



# **Agricultural Information Services: Roles of Libraries in Providing Innovative Strategies for Food Security in Ogun State, Nigeria.**

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## **Introduction**

This paper evaluated the services of innovative agricultural information provision by libraries as a method to enhance food security across Ogun State Nigeria. The delivery of agricultural information serves to provide farmers with correct and up-to-date insights about modern farming techniques and pest management and climate adaptation solutions along with market-oriented knowledge. Library facilities functioning as knowledge centers can close information differences in rural agricultural areas when implementing creative information sharing techniques. The study reviewed agricultural information service availability in libraries and accessibility as well as innovative methods that contribute to food security and evaluate how farmers benefit from library-based agricultural information services regarding production output and decision-making processes.

## **Methodology**

A descriptive survey research design with questionnaires served as the data collection method for respondents. A total of 150 questionnaires served farmers and library users in Ogun State. The study used descriptive alongside inferential statistical tools to evaluate the data according to the established research goals. The research data analysis employed the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) together with Nvivo and Excel as statistical analysis software tools.

## **Results and Discussion**

The survey shows that 23.3% of participants rated agricultural information service accessibility in libraries as high but 33.3% rated it as moderate. Among study respondents 16.7% declared the absence of agricultural information services as well as 26.7% finding these services difficult to access. Data shows that there is access to some extent yet several service gaps persist that require attention. The findings reveal that only 13.3% of farmers regularly use library-based agricultural information services, while 26.7% access them occasionally. However, a significant proportion (36.7%) rarely use these services, and 23.3% have never used them. This indicates a need for increased awareness and improved outreach efforts to enhance farmers' utilization of library-based agricultural resources. The results indicate that the most significant challenge faced by libraries in providing agricultural information services is insufficient funding (40.0%), followed by a lack of relevant agricultural resources (30.0%). Additionally, 16.7% of respondents identified limited staff knowledge on agriculture, while 13.3% pointed to poor ICT infrastructure as a major barrier. Addressing these issues through increased funding, specialized training for library staff, and improved ICT resources could enhance the effectiveness of library services for agricultural information.

## **Conclusion**

The findings revealed that while agricultural information services are available in some libraries, accessibility remains a challenge due to inconsistent availability and limited resources. Additionally, farmers' utilization of these services is relatively low, with a significant percentage rarely or never using them. This indicates a gap between the existence of agricultural information resources and farmers' awareness or willingness to access them. Government agencies and private organizations should allocate more financial resources to libraries, ensuring the availability of up-to-date agricultural materials, improved ICT infrastructure, and training programs for library staff.

**Keywords:** Agricultural information services, Food Security, Libraries, Innovative Strategies, ICT integration.