

## PERCEPTION OF YOUTH TOWARDS FISH FARMING IN OLUYOLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA.

**Oladiran S. S., Agude T., Adeosun D.G., Adediji B.A., And Yilson J**

Department of Agricultural Extension and Management, Federal College of Agriculture, Ibadan Oyo State, Nigeria

Corresponding author's e-mail/Phone number: [foodforthought2000@yahoo.com](mailto:foodforthought2000@yahoo.com)/ 08035777674

### ABSTRACT

*The study was carried out to determine the perception of youth to fish farming in Oluyole Local Government area of Oyo state, Nigeria. Multi stage sampling techniques was used to select 120 respondents for this study. Primary data was used in collecting data for this study through a well-structured questionnaire; the study was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. It was revealed that average 52.5% of the respondents were male, 42.5% of the respondents were within 21-30 years of age, 49.2% of the respondents were married while 60.0% of the respondents had tertiary education and 49.2% of the respondents had between 1-4 and 5-8 household members and 52.5% of the respondents earned less than 50,000 naira monthly. Some of the respondents 39.2% had trading as their occupation, 53.3% of the respondents had access to extension services and 57.5% of the respondents used 1.4m pond size. Moreover, 49.2% of the respondents stocked lesser or equal to 2000 fingerlings and majority 95.8% of the respondents reared catfish. The study also revealed the respondents perception towards fish farming of which 63% Strongly agreed that fish farming help to reduce unemployment , 70% of the respondents agreed that fish farming improve the standard of living and 41% Agreed that fish farming doesn't require expert to set up . The study finally assessed the constraints faced by the youths in their involvement in fish production and the result revealed that high cost of feed , incidence of diseases/pests and inadequate Extension contact are the major constraints hindering the participation of youths in fish farming. The chi square analysis revealed that socio economic characteristics such sex ( $\chi^2=6.976$ ) educational level ( $\chi^2=14.261$ ) were both significant to the perception category of youth on fish farming since the P-value <0.05, this implies that sex and educational level have effect on respondents' perception of catfish farming. Finally, it recommended in this study that more attention from government and private organizations through provision of financial assistance and grants is recommended, as this will encourage the youth to be more involved in the sector. Orientation changing programmes should be organized to change the mindset of the youths concerning farming activities.*

**Key Words: Fish Farming , Perceived effect**

### 1.0 Introduction

Nigeria with a population of over 200million people is blessed with abundant natural resources for agricultural production. The recent popularity of aquaculture is as a result of the huge potentials of the sector in the country (Adeoye et al., 2015). The demand for fish protein is about 2.7million MT and only 800,000 Metric Tonne (MT) is produced locally. It shows that there is still a short in supply of about 1.9 million MT (FDF, 2018). Considering the gap in supply and the large suitable land for fish culture in the country, the potential of the aquaculture sector to meet the fish demand of the increasing population cannot be questioned and over-emphasized. One of the problems for non-realization of our goal of food sufficiency is the condition of the Nigerian farmers and farming environment (Nwachukwu, 2018). The Nigerian farmer is ageing with an average age of 50 years (Aphunu and Atoma, 2010). Agriculture is one of the most viable sectors particularly in terms of its employment potentials. It is the foundation for the development of stable human communities, both in

rural and urban communities. It providesbg environmental benefits such as, conservation, guaranteed sustainable management of renewable natural resources and preserved biodiversity (Preshstore, 2013).

Fishing is the harvesting of fish from its natural source, while fish farming is the rearing of fish in artificial or natural ponds (Uyigue and gho, 2007). Fish farming as well as fishing is an integral component of the overall agricultural production system in Nigeria.

Aquaculture in Nigeria still requires some physical strength which are already ageing farmers do not poses. Youth amounts to about 80million, representing about 60% of the total population of the country (Awogbenle and Iwuamadi, 2010). This shows that the youth dominates the country in terms of population, but the apathy of the youths towards fish farming has limited their participation in the sector (Adewale, 2005). Presently, it has been observed that the number of youth involved in aquaculture is very small (NaFIRRI, 2010). Rather

than Manage getting involved in farming activities, majority of the youth are after administrative and other office setting jobs which is not even sufficiently available. The youths have been identified to constitute the major resource base for any country that wants to embark on any meaningful agricultural and rural development project (Onuekwusi, 2005). Therefore, sustainability of the fish venture which is highly profitable is dependent on the effective participation of the younger generation. This study is carried out to assess youth perception towards fish production in Ibadan metropolis. Specifically, the study was designed Aquaculture is defined as the rearing of fish in artificial or natural bodies of water by manipulation of the environment with the aim of increasing production beyond natural limit. (Adeoye *et al.*, 2015). The recent popularity of aquaculture in the country is as a result of a decline in the natural stock. As the human population increases and consequent protein demand, the overexploitation of the natural fish resources has made aquaculture a major option to combat protein malnutrition in the country (Daramola, Osofero, Kester and badamosi, 2017).

Fish remains a major source of protein in human diet. According to FDF (2018), there is still a short in supply of about 1.9 million Metric Tons in which aquaculture has the capability to meet if more participants are injected into the sector. This shows the big opportunity waiting to be explored by youth participation in the aquaculture sector. Different units and channels make up the aquaculture sector thereby giving the opportunity to function in different areas within the sector which will in turns contribute to the development of the sector and also reduce unemployment among youths . (Adeoye *et al.*, 2015).

Presently, It has been observed that the number of youth involved in aquaculture is very small (NaFIRRI, 2010). Rather than getting involved in farming activities, majority of the youth are after administrative and other office setting jobs which is not even sufficiently available. The youths have been identified to constitute the major resource base for any country that wants to embark on any meaningful agricultural and rural development project (Onuekwusi, 2005). This research was conducted with the broad objective of examine the perception of youth to fish farming production in Oluyole Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study: describe the socio economic characteristics of the respondents (ii) identify the sources of information to youth on fish farming (iii) examine the perception of youth towards fish farming production(iv) identify the constraints faced by fish farming production among youth .

The null hypothesis state that the selected socio economic characteristics of the respondents do not significantly determine their perception of youth towards fish farming production.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

**2.1 Study Area:** The study was conducted in Oluyole Local Government area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Its headquarters is at Idi Ayunre. It has an area of 629 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 202,725 by 2006 population census. Oluyole Local Government Area falls within Latitude 7.3215° N, and Longitude 3.8707° E . The Local Government Area shares boundaries with Ibadan South West and East Local Government Area to the North, Ido Local Government Area to the North West and Ona-Ara Local Government Area to the East. It also shares boundaries with Ogun State to the South. Ward 1 covers a land area of approx 63,538 square kilometres. Using a growth rate of 3.2% from 2006 population census, 2010 estimated population for the Ward was projected to be approx 22,991 with a population density of 36 persons per square kilometre. The area is subdivided into 10 wards: namely; Idi-Ayunre Sector and Olode Sector. Idi-Ayunre Sector comprises of: Orisunbare. Olode Sector Comprises of Ward 1 – Ayegun, Ward 2 – Orita/Odo Ona-Eluwe, Ward 3 – Pegba/Egbeda Tuba Ward 4 Ward 5 – Odo Ona-Nla/Idi-Ayunre, Ward 6 – Latunde Ward 7 – Olomi/Olunde. Ward 8 – Abanla/Olonde Ward 9 – Onipe/Busogboro Ward 10 — Muslim/Ifelodun. Soil fertility in the area enhances the cultivation of cassava, maize and some other notable crops and also most of the youth were into fish farming, trading, fashion designing bricklaying and others related works.

**2.2 Method of data Collection:** The data for the study were obtained mainly from primary source through the use of structured questionnaires designed in line with the objectives of the study

**2.3 Sampling techniques :** Multi-stage sampling techniques were used in the selection of the respondents for this study. In the first stage, randomly selection of youth involve in fish farming was selected due to the predominance of fish farmers in the area. In the second stage. out of twelve (12) wards in Oluyole Local Government Area, five (5) wards (Idi-Ayunre and Olode Orisunbare, Ayegun, Orita/Odo Ona-Eluwe, Pegba/Egbeda Tuba, Odo Ona-Nla/Idi-Ayunre.) were randomly selected to exclude bias and ensure randomness. In the Third stage, two (2) communities each were randomly selected from the five (5) wards to give a total number of ten (10) communities. In the fourth stage, 12 respondents each were randomly selected from the 10 communities give a total number of 120 respondents for the study

**2.4 Method of Data Analysis:** Data for this study were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency, mean count and percentage to describe the socio- economic characteristics of the youth farmers in the study area while the inferential statistics such as Chi square was used to determine youth perception towards fish faming in the study area.

2.5 Chi-Square test

$X^2 =$  chi square

$o_i =$  Observed value

E<sub>i</sub>=Expected value

$$\chi_c^2 = \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

### 3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The result shows that little above half 52.5% of the respondents were males while 47.5% were females. This shows that male was more into fish farming in the study area. This may be due to the fact that fish farming requires more strength. This result was justified by Brummett *et al.* (2010) who reported that fisheries activities are mostly dominated by males. The table 1 also show the age distribution of the respondents, it revealed that 42.5% of the respondents were within 21-30 years of age, 38.2% were within 31-40 years, 21.7% were within 41-50 years' age while 8.3% within 51-60 years of age. This implies that most of the respondents were in their active age,

which makes it easy for them as they have the required strength. This is in line with the findings of Olowosegun *et al.* (2004) that an economically active age portends better future for catfish production. Above average 52.5% of the respondents earned less than 50,000 naira monthly, 18.3% earned between 51,000-100000 naira monthly, 10.0% earned above 101,000-150,000, 8.3% earned 151,0000-200,00 naira monthly while 10.8% earned greater than 200,000 naira monthly. This implies that average of the respondents in the study area were low income earner. The level of education of the respondents reveal that (60.0%) of the respondents had tertiary education, 25.0% had secondary occupation, 6.7% had primary education while 8.3% had no formal education. This means that fish farming dominated by the educated class and mostly by those armed with high level of education. This is so because fish farming requires a lot of technical and scientific knowledge to be successfully undertaken marital status of the respondents reveal that 49.2% of the respondents were married, 45.0% were single while 5.8% were divorced.

**Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of respondents (n=120)**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Mean</b>
<b>Age (years)</b>			
Less or equal 20	8	6.7	
21-30	8	42.5	
31-40	51	38.2	31
41-50	46	9.2	
51-60	11	1.7	
>60	2	1.7	
<b>Sex (dummy)</b>			
Male	63	52.5	
Female	57	47.5	
<b>Marital status(dummy)</b>			
Single	54	45.0	
Married	59	49.2	
Divorced	7	5.8	
<b>Religion(dummy)</b>			
Christianity	60	50.0	
Traditional	6	5.0	
Islam	54	45.0	
<b>Educational Level(years spent)</b>			
Primary	8	6.7	
Secondary	30	25.0	
Tertiary	72	60.0	
No formal education	10	8.3	
<b>Household size(no of persons)</b>			
1-4	59	49.2	
4-8	59	49.2	5
9-12	1	0.8	
>12	1	0.8	
<b>Income (Naira)</b>			
Less or equal 50k	63	52.5	48k
51k-100k	22	18.3	
101-150k	12	10.0	
151k-200k	10	8.3	
>200k	13	10.8	
<b>Types of fish reared(dummy)</b>			
Tilapia	5	4.2	
Catfish	115	95.8	
<b>Access to extension services(dummy)</b>			
Yes	64	53.3	
No	6	46.7	
<b>Pond size(in metre)</b>			
1.4m	69	57.5	
1.5m	48	40.0	1.3m
1.8m	3	2.5	
<b>Quantity of fingerlings stocked</b>			
Less or equal 2000	59	49.2	
2001-4000	17	14.2	1900
4001-6000	24	20.0	
6001-8000	7	5.8	
>8000	13	10.8	

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**Source:FieldSurvey,2020**

### 3.2 Sources of information to youth on fish farming

Table 2 revealed the sources of information to youth on fish farming. The result shows that friends and relation was major sources of information to youth on fish farming which had the highest percentage of 91.7%, others include; radio broadcast 90.0%, television broadcast 83.3% and banner 81.7% while computer 54.2% and Extension Agents 55.8% . This

implies that major sources of information to youth on fish farming was friends and relations. Radio and television broadcast were also sources of information to the youth on fish farming this might be due to the fact that many program on agriculture such as fishing are broadcasted always on radio and television to allow youth who are unemployed to go into fish farming.

**Table 2: Sources of information to youth on fish farming**

Sources	Yes	No
Radio Broadcast	108(90.0)	12(10.0)
Extension Agent	67(55.8)	53(44.2)
Informal meeting	76(63.3)	44(36.7)
Friends & Relations	110(91.7)	10(8.3)
Posters	82(68.3)	38(31.7)
Co-operative society	72(60.0)	48(40.0)
Television Broadcast	100(83.3)	20(16.7)
Newspaper	83(69.2)	37(30.8)
Banner	98(81.7)	22(18.3)
Religion body	89(74.2)	31(25.8)
Internet	84(70.0)	36(30.0)
Handbills	73(60.9)	47(39.2)
Computer	65(54.2)	55(45.8)

Source: Field survey, 2020

All figures in parenthesis are in percentage

### 4.0 Perception of youth towards fish farming production

The perception of the youths about the fish farming sector may have an influence on their production; 52.5% of the youths Strongly agree that fish farming help to reduce unemployment while; 58.3% agreed that fish farming improve the standard of living of youth and 58.3% of the respondents Agree that fish production requires large capital. Therefore, many youths may get discouraged even if the interest is initially there. This is in line with the findings of NIFFRI (2010) that youths perceive aquaculture as a high capital investment and most of them have limited

funds/income to carry out that kind of investment. ;55.8% of the respondents disagree that fish production is meant for the illiterates. This is in contrary to the general opinion that most farmers had no formal education or were unable to complete either primary or secondary education, school system as evident in the study of Ozor (2018) and Okwoche et al. (2018). 47.5% of the respondents are with the perception that fish farming doesn't look attractive, as most of the younger generation prefers the "neat" white collar job with the attractive working environment to farming

**Table 4: Perception of youth towards fish farming production**

Perceptual statements	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Rank
Fish farming help to reduce unemployment	63(52.5)	49(40.8)	6(5.0)	2(1.7)	4.53	1
Fish farm is hard and stressful	26(21.7)	77(64.2)	12(10.0)	5(4.2)	4.31	6
Fish production requires large capital	31(25.8)	70(58.3)	6(5.0)	13(10.8)	4.35	5
Fish production is meant for illiterates	8(6.7)	14(11.7)	67(55.8)	31(25.8)	2.64	8
Fish farming just doesn't look attractive enough	11(9.2)	57(47.5)	33(27.5)	19(15.8)	4.27	7
Fish farming is labour intensive	37(30.8)	65(54.2)	7(5.8)	11(9.2)	4.47	4
Fish farming improve the standard of living of youth	44(36.7)	70(58.3)	6(5.0)	0(0.0)	4.51	2
Fish farming is not a lucrative business	11(9.2)	55(45.8)	37(30.8)	17(14.2)	3.23	9
Fish farming is a profitable business	48(40.0)	64(53.3)	7(5.8)	1(0.8)	4.49	3
fish farming doesn't require expert to set up	9(7.5)	41(34.2)	29(24.2)	41(34.2)	2.72	10

Source: Field survey, 2020

All figures in parenthesis are in percentage

Where :SA=Strongly Agree, A=Agree, SD=Strongly Disagree, and D=Disagree

#### 4.1 Perception category

The perception scores were categorized into favorable and unfavorable categorizes. (44.2%) of the respondents

had unfavorable perception towards fish farming production, while 55.8% had favorable perception of respondents towards fish farming production.

**Table 4.1 Perception category**

Perception category	Frequency	Percentage
Unfavorable	53	44.2
Favorable	67	55.8

Source: Field survey, 2010

#### 4.2 Constraints Affecting Fish Farming Among Youth

The study revealed that high cost of feed ,Incidence of diseases/pests and predators, and Inadequate Extension contact are the major constraints hindering the participation of youths in fish farming. Factors such as difficulty in fingerlings procurement ,Lack of

technical skills, Theft and power water quality were not much of a hindrance to their participation as revealed from the study . This is in line with the findings of NIFFRI (2017) that major constraints to youths in aquaculture are majorly high cost of feed and predators infestation.

**Table 5: Constraints affecting fish farming among youth**

Constraints	Very severe	Severe	Not severe	Mean	Rank
High cost of feed	45(37.5)	72(60.0)	3(2.5)	1.35	1
Theft	26(21.7)	69(57.5)	25(20.8)	1.01	9
inadequate extension contact	30(25.0)	81(67.5)	9(7.5)	1.18	3
Inadequate capital	31(25.8)	74(61.7)	15(12.5)	1.13	5
Unfavorable government policy	43(35.8)	53(44.2)	24(20.0)	1.16	4
Incidence of Diseases/pests and predators	40(33.3)	71(59.2)	9(7.5)	1.26	2
Inadequate land availability	30(25.0)	61(50.8)	29(24.2)	1.01	9
Lack of technical skills	23(19.2)	69(57.5)	28(23.3)	0.96	11
Difficulty in fingerlings procurement	17(14.2)	68(56.7)	35(29.2)	0.85	12
Poor water quality	28(23.3)	69(57.5)	23(19.2)	1.04	8
Technical know how	31(25.8)	68(56.7)	21(17.5)	1.08	6
Climate change	32(26.7)	63(52.5)	25(20.8)	1.06	7

Source: Field survey, 2020

All figures in parenthesis are in percentage

#### 4.3 Chi square analysis showing the significant relationship between some selected socio economic characteristics and perception category of youth on fish farming

The results in Table 6 shows that sex ( $\chi^2=6.976$ ;  $p<0.05$ ) and educational level ( $\chi^2=14.261$ ;  $p<0.05$ ) were both significant to the perception category of youth on fish farming since the P-value  $<0.05$ , this implies that sex and educational level of the respondents showed significant and had greatly affect their perception of youth on fish farming..

#### 4.4 PPMC showing the significant relationship between some selected socio economic characteristics and perception category of youth on fish farming

The result in Table 6.1 shows that quality fingerlings stocked( $r=-0.177$ ;  $P=0.05$ ) had weak correlation on perception of youth on fish farming and shows significant difference. Also, age, household size and income showed no significant and had no effect on perception of youth on fish farming

**Table 6: Chi square analysis showing the significant relationship between some selected socio economic characteristics and perception category of youth on fish farming**

Variable	$\chi^2$	df	p-value	Decision
Sex	6.976	1	0.008	Significant
Marital status	1.542	2	0.463	Not significant
Religion	0.785	2	0.675	Not significant
Educational level	14.261	3	0.003	Significant
Secondary occupation	0.232	2	0.891	Not significant
Access to extension services	2.472	1	0.116	Not significant

**Source: Field survey, 2020**

P<0.05 Significant

P>0.05 not significant

### 5.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

This study assessed the perception of the youth towards fish farming in Oluyole Local Government Area. It was observed that 49.2% of the respondents were married and this was suspected to have an influence to their participation in fish production, as marriage confers responsibility and commitment to individuals. The study also revealed that 60.0% of the respondents are well educated which increases their chances of being more interested in a white collar job. Although, studies have confirmed that fish farming is now dominated by educated class. Youths still believed that fish farming is stressful and requires large capital investment while many others see it as not attractive enough despite as revealed in this study. Majority of the youths in fish farming are involved in the production as a result of unemployment in the country and therefore serve as just a means of survival to them. The effective participation of the youths in fish farming have been hampered by their perception towards the sector and some general constraints such as high cost of quality fish feed and lack of credit facilities/financial assistance for land acquisition and others.

Based on the conclusion of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- i Extension agents in collaboration with fish members association should sensitize fishers in good management practices and improve technology associated with fish production so as to increase their production and encourage others to venture into fish farming
- ii Favorable policy should be adequately adhered to by the Government
- iii Respondents in the study area should form cooperative society and they should work with public and private financial institution to provide loan with little interest so that they can have access to enough capital to expand their business

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