

STAKEHOLDERS' PARTICIPATION IN INNOVATION PLATFORM IN WEST AFRICA: IMPLICATIONS ON LIVELIHOOD OUTCOMES

Introduction

Agriculture has suffered a setback in Africa's economy due to lack of innovations. Humidtropics, an innovative research for development programme of the CGIAR led by IITA, seeks to help rural poor in humid and sub-humid tropical regions of the world to improve their livelihood using integrated systems intensification approach. This approach set up and empower multi-stakeholder platforms (MSP) at action site level called research for development (R4D) platforms and innovation platforms (IP) at field site level. These MSP gathered representatives from farmer organization, research and training institutions, private sector, NGOs and civil society and Government for interactions to foster technical, bio-physical and institutional innovations for the benefit of the participants. This study analysed the effects of the participation of farmers to IPs on their livelihood in Humidtropics West Africa Flagship.



Materials and Methods

Multistage random sampling technique was used to select 200 responses (93 participants to IPs and 107 non-participants) from the Humidtropics Action site in Southwest Nigeria. Data were collected using questionnaire. Descriptive statistics and Sustainable Livelihood Model was used to analyzed the data.

Results and Discussion

The distribution of respondents according to their socio – economic characteristics were shown in Table 1 with means, percentages and the t-values of the distribution. There was statistically significance difference for age, education, household size and farming experience between the participants and non-participants.

The results also revealed remarkable increase from 0 to 0.77 and 0.33 to 0.82 for human capital and social capital respectively, and slight increase from 0.52 to 0.57, 0.68 to 0.71 and 0.71 to 0.75 respectively for natural, financial and physical capitals as stakeholders participate in Innovation platforms for research and development.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study shows that higher livelihood asset capital was found among the participants than non-participants showed by the livelihood asset pentagon. The study thus revealed that further investment should be made in the establishment and strengthening of innovation platforms that enable the development, effective dissemination and adoption of agricultural innovations, thus fostering improved livelihood, alleviate poverty and reduce food insecurity.

Table 1: Descriptive Analysis of the Respondents (Participants and Non-participants)

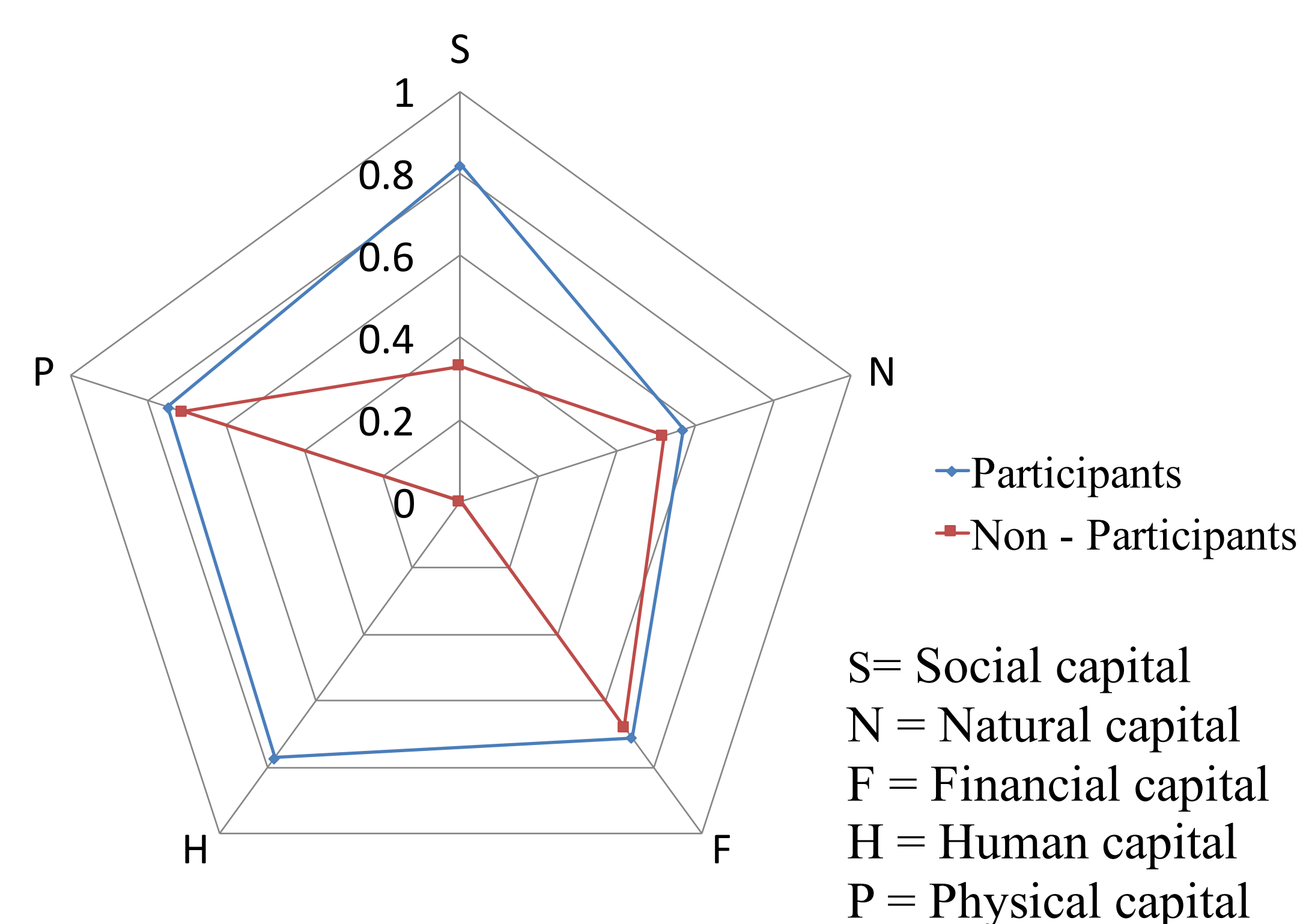
Characteristic	Participants (n=93)	Non-participants (n=107)	T-test
Age (years)	48.2	44.2	2.017**
Male (%)	81.8	76.6	
Married (%)	92.5	84.1	
Education (years)	6.6	7.8	1.860*
Household Size (#)	8	7	3.647***
Farming Experience (years)	26.8	22	2.443**

Note: ***Significant at 1%, **Significant at 5%, *Significant at 10%

Table 2: livelihood Asset capital for Participant and Non-participants

Capital	Indicators	Participant		Non- participant	
		Weight	Value	Weight	Value
Social	IP membership	1	0.82	0	0.33
	No of extension visit	0.85		0.89	
	Decision making in IP	0.6		0.09	
Natural	Ownership of land	0.84	0.57	0.74	0.52
	Size of land	0.69		0.7	
	Legume Intercrop effect	0.18		0.11	
Financial	Annual Income	0.71	0.71	0.64	0.68
	Production expenditure	0.73		0.75	
	Living expenditure	0.68		0.66	
Human	Acquired skills in IP activity	0.82	0.77	0	0
	No of training attended	0.72		0	
Physical	Value of Motorcycle	0.68	0.75	0.63	0.71
	Value of radio	0.72		0.7	
	Access to energy source	0.84		0.79	
LA			0.72		0.45
Kruskal Wallis Test		$\chi^2 = 3.732, p < 0.10$			

Livelihood Asset Pentagon (Figure 1)



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