

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN SOKOTO STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in five (5) Local Government Areas namely Sokoto North, Bodinga, Kware, Ilila and Tambuwal mapped out by International Fund for Agricultural Development as Fishery potential areas. Seven (7) villages namely Gidan Igwai, Kaurar Kwasau, Gidan Akwara, Tozai, Tambuwal, Mogajin Gari, and Badau also were selected all at random. Fish farm management questionnaire was used for data collection. Results revealed that inadequate fish farming facilities, fish seed supply, private sector confidence and support, risk consideration, government support and investment, over popularized livestock poultry sub sector and fishery extension service are the problems of fish farming. Recommendations were made as to how to improve fish farming in Sokoto State.

KEYWORDS: Socio- Economic Factors, Fish Farming, Sokoto State

INTRODUCTION

Fish is the critical food supply for the poor people in the world, providing one (1) billion people sustenance for their daily lives and 150 million people employment in which 90% are in the artisanal sector mostly in Africa. Worldwide per capita fish supply in 1997 stood at 16 kg/year (up from 12 kg/year in 1973) in which aquaculture accounted for 38% (World Fish Center, 2005). The ability to meet world demand for fish from natural fish stocks has reached its peak and now is declining. The growing human population and dwindling natural stocks, requires the world turn increasingly to aquaculture, managed natural fisheries and genetically improved fast growing fish if it is to meet future food needs (World Bank, 2005).

The World fish centre in 2005 warned that exploitation of natural fish stock is leveling off as population grows. Africa faces a major challenge to ensure fish supply to the estimated 200 million mainly poor people relying on fish as a main part of their diet. Also at stake are the livelihood of 10 million African families involved in small scale fisheries and fish. Africa needs 32% increases in fish supplies by 2020 to maintain consumption (World Fish Centre, 2005).

New partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) Conference held in Nigeria 2005, pointed out that fish production crisis is eminent in Africa; the only world region where per capita fish supplies are dropping. The fishery sector is essentially in the economic development and poverty alleviation drive of many countries especially in the developing countries like Nigeria where it is among the main thrust for National survival. (World Bank, 1995).

Food security and rural development will continue to rise with increasing population and changing eating habit will make a doubling output imperative. This production gap needed bridged and extension and research serve veritable tools for meeting production needs. Nigeria is endowed with more than enough resources to be self sufficient in fish production. Yet it is not the case. A large proportion of Nigerian population lives near large and small water bodies such as the Atlantic Ocean, lagoons, lakes, reservoirs, and swamps. Many depend heavily on the resource of such water bodies as their main sources of animal protein and family income. Nigeria has for long depended on capture fisheries and development of aquaculture has been very slow due to many constraints such as lack of Fishery infrastructure and extension, Government

potentials economic for prosperity for Nigeria, If well harnessed. However, Nigeria is blessed with a rich diversity of finfish and shellfish resources. In addition to the brackish water resources, Nigeria has massive fresh water systems, including lakes, rivers, reservoirs and flood plains which support extensive artisanal fisheries. The river Niger which rises in Sierra Leone and has a total length of 4,184 kilometers, flow through West Africa, enters Nigeria in the Northwest and runs Southwards to join the river Benue at Loköja, before traveling the remaining 547 kilometers to the sea. These two major rivers and the many smaller rivers support large fresh water artisanal fisheries in the country. A study by the National Special Programmes for Food Security, (NSPFS) (2004) identified about 2,658 fish farms and 973 Dams and Reservoirs in Nigerain. Ita, (1995) has identified about 365 lakes and reservoirs and 687 ponds and floodplains totalling over 13 million hectares of waters bodies.

Despite the potential, current annual demand for fish is 1.5 million tones, where as total Production stands at about 0.4 million tones. In 2000, the fish import bill exceeded N30 billion naira i.e US\$241.1m. (Dada 2004). This relatively low production and the impact on the economic of high imports, is of concern and a challenge to all in the fisheries sectors.

FISHERIES IN NIGERAIN ECONOMY.

The contribution of fisheries in the Nigerian economy is significant when viewed from the supply of animals protein and macronutrients requirements, income and employment generation, food security, rural development and foreign exchange earned potentials.

THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN NIGERIA.

Endowed with a very rich cultural heritage that spans through 250 ethnic groups, a variety of vegetation belts complimented by a tropical climate which accounts for the country's bio-diversity in terms of flora, fauna and the ecosystems, and a sandy coastline lined with several beaches, Nigerian is the perfect haven for tourists. These factors combined make the Nigeria tourism sector an economically viable industry. Fishing festival, warm springs, water falls and cultural heritage e.t.c .form parts and parcel of the tourism industry throughout the country.

BACKGROUND TO TOURISM IN NIGERIA.

Following independence, Nigeria gained international recognition both as a sovereign State and as a country with its doors open to foreign investors and pleasure seeking resorts. Over the years, a reasonable inflow of both investors has been recorded with tourism actually making its contributions to the country's GDP.

The climax for Nigeria tourism industry came in 1977 when the country hosted the second festivals for Arts and culture (FESTAC'77), tourism was at its most prosperous phase in this period. Other international and inter-continental events that hosted in the country that invariably meant a boost for tourism include 1984, African cup of the Nations, the 1992 and 1997 world youth championship.

Cultural Tourism in Nigeria.

Nigeria is a nation of diverse people and culture. And is known for her cultural assets which is among the most intriguing and colourful, the world over. Each of the over 300 ethnic groups in the country has its own unique cultural assets which is usually expressed in forms of cultural festivals and fishing festivals.

Culture is a main "pull factor" which influences visitor's initial decision to travel to destinations in different part of the world.

Richards (2001) observed that at global level, cultural attractions are usually perceived as being icons of important streams of global culture. Nigeria have limited tourism development but by comparison have considerable potential for future development. Cultural tourism will assist in removing existing stereotypes and misrepresentations of indigenous Nigerian cultures. Cultural tourism in fishing industry in Nigeria will contribute to the promotion of international harmony and cross cultural understanding. Cultural tourism has to be explained with context of culture. It can be viewed into two inter related perspectives.

The psychological perspectives what people think (i.e attitudes, beliefs, ideas and values) and what people do (ways of life, at work, artifacts and cultural products).

From the psychological perspective, culture is seen as the organized systems of knowledge and believes of in people structure their experiences and perceptions, formulate acts and make choices between different alternatives (Kessing and Kessing, 1971). As Reid puts it, culture is a product of human psychology which has manifestation in the physical world, technology which influences living, including beautification of technological objects or art.

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