



CHALLENGES FACING THE QUALITY MANAGEMENT ALONG ORGANIC AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAIN IN SOUTH-WESTERN NIGERIA.

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Introduction

The Nigerian organic agriculture sub-sector is still at its infant stage where available resources are compared with the level of utilization, economic benefits of exploiting the resources and the socio-economic status of the operators especially women in the industry. The full participation and empowerment of key actors in the organic agriculture sector will gain widespread recognition and support if the profile of the age-long social, cultural and economic barriers hindering them from being active agents and beneficiaries of organic agriculture development are removed.

Objectives

- * understand the status, constraints and challenges facing quality management, the actual and potential contribution of stakeholders in organic agriculture
- * identify the roles various initiatives play in integrating organic agriculture principles within south-western Nigeria

Research Methodology

- A participatory action research approach was employed in addition to the use of primary and secondary data.
- A sample of 102 farmers was selected from farmers field schools in Southwest.
- In-depth interviews, formal and informal and group discussions were carried out for the qualitative method.
- Data from the author's previous studies at IFOAM Academy were used to supplement secondary data from published and unpublished sources in addition to data compiled from participatory group discussions.



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Discussions

- Adoption of quality management principles in organic agriculture, as well as organic market development are crucial for pro-poor growth; empowerment is key to the success and sustainability of development initiatives in these areas.
- Donors can support empowerment processes in rural areas along the quality management for local market development where farmers face pressing challenges to their livelihoods by initiating a participatory guarantee system (Duduyemi, 2018).
- Initiatives must strengthen farmer's capabilities especially women by supporting their organizations, facilitating and institutionalizing constructive interactions among the different interests and taking a flexible approach (Bettina Prato and Roberto Longo, 2012).

Conclusions

Hence, adopters of quality management principles into organic agriculture were the economically better-off segment of the population with richer land holdings, higher income and literacy, indicating that in addition to complimentary innovations, a participatory guarantee approach is vital if the resource-poor are to benefit from organic agriculture advancements (Environmental friendly, higher biodiversity and better soil conservation).

References

•Duduyemi 2018 Developing a participatory guarantee system in the organic agri-value chain in Nigeria. Development Project at Organic Academy OLC OM4D, Ghana

•Prato and Longo. OECD 2012. FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). 2003b. Progress Report. RAO. Rome. IFAD. 2001a. IFAD. Rome. IFAD. 2001b. IFAD. Rome.

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