



Libraries As Hubs for Food Security Information and Innovation in Ogun State Nigeria

Nweke Loveth Nkechi* & Oladele Sarah Olabimpe

Department of Library and Information Science, The Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Nigeria

*Corresponding author: seechichi@yahoo.ie

Introduction

The paper investigated the role of libraries as hubs for food security information and innovation in Ogun State, Nigeria. It examined how libraries provide access to agricultural research, policy frameworks, and indigenous knowledge that support sustainable food production. The study also explored the role of libraries in disseminating agricultural innovations and best practices, facilitating the adoption of modern farming techniques among farmers and stakeholders.

Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive statistical method using a questionnaire to collect data from respondents. A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed to lecturers and librarians in the Department of Library and Information Science schools in Ogun, Nigeria. The data collected were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical tools to align with the study objectives. Statistical analysis software tools such as the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), NVivo, and Excel were employed to process and interpret the data obtained from respondents, ensuring a comprehensive analysis of the role of libraries as hubs for food security information and innovation in Ogun State, Nigeria.

Results and discussion

The results indicate that while a majority of respondents (60%) agree that libraries provide sufficient food security information resources, accessibility remains a challenge, with only 55% agreeing that food security information is easily accessible. Additionally, 47.5% of respondents believe libraries offer up-to-date materials, suggesting a need for continuous updates. The data also suggest that farmers' engagement with library resources is moderate, with 47.5% affirming their usage while 32.5% disagree. The findings suggest that libraries play a significant role in disseminating agricultural innovations, with 67.5% of respondents agreeing that libraries serve as key sources of agricultural information. However, reliance on library materials for modern farming techniques is moderate (57.5%). The collaboration between libraries and agricultural extension services is relatively low, with only 47.5% agreement. Similarly, training and workshops organized by libraries need improvement, as only 47.5% of respondents believe such initiatives exist. The results indicate that library services positively impact farmers' knowledge of modern agriculture, with 67.5% agreeing. However, the adoption rate of modern farming techniques is moderate (57.5%), suggesting a gap between knowledge and practice. Similarly, only 52.5% believe that library resources have improved farm productivity, and 47.5% think library-based training programs influence decision-making, highlighting the need for more effective engagement strategies.

Conclusions

Results revealed that Ogun state libraries have great relevance in food security information as well as in dissemination of agricultural innovation. Despite that, areas that need improvement include; accessibility, there is no collaboration with extension services, and the use of modern treatment techniques that are low. Updating materials, strengthening library outreach and increasing farmer engagement will strengthen the impact libraries have on food security and the innovation.

Keywords: Libraries, Food Security, Agricultural Innovation, Information Dissemination, Sustainable Agriculture.