Households' Preference and Utilization for Selected Spices in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study assessed households' preference and utilization for selected spices in Ibadan metropolis in Oyo state of Nigeria. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to collect data from 150 respondents using structured questionnaire. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics, likert scale and linear regression. Result showed that most of the respondents (80.67%) were females while majority were within the age range 26 and 40 with mean household size of 4 persons. A substantial proportion of the respondents (40%) consumed spices because of its taste. Onion was the most preferred spice in terms of taste, small chilli pepper was the most preferred in terms of market price and locust bean was the most preferred in terms of flavour. The likert scale revealed that onions were consumed more regularly than other selected spices. The result of the linear regression indicated that income, expenditure on food, gender, education and reason for consumption of spices have a positive significant relationship with consumption of spices. Based on the findings, it is recommended that nutrition policy in Nigeria should lay more emphasis on increasing consumers' awareness of the health benefits of the selected spices to encourage their consumption.

Keywords: Households, Preference, Utilization, Spices, Regression

Préférence et Utilisation Des Ménages Pour Les Séletionnees Métropole Ibadan Dans L'état D'Oyo, Nigéria

Résumé

Cette étude a évalué la préférence et l'utilisation des ménages pour certaines épices dans la métropole d'Ibadan, dans l'État d'Oyo, au Nigeria. Une technique d'échantillonnage en plusieurs étapes a été utilisée pour recueillir des données auprès de 150 répondants au moyen d'un questionnaire structuré. Les données recueillies ont été analysées à l'aide de statistiques descriptives, d'une échelle de likert et d'une régression linéaire. Les résultats ont montré que la plupart des répondants (80,67 %) étaient des femmes, alors que la majorité se situait dans la tranche d'âge 26 et 40 ans et que la taille moyenne du ménage était de 4 personnes. Une proportion importante des répondants (40 %) ont consommé des épices en raison de leur goût. L'oignon était l'épice la plus préférée en termes de goût, le petit piment était le plus préféré en termes de prix du marché et le caroube était le plus préféré en termes de saveur. L'échelle de likert a révélé que les oignons étaient consommés plus régulièrement que d'autres épices sélectionnées. Le résultat de la régression linéaire a indiqué que le revenu, les dépenses en nourriture, le sexe,

l'éducation et la raison de la consommation d'épices ont une relation significative positive avec la consommation d'épices. Sur la base des résultats, il est recommandé que la politique de nutrition au Nigeria mette davantage l'accent sur la sensibilisation des consommateurs aux bienfaits pour la santé des épices sélectionnées afin d'encourager leur consommation.

Mots clés : Ménages, Préférence, Utilisation, Épices, Régression

Introduction

A spice is a dried seed, fruit, root, bark or vegetative substance primarily used for flavouring, colouring or preserving food (Dziezak, 1989; Iwu, 1993; Manandhar, 1995; Olife et al., 2013). Plants used as spices and condiments are usually aromatic and pungent (Achinewhu et al., 1995). Spices can also be used to hide other flavours and many of them have antimicrobial properties. The flavour of a spice is derived in part from compounds that oxidise or evaporate when exposed to air and lose their colour, taste and aroma over time after harvesting. Processed spices lose flavour more easily than unprocessed ones. This is because spices that have been cut or ground into powder have more surface area exposed to air and so lose flavour more rapidly than unprocessed spices. An unprocessed dried spice has the longest shelf life, so it can be purchased and stored in larger amounts, making it cheaper on a per-serving basis. The shelf life of an unprocessed spice is roughly two years; of a ground spice, roughly six months. However, the "flavour life" of a ground spice can be much shorter. A fresh spice, such as ginger, is usually more flavourful than its dried form, but fresh spices are more expensive (Tainter and G.A.A, 2001; Marcelle, 1995).

Spices have a long history of both culinary and medicinal uses and they are integral parts of the daily diet (Tapsell *et al.*, 2006) and also regarded as one of the first real functional foods, though largely forgotten in the modern, westernized diet. Spices stimulate appetite, add flavour and texture to food, create visual appeal in meals and they have other uses such as religious activities, cosmetic and perfume production (Olife et al., 2013). Spices also play a key role in nutrition as good sources of micro- and macronutrients. Ogunka-Nnoka and Mepba (2008) conducted a proximate analysis of some Nigerian spices and found them to be fairly rich in nutrients. Many of the spices are good sources of calcium, phosphorus, magnesium and zinc. Also, spices provide health benefits such as speeding up of metabolic rate and mitigating of risks of chronic inflammation. As ingredients in numerous local medicines they are used in the treatment of ailments such as dysentery, gastrointestinal troubles, fever, postpartum pain, tapeworms, inflammation of the throat and tonsils, and as carminatives (e.g. the Aframomum species - A. melegueta, and A. danielli) (Ajaiyeoba and Ekundayo, 1999; Odukoya et al., 1999).

Global demand for organically produced food is growing rapidly in Europe, USA, Japan and Australia and other advanced countries. Therefore, food professionals continually search for new and unique spice flavour because of the growing demand for authentic ethnic and cross-cultural cuisines. Consumers are also seeking for foods with natural preservatives for a healthy lifestyle (RMRDC, 2013). The global market for spices is valued at USD 2.3 billion and import is growing at an average of 8.5% annually. According to a FAO report (2005), the US is the largest importer of spices, followed by Germany and other parts of Europe and the middle-East. India export spices to more than 150 countries worldwide. World major

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producers of spices include India (1.6 million tonnes/annum), China (99,000 tonnes/annum), Bangladesh (48,000 tonnes/annum), Pakistan (45,000 tonnes/annum) and Nepal (15,000 tonnes/annum). In Nigeria, production of spices was estimated at 146,500 tonnes in 2000, while available FAO statistics for 2008, put spices production at 377,500 tonnes on the average.

Spices have major stake in the production system and in the foreign earnings of the country and they have great role in transforming farmers as producers for market instead of producing merely for subsistence (Dessalegn, 2015). They also have a prominent place in ensuring rural development, self-sufficiency, food security and ultimately human development. Nigeria with a population of over 180 million people has a huge potential market for spices. If the country is to take advantage of the over expanding world spice market, attention should be given to the domestication, processing and utilisation of indigenous wild species that abound in Nigeria because spices like other non-timber products, have significant potential in terms of creating employment (Soladoye and Sonibare, 2003). In addition, the major cause of dietary deficiency and food insecurity is the decreasing diversity of diets which results in increasing incidence of diseases, poor health and reduction in life span (M'Kaibi et al., 2017). Therefore, there is need for awareness creation to use spices to control disease.

Several studies have been conducted on the production and marketing of spices (Tesfa, *et al.*, 2017; Akinpelu *et al.*, 2011; Hassan, 2015) but little or no studies have been carried out on the preference for and utilization of spices. It is essential that spices be exploited and processed for commercialization as raw materials for local use and export (FAO, 1986). This is in line with the present eco-

nomic programme of the Nigerian Government which aims at getting the Nigerian economy back on the track of sustained economic growth and self-sufficiency. As a result of this, the study examined households' preference and utilization for selected spices in Ibadan metropolis, Nigeria.

Methodology

Study Area

The area of study was Ibadan metropolis in Oyo state of Nigeria. The city comprises of five local government areas, which are Ibadan North-West, Ibadan North, Ibadan North-East, Ibadan South-West and Ibadan South-East (Agboola and Bloxom, 1996). Ibadan Metropolis is bounded in the east by Egbeda Local Government Area and in the west by Ido Local Government Area. It is also bounded in the north by Akinyele Local Government area and to the south by Oluyole Local Government area. Ibadan metropolis has a land area of about 3,123,30km² (Ayeni, 1994). Ibadan is located between latitude 3°3'N and 4° 10'N and longitude 7° 2'E and 7°40'E. It has an average rainfall of between 1000mm and 1350mm. The temperature is between 22°C and 31°C. The principal occupation of the residents of Ibadan metropolis is trading. Others include commercial driving, civil servants, carpentry etc. Major markets include Dugbe, Agbeni and Bodija.

Data Collection Method and Sampling Techniques

The sample frame for the study included household heads who prefer and utilize the following spices: Scent leaf, Ginger, Small Chili Pepper, Bird Chilies, Curry leaf, Alligator Pepper, Locust Beans, Garlic, Onions, Bush buck and Turmeric as shown in (Table 1). The questionnaire was structured to elicit information on preference and utilization of the selected spices.

Multistage sampling technique was employed

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in selecting the representative households in the study area. The first stage was the selection of three local Government Areas, which are Ibadan North-west, Ibadan North and Ibadan South-west from the five Local Government Areas (LGAs). The second stage involved random sampling of five communities from each of the LGAs. These included Ekotedo, Onireke, Eleyele, Jericho, Ayeye from Ibadan northwest LGA; Sango, Agbowo, Yemetu, Mokola, Idi-Ape from Ibadan north LGA; Iyaganku, Oke bola, Ososami, Molete and Odo-ona from Ibadan southwest LGA. In the third stage, 10 households were randomlyselected from each of the 15 communities. A total of 150 respondents from the households were interviewed from the 15 selected communities. One respondent was interviewed separately from each household.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution and percentages, Likert scale and logistic regression model were employed for the study. Descriptive statistics was used to describe the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents, Likert scale to elicit preferences and utilization of selected spices and linear regression was used to examine the factors influencing consumption of spices.

The Likert scale used ranged from 1 to 3 (where Agree =3, Undecided =2 and Disagree =1). The range gives the weight of the responses. The scoring was done by multiplying each frequency by their numeric values and then total summation to get the scores and ranking. (Ngodigha, 2016)

The linear regression was expressed as:

 $\begin{array}{l} Y = b_0 + b_1 X_1 + \ b_2 X_2 + \ b_3 X_3 + \ b_4 X_4 + \ b_5 X_5 + \ b_6 X_6 + \\ b_7 X_7 + \ b_8 X_8 + e_i \end{array}$

Y=Consumption of spices (naira per month) X_1 = Gender of the respondent (Male =1, otherwise=0) X_2 =Age of the respondents (in years)

 X_3 = Marital Status of household head (Married=1, otherwise=0

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Common name	Botanical name	Yoruba	Igbo	Hausa
Scent leaf (Basil)	Ocimum gratissimum	Efirin	Nchanwu	Daidoya
Ginger	Zingiber officinale	Ataile	Jinja	Citta
Small Chili Pepper	Capsicum annuum	Atawewe	Ose nkiri	Borkwono
Bird Chilies	Capsicum frutescens	Tatase/Atarodo	Ose	Borkwono
Curry leaf	Murraya Koenigii	Efirin oso	Nchanwu	Dooday
Alligator Pepper	Aframomum melegueta	Atare	Ose oji	Kanin fari
Locust Beans	Parkia Biglobosa	Iru/Tokoro	Ogiri-igala	Dawadawa
Garlic	Allium sativum	Aayu	Galiki	Tarfanuwa
Onions	Allium cepa	Alubosa	Yabasi	Alibasa
Bush buck	Gongronema latifolium	Madumaro/Arokeke	eUtazi	Daniya
Tumeric	Curcuma longa	Ata ile pupa	-	Gangamau

Table 1: List of selected spices used for this study

Source: Olife et al. (2013)

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 X_4 = Educational level of the Household (educated=1, not educated=0) X_5 = Reason for consumption (flavour =1,

 X_5 = Reason for consumption (flavour =1, others=0)

 X_6 = Households Income (in Naira)

 X_7 = Household expenditure on food (Naira)

 X_8 =Household size (number)

 $e_i = error term$

Results and Discussion

Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents in the Study Area

Majority (81%) of the respondents were females while 19.33% were males (Table 2). The average age of the respondents in the study area was 35 years. The minimum age was 20 years while the maximum age was 70 years. Consumers aged between 26 and 40 had the highest percentage 52%, implying that the respondents are in their economic active age. The result also revealed that most (64.67%) of the respondents were married while 30% were single (Table 2). The majority of the respondents (97.33%) had formal education while 2.67% were uneducated, indicating a very high level of literacy among the respondents.

Respondents who earned between $\aleph 20,000$ and $\aleph 30,000$ were 31.33% and those with income ranging from $\aleph 40,000$ to $\aleph 50,000$ were 29.33%. Those with income above \aleph 80,000 were the least (5.33%) (Table 2). Respondents who spent between $\aleph 10,001$ and $\aleph 20,000$ on food monthly formed the majority group (56%). Respondents who consumed spices because of their taste formed the largest group (40.00%) while those that consumed them for medicinal purposes were the least (28.67%). The majority of respondents (68.00%) had between 1 to 5 members in their households while 27.33% had between 6 to 10 members (Table 2).

Taste

The spice with the most preferred taste was onion with a score of 423 while the spice with the least preferred taste was bush buck with a score of 224 (Table 3). The scent leaf, locust bean and ginger were found to be at the upper side of the preference of the respondents in terms of taste; at 2^{nd} , 3^{rd} and 4^{th} positions, respectively. Small chilli pepper and curry leaf came 5^{th} and 6^{th} respectively while alligator pepper, garlic, bird chilli and turmeric placed 10^{th} , 9^{th} , 8^{th} and 7^{th} respectively (Table 3).

Preferences of Households in Terms of Market Price

The spice with the most preferred market price was the small chilli pepper with a score of 390 while the spice with the least preferred market price was bush buck with a score of 191, as shown in Table 4. The alligator pepper, onion, bird chilli, turmeric and curry leaf placed 2^{nd} , 3^{rd} , 4^{th} , 5th and 6^{th} positions, respectively. Locust bean, scent leaf, garlic and ginger ranked 10^{th} , 9^{th} , 8th and 7^{th} respectively. With 80% of the respondents (120 out of 150) preferring the market price of small chilli pepper, it could imply that the market price for small chilli pepper is favorable for both the low income and high income earning consumers since they can all afford to buy it.

Preferences of Households in Terms of Flavour

The spice with the most preferred flavour was the locust bean with a score of 419 while the spice with the least preferred flavour was the Alligator pepper with a score of 210 which ranked 11th (Table 5). Scent leaf, onions, small chilli pepper, ginger and curry leaf were found at the upper side of the preference scale of the respondents in terms of flavour as they placed 2^{nd} , 3^{rd} 4th, 5th and 6th, respectively, while bush buck, garlic, turmeric and bird chilli settled

Preferences of Households in Terms of

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Variables	Frequency (150)	Percentage (%)
Gender of household head		
Male	29	19.33
Female	121	80.67
Age of household head		
18-25	30	20.00
26-40	78	52.00
41-55	38	25.33
>55	4	2.67
Level of Education of household head		
None	4	2.67
Primary	3	3.33
Secondary	22	14.67
Tertiary	119	79.33
Marital Status of household head		
Single	45	64.67
Married	97	30.00
Divorced	2	1.33
Widowed	6	4.00
Income (naira)		
< 10,000	21	14.00
20,000-30,000	47	31.34
40,000-50,000	44	29.33
60,000-70,000	26	17.33
Above 80,000	12	8.00
Monthly Expenditure on food		
1,000-10,000	45	30.00
10,001- 20,000	84	56.00
20,001-30,000	14	9.33
Above 30,000	7	4.66
Reason for consumption		
Flavour	47	31.33
Medicinal Purposes	43	28.67
Taste	59	40.00
Household Size		
1-5	102	68.00
6-10	41	27.33
>10	7	4.00

Table 2: Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents in the Study Area

Source: Field Survey, 2019

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Spices	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Score	Rank
Scent leaf	127 (84.6)	-	23 (15.4)	404	2^{nd}
Ginger	98 (65.3)	3 (2.0)	49 (32.7)	349	4^{th}
Small chilli Pepp	er 98 (65.4)	2 (1.3)	50 (33.3)	348	5^{th}
Bird chilli	56 (37.4)	6 (4.0)	88 (58.7)	268	8^{th}
Curry leaf	110 (73.3)	-	40 (26.7)	370	6^{th}
Alligator Pepper	30 (20)	15 (10)	105 (70)	225	10^{th}
Locust Bean	124 (82.7)	-	26 (17.3)	398	3 rd
Garlic	48 (32)	9 (6.0)	93 (62)	255	9^{th}
Onions	133 (88.7)	7 (4.7)	10 (6.6)	423	1^{st}
Bush buck	32 (21.3)	10 (6.7)	108 (72)	224	11^{th}
Turmeric	58 (38.6)	5 (3.3)	86 (57.3)	270	7^{th}

Table 3: Preference of Households in Terms of Taste

Table 4: Preferences of Households in Terms of Market Price

Spices	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Score	Rank
Scent leaf	45 (30)	7 (4.7)	98 (65.3)	247	9^{th}
Ginger	65 (43.3)	4 (2.6)	81 (53.9)	284	7^{th}
Small chilli Pepper	120 (80)	-	30 (20.0)	390	1^{st}
Bird chilli	110 (73.3)	10 (6.7)	30 (20.0)	380	4^{th}
Curry leaf	89 (59.4)	-	61 (40.6)	328	6^{th}
Alligator Pepper	117 (78)	5 (3.3)	28 (18.6)	389	2^{nd}
Locust Bean	36 (24)	-	114 (76)	222	10^{th}
Garlic	53 (35.4)	12 (8.0)	85(56.6)	268	8^{th}
Onions	118 (78.6)	-	32 (21.4)	386	3 rd
Bush buck	16 (10.6)	9 (6.0)	125 (83.4)	191	11^{th}
Turmeric	96(64)	11(7.3)	43(28.7)	353	5^{th}

down the scale at 10^{th} , 9^{th} , 8^{th} and 7^{th} respectively (Table 5).

Preferences of Households in Terms of Health Benefits

The most preferred spice in terms of health benefits was onion with a score of 398 while the spice that was least preferred in terms of health benefits was alligator pepper with a score of 117 (Table 6). The locust bean, scent leaf, ginger, garlic and turmeric were found at the upper side of the preference scale of the respondents as they placed 2^{nd} , 3^{rd} , 4^{th} , 5^{th} and 6^{th} , respectively while bush buck, bird chilli, curry leaf and small chilli pepper placed 10^{th} , 9^{th} , 8^{th} and 7^{th} respectively. This result is in agreement with the study by Van Wyk and

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Wink (2005) who reported that most households consume onions because it helps to treat appetite loss, prevents arteriosclerosis, minor digestive disturbances and for other uses such as colds, cough, asthmas and diabetes treatment.

Households Utilization of Selected Spices (using the Likert scale)

The most utilized spice was onion with a score of 743, placing it at 1st position while the least utilized spice was the bush buck with a score

Spices	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Score	Rank
Scent leaf	130 (86.7)	-	20 (13.3)	410	2^{nd}
Ginger	102 (68)	6 (4.0)	42 (28.0)	360	5^{th}
Small chilli Pepper	106 (70.7)	3 (2.0)	41 (27.3)	365	4^{th}
Bird chilli	56 (37.3)	7 (4.7)	87 (58.0)	269	7^{th}
Curry leaf	108 (72)	-	32 (21.3)	356	6^{th}
Alligator Pepper	35 (23.4)	10 (6.7)	85 (56.7)	210	11^{th}
Locust Bean	130 (66.0)	9 (6.0)	11 (7.3)	419	1^{st}
Garlic	46 (30.7)	4 (2.7)	100 (66.7)	246	9^{th}
Onions	127 (84.7)	-	23 (15.3)	404	3^{rd}
Bush buck	35 (23.3)	4 (2.7)	111 (74)	224	10^{th}
Turmeric	50 (33.3)	9 (6.0)	91 (60.7)	259	8^{th}

Table 5: Preference of Households in Terms of Flavours

Table 6: Preference of Households in Terms of Health Benefits

Spices	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Score	Rank
Scent leaf	98 (65.3)	42 (28.0)	10 (6.7)	388	3 rd
Ginger	101 (67.3)	33 (22.1)	16 (10.6)	385	4^{th}
Small chilli Pepper	14 (9.3)	42 (28.0)	94 (62.7)	220	7^{th}
Bird chilli	9 (6.0)	13 (8.7)	128 (85.3)	181	9^{th}
Curry leaf	9 (6.0)	21 (14.0)	120 (80.0)	189	8^{th}
Alligator Pepper	9 (5.9)	9 (6.1)	132 (88)	177	11^{th}
Locust Bean	112 (74.7)	22 (14.7)	16 (10.6)	396	2^{nd}
Garlic	95 (63.3)	32 (21.4)	23 (15.3)	372	5^{th}
Onions	115 (76.6)	18 (12.1)	17 (11.3)	398	1^{st}
Bush buck	7 (4.6)	15 (10.1)	128 (85.3)	179	10^{th}
Turmeric	58 (38.7)	24 (16.0)	68 (45.3)	290	6^{th}

of 382, which placed the 11th (Table 7). Locust bean, small chilli pepper, scent leaf, curry leaf and ginger were found at the upper level of the consumption scale as they placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th positions respectively while alligator pepper, garlic, turmeric, bird chilli placed 10th, 9th, 8th and 7th respectively. This result is in consonance with the findings of Achinewhu *et al.* (1995) that onions are more utilized by households because onions impart aroma and taste to food preparations and sometimes mask undesirable odours.

Factors Influencing Households Consumption of Spices

Linear regression with eight explanatory variables were specified. The adjusted R^2 shows that 59.7% of the variation in the total consumption expenditure of spices is explained by the independent variables. The F-value was 92.534 and highly significant at 1% level of significance indicating a regression of best fit. It also implies that the joint influence of all the explanatory variables on consumption of spices was quite strong. The factors that influence consumption of spices are income, household expenditure on food,

gender, education and occupation. As revealed in Table 8, income was significant at 1% and has a positive influence on consumption of spices. This shows that with an increase in income, there would be an increase in consumption of spices. Household expenditure on food is also positive and significant at 1%. This indicates that as household expenditure on food increases consumption of spices increases. The respondents being mostly female also had a significant positive relationship with consumption of spices, which implies that expenditure on spices increases with more females. The coefficient of education was also positive and significant at 5%. This implies that an additional year gained in acquiring formal education will lead to a corresponding increase in consumption of spices in the study area. Table 8 further disclosed that the reason for consumption (dummy variable) has a positive relationship with monthly expenditure on spices. This confirms what was reported in Table 2 that respondents largely consume spices because of its taste compared to other benefits provided by spices.

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Spices	Regularly	Occasionally	Undecided	Rarely	Never	Score	Rank
Scent leaf	63 (42.0)	70 (46.7)	4 (2.67)	11 (7.3)	2 (1.3)	631	4^{th}
Ginger	34 (22.7)	83 (55.3)	4 (2.7)	24 (16.0)	5 (3.3)	567	6^{th}
Small chilli Peppe	er 96 (64.0)	29 (19.3)	14 (9.3)	8 (5.3)	3 (2.0)	657	3^{rd}
Bird chilli	36 (24.0)	67 (44.7)	14 (9.3)	15 (10.0)	18(12.0)	538	7^{th}
Curry leaf	55 (36.67)	86 (57.33)	2 (1.3)	4 (2.7)	3 (2.0)	636	5^{th}
Alligator Pepper	14 (9.3)	59 (39.3)	10 (6.7)	52 (34.7)	15(10.0)	455	10^{th}
Locust Bean	116 (77.3)	14 (9.3)	1 (0.7)	15 (10.0)	4 (2.7)	673	2^{nd}
Garlic	33 (22.0)	34 (22.7)	12 (8.0)	53 (35.3)	18(12.0)	465	9^{th}
Onions	146 (97.3)	3 (2.0)	-	-	1 (0.7)	743	1^{st}
Bush buck	29 (19.3)	19 (12.7)	17 (11.3)	25 (16.7)	60(40.0)	382	11^{th}
Turmeric	43 (28.7)	39 (26.0)	7 (4.7)	36 (24.0)	25(16.7)	489	$8^{^{th}}$

Table 7: Households Utilization of Selected Spice (using the Likert scale)

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Variable	Coefficient	Standard error	t-value
Income	0.152***	0.054	2.80
Household expenditure on food	0.001***	0.365	0.27
Gender	0.273**	0.119	2.28
Age	0.005	0.005	0.95
Marital status	-0.064	0.068	-0.94
Education	0.165**	0.072	-2.30
Household size	-0.056	0.048	-1.16
Reason (dummy)	0.102***	0.037	2.77
Constant	1.306	0.521	2.50
R^2	0.444		
Adjusted R ²	0.412		

Table 8: Regression Result Showing Factors Influencing Consumption of Spices

*** = Significant at 1% ** = Significant at 5%

Conclusions

Based on the findings from this study, it can be concluded that females consumed these selected spices more because women most times are decision makers on what is eaten in most households, in the process they make use of these selected spices. Also onions, locust bean, scent leaf, small chilli pepper were the most preferred and consumed while Bush buck and Alligator pepper were least preferred and consumed. The findings of the study also showed that income, expenditure on food, gender, level of education and reason for consuming spices had significant relationship with consumption of the selected spices.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

The nutrition policy in Nigeria should lay more emphasis on increasing consumer awareness of the health benefits to be derived by consuming these spices. This will help consumers to appreciate what they stand to gain in terms of health benefits and thus increase the consumption level of these spices.

The government should encourage more farmers to produce spices by providing incentives in terms of financial support to ensure availability to consumers at affordable prices.

The government should also make effort towards improving the standard of living of the low income consumers and also create job opportunities for the people since income has significant relationship on the consumption of these selected spices.

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