agricultural option for achieving economic growth, food security, and poverty alleviation in Sub-Saharan African Countries. Thus, Terr Africa Partnership (TAP, 2006) explain clearly that farm management practices is the adoption of land use systems that enable land users to maximize the economic and social benefits of the land, while at the same time maintaining or enhancing the ecological functions of the land resources for support of the continued use of the land resources.

Land sustainability is very vital to farmers' means of sustenance that any constraint to land use is affecting subsistence farmers in many ways as observed by Adekoya (1997) cited in Raufu and Adetunji (2012) that subsistent farmers are faced with a lot of constraints for integrating different farm management practices as well, this has affected the sustainability of crop yields. Kong (2014) and Global Environmental Facility (GEF, 2016) however, attributed these constraint to many factors which include insufficient capital, poverty, lack of knowledge or confidence to make a change, lack of financial incentives, land tenure dichotomy, labour constraint and poor infrastructures, low educational level of farmers, limited knowledge of inputs, poor fertility status of soil and unsustainability of some practices. The understanding of these constraints farmers' can use sustainable management practices that would boost farmers' morale to involve in applying different farm management practices in areas of inadequacy that need improvement in order to sustain crop productions.

Furthermore, in a bid to sustain crop production and improve soil fertility status in Nigeria, farming communities adopts different farm management practices such as conventional and conservation tillage system, organic fertilization, inorganic fertilizer application, irrigation agriculture, mono-cropping, mixed cropping and crop rotation among others. Some of these farm management practices may produce high yield while some may instead lead to degradation and depletion of soil nutrient fertility of the agricultural lands. Lal (2015) stressed that adoption of appropriate site-specific techniques, restoring soil quality, conservation agriculture, integrated nutrient management, and continuous vegetative cover such as residue mulch, cover cropping and controlled grazing at appropriate stocking rates among others improve high crop yields and sustains the soil fertility status.

Thus, to achieve sustainable crop production and future food security in Southern Kaduna in particular, a good knowledge of farmers' participation and adoption of different farm management practices is necessary. Therefore, this study examines determinants of farmers adoption of farm management practices in Southern Kaduna located in the vicinity of Nigerian Guinea Savannah Agro-ecological Zone with a view to establish the factors influencing the farmers choice of different farm management practices that facilitate sustainable crop production in the study area.

THE STUDY AREA

Southern Kaduna lies within the Guinea Savanna Agro-ecological Zone of Nigeria, covering approximately 24,536 km² and lies between latitudes 9°00'00''and 10°45'00''North of the Equator and longitudes 7°10'00''and 8°45'00'' East of the Greenwich Meridian. The study area shares boundaries with Niger State in the West, Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Plateau State to the South and South-East, Bauchi States in the East and Kano in the North (figure 1).

The climate of the study area is classified as Koppen's Aw with two distinct seasons, a wet season and a dry season. Rainfall occurs between the months of April and October with a peak in August, while the dry season extends from the end of October of one calendar year to April of the next. The mean annual rainfall is about 1733 mm in Kafanchan-Kagoro areas in the Southern part of the study area (Abaje et al., 2010) this is due to the influence of the Jos Plateau with orographic effect. The rainfall in the central part of Kaduna reached about 1203 mm. The mean monthly temperature is 28 °C, while the mean relative humidity is about 63% (Abaje et al., 2016).

The vegetation of the study area is the Guinea Savanna type influencing the formation organic matter of the main type of soil known as Ferruginous tropical soil. According to Abaje et al. (2010) the soil is affected by the climate, vegetation, lithology and the topography of the area. The soils are well drained and shallow, with texture consisting of loamy sand to sandy loam top soils (0-20 cm) and supports wide variety of annual, perennial and tree crops respectively (Aregheore, 2005). The relief according to Abaje et al. (2009) is relatively flat and undulating influences the formation of the drainage pattern of the study area.



Figure 1. Location of the study Area (Source: Ministry of Land Survey Kaduna State, 2017)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data Required and Sampling Techniques

The data required for this paper include: demographic characteristics of the farmers, land tenure (ownership of farm plot), types of crop grown, distance of farm plot from farmers' houses, factors influencing farmers' choice of farm management practice.

Purposive sampling technique was used to select five local government areas (LGAs) (Kaura, Kagarko, Kachia, Zango Kata and Jema'a) from the seven LGAs of Southern Kaduna. The same sampling technique was used to pick five villages from each LGAs identified located in Guinea Savanna Agro-ecological Zone. Using Cohen et al. (2011) table of sample size determination, at 95% confidence level, 286 sample size was decided and picked from 1137 registered members cultivated lands in 2016/2017 cropping season. The total number of respondents was selected in each settlement as follows: Zankam (55), Katugal (60), Madakiya (35), Mailafiya (70) and Kurmin Sara (61).

Copies of structured questionnaire were administered to 286 registered farmers' selected using table of random numbers in the five sampled villages, then 281 copies of the questionnaire were completed correctly and found useful for the research analysis.

Analytical Technique

The data collected were subjected to descriptive method and inferential statistical technique that included percentage and logit regression analysis and presented in bar graph.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Farmers' Adoption of the Common FMPs for the Sustainability of Crop Production The result of multiple responses on the different farm management practices commonly used by farmers in Southern Kaduna is presented in table 1.

S/No.		Responses		
	Farm management practices	Frequency	Percentage	
1	Intermittent long fallow	20	1.3	
2	Intermittent short fallow	64	4.1	
3	Minimum tillage/mulching	156	10.1	
4	Zero tillage	40	2.6	
5	Conventional tillage	210	13.5	
6	Contour bund	9	.6	
7	Construction of ridges across the slope	79	5.1	
8	Organic farming (animal manure)	169	10.9	
9	Use of inorganic fertilizer	227	14.6	
10	Organic Compost	61	3.9	
11	Mixed cropping	235	15.1	
12	Crop Rotation	252	16.2	
13	Surface irrigation	30	1.9	
14	Total ^{mr}	1552	100.0	

 Table 1. Multiple Response on all Adoptable Farm Management Practices

 Source: Field Survey, 2017

mr = Multiple Responses

The use of farm management practices varied in proportion with 13.5% farmers engaged in the conventional tillage and 12.7% engaged in minimum tillage/mulching and zero tillage. The result also revealed that 14.6% of the respondents used inorganic fertilizer only as soil conditioner while 10.9% of them engaged in the used of organic farming (use of animal dung) and in most cases farmers mixed with inorganic fertilizer for those farmers who could afford the two soil conditioners. Crop rotation (16.2%) and mixed cropping (15.1%) were also the predominant farming practices. The used of organic compost (3.9%) was not common in the rural communities. Due to the high growth in population and the subsequent pressure on agricultural lands, only 5.4%

of farmers practiced intermittent short fallow in rural communities with more than enough farmlands to cultivate. Irrigation agriculture was not too commonly practice, about 1.9% of the respondents only engaged in surface irrigation using the available water channels, water locked and marshy areas. The result is agreed with Oriola (2009) assertion that shows the unreliable supply and distribution of irrigation water leaves many farmers dissatisfied and unwilling to participate in irrigation practice. This also conform to Junge et al. (2008) observation that has widespread acknowledgement with low usage of irrigation because some of the farming system practices declined and degraded soil and water quality (table 1).

Furthermore, the five bolded farm management practices shown in Table 1 indicated the focus areas of this research and cumulatively formed 42.1% of the adoptive farm management practices. The study has also revealed that, crop rotation, conventional tillage, the use of inorganic fertilizer were also the common management practices adopted in the study area and constituted 44.3% cumulatively, this was greater than 42.1% of the focus area used for this study and subsequently the analyses were based on these selected land management practices vis-à-vis the other variables of interest.

Adoption Rate of Farm Management Practices among the Study Settlements

Figure 2 shows the farm management practices adoption among the five sampled settlements. The result revealed that mixed cropping (22.6%) was the most common farm management practices adopted in Zankam settlement. Then followed by surface irrigation practice cited by 13.3% of the respondents. The least practice was intermittent short fallow and minimum tillage/mulching. In Katugal, minimum tillage/mulching (30.8%) was the most farm management practice adopted and the least was mixed cropping (17.9%). In Madakiya farm settlement, surface irrigation was the major practice (46.7%) and intermittent short fallow practice (9.4%) is the least form of management practice. In Mailafiya, farmers practice mixed cropping (27.2%) more and the least practice was minimum tillage/mulching (19.2%). The result also reveals that farmers in Kurmin Sara settlement adopted intermittent short fallow (42.2%) followed by minimum tillage/mulching (34.26%), whereas, none of the farmers in this settlement adopted surface irrigation system as a form of farm management practice.



Figure 2. Farm Practices Adoption among the Study Settlements (Source: Field Analysis 2017)

Generally, the results reveal that, there was no uniform adoption of the farm management practices in all the five sampled settlements. However, while minimum tillage/mulching (32%) was being the largest adopted farm management practices in Katugal sampled settlement, surface irrigation system in Madakiya (35.35%), mixed cropping in Mailafiya (42.38%) and Zankam (67.95), then intermittent short fallow (30.68%) in Kurmin Sara were the most popularly adopted farm management practices. Babalola and Olayemi (2013) reported similar study that revealed high adoption of mixed cropping and minimum tillage/mulching in Ogun State, Nigeria. The high adoption rate of these practices were attributed to simplicity, moderate cost and effective stabilization of soil fertility.

Demographic / Socio-Economic Attributes and Farm Structural Factors Influencing the Adoption of Farm Management Practices in the Sampled Settlements

Logit regression model was used to examine the influence of attributes for demographic / socio-economic characteristics for the adoption of farm management practices. Table 2 revealed the result of the model for adoption of farm management practices that influenced by several demographic variables. Age of farmer has influenced positively and significantly to the adoption of intermittent short fallow, surface irrigation and mixed cropping practice at P<0.05. This implies that both young and old farmers have higher probability for adopting the farm management practices in the region, this is probably due to the benefits accrued from these management practices. Muhammad et al. (2014) observed that there were both positive and negative correlation between age of farmers and adoption of conservation farming practices. Families are veritable sources of labour for farm operations and adopted for farm management practices that are labour intensive and are often of great advantage to farm productivity. Household size was positive significantly influenced the adoption of minimum tillage/mulching, organic fertilizer and mixed cropping but influenced negative for intermittent short fallow and surface irrigation. This indicates that households that utilize family labour tend to adopt labour intensive farm management practices. This was concurrent with the findings of Kassie et al. (2009) cited in Miheretu and Yimer (2017) reported that the probability of adopting conservation tillage in Ethiopia was increased with the number of household members. In contrast, Holden and Yohannes (2002) revealed zero relationship between family size and some farm management practices.

Farmers' educational attainment of farmers influenced positively and significantly with mixed cropping practice and not significantly related to the adoption of intermittent short fallow, minimum tillage/mulching and organic fertilizer probably these practices do not need higher educational and technological know-how in the farm management practices. This was conformity with the study of Muhammad et al. (2014) that revealed there was both positive and negative correlation between educational attainment and adoption of farm conservation practices.

According to Bewket (2007) land tenure security is an important factor affecting farmers farming decisions and ownership of land is a major guaranty to changing cropping patterns and management practices. The result indicated that ownership of lands has both positive and negative influence for the adoption of intermittent short fallow, organic fertilizer, mixed farming practice and minimum tillage/mulching. This implies that land owner can secure with courage the provisions of financial incentives required for farming investments in farm management practices affecting significantly farmers decision for choosing a farm management practice. The study of Akpoko's (2004) informed that land tenure influenced significantly positive adoption of farming conservation practices. In the same vain, types of crop grown have positive and significant influence for mixed cropping, intermittent short fallow and organic farming at P<0.05. Similarly, distance from homestead influenced significantly both positive and negative for the adoption of minimum tillage/mulching, organic farming and surface irrigation practice. This implies that any unit increase in distance from homestead resulted for 19%, 96% and 26% probability of adopting minimum tillage/mulching, organic fertilizer and surface irrigation respectively. The implication

of these results enhanced through targeting of both younger and older families where both spouses work on the farm for full-time basis. Specific farm management practices show positive relationship and significantly influenced by variables such as age, family size, land tenure, farms distance from homestead and farm size but has no significant relationship with educational attainment and types of crop grown as shown by 5% of farmers. It is imperative to recognize that that education to a certain extent in this study area does not influence adoptive behavior of choice of farm management practices because farmers with many farming experience and knowledge obtained through extension services have made them actually aware of the type of farming that provide high crop yields with necessary and right able inputs appropriate under each soil good condition for conservation measure at the same time.

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Model	Variables	Intermittent short fallow	Minimum tillage and mulching	Organic farming	Mixed cropping	Surface irrigation
X1	Age of farmer (years)	0.04(0.02)**	-0.04(0.01)**	0.01(0.01)	0.03 (0.02)**	0.02(3.41)**
X2	Household size	-0.20(0.06)**	0.06(0.03)**	0.07(0.03)**	0.13 (0.08)**	-0.11(0.05)**
X3	Education of the farmer	-0.37(1.30)ns	1.40(1.25)ns	1.73(1.24)	2.31 (1.67)**	-0.42(1.34)
X_4	ownership of plot	-1.59(0.34)**	-0.47(0.27)**	-1.46(0.30)**	2.49 (0.48)**	-0.13(0.46)
X5	Type of crops grown on plot	-0.62(0.55)ns	-0.32(0.54)ns	-1.22(0.68)	1.55 (0.63)**	0.50(1.09)
X ₆	Distance of plot from homestead	-0.15(0.12)ns	0.19(0.10)**	0.15(0.10)	0.96 (0.18)**	-0.26(0.17)**
X ₇	plot location	1.35(0.65)**	0.45(0.65)ns	1.95(0.88)**	-0.39 (0.86)	-0.45(1.10)
	Constant	0.20(1.55)	0.48(1.53)	-0.91(1.59)	-70.52 (20.10)	-5.26(2.23)
	Log Likelihood	-126.09834	-183.90675	-169.9232	-82.920377	-86.834117
	chi2(10)	50.89	23.86	44.29	101.55	17.91
	Prob>chi2	0.0000	0.0012	0.0000	0.0000	0.0124

 Table 2. Factors Influencing Farmers' Choice of Farm Management Practices

 Source: Computed from Field Survey Data, 2017

Key: **significant at 0.05%, ns= not significant

Determinants of Farmers' Adoption of Farm Management Practices in Southern Kaduna

Table 3 shows that majority of the respondents about 29.3% opined farming experience an determinant factor for adoption of farm management practice, 26.6% of them cited nature of the farmlands, 15.8% recognize ownership of many farmlands afford alternative farm management practices and 15.2% mention large farm size enable the farmer to divide the land into different management practices per season. These four different farm management practices were the major determinants for the adoption of the common farm management practices in the study area. Farmers disagreed that topography as reveal by 4.5% of them, some 8.6% also recognize that land and knowledge obtained from participating in government agricultural programme may have not been determinant for adoption of farm management practice. Absence of any government agricultural programme and rugged terrain has hampered agricultural practices in some places of the study area.

 Table 3. Determinants of Farmers' Adoption of Farm Management Practices

 Source: Field Survey, 2017

Determinant factors	Responses		
Determinant factors	Frequency	Percentage	
The experience gotten from many years of farming business	217	29.3	
The ownership of many farmlands to afford alternative practices	117	15.8	
Farm sizes that enable the farmers share for different management practices per season	113	15.2	
Due to the topography of the land(s)	33	4.5	
Knowledge obtained from participating in Government agricultural programme	64	8.6	
Nature of the farmlands (soil fertility status)	197	26.6	
Total responses mr	741	100.0	

mr = Multiple response

Adoption of Farm Management Practices in the Sampled Settlements

The determinants for the adoption of farm management practices among farmers in the five selected settlements have been presented in table 4. The result shows that 100.0% of the respondents cited farming experience, 96.4% of them mention nature of the farmlands were the major determinants for adopting FMPs in Zankam. In Katugal also farming experience account for the view of 70.0%, 40.0% recognize nature of the farmlands as the major determinants for adopting different farm management practices. The result for Madakiya shows that 100% of the respondents mention nature of the farmlands as a major determinant for adoption of farm management practices, then 85.71% of them indicate farming experience and 85.71% of them again agree that knowledge obtained in participation in Government agricultural programme contributed to the adoption of farm management practices. Furthermore, 74.2% of farmers considered ownership of many farmlands afford alternative farm management practices and 60.0% opined large farm sizes enable the farmers to divide the farmlands for different management practices in Madakiya because proximity to Kaduna Agricultural Development Project office at Samaru Kataf has made farmers to benefit enormously from the Government agricultural programme.

Similarly, in Mailafiya some farmers 72.9% of them identify nature of the farmlands as the major determinant then followed by farming experience with 61.4% respondents. Furthermore, 60.0% of them indicate the ownership of many farmlands affords alternative practices and large farm sizes enable them divide the farm for different management practices per season. In Kurmin sara, the common determinant was the farming experience as reveal by 77.1%, then 57.4% indicated ownership of many farmlands afford alternative practices and then 55.7% cited nature of the farmlands and 45.9% opted large farm sizes enable them to divide the farm land for different management practices per season. Whereas knowledge obtained from participating in Government agricultural programme (22.9%) and topography (9.8%) were least considered as determinant for the adoption of farm management practice.

Determinants of Farm Management	Location					
Practices	Zankam	Katugal	Madakiya	Mailafiya	Kurmin Sara	Total ^{mr}
The experience gotten from many years of	55	42	30	43	47	217
farming	(100.0)	(70.0)	(85.71)	(61.43)	(77.05)	(77.22)
The ownership of many farmlands to afford	8	6	26	42	35	117
alternative practices	(14.55)	(10)	(74.29)	(60)	(57.38)	(41.64)
Large farm sizes that enable the farmer share for different management practices per season	4 (7.27)	18 (30)	21 (60)	42 (60)	28 (45.9)	113 (40.21)
Due to the topography of the land(s)	2 (3.64)	12 (20)	0 (0)	13 (18.57)	6 (9.84)	33 (11.74)
Knowledge obtained from participating in	2	12	30	6	14	64
Government agricultural programme	(3.64)	(20)	(85.71)	(8.57)	(22.95)	(22.78)
Nature of the formulanda (acil fortility status)	53	24	35	51	34	197
Nature of the farmands (son fertility status)	(96.36)	(40)	(100)	(72.86)	(55.74)	(70.11)
Total ^{mr}	124	114	142	197	164	741
No.	55	60	35	70	61	281
Missing	0	0	5	0	0	5

 Table 4. Multiple Responses on the Determinant of the Adoption of Farm Practice in the Selected Settlements

 Source: Field Survey, 2017

Percentages and totals are based on respondents, ^{mr} = Multiple response

Thus, first of all farmers about 77.24% considered the farming experience acquired in many years of farming, then some 70.11% recognized nature of the farmlands before adopting any farm management practice. The other factors considered were the ownership of many farmlands afford alternative practices as well as large farm sizes which enabled them divide the farm land for different management practices per season (41.%). However, knowledge obtained from participating in Government agricultural programme (22.78%) was less concerned and virtually all

the farmers did not consider it together with topography of the land (11.74%) as a determinant due to the relatively flat to gentle terrain of the regions.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study establishes different farm management practices adopted by farmers under indigenous and modern techniques of farming. Farming experience and nature of soil fertility status of the farmlands were the major determinants for the adoption of the common farm management practices. While age, household size, land tenure, farm size and distance of farm plot from homestead were influenced significantly for farmers' choice of land management practices. The study recommends the revitalization of abandoned irrigation infrastructures in Kagoro and Madakiya to take the full potential of the availability of fadamas, including the marshy areas and streams with alluvial banks deposits. This would encourage farmers to participate fully in irrigation agriculture. It is necessary to help the farmers in order to improve the management of their agricultural farm lands in the study area at two levels. First, those practices that are common in each settlement should be targeted for improvement. Second, farm land management practices that are not currently being used by farmers in each settlement but have the potential to improve crop production should be identified and promoted in the respective settlements.

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