

# Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria

Number: Twenty-Sixth Annual Conference

Theme: Redefining Agricultural Extension Practice to Cope with Emergencies

Date: 26-29, April 2021

Venue: Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

ISSN: 1595 – 1421. <http://aesonnigeria.org/ConfProc> . Email: [editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org](mailto:editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org)

## Adaptation Strategies to Land Grabbing among Agri-preneurs in Lagos State, Nigeria

<https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/jae.v26i1.2S>

---

**Yusuf-Oshoala M. A<sup>1</sup>., Okeowo T.A<sup>1</sup>., Orowole P.F<sup>1</sup>., Adebayo C. O<sup>1</sup>., Umunnah M.O<sup>2</sup>. and Agbajuni O.M<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Agricultural Extension and Management, Lagos State Polytechnic, Ikorodu

<sup>2</sup>Federal College of Wildlife Management, P.M.B. 268, New Bussa, Niger State.

Corresponding Author: Yusuf-Oshoala M. A. 08036286085

E-mail: [morufat02@yahoo.com](mailto:morufat02@yahoo.com)

---

### Abstract

*The study identified adaptation strategies to land grabbing among agri-preneurs using three stage sampling technique. First was purposive selection of Ibeju-Lekki and Ikorodu Local Governments. Second stage was selection of communities mostly affected by land grabbing activities; third stage involved use of representative sampling technique to select sixty respondents. Data collected through interview schedule were analyzed using percentage and chi-square. Results showed that increased urbanization 48.3% accounted for major cause of land grabbing. Building and construction was used by 60% of the respondents as the most effective preventive measure. The majority (83.3%) of the respondents used change in farming system as their coping strategies. A significant relationship existed between education status and coping strategies ( $X^2= 11.7$ ). Land grabbing is gradually driving agricultural production into extinction in Ibeju-Lekki and Ikorodu Local Government Areas mostly known for agricultural production. Equipping farmers with adequate knowledge on different farming system such as mixed cropping, mixed farming and integrated farming system. Extension services should be geared towards giving farmers technical advice and information on how to effectively use the little land at their disposal and Government should assist farmers by ensuring strict adherence to formulated policy on land grab matters.*

**Keywords: Adaptation, agri-preneurs, land grabbing, strategies.**

### Introduction

Agriculture an important and vital sector of the Nigeria economy contributed 29.25% as at third quarter of 2019 to the Nigerian economy (GDP) and also create job opportunities for about 48.19% of the active labor force of the population (Nigerian Bureau of Statistics 2017 & 2019)

Use of land for agricultural purpose in recent time has become a great issue in Nigeria and Lagos state in particular. Land is a resource that determines the socioeconomic and political relations amongst people (Bello, 2007). It is the solid surface of the earth that is not permanently covered with water. Land is a crucial factor of production because it acts as both resource and reference point for social identity and solidarity. The rush for use of land among people has increased, public and private organisations, local elites and foreign investors are taking control over large expanse of agricultural land; this phenomenon is known as land grabbing.

# **Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria**

**Number:** Twenty-Sixth Annual Conference

**Theme:** Redefining Agricultural Extension Practice to Cope with Emergencies

**Date:** 26-29, April 2021

**Venue:** Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

**ISSN:** 1595 – 1421. <http://aesonnigeria.org/ConfProc> . **Email:** [editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org](mailto:editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org)

Land grabbing is a serious issue that affect the environment, economy, social welfare and rights of people. The term “land grabbing” is referred to as large scale acquisitions of land by private investors, public investors and agribusiness that buys or lease farmland for production of agricultural commodities (Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], 2009).

In Nigeria, the small farm holders are the key stakeholders in land and agriculture. These farm holders are among the poorest and often neglected in developmental supports by government. Investment at times also results in considerable loss of fertile agricultural land among other factors whereby local communities are displaced from their land and lose their ability to grow food and earn their livelihoods

Land is a basic factor of production, every kind of production involves use of land. Many people around the world, most especially Africa see Access to land and its resources as very crucial to their livelihood (Lisk, 2013). Farmers need to organize and plan themselves on how to adapt to insufficient land for agricultural purposes as a result of land grabbing. Many land grabs in local communities denied people access to land and create environmental issues through intensive agriculture. According to Dou et al 2020, Smallholders’ livelihoods can be highly vulnerable because their subsistence and income generating activities depend on natural resources with limited social and economic capacity to adapt to changing climate and extreme events.

Specifically the study:

- identified factors responsible for land grabbing in the study area.
- Identified challenges of land grabbing faced by agripreneurs in the study area.
- ascertained preventive measures used by agripreneurs against land grabbing
- to identified coping strategies of land grabbing among agripreneurs in the study area

## **Hypothesis**

- There is no significant relationship between coping strategies and socio economic characteristics of respondents.

## **Methodology**

The study was carried out in Ikorodu and Ibeju Lekki Local Government Areas of Lagos State, Nigeria on latitude 6.465422°N and longitude 3.406448°E of the equator. Ikorodu is a city located in the north-east of Lagos State, located along the Lagos Lagoon on latitude 6.6194°N and longitude 3.5105°E and shares a boundary with Ogun State. Ibeju-Lekki on latitude 6,5001°N and longitude 3.8045°E is also a Local Government Area derived its name from two communities Ibeju and Lekki. The community is well known for local rice production and fishing.

Three stage sampling procedure was used for the study. In the first stage Ibeju-Lekki and Ikorodu were purposively selected because of competition in the use of land for agricultural activities, building of estate and residential houses. In stage 2 communities mostly affected by land grabbing activities wre purposively selected in Ikorodu Local Government Area (Gberigbe, Isiwu, Adamo, Parafa, Imota) and Ibeju-

# Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria

**Number:** Twenty-Sixth Annual Conference

**Theme:** Redefining Agricultural Extension Practice to Cope with Emergencies

**Date:** 26-29, April 2021

**Venue:** Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

**ISSN:** 1595 – 1421. <http://aesonnigeria.org/ConfProc> . **Email:** [editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org](mailto:editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org)

Lekki local Government Area (Ise, Debojo, Akodo, Orimedu and Iwerekun). Finally, stage 3 involves using representative sampling technique to select sixty (60) respondents from the affected communities in the two local governments. Data collected through interview schedule were analyzed. Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage and pie chart) were used for the objectives and chi-square for hypothesis.

## Results and Discussion

### Factors responsible for land grabbing

Table 1 revealed that increase in urbanization resulting from building of estates and residential houses is a leading factor for land grabbing according to 48.3% of the respondents and 21.7% of the respondents said it is due to extractive and tourism industries. This supports the position of Dewan, et al (2012) that rapid urbanization especially in developing countries is a serious concern in urbanization which drives environmental change at multiple scales.

**Table 1: Factors responsible for land grabbing**

Factors	%
Increase urbanization	48.3
Extractive and tourism industries	21.7
Foreign investors	13.3
Local investors	8.3
Land tenure system	3.3
Poor land governance policies	5.0

### Challenges of Land Grabbing among Agri-preneurs

Figure 1 reveals that 45% of the respondents perceived loss of fertile land as a threat to agricultural production, while 16.7% and 6.7% of the respondents complain of loss of ancestral land and relocation of business to urban area respectively. This is similar to IFAD (2013) finding that farmers are the poorest and most exploited owing to a considerable loss of fertile agricultural land during developmental support programmes among other factors.

# Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria

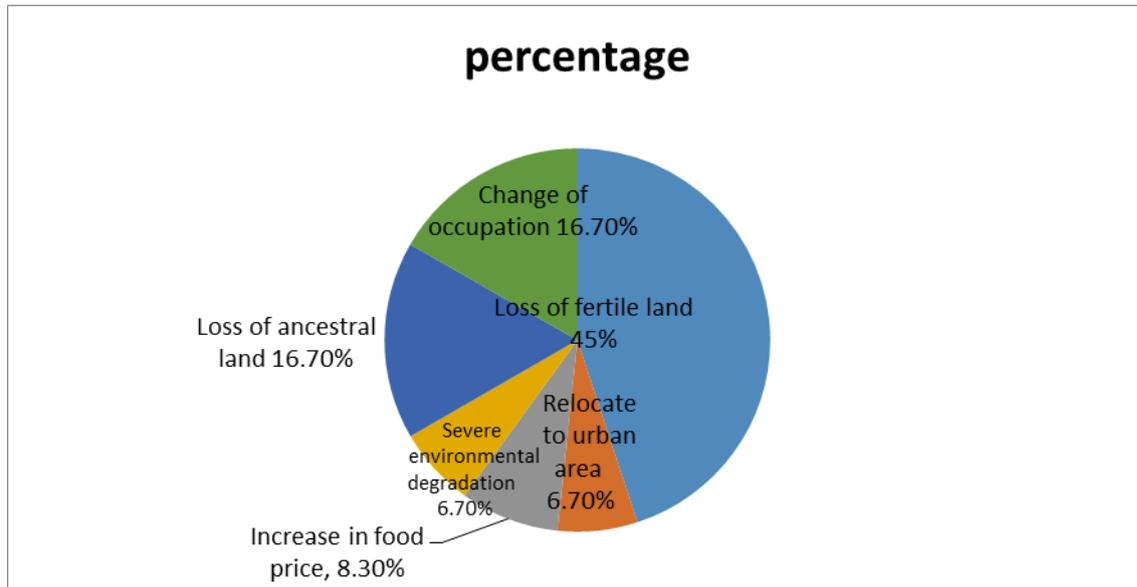
**Number:** Twenty-Sixth Annual Conference

**Theme:** Redefining Agricultural Extension Practice to Cope with Emergencies

**Date:** 26-29, April 2021

**Venue:** Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

**ISSN:** 1595 – 1421. <http://aesonnigeria.org/ConfProc> . **Email:** [editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org](mailto:editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org)



**Fig 1: Challenges of land grabbing among agripreneurs**

## Preventive Measures Used by Agripreneurs Against Land Grabbing

Table 2 shows that the majority (60%) of the respondents built residential quarters on their lands as a preventive measure against land grabbing, 10% of them adopted farm structures like poultry pen, feed mill and fish pond while 30% of the respondents fenced their lands as preventive measure against land grabbing. This implies that building of estates and residential houses were most effective as a preventive measure and fencing of lands by the respondents prevented land grabbers from getting contiguous land.

**Table 2: Preventive measures on land grabbing by agripreneurs**

Variables	Percentage
Building and construction	60.0
Farm structures; (Poultry pen, feed mill and fish pond)	10.0
Fences	30.0
Total	100.0

## Coping strategies on land grabbing among agripreneurs

Table 3 reveals that greater proportion (83.3%) of the respondents applied mixed cropping and mixed farming on their lands as coping strategies on land grabbing. This is synonymous with the finding of Dheressa (2013), that the majority of smallholder farmers applied change in land use, share cropping, and tenant farming to cope with the adverse effects of land grabbing

# Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria

**Number:** Twenty-Sixth Annual Conference

**Theme:** Redefining Agricultural Extension Practice to Cope with Emergencies

**Date:** 26-29, April 2021

**Venue:** Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

**ISSN:** 1595 – 1421. <http://aesonnigeria.org/ConfProc> . **Email:** [editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org](mailto:editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org)

**Table 3: Coping strategies after land grab**

Variables	Percentage
Casual work	5.0
Gathering from the wild	3.3
Eating fewer times a day	3.3
Change in farming system	83.3
TOTAL	100.0

## Adaptation strategies for land grabbing among agripreneurs

Entries in table 4 show that majority (53.3%) of the respondents engaged in petty trading as an adaptive strategy to land grab, 15% of the respondents were involved in transportation (commercial buses and cabs) and 8.3% of them were engaged in okada riding as adaptive measure to land grab, while few (13.3%) of the respondents were engaged in backyard gardening. These imply that the farmers were engaged in non-farming enterprise, which is an indication that the agripreneurs land were grabbed and they are faced with few farmlands to carryout agricultural production.

**Table 4: Adaptation strategies to land grab among agripreneurs**

Variable	Percentage
<b>Farming enterprise</b>	
Growing of Vegetable and medicinal herbs	10.0
Keeping backyard garden	13.3
<b>Non-farming enterprise</b>	
Petty trading	53.3
Transportation (buses and cabs)	15
Okada riding	8.3

## Relationship between coping strategies and socioeconomic characteristics

Table 5 shows that there is a significant relationship between the education status ( $X^2 = 11.7$ ) and the coping strategies like casual work, gathering from the wild and so on used as adaptation strategies. This is why most of the respondents adapted to change in farming system like mixed cropping, mixed farming which is powered by their high level of education. This is in agreement with Alhassan et al (2018) who found out that there is a significant positive relationship between educational attainment and employment.

# Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria

**Number:** Twenty-Sixth Annual Conference

**Theme:** Redefining Agricultural Extension Practice to Cope with Emergencies

**Date:** 26-29, April 2021

**Venue:** Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

**ISSN:** 1595 – 1421. <http://aesonnigeria.org/ConfProc> . **Email:** [editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org](mailto:editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org)

**Table 5: Chi-square analysis between socioeconomic characteristics and coping strategies**

Characteristics	X2-Value	Df
Age	0.48	1
Gender	1.58	4
Marital Status	11.47*	6
Indigene	7.92	4
Occupation	2.71	4
Educational Level	13.06*	5
Land ownership	5.25	4

## Conclusion and Recommendation

Land grabbing has been a big problem to the agripreneurs and the majority of the farmers have switched to non-farm activities such as petty trading, transportation (commercial buses and cabs) and okada riding. This serves as a big threat to the agricultural economy of the state due to loss of fertile land to land grabs. It is a matter of urgency to curb the case of land grabbing and give preference to agricultural production. It is proper to equip farmers with adequate knowledge on different farming system such as mixed cropping, mixed farming and integrated farming system. Extension should train farmers on agricultural production in the absence of land. Therefore government should ensure strict implementation of policy on land grabbing matters.

## References

- Alhassan, S. I., Shaibu, M. T., Kuwornu, J.K.M. (2018). Is land grabbing an opportunity or a menace in developing countries? Evidence from Ghana. Article of Environmental Development and Sustainability. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2018.1531839>
- Bello, M.O. (2007). Accessibility of Lands as a Tool for Empowering the Low-income Earner of the Informal Sector in Nigeria. Paper presented at FIG working week May 13-17, 2007, Hong Kong. Pg1
- Dewan, A.M., Kabir, M.H., Nahar K., Rahman, M.Z. (2012). Urbanization and Environmental Degradation in Dhaka Metropolitan Area of Bangladesh. *International Journal of Environment and Sustainable Development*, 11 (2): 118–147. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJESD.2012.049178>
- Dheressa, D.K. (2013). The Socio-Economic and Environmental Impacts of Large Scale (Agricultural) Land Acquisition on Local Livelihoods: A Case Study in Bako Tibe Woreda of Oromia Region, Ethiopia. Centre for Development and the Environment University of Oslo Blindern, Norway
- Dou. Y., Da Silva. R.F., McCord P., Zaehring J.G., Yang H., Furumo, P., Zhang. J. , Pizarro, J. C., Liu, j. (2020). Understanding How Smallholders Integrated into Peri-coupled and Tele-coupled Systems. *Journal of Sustainability* 2020, 12(4), 1596, pg 2. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12041596>

## **Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria**

**Number:** Twenty-Sixth Annual Conference

**Theme:** Redefining Agricultural Extension Practice to Cope with Emergencies

**Date:** 26-29, April 2021

**Venue:** Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

**ISSN:** 1595 – 1421. <http://aesonnigeria.org/ConfProc> . **Email:** [editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org](mailto:editorinchief@aesonnigeria.org)

Food and Agriculture Organization (2009). Land grab or development opportunity? Agricultural investment and international land deals in Africa. Retrieved from <http://www.fao.org>.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (2013). Smallholders, food security and the environment. Retrieved from <http://www.ifad.org>.

Lisk . F. (2013): 'Land grabbing' or harnessing of development potential in agriculture? East Asia's land-based investments in Africa. *The Pacific Review*. https: DOI: 10.1080/09512748.2013.842314

Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (2017). Nigerian Gross Domestic Report (Q3 2017). Retrieved from <Http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng>.

Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (2019). Nigerian Gross Domestic Report (Q3 2019). Retrieved from <Http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng>.