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BENEFITS OF TRAINING ON FISH FARMING PRACTICES AMONG FISH FARMERS IN ANAMBRA STATE

Obiora, Charles Chukwuma (PhD)
charlesobiora113@gmail.com; 07032472530

Iyiegbuniwe Helen Obiageli
08117441593

Ohanu, Victor Chibueze
08169297046

Department of Agricultural Education
Federal College of Education (Technical) Asaba Delta State

ABSTRACT
The study assessed the benefits of training on fish farming practices among farmers. Anambra State served as the study area. The population for the study comprised of all the fish farmers in the state 120 fish farmers were selected through the random sample method to obtain the sample size. Data was obtained from the respondents through the questionnaire techniques and the questionnaire items border on issues relating to various benefits of training fish farmers on fish farming practices such as risk management, information adoption, and record keeping. The study reveals among others that the training benefited the fish farmers in the areas of information adoption risk management, record keeping. The study recommended among other things that regular training on fish management practices should be organize for the farmers in form of seminars, workshops, conferences in religious center, community/village center and that the farms should be informed on the benefit of attending trainings on fish farming.

Keywords: Training; Fish Farming; Practices; Fish Farmers.

Introduction
Fish farming is defined as an act of rearing fish for commercial purpose. This involves building the earthen, tarpaulin or concrete pond, fertilizing the pond, stocking the fingerlings in good water and feeding the Mackerel, Tilapia or catfish until market size (Steve, 2015). Kassam, Subasinghe and Phillips (2011), asserted that aquaculture entered the global prominence at a time when governments were striving to ensure food security among communities. Fish farming is an approach for economic transformation and poverty alleviation. It focuses on mitigating the significant barriers faced by fish farmers, traders, processors and other related actors in the value chain. This inevitably includes various activities such as ensuring success to a full range of necessary resources, inputs and technology (Mwaijande and Lugendo, 2015). In the recent times, Nigeria has become one of the fastest and highest aquaculture

producing Countries in sub Saharan Africa and second to Egypt in Africa due to present pace of growth in Fish farming production (fejika, Uzokwe and Oladosu, 2013). Fish and fish products are Known widely as a very important diet because of their high nutritive quality and significant in improving human health (Olaoye, Ashley-Dejo and Adekoya, 2014). Fish plays a vital role in feeding the world's population and contributing significantly to the dietary protein intake of Hundreds of millions of the populace (Amao, Oluwatayo, and Osuntope, 2006). According to Nidhi (2015), fisheries sector has a significant strategic role in food security, international trade and employment generation Olaoye, Ezeri, Akegbejo-Samsons, Awotunde and Ojebiyi (2016) noted that fishery Sector has continued to maintain its crucial position through its contribution to agriculture's Share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Nigeria. Fish is relatively cheap and easily available source of protein in dietary supplement for the poor, who cannot afford animal protein and depend mainly on food of low nutritional value (Ume, Ebeniro, Ochiaka and Uche, 2016). Apart from dietary source, fish is source of fish oil, a raw material for pharmaceutical Companies, provision of livestock feeds, and provision of employment for different categories of people in the area of fisheries production, processing, packaging and marketing (Fleuren, 2006). According to Folayan and Folayan (2017), trials have shown that fish oil Supplementation is effective in the treatment of many disorders including rheumatoid, arthritis, Diabetes, ulcerative colitis and Reynard's disease.

According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2018), strong evidence underlines How consumption of fish and in particular oily fish. Lowers the risk of Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) mortality. Similarly, it has been estimated that fish consumption reduces the risk of Dying of coronary heart diseases by up to 36 percent due to the long-chain omega3 fatty acids Found in fish and fishery products (FAO, 2019a). Fish farming has become an enviable Subsector which provides employment to a large proportion of the nation's population (about 65-70%), especially those in riverside areas (Olaoye, 2010; Shettima, Mohammed, Ghide and Zindam, 2014). Olaoye and Oluruntoba (2011) recorded that Nigerians are high fish consumers and offers the largest market for fish and fishery products in Africa. According to Federal Department of Fisheries (2014), the contribution of fishery subsector to agriculture Gross Domestic Product was estimated at 0.48% in the year 2014, out of the total estimate of 20.24% being contributed by agriculture to the GDP.

Asiru and Ahmed (2016) noted that among the different food production systems around the World, fish farming is widely seen as an essential weapon in the global fight against poverty, Nutritional disorder and food insecurity, particularly within a developing country like Nigeria and Anambra State in particular. Fish farming is regarded as a vital domestic provider of much Needed high-quality animal protein and other important nutrients. Okoronkwo and Ume (2013) Noted that Anambra State is crisscrossed by numerous rivers, swamps, abundant rainfall, Effective harvesting and storage surface water, run off undoubtedly favour fish

farming. It is Pertinent to note that the bulk of fish production is in the hands of numerous landless, marginal and small farmers in the state. To most of them, fishing is only a supplementary or Complimentary enterprise. Hence, next to crop production, fish production has the largest employment capacity and income generating potential for the poor. This aligns with Nidhi (2015) who opined that the most important feature of fish production process is that it provides Subsidiary occupation, offer gainful employment at the location itself and make better Utilization of family labour.

According to Gerster-Bentaya and Hoffmann (2011), training need assessment is a gap between the present and the desired future. Benefits of training need assessment include determining Telt need, categorization of trainees, identification of adequate training methodology and knowing the appropriate time to deliver. Whereas, Famuyiwa, Adesoji and Lawal (2012) opined that training programmes in agriculture are aimed at developing farmers to make them better entrepreneurs and decision makers. Similarly, Sajeev, Singha and Venkatasubramanian (2012) highlighted that training plays an important role in the advancement of human Performance in a given situation. In order words, training provides a systematic improvement of knowledge and skills, which in turn helps the trainees to function effectively and efficient in their given task on completion of the training. According to Osei, Bakang and Nimoh (2013), Farmers' training is conducted with view to changing their behavior and improving their performance through the acquisition of increased knowledge, improved skills and positive changes in attitude and aspirations. However, Iwuchukwu, Udoye and Onwubuya.(2013) observed that it is counterproductive to offer training to individuals who do not need it or to offer the wrong kind of training to farmers.

Farmers' competency in fish production depends on the effectiveness of the training they received. According to Aphunu and Ajayi (2010), an effective training on fish productive confers new knowledge, better skills and effective performance in farmer's productivity. As fisheries technology is continuously changing, the fish farmers in increasing production, needs many skills for the use of these technologies. For this reason, it is necessary to arrange timely training programmes for farmers, in order to acquire necessary knowledge and skills in different aspects of improved fish farming. Since training in agriculture is necessary to support the adoption of emerging aquaculture innovations and technologies for positive impact on wellbeing (Shava and Gunhidzirai, 201 7).

More so, Hempel (2010) advocated for training of fish farmers and extension agents to get the desired result among end users in order to sustain present tempo of the booming enterprise in fish farming. The global fishing industry has nearly exhausted fish stocks and catches are declining. The United Nations and major fishery countries have placed significant mp on the Development of the aquaculture industry (Patrick and Kagiri. 2016). Fish farmers Maximize fish productivity can be attributed to lack of adequate knowledge and training towards integrated fish farming. However, there are

other numerous challenges confronting fish farming practices, among which are poor management, inadequate supply of good quality Seed, lack of capital, and high cost of feed. Availability of extension services and the products (Yeasmin, Hoque and Zulfikar-Rahman (2014). In addition, increased populace encouraged the drastic changes in livestock consumption and production patters, paving the way for what can be referred to as food revolution". This implies that other sources of protein intake have to be looked into. Of which fish is a common one (Zilberman, Ote, Roland-Holst and Pfeiffer, 2011).

With the efforts of research and extension services, there are improved packages on fish production. However, farmers are not adequately utilizing them and this may be as a result of lack of information on those improved production packages or there is no adequate training on them (Ofuoke, Emah and Itedjere, 2008). In addition, research by Adinya, Cffem and Ikpi (2011) stated that fish farming projects fail because of limited skills to use modern technology.

The results of the study reflected that there was a huge skills gap, which inhibited fish farming to expand which calls for education provision for fish farmers to enhance food security and employment creation. Based on these Findings, it Temans a challenge to both the government and non-governmental organizations to impalement effective fish farming in Anambra state that can enhance production and increase income and food security among the farmers. Hence in view of this development, fish farmers need training to remove barriers, improve technical competency and efficiency for better resource utilization, increase productivity and performance. Despite the huge investment of the government and fish farmers in fish farming and production, the output is still relatively low as fish products is not enough to meet the with population of Nigeria sociality. This is tied to poor knowledge in fish farming among farmers (Robest, 2022). Therefore, there is need to identify the benefit of the training in fish farming so as to improve the level of competence in fish production among the stakeholders.

Purpose of this study

The purpose of this study is to identify the benefits of training on fish farming practices among fish farmers.

Research Question

The study seeks to answer this question

1. What are the benefits of training on fish farming practices among fish farmers?

Population of the study

The population of the study comprise all the 120 fish farmer in the state.

Sampling technique

Multi-stage involving purposive and random sampling techniques was used to select one hundred and twenty respondents that were used for the study.

Method of data collection

Data for the study was collected from a primary source using a well-structured questionnaire. The questionnaire contained relevant questions and was divided into sections according to the number of objectives in the study. The information collected from the fish farmers bordered on

the various management practices in fish farming.

Method of data analysis

Descriptive statistics such as frequently count, percentage and mean score were used analysis the data collected.

The table of data analysis: Benefits of training in fish farming

Benefits of training	**Yes**	
	Frequency (n = 120)	**percentage (%)**
Adequate information on good production practices	119	99.17
Reduced mortality rate	114	95.00
Improved farm record	107	89.17
Risk management	98	81.66
Increase in yield	91	75.83
Improved standard of living	88	73.33
Improved management skills	83	69.17
Increased capacity in adopting new technologies	76	63.33
Efficiencies in fish management	65	56.66
Increased returns on investment	57	47.50
Job satisfaction	51	42.50
Improved working relationship among workers	41	34.17

Discussion of Result

The result as presented shows that the fish farmers benefited immensely from the training given to them. These benefits range from adequate information on good production practices (99.17%, reduction in mortality rate (95.00%), improved farm records (89.17%), risk management (81.66%), increase in production (75.83%) and improved standard of living (73.33%). The result further indicated that greater proportion (69.17%, 63.33%, and 56.66%) of the respondents benefited in improved management skills, increased capacity in adopting new technologies and efficiency in fish production respectively. More so, 47.50% recorded increased return on investment, 42.50% enjoyed job satisfaction while 34.17% had improved working relationship. This implies that majority of the respondents benefited massively from the training offered to them. The finding corroborates Das (2013) who reported increase in the desired level of yield in a study, titled impact of training on sustainable aquaculture.

Conclusion

Findings on the benefits of training majority (99.17%, 95.00%, 89.17%, 81.66%, 75.83% and 73.33%) of the respondents, benefited from adequate information on good production practices, reduction in mortality rate, improved farm records, risk management, increase in production and improved standard of living respectively. Based on these findings it is recommended that fish farmers in the state should be encourage through politic enlightenment campaign to be engaging in various trainings on fish farming practices so as to improve their competence and productivity.

The government should haven know the benefit of training on fish farming practices should be organizing regularly training programmes to the fish farmers in the state in other to boost the productivity and in enhance food security.

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