**ANALYSIS OF GENDER AND GENERATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN HOME GARDEN ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH-WESTERN NIGERIA**

**BY**

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**ABSTRACT**

Home gardening is the cultivation of small portion of land which may be at the back of the house or within a walking distance from it. It can be mixed cropping of fruits, vegetables and shrubs that can serve as supplementary sources of food and income to the household. Areas of land that tend to be useless around the house, overgrown by weeds or turned to refuse dumb can be an effective means of ensuring household food security and nutrition when properly harnessed. The study therefore assessed gender and generational involvement in home garden activities among household members in South Western Nigeria. Multistage sampling technique was used to select 120 respondents for the study. Data was collected using structured questionnaire and interview schedule. Descriptive analysis such as frequency count, percentages, mean and standard deviation were used while linear regression was used for inferential analysis. Analyses revealed that most (65%) of the respondents were female, 90.8% were married with mean household size of 4.0, mean age was 49.2 and 95.0% have one educational certificate or the other. Among home garden activities, land preparation was indicated by 53.3% to be done by male adults, planting was indicated by 50.5% to be done by female adults while manual weeding was indicated by 23.3% to be done by female adults, 45.0% indicated male children and 30.0% indicated female children. Also, 29.3% indicated male children and 36.7% indicated female children usually carry out harvesting of crops. Food security and medicinal purposes were indicated by 62.5% and 53.3% of the respondents respectively as the benefits derived from home garden activities. Result of the regression analysis showed that gender significantly influences participation in home garden activities. It should be therefore encouraged among household members to in order to attain food security, for effective harnessing available natural resources and for environmental sustainability.

**Keywords: Home garden, Natural resources, Food security and Environmental sustainability**