

## **Agricultural Production Practices of Ex-trainees of Leventis Foundation School of Agriculture, Ilesa, Osun State.**

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### **Abstract**

The study evaluated the agricultural production practices of the ex-trainees of Leventis Foundation School of Agriculture Nigeria. Specifically, the study assessed the socio-economic characteristics of the ex-trainees of the school, described the agricultural production systems/practices covered during their training period, determined their perception towards the relevance of the training programme and described their current agricultural production. A snow ball sampling procedure was used to select 130 respondents for the study. Data was collected from the ex-trainees using an interview schedule. Relevant descriptive and inferential statistics were used to summarize the data and test the hypotheses formulated respectively. Results showed that average age of the respondent is 28.4 years; most (90%) of the respondents were male and majority (80%) has at least secondary school education. The average family size of the respondents is approximately 3. The study revealed that arable crop and poultry production were among the leading production systems ex-trainees were exposed to during the training programme. Majority (95.4%) of the ex-trainees are currently involved in agriculture as their major occupation. Positive and significant relationship was established between age ( $r=0.315$ ,  $p\leq 0.01$ ), years of farm experience ( $r=0.363$ ,  $p\leq 0.01$ ), household size ( $r=0.367$ ,  $p\leq 0.01$ ) and ex-trainees' income from farming activities in the last cropping season. The study revealed that the involvement in agriculture of ex-trainees of Leventis Foundation School of Agriculture is highest in crop production. The study recommended that adequate infrastructure especially land for farming and capital be provided by government and/or non-governmental organizations for ex-trainees to expand production and contribute the more to combating hunger in the country.

**Keywords:** Agricultural production, Youth, Leventis Foundation School of Agriculture, Training

### **Introduction**

In recent time, there have been a lot of concerns over the looming danger of food crisis in Nigeria. The population involved in agriculture is aging while the youth are moving away from the rural areas en masse hitherto leading to shortage of manpower for agricultural production. To ensure national food security as well as overall development of the nation, the strength and creativity of youths and adults must be channeled into fruitful ventures which agriculture is important. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (1996), food security obtains when all people, at all

times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Stemming from this definition, four pillars of food security could be outlined. These are physical availability of food, economic and physical access to food, utilization of food and stability of the previous three components over time (FAO, 2008). Explaining this further, physical availability of food is concerned with the supply side of food security. This is primarily informed by level of food production in a country, the stock level of

food and the net trade within the country. Economic and physical access to food does not necessarily involve adequate supply of food at the national and international levels but also the guarantee of household level food security. Food utilization on the other hand leads to nutritional status of an individual. Utilization of food describes the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food. The concept of stability comes in to ascertain that though food intake may be adequate today, yet if there is inadequate access to food on periodic basis, the situation could still be described as food insecurity. This is because the situation risks the deterioration of the person's nutritional status.

Therefore, for food security objectives to be realized, all the four pillars enumerated above must be fulfilled all together. Nana-Sinkam (1995) stated that a country and its people are food secured when their food system operates in such a way as to remove the fear that there will not be enough to eat. The author further stressed that food security requires that the poor and vulnerable have secure access to the food they need. This is basic, important and very crucial if the nation will achieve sustainable development.

According to Federal Republic of Nigeria report (2004), the philosophy of education as stated in the National Policy of Education (NPE) rests on the belief that education is an instrument for national development. To this end, the formulation of ideas, their integration for national development and the interaction of persons and ideas are all aspects of education. This implies that education fosters the worth and development of the individuals for each individual's sake, and for the general development of the society. School

programmes therefore, need to be relevant, practical and comprehensive. This means that education should be functional and holistic. It must encompass the knowledge, skill and attitude dimensions so as to foster all round development of self and by extension the society. The interest and ability of each learner should determine his/her direction in education. Therefore, for education to meet these laudable national development goals, it must not only be academic, but also vocational.

One of the organizations in Nigeria that have heeded the government's call for partnership in human capital development in the country is the Leventis Foundation (Nigeria) (LFN). The Foundation was set up to assist in educational, cultural and other charitable courses while specifying West Africa and Nigeria in particular as a major beneficiary. "The Leventis Foundation Nigeria" was registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in April 1988 (LFN/GTE, 2003). Since inception, the foundation has been very active in the area of disseminating knowledge among other charitable programmes. The foundation school of agriculture programme took off in 1987 with two schools while a third one was established eleven years after and a fourth after another two years.

The main aim of the school is to trigger interest in agriculture in the youth and to empower them by inculcating in them adequate knowledge in modern agriculture and helping them develop requisite skills needed for the practice of agriculture. This implies that the school desires to paint a picture of agriculture to the youth as a profitable venture to trigger their willingness and empower them to become capable agriculturists. This indeed is one of the cardinal points of the Agricultural

transformation agenda of the former administration in Nigeria (2009-2014). Leventis Foundation School of Agriculture (LFSA) training programme is a year programme whereby trainees are admitted and graduated the same year. Over the past twenty-seven years, the school had graduated trainees scattered across the country who are now involved in agriculture as major or minor occupation although some had left agriculture behind and moved on to various economic ventures. These ex-trainees are involved in both crop production and also animal production.

The emphasis over the years has been on how to encourage the youth to take to agriculture as a career to relieve the aging population of farmers and to stop the migration into the urban areas in search of white collar jobs which has resulted in many youth being disguisedly unemployed in various sectors within the cities. The experience of this ex-trainees is beginning to prove that youths are not completely averse to practicing agriculture and that considering the huge population of youth in the country, their strengths can be harnessed for a significant contribution to fighting hunger. With LFSA providing requisite knowledge and skills to youths on agricultural production, it is pertinent to consider the agricultural practices of these trained youths to ascertain their contribution to ending hunger and also as a means of establishing the strengths of the training provided by the school.

### **Objectives of the study**

The followings were the specific objectives of the study. To

1. describe the socio-economic characteristics of the ex-trainees of the programme;

2. identify the agricultural production systems covered during the training programme;
3. determine the perception of the ex-trainees towards the relevance of the training programme; and
4. examine the agricultural production of the ex-trainees in practice

Furthermore, the study hypothesized that there exists no significant relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of the ex-trainees, and their agricultural production. The study therefore sought to accept or reject this stand.

### **Methodology**

The study was carried out in Osun state, Nigeria. After a reconnaissance visit to the school and discussions with the administration, 130 respondents were selected in 2012 using either the address given by the school or snow ball sampling technique where appropriate. Data were collected with the aid of interview scheduled on socio-economic characteristics the ex-trainees, the agriculture production systems covered during the training programme, perception of ex-trainees on the relevance of the training content and their agricultural production. Descriptive statistics such as frequency, mean, percentage and standard deviation were used to summarize the data collected and inferential statistics such as Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and multiple linear Regression analysis were used to test the hypothesis of the study.

The dependent variable for the study was the agricultural production of the ex-trainees. This was measured by the respective farm sizes for the various crops

cultivated and number of various animals raised. For the purpose of hypothesis testing, the income accruable ( $Y$ ) from the crops planted and the number of animals raised from the previous farming season was used. The independent variables are: socio-economic characteristics of the ex-trainees which include the followings: gender, age, marital status, years of formal education, religion, years of farm experience and household size which were measured by direct questions and organizational participation which was measured using two questions: the different organizations they belong to and their level of participation in the organization whether ordinary member (1 point), committee member (2 points) and executive member (3 points). The total organization score used in the regression equation was calculated by adding up the score in all the organization the respondent participated in. Agricultural production systems covered during the training programme was measured through respondents' opinions on level of exposure to each agricultural production systems. This was measured on a four-point scale of Very High (4), High (3), Low (2) and Very Low (1) respectively. Their perception towards programme relevance was measured on a 5-point Likert scale of Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Undecided (3), Disagree (2) and Strongly disagree (1). This was further classified using mean and the standard deviation into positive, neutral and negative. The positive are values above mean plus one standard deviation, negative are values below mean minus one standard deviation while the neutral class are values below positive lower and negative upper class marks. The cut point for making

judgement for the mean values on each perception items in this study was 3.05 and above as high and below 3.05 as low according to Ajayi (1995) and Alabi (2005). The regression equation for the study was given as

$$Y = a + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3x_3 + b_4x_4 + \dots + b_9x_9$$

Where  $x_1$  = age in years,

$x_2$  = year of formal education,

$x_3$  = year of farm experience,

$x_4$  = household size of respondents,

$x_5$  = perception total score,

$x_6$  = number of crops planted,

$x_7$  = number of animals raised,

$x_8$  = organization participation score,

$x_9$  = size of farm in hectares.

## Results and Discussions

### *Socio-economic characteristics of the ex-trainees*

Results in Table 1 showed that majority (90.0%) of the respondents were males while 10.0 per cent were females. This showed that males participated in the programme than females. However, there was no information from the school that the programme was targeted at male youths. The mean age of the sampled ex-trainees was  $28.4 \pm 6.67$  years. More than half (56.9%) of the respondents were married while 43.1 per cent were single. Majority (80.0%) finished from secondary school, 10.8 per cent went to primary school, and 6.2 per cent have Ordinary National Diploma while 3.1 per cent have National Certificate of Education. This implied that all the respondents have formal education. This attribute is necessary since instruction under the training programme was done in English language.

Results of analysis showed that majority (80.0%) of the respondents were

**Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of ex-trainees of LFAS**

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage	Central tendency
Sex			
Male	117	90.0	
Female	13	10.0	
Age			
< 25	12	9.2	Mean=28.4
26-30	46	35.4	Std. dev. =6.7
31-35	31	23.9	
36-40	41	31.5	
Marital status			
Single	56	43.1	
Married	74	56.9	
Level of education			
Primary	14	10.8	
Secondary	104	80.0	
NCE	4	3.1	
OND	8	6.2	
Religion			
Christianity	104	80.0	
Islam	26	20.0	
Year of entry and graduation			
< 2001	52	40.0	
2002-2006	12	9.2	
2007+	66	50.8	
Year of farm experience			
< 10	53	40.8	Mean=12.1
11-15	37	28.5	Std. dev. =6.5
16-20	25	19.2	
21-25	15	11.5	
Household size			
< 4	128	98.5	Mean=3.0
5-7	2	1.5	Std. dev. =1.7
*Organization participation			
Cooperative society	99	76.2	
Religious organization	103	79.2	
Trade unions	42	32.3	
Professional organizations	36	27.7	
Descendant unions	66	50.8	
Social clubs	84	64.6	
Philanthropic organizations	2	1.5	

\* = Multiple response

Source: Field survey, 2012

Christians while 20.0 per cent were Muslims. This showed the dominance of foreign religion over the traditional religion in most of the rural areas of the country. The values and ideals of these religions might have had great influence on the choice of enterprise of the ex-trainees of LFSA. Results in Table 1 showed that 50.8 per cent of the respondents entered and graduated from the training programme in year 2007 and above, 40.0 per cent entered and graduated between 1988 and 2001 while 9.2 per cent entered and graduated between 2002 and 2006.

The average farming experience of the ex-trainees was  $12.13 \pm 6.5$  years while the average household size was  $3 \pm 1.7$ . This implied that the ex-trainees had been farming above a decade now. This also meant that agricultural production activities were not just new ventures that the ex-trainees of LFSA were going into. It is gradually becoming an established business venture with them. Furthermore, the average household size as revealed by the study was slightly lower than the average (3.4) reported for Osun state by World Data Atlas (2010). This discrepancy might be due to the fact that the respondents are only a segment of the total residents of the state and some of these youth were still in their active reproductive years. Results in Table 1 showed that majority (79.2%) of the ex-trainees participated in religious organization while majority (76.2%) also participated in cooperative societies. Also, 64.8 per cent of the respondents participated in social clubs while 50.8 per cent of them participated in descendant unions. Group contact is an established extension communication method (Farinde, 2008) therefore; agricultural production information could be

disseminated to the ex-trainees via their various organizations. Furthermore, the ex-trainees could also utilize their togetherness in accessing credit to expand production. Also, market related information could be disseminated to the ex-trainees via the organizations and ex-trainees could also take to group marketing of their farm produce (Ajayi *et al.*, 2011).

#### *Agricultural production systems covered during the programme*

Table 2 shows the rank order of the weighted mean scores of the extent of exposure of the ex-trainees to the various agricultural production systems covered during the programme. From the table, exposure to farm management activities ranked highest with mean value of 3.62. This was followed by exposure to vegetable production with mean score of 3.61. Exposure to arable crop production and poultry production ranked third with mean value of 3.60 respectively. Exposure to sheep/goat production and grass cutter production ranked penultimate and last with mean values of 3.17 and 2.95 respectively.

From the findings of the study presented in Table 2, it could be said that farm management activities, vegetable production, arable crop and poultry production were the leading agricultural production systems ex-trainees were exposed to during the training programme. These identified agricultural production systems except farm management activities were the commonest production systems in Nigeria. This is because of the income generating potentials of these specified agricultural productions. Furthermore, these production systems had a short cycle and thereby they are preferred over others

**Table 2: Weighted mean scores of Agricultural production systems/practices exposed to during the training**

<b>Agricultural production system/practice</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Farm management activities	3.62	1 <sup>st</sup>
Vegetable production	3.61	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Arable crop production	3.60	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Poultry production	3.60	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Rabbit production	3.52	5 <sup>th</sup>
Tools maintenance operation	3.49	6 <sup>th</sup>
Pig production	3.45	7 <sup>th</sup>
Animal health operation	3.41	8 <sup>th</sup>
Storage operation	3.38	9 <sup>th</sup>
Farm product processing	3.38	9 <sup>th</sup>
Sheep and goat production	3.17	11 <sup>th</sup>
Grass cutter production	2.95	12 <sup>th</sup>
Snail production	2.91	13 <sup>th</sup>

Source: Field survey, 2012

like tree crop production and other livestock production systems like cattle and sheep and goat production systems

#### **Perception of ex-trainees on relevance of LFSA training programme**

Ex-trainees' perception of programme relevance was presented using the rank order of the weighted mean scores of the perceptual statements. Results in Table 3 showed that the statement LFSA training has helped me become a better farmer (3.78) ranked highest. This was followed by the statement LFSA provided information about new and improved technology that has helped me increase production (3.74). The ex-trainees perceived the LFSA to have helped in reducing crime rate among the youth in Osun state (3.42). The statement LFSA has brought about a positive shift in rural development in Osun state (3.28) ranked lowest on the table. Furthermore, ex-trainees' perception of programme relevance was further analyzed. The mean score of the ex-trainees' perception was  $34.50 \pm 3.52$ .

Table 4 showed that many (66.9%) of the ex-trainees had neutral perception, 16.9

per cent had positive perception and 16.2 per cent had negative perception towards the relevance of LFSA programme to agricultural production amongst the youth. This analysis of the perception of the ex-trainees is an indication to the fact that many of them are still indifferent to the influence of the training programme on their choice of agriculture as a profession or the influence of the training on rural development. This might be due to the fact that some of them might already be agriculturally inclined before the training or some of them took the training just because the opportunity came not necessarily because they were interested in agriculture.

#### **Agricultural production of ex-trainees of Leventis Foundation School of Agriculture, Ilesa**

Table 5 showed that majority (95.4%) of the respondents were involved in agriculture while 4.6 per cent were not involved in agriculture. Majority (73.9%) of the respondents were involved in agriculture as a major occupation while 26.2 per cent practiced agriculture as a minor occupation. The average farm size of

**Table 3: Weighted mean scores of the perceptual statements on relevance of training programme**

<b>Statements</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Remark</b>
Leventis training has helped me become a better farmer	3.78	0.43	High
Leventis provided information about new improved technology that has helped me increased production		3.74	2.63 High
There is a positive shift in my attitude as a young person towards agriculture as a result of Leventis training programme	3.54	0.50	High
Leventis has contributed to our (trainees') economic status		3.50	0.52 High
Leventis training has provided employment for a good number of youths in Osun State	3.45	0.61	High
Leventis training has helped to reduce crime rate among the youths of Osun State		3.42	0.60 High
Leventis has created sense of responsibility among youths' in Osun state		3.38	0.57 High
Leventis Programme is compatible with the cultural values of the people of Osun State		3.32	0.53 High
Leventis training is sufficient for commercial agricultural practice	3.31	0.62	High
Leventis has brought about a positive shift in rural development in Osun State		3.28	0.59 High

Source: Field survey, 2012

**Table 4: Classification of ex-trainees' perception on programme relevance**

<b>Perception classification</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Positive	21	16.2
Neutral	87	66.9
Negative	22	16.9

Mean = 34.50, Standard deviation = 3.52

Source: Field survey, 2012

**Table 5: Distribution of ex-trainees' involvement in agriculture**

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage	Central tendencies
<b>Currently involved in agricultural production</b>			
No	6	4.6	
Yes	124	95	
<b>Extent of participation in agricultural production</b>			
Minor	31	26.2	
Major	93	73.9	
<b>Size of farm in hectare</b>			
<= 2	102	78.5	Mean=2.04
2.1 - 4	27	20.8	Std. dev. =0.78
5.1+	1	.8	
<b>Income from agricultural production in 2011</b>			
<= ₦350000	73	56.2	Mean= ₦321, 275
₦350001 - ₦500000	45	34.6	Std. dev. = ₦97, 873
₦500001 - ₦750000	12	9.2	
<b>Willingness to continue with agricultural production</b>			
No	7	5.4	
Yes	123	94.6	

the respondents was  $2.04 \pm 0.78$  hectare. Majority (94.6%) of the respondents were willing to continue with agricultural production while 5.4 per cent were willing to discontinue agricultural production. This willingness of the youth to continue with agricultural production could be harnessed to ensure availability of food at affordable prices for the teeming populace in the state and in the country at large. This is because willingness to act is known to precede action.

The results in the table 5 also showed that more than half (56.2%) of the respondents made less or equal to ₦350, 000 in 2011 from agricultural production while 34.6 per cent made between ₦350, 001 and ₦500, 000 and only 9.2 per cent made between ₦500, 001-₦750, 00 in 2011 from agricultural production. The average income of the ex-trainees from agricultural production in 2011 is ₦321,

275+₦97, 873. Going by the ₦18, 000 minimum monthly wage in the country, it is visible that the average monthly income (₦26, 772) accruable to the ex-trainees from agricultural production is more than the national monthly minimum wage. With the willingness of these ex-trainees and provision of production resources, their agricultural production could be increased which will translate to more farm income.

Table 6 showed the various farm size for the crops planted by the ex-trainees and the number of the various farm animals they raised. Many (61.5%) of the ex-trainees involved in arable crop production had farm size below the group mean value for maize production while 38.5 per cent had farm size above the mean. The mean farm size of the ex-trainees for maize production was  $2 \pm 0.71$  hectare. Also, 66.2 per cent of the ex-trainees involved in arable crop production had farm size below the group mean value for cassava production while

**Table 6: Distribution of ex-trainees showing crops planted and animal raised**

	Frequency	Percentage	Central tendency
<b>Maize farm size in ha</b>			
Below mean	80	61.5	Mean=2.0
Above mean	50	38.5	Std. deviation=0.71
<b>Cassava farm size in ha</b>			
Below mean	86	66.2	Mean=2.0
Above mean	44	33.8	Std. deviation=0.93
<b>Vegetable farm size in ha</b>			
Below mean	62	62.0	Mean=1.0
Above mean	38	38.0	Std. deviation=0.76
<b>Number of birds raised</b>			
Below mean	52	69.3	Mean=235.7
Above mean	23	30.7	Std. deviation=87.5
<b>Number of pigs raised</b>			
Below mean	41	67.2	Mean=24.5
Above mean	20	32.8	Std. deviation=8.5
<b>Number of sheep raised</b>			
Below mean	37	82.2	Mean=6.5
Above mean	8	17.8	Std. deviation=2.5
<b>Number of goat raised</b>			
Below mean	57	85.1	Mean=5.5
Above mean	10	14.9	Std. deviation=1.7
<b>Number of fish stocked</b>			
Below mean	14	56.0	Mean=755
Above mean	11	44.0	Std. deviation=212

Source: Field survey, 2012

33.8 per cent had farm size above the mean. The mean farm size of the ex-trainees for cassava production was  $2 \pm 0.93$  hectare. Furthermore, many (62.0%) of the ex-trainees involved in vegetable production had farm size below the group mean value while 38.0 per cent of them had farm size above the mean. The mean value of the ex-trainees' vegetable production was  $1 \pm 0.76$  hectare.

Furthermore, many (69.3%) of the ex-trainees involved in poultry raised below 236 birds while 30.7 per cent raised above 236 birds. The mean value for poultry production of the ex-trainee was  $236 \pm 87.5$ . Similarly, many (67.2%) of the ex-trainees involved in pig production raised below 25

pigs while 32.8 per cent raised above 25 pigs. The mean value for the pig production of the ex-trainees was  $25 \pm 8.5$ . Likewise, majority (82.2%) of the ex-trainees involved in sheep production raised below 7 sheep while 17.8 per cent raised above 7. The mean value of sheep production of the ex-trainees was  $7 \pm 2.5$ . Furthermore, majority (85.1%) of the ex-trainees involved in goat production raised below 6 goats while 14.9 per cent raised above 6 goats. The mean value of the ex-trainees' goat production was  $6 \pm 1.7$ . Also, more than half (56.0%) of the ex-trainees involved in fishery bred below 755 fish while 44.0 per cent of the ex-trainees involved in fish production bred more than 755 fish. The

average number of fish bred by the ex-trainees was  $755 \pm 212$ .

The results in Table 6 revealed that in the entire crops produced and animals raised by the ex-trainees in the study area, many of them produced below the group means for each enterprise. This revealed that the potentials of the ex-trainees have not been maximized concerning each of the farming enterprise they were involved in. This cannot be unconnected with the complaints of many of the ex-trainees during data collection that singled out lack of adequate access to land and capital as the major setbacks to expanding production of their selected crops and animals.

### Results of correlation and regression analyses

Results in Table 7 showed that there was a positive and significant relationship between agricultural production designated by the income accruable from the crops produced and animal raised by the ex-trainees in the previous growing season and

ex-trainees' age ( $r=0.315$ ,  $p \leq 0.01$ ), the coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ) was 0.10. This implied that the older the respondent, the higher the agricultural production of the ex-trainees and as the ex-trainees grow older, their farming experience increases and probably their management skills improve. This in one way or the other impart positively on their agricultural production. There was also a positive and significant relationship between agricultural production of ex-trainees and their years of farm experience ( $r=0.363$ ,  $p \leq 0.01$ ) the coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ) was 0.13. This implied that the higher the farming experience of the ex-trainees, the higher their agricultural production-as the ex-trainees increase in farming experience, their farm production tend to improve.

Furthermore, there was a positive and significant relationship between agricultural production of ex-trainees and household size of the ex-trainees ( $r=0.367$ ,  $p \leq 0.01$ ) the coefficient of determination

**Table 7: Correlation analysis showing relationship between selected independent variables and ex-trainees agricultural production**

Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r)	Coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ )	Remark
Age	0.315**	0.099	Significant
Years of formal education	0.055	0.003	Not significant
Years of farm experience	0.363**	0.132	Significant
Household size	0.367**	0.135	Significant
Criteria for selection	0.007	0.000	Not significant
Farm size in hectare	0.330**	0.109	Significant
Association participation	0.190*	0.036	Significant
Number of crops produced	0.137	0.019	Not significant
Number of animals raised	0.189*	0.036	Significant

\*Significant at 0.05 level, \*\*Significant at 0.01 level

**Table 8: Result of regression analysis**

Variables	T	Sig.		
	Coefficients	T - value	Significant	
Age	.000	-.003	.997	
Year of formal education	-.042	-.551	.583	
Year of farm experience	.199	1.787	.047	
Household size	.176	1.407	.162	
Perception total score	.073	.861	.391	
Number crops planted	-.079	-.939	.350	
Number of animals raised	.109	1.396	.165	
Organization participation	.174	2.164	.033	
Size of farm in hectare	.338	3.538	.001	

Source: Field survey, 2012

( $r^2$ ) was 0.14. This is because with family size, there is a sense of responsibility on the part of the farmers to cater for the needs of their family and hence they tend to improve on their source of income. Also, the contribution of their family members to their farming activities might be a factor in increasing production. There was a positive and significant relationship between farm size of ex-trainees' ( $r=0.330$ ,  $p\leq 0.01$ ) and agricultural production of ex-trainees. The coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ) was 0.11. This was because those with larger farm size have enough land to demonstrate the innovation learnt during the training programme. Therefore, bigger farm size might translate into higher agricultural production for the ex-trainees all things being equal.

Also, a positive and significant relationship exists between organizational

participation ( $r = 0.190$ ,  $p\leq 0.05$ ) of ex-trainees and their agricultural production. The coefficient of determination is 0.04. Ex-trainees' participation in various organizations might provide avenue for extension contact and for adequate information dissemination among peers which might have translated into better decision making and eventual improvement or increase in agricultural production.

Results in Table 8 showed the outcome of the multiple linear regression analysis carried out. The results in Table 8 revealed that 3 variables: year of farm experience ( $b= 0.199$ ), organizational participation score ( $b= 0.174$ ) and size of farm in hectares ( $b= 0.338$ ) explained 36.3 per cent change in the agricultural production (quantity produced) of the ex-trainees. This suggested that these three variables are

germane in improving the quantity of agricultural produce of the youth thereby improving their contribution to combating hunger in their various communities and by extension the nation at large. Furthermore, the F-statistic was 7.043 and was significant. This implied that the variables considered in the study were significant in explaining the changes in the agricultural production of ex-trainees of LFSA. Other variables not studied might also influence changes in the agricultural production of the ex-trainees of LFSA.

### Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, Leventis Foundation School of agriculture training programme has impacted positively on the ex-trainees as majority of the respondents were involved in full time agricultural production after their participation in the training programme. Furthermore, farm management practices, vegetable production, arable crop and poultry production were the leading agricultural production system/practices that ex-trainees were exposed to during their training at LFSA. Agricultural production of the ex-trainees was influenced by variables like age, farm experience, household size, farm size and their participation in organizations.

To maximize the participation of the ex-trainees in agricultural production towards contributing to the fight against hunger in their immediate communities and the country at large, the study made the following recommendations.

1. Assistance should be given to the ex-trainees in the area of land acquisition by relevant agencies to maximize the acquired knowledge and skill during their training alongside their willingness to participate in

agricultural production.

2. Efforts should be made by the school to leverage on their relationship with these ex-trainees and help organize them into groups and/or strengthen their existing groups to be able to access the various benefits available through the various agricultural and other developmental programmes sponsored by the government, non-governmental organizations and international agencies.
3. Agricultural production is capital intensive therefore, government and non-governmental organization could help the ex-trainees with capital to expand production of their chosen agricultural enterprises.
4. Motivation of these ex-trainees to continue with agriculture should be sustained therefore, LFSA, government and non-governmental organizations could organize fora where the potentials of agriculture will be projected and these youths will be encouraged along the lines of their chosen enterprises.

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