

DOES INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION LEAD AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLD TO NON-AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT?

EVIDENCE FROM NIGERIA

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Introduction

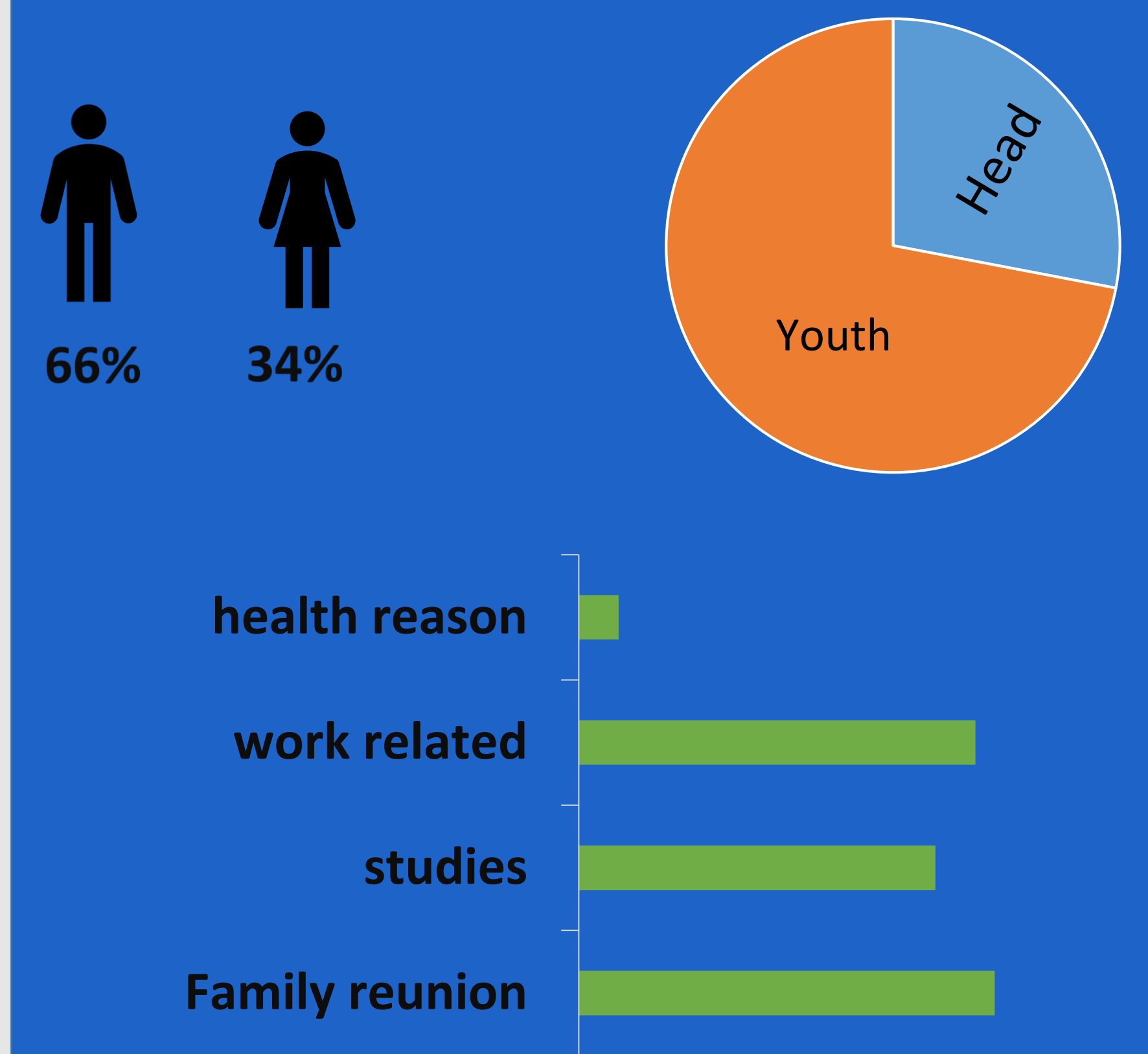
We studied the changes in the economic activities of households after migration. We are interested to know if after international migration, households may still maintain crop farming as a main livelihood venture or if they would diversify into non farming activities. Theory holds that international migration can minimize the challenges that household face in accessing finance, as such migrants households could make favourable changes in their economic activities due to extra income from remittances. Nevertheless, there is still limited knowledge on the actual economic decisions households make after migration, and the impact of these activities on their wellbeing. To contribute to this understanding, we studied the economics activities of farming households in Nigeria over a period of 5 years, within the period that some households have recorded at least one international migrant.

Socio-economic characteristics of migrants and non-migrant households

	Migrants (n = 30)	Non migrant (n = 179)
head is female (1 = yes)	0.23	0.38*
head age	60.37	60.6
household size	5.43	4.44*
Head is married (1 = yes)	0.73	0.55*
highest education (0 - 4)	3.25	2.91*
Number of adults	4.1	2.83***
Owns land (1 = yes)	0.23	0.13
Access to bank (1 = yes)	0.67	0.41***
Cooperative?(1 = yes)	0.03	0.09
Insurance? (1 = yes)	0.07	0.01
Access to phone?	1	0.97**
Internet? (1 = yes)	0.07	0.03
Remittance?(1 = yes)	0.4	0.07***
located in rural (1 = yes)	0.73	0.85

Socio-economic analysis of household shows that households that have migrant and those that do not have migrant in 2015 differs significantly in some key variables. Migrant households have larger household size with more adults children. They are more likely to have access to phone and bank account, which facilitate remittance receipt. Generally, they receive more remittance than non migrants households.

Migrants characteristics and reasons for migrating



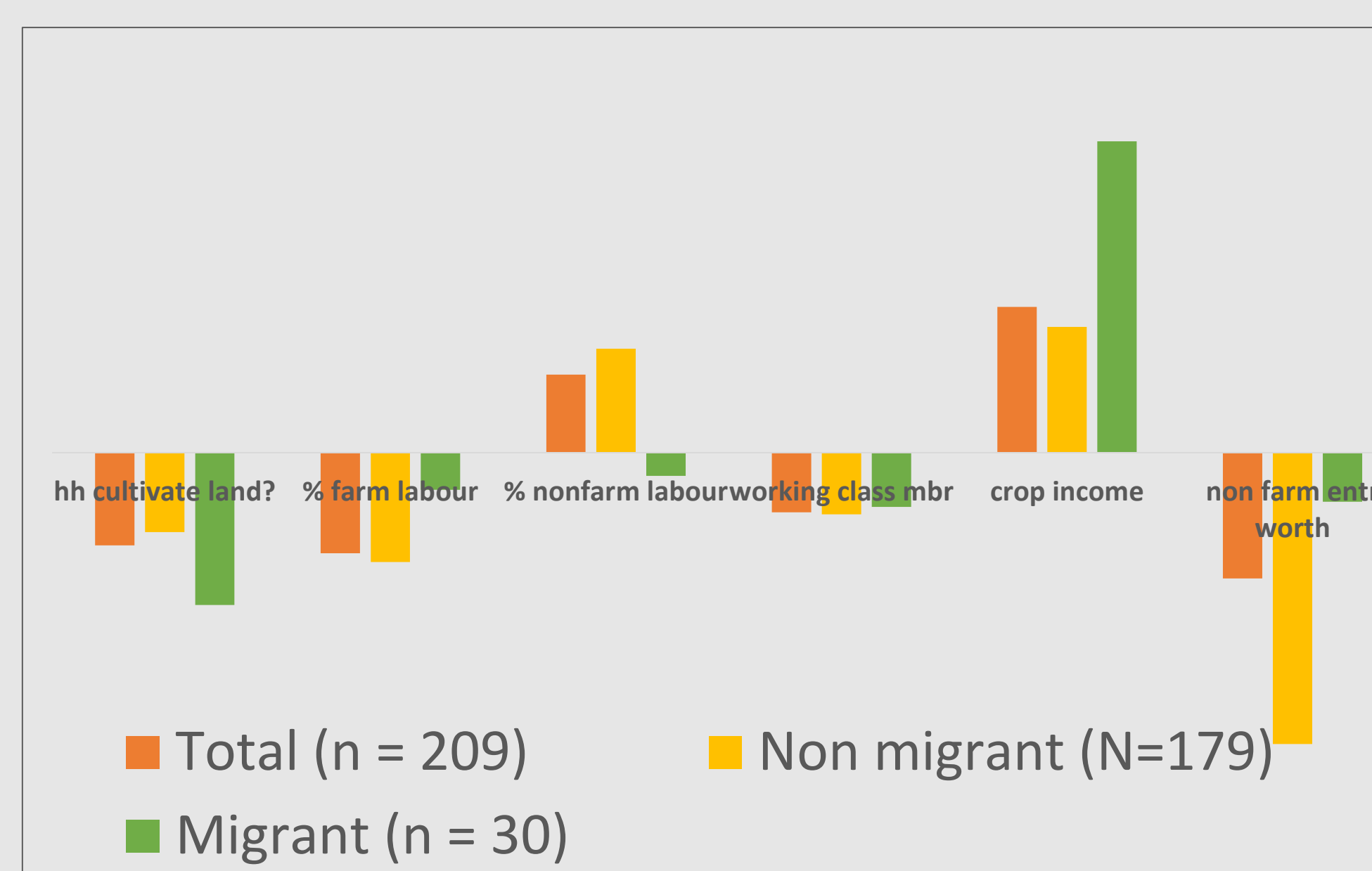
Migration is prominent among youths especially the young males (66%), a significant number of young females also migrate (34%). Unlike widely assumed, the most important reason for migration is not only economic reasons but also family related. Most migrants have family ties in destination countries.

Methodology

Data was collected from the Nigerian General Household Survey/World bank Living Standard Measure of 2010 and 2015. Multistage stratified sampling procedure was used to select households for the study. A total of 209 farming households from the southern region of Nigeria was used for the study. These are farming households where no migration had occurred in 2010. By 2015, about 30 of these households have now had at least one international migrant. T-test was used for comparing their socioeconomic and economic activities between 2010 and 2015, while propensity score matching was used to investigate the treatment effect of having a migrant on farming and nonfarming activities

International migration, farming and non farming activities of households

The comparison of the household economic activities between 2010 and 2015 shows a general decline in both farm and non farm labour in the survey area. This is largely due to migration. Migrants households are likely to witness more decline in family labour than non migrants households. However, the crop income from the migrant household increased more than the non migrants household. On non farming activities, migrants family, like the non migrants, recorded a decline in the net worth of the non farm income generating activity.



The treatment effect of migration on crop income and non crop income was determined by propensity score matching analysis. The result shows that international migration is a significant determinant of non-farming income but does not significantly impact on farm income. The result suggest that migration tends to leads to changes in livelihood pattern of households in the long run. The changes may likely be in favour of a shift towards non farming income generating activities.

Conclusion

The result presented here is still preliminary, yet it relevant for discussion. First, it tend to contend the popular narrative that most migrants from Africa are economic migrants. It showed that family ties is another important reason for migration. Secondly, the study support the debate that international migration may eventual shift migrant household away from agriculture. We however added that the shift may not likely be as a result of low income in agriculture, as migrants households earn more from farming than non farming households. This shift may be as a result of lost of family labour especially among youths.

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