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INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SERVICES NEEDS OF FISH FARMERS IN ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
The study investigated the Information Resources and Information Services Needs of Fish Farmers in Adamawa State, Nigeria. The researcher used quantitative research method and survey research design was adopted for the study. Questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The population of the study covered 232 registered fish farmers with the Ministry of Environment in Adamawa State. There is no sample for the study, the researcher used the whole population because they are manageable. 232 questionnaire were administered with the help of research assistants, 216 copies of the questionnaire were returned and found useful for the data analyses. The data was analysed using descriptive statistics, the result shows that fish farmers in Adamawa State have need for information resources and information on some services. Their information resources needs include televisions, radios, GSMs and educators, while they need the services of educators, extension workers, government agencies services, non-governmental organisations services, loans and credit facilities services. Therefore the research recommended that the Adamawa State government should made available more educators, extension workers, loans and credit facilities services, government agencies services and also corroborate with non-governmental agencies to provide services they feel they can offer to fish farmers in Adamawa State to help boost productivity of fish farming. They should also provide constant power supply because without electricity powering of such gadgets will be costly should alternative source of power be used. Public and mobile libraries should be made available in most remote areas so that fish farmers can have access to current and relevant information resources.

Keywords: Information Resources, Information Services, Fish Farmers

Introduction

Fish farmers information resources in this context means all input and material which are utilize by fish farmers in order to achieve high productivity, these materials can come in any format, e.g. electronic, prints or resource person. In whatever format they appeared, they should be current, accurate, relevant and timely to fulfil the aims and purposes for which they were intended. While, on the other hand, fish farmer's information services means all services that are geared towards improving fish farmer's productivities. According to Pius (2019) information "is the tool for development in modern societies the research further stated that, it is a crucial variable in the social, economic and political development of a nation." In order for fish farmers to maintain continuity and improve in their fishing activities, they need information in various formats and sources to meet up with latest technology and new innovations.

Fish farming is capital intensive, any services or sources of services that can help the fish farmers is what they need to have access to it. Fish farmers not only supply food animal protein to their family and the nation but it helps in supplementing their income, provide job opportunities and sustains the nation's economy (Pius, 2019).A study by Emmanuel (2012), shows that fish farmers depends on town criers, village meetings, village markets, farmers associations, educators, neighbours, electronic media such as radio and television as well as documentaries such as newspapers, magazines etc. for their information. In a similar development, Ugboma (2016) found out that, fish farmers in Niger Delta access information from workshops and seminars, ministry of agriculture, magazines, newspapers, local government offices, non-governmental organization (NGOs), and personal experiences from neighbours, friends and colleagues. Oyekunle, Olaoye, Lawal-Adebowale and Ayanda, (2011), indicated extension workers, radio, television, fellows farmers, training workshop and phones as resources use by fish farmers in Ogun State to access the information they need. Ban and Hawkin, (2002), on the other hand, indicated fish farmers' information resources as television, radio, mass media, government extension organization, other government organization, other fish farmers, journalist, private companies etc. In most of these studies, fish farmers seem to have much preference for televisions, radios, newspapers, magazines and extension workers, this could be due to their idealness and cheapness to set up and their ease of usage. Their preference for extension agents could be the closed contact they have with them where they interact, ask questions and get answers on the spot, this human contact they cherished much in their activities.

Fish farmers also use resources in the format and languages they can

understand, Cobblah, and Jigge, (2017), had taken into consideration this problem when they decided to translate the result of their study on aquatic information for fish farmers in Ghana so that the target reader will benefit from their findings. Fish farmers also use financial resources like credit and loan facilities, fish farming like most ventures is capital intensive; therefore they need and use it in boosting their fish farming. From the literatures reviewed it shows similar patterns from which fish farmers obtain information resources they use in boosting their fishing activities. It also shows that most fish farmers have much preference for e-resources e.g. televisions, radios and GSMs. Others preference are print materials e.g. newspapers and magazines. Fish farmers also used resource person e.g. extension workers, librarians interpreters etc.

There are many institutional and governmental agencies that have been put in place to make easy access of agricultural innovations to fish farmers to get to know and adopt them. Some of these organizations include; Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (AERLS), the extension services of the Agricultural Development Project (ADPs), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment both at Federal and State level, Media Forum for Agriculture, Co-operative Extension Centres (CEC) of Universities and public enlighten units. Media Forum for Agriculture was formed by media practitioners from across the country in 1989 with the purpose of providing support for agriculture. Asadu, Aganwuyi, Sule, and Tanko (2015), found out that the type of services use by fish farmers, and the respondents in the study indicated that they use the services and have more confidence in government establishments than private organization in the type of services they provides, they trust government institutions because according to them, they have credible services and man powers. This goes to show that fish farmers attached more importance to technical competency of service providers in providing quality and relevant information to them.

Fish farmers use the services of Fisheries Research Institutions, Universities, Agricultural Development Programs, Federal and State Ministries of Agriculture and Environment to provide them with professional advices and news of new ideas or innovations. They also use the services of non-governmental organizations, private companies, fish farmers association and experienced farmers to help in terms of finances or otherwise, news on new products, bonuses and free trial as well as advices and encouragement. Fish farmers also use the services of extension workers to help them in in-come tax assessments, they also use provision of means, e.g. credit facilities, this in agriculture specifically means short term or long term credit facilities for the purchase of land, inputs etc. (Ban & Hawkins 2002). Fish farmers use the guidance of the extension agent on loan and

subsidy applications because some do have problem in filling forms, some find it tedious filling the form and are often pleased to received free help from extension workers. The farmers need training on how to accomplish some tasks themselves and use them rather than always depending on others. They need and use direction to appropriate sources of professional assistance depending on the problem when the need arises as well as advices and teaching on their occupation.

Selection Dissemination of Information (SDI), where relevant information is selected and disseminates to fish farmers and Current Awareness Services (CAS) where new innovations and just concluded researches that are of relevance to their field are displayed are some of the services use by fish farmers especially those in the urban areas. Few farmers have direct contact with resource persons, in such cases resource persons are solicited to come and interact with the fish farmers as well as getting them informed about where to access credit facilities. The library offers outreach services e.g. mobile library services, some fish farmers because of lack of awareness of the role which the library play in information dissemination often do not seek information there. Libraries and information specialist can go to any extend to provide information to whosoever desire it and fish farmers use such services. The fish farmer is always ready and appreciative to use such help from these sources. They also use the services of an interpreter because some of the information comes in format that the fish farmers cannot understand because some are illiterates or not information literate and therefore need and use such services.

Statement of the Problem

The researchers observed that with the increase of people taking interest in fish farming either out of passion for or to supplement the source of livelihood of their families, not all have gone through conventional training to acquire knowledge of fish farming. They neither have idea on where to get information and the type of information resources to consult or the ways of getting services they need which will boost their fishing activities

Therefore, the research look at the sources of information that fish farmers need and also the information services needs of the fish farmers in Adamawa State. Similar researches were conducted elsewhere on the information and information services needs of fish farmers, as such the researchers felt it will not be out of place if similar problem area is looked at in Adamawa State to help them to improve in their venture.

Research Objectives

1. To identify the types of information resources needs of fish farmers in

2. To identify the types of information services needs of fish farmers in Adamawa State

Research Questions

1. What are the types of information resource needs of fish farmers in Adamawa State?
2. What are the types information services needs of fish farmers in Adamawa State?

Significance of the Study

The research is of significance to fish farmers in Adamawa State because a lot of information sources which they were not aware of before the research brought out into limelight of which they will use to access the information they need despite the fact that they have their own preferences. The Adamawa State government can also use the recommendations of the research to formulate policies that -- be favourable to fish farmers in the State in easing access to agricultural information. Fish farmers in the State will also---be made aware of institutions both governmental and non-governmental that offer services that can help them have access to information that will transform the fishing activities in the state thereby reducing unemployment and poverty.

Research Methodology

Quantitative research methodology was used in the study. The researcher employed survey research design. The population of the study covered 232 registered fish farmers with the Ministry of Environment in Adamawa State. There is no sample for the study, the researcher used the whole population because they are manageable. 232 questionnaire were administered with the help of research assistants, 216 copies of the questionnaire were returned and found useful for the data analyses. The data was analysed using descriptive statistics using simple frequency and percentage, tables and charts were added to aid in understanding of the result.

Data Analysis

Table 1: Information Resource Needs of the Respondents

Do you use information resources?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	216	100%
No	0	0%
If yes, what type of information resources do you use?		
Television	150	69.44%
Radio	135	62.5%
GSMs	140	64.81%
Internet	103	47.68%
Magazines	105	48.61%
Newspapers	91	42.12%
Journals	90	41.66%
Educators	110	50.92%
Billboards	66	30.55%%
Projects, Dissertations/Thesis	65	30.09%

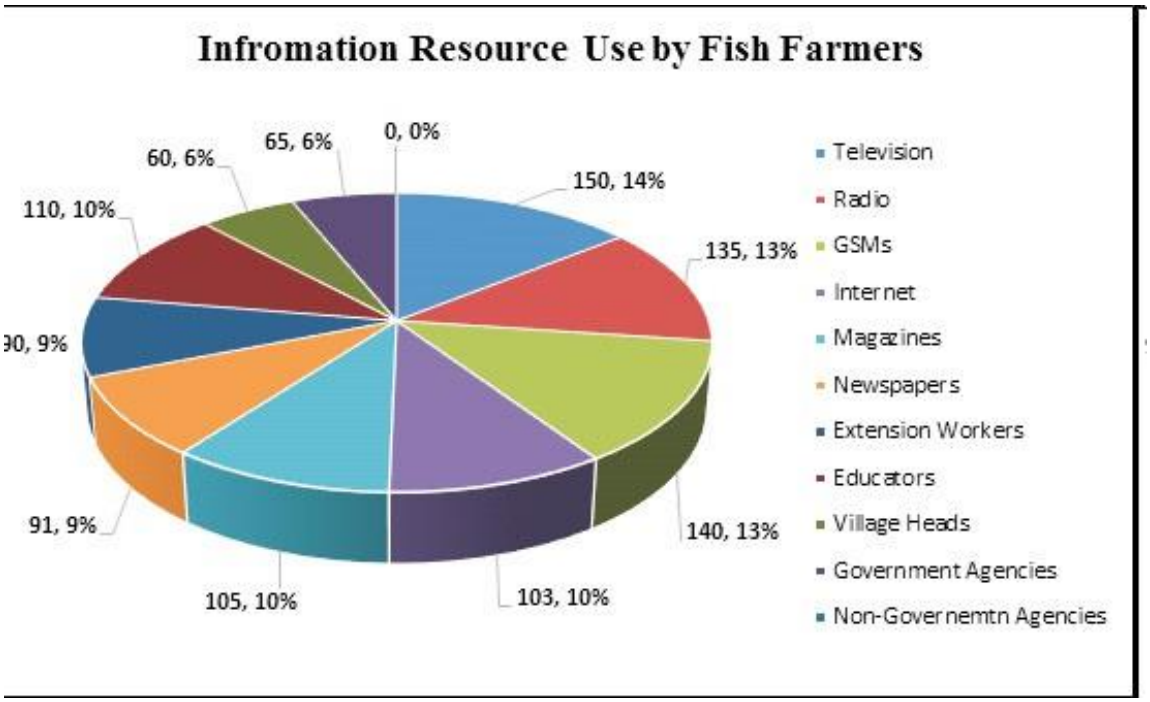


Figure 1: Information Resource Use by Fish Farmers

For fish farmers to obtain the information they need, some information resources have to be consulted or use to get the needed information, for that reason, fish farmers were asked if they use information resources. Table 4.6 sows 216 responded yes, they use information resources (100%). They were further asked to indicate the types of information resources they use, 150 respondents (69.44%) indicated television,140 respondents (64.81%) indicated GSMs, while 135 respondents (62.5%) indicated radio. 110, 105 and 103 respondents indicated educators, magazines and the internet respectively as the information resources they also use. Another sets of respondents i.e. 91 and 90 indicated newspapers and journals respectively, while other respondents at the frequency of 65 and 60 (30.09% and 27.77%) indicated projects, dissertations and billboards respectively.

Table 2 Information Services Needs of the Respondents

Do you use information services?	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Yes	216	100%
No	0	0%
If yes, what type of information services do you use?		
Extension services	155	71.75%
Library services	75	34.72%
Government agencies services	144	66.66%
Non-governmental organization services	119	55.09%
Loan and credit facilities services	142	65.74%
Professional services	75	34.72%
Private companies services	94	43.51%

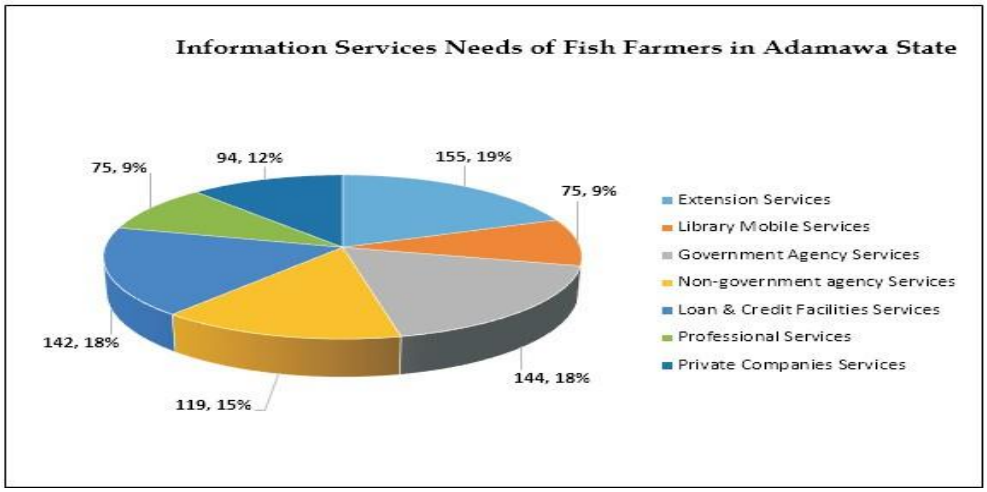


Figure 2: Information Services Needs of Fish Farmers in Adamawa State

To achieve effectiveness and high productivity, fish farmers need to use some information services. In line with this, fish farmers were asked if they use information services, table 4.7 above shows 216 responded in the positive (100%), those that said yes were further asked their types of information services, 155 respondents (71.75%) indicated extension services, 144 respondents (66.66%) and 142 respondents (65.74%) indicated government agencies and loan credit facilities as part of the information services they use. Other respondents 119 frequencies with (55.09%) indicated non-governmental agencies, 94 respondents (43.51%) indicated private companies services. A frequencies of 75 (34.72%) which indicated library services and professional services as their information service's needs.

Conclusion

The types of information resources needs of fish farmers in Adamawa state are televisions, GSMs and radios. This could be due to the fact that those three are the most available and most have in homes which could be use easily to access information fish farmers need. The types of information services needs of fish farmers in Adamawa State are extension services, loan and credit facilities services, government and non-governmental agencies services. This may be due to the fact that extension services are available from government extension workers. Fish farming is capital intensive and naturally there will be need for loan and credit facilities services. Non-governmental agencies have passion to reach out to help humanity; they therefore render selfless services for human lease of life generally while the government agencies are bound to serve its citizens therefore may render good services.

Recommendations

Based on the findings the following recommendations are proffer:

1. Government should also provide libraries especially public libraries at least in every local government area or major towns where current, relevant and timely information resources will be made available to fish farmers. Government should employ and provide more extension workers to go round the rate of the need and numbers of the fish farmers. Extension workers are saddled with the responsibility of making farmers aware of research findings, the extension workers should place more emphasis on where fish farmers indicated need for information.
2. The Adamawa State government should always provide uninterrupted power supply in thestate. Electricity plays a major role in the fish farmers' activities. Most of the fish farmers indicated using GSMs, TVs and radios in

accessing and their information; they therefore need electricity to power their appliances and also need power supply to preserve their products.

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