

The only issue that had the support of the majority of the respondents for the wife to have sole decision-making power was on the domestic food menu and arrangement was acceptable, not only to the man, but also to the woman.

In conclusion, a Nigerian household is evaluated by the social position of a man in the family and his physical characteristics of the sexual capability to satisfy his female partner(s) and produce children. There is a cultural expectation, as well as the decision-making authority of the husband over the wife, which determines the number of children that the couple will have, particularly with the need to have a male child. In each locality, local tradition demands that certain stages have to be fulfilled to achieve manhood. Marriage is the culturally accepted status for an adult male or female to make up a household. Men or women who are unmarried are considered irresponsible and socially deviant. The gender socialization process of developing boys into men and girls into women, including their perspective concerning sexual activity, is strongly encouraged in the home. Boys are taught by their mothers and shown by their fathers how to be a man and there is more attention on the obligations of the man to feed, clothe and house the wife, with little priority to meeting her emotional or companionship needs.

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GENDER CONTRIBUTION TO RURAL HOUSEHOLD FOOD

SECURITY IN NIGERIA

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Gender is an important variable in household food security issues. Gender describes the socially determined attributes of males and females. It is an essential variable for analyzing the roles, responsibilities, constraints, opportunities, incentives, costs, and benefits of both genders in agriculture.

Food is very important as it is ranked the most basic of all human needs. Food generally refers to the final product that consumers eat or drink to satisfy the human nutritional requirement. Food is for life's sustenance, prevention of sickness, and providing energy for the normal physiological activities of the body including the maintenance of the normal state of mind.

The household consists of people who live together in a house including their servants. It is defined household as a group of people living under the same dwelling place who eats meals together and acknowledge the authority of a man or woman who is the head of the household. Thus, a household is food secured when it has access to food needed for a healthy life for all its members, adequate in terms of quality, quantity, socially and culturally acceptable, and when it is not at risk of losing such access. For a household to achieve food security, they must have the means to produce or purchase the food that is needed and ensure that the dietary requirements of all family members are met [1].

Food insecurity in Nigeria is a major social problem that is at a very high rate and it has a lot of developmental consequences like deterioration in the eating pattern and living conditions of the average family [2]. Ensuring food security is one of the greatest challenges facing the world community today, it is a complicated phenomenon in which those facing food insecurity will have to decide themselves how better they can attain food security while keeping in mind their social and economic constraints.

Rural men and women are responsible for half of the world's food production and produce between 60 and 80 % of the food in most developing countries depending on the region. Despite their effort and active participation in food production, 30 % of people in Africa are malnourished as of 2010 and over 40 % of Nigerians are food insecure. It is crucial to know that for most developing countries to achieve food security and the first Millennium Development Goal-eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, cognizance should be given to people who are involved in food production as it is the first pillar of food security. Increasing food production at the local level

will help to achieve food security not only focusing on the global level.

Household size is vital to the study of gender and food security because the number of wives a man has will determine his financial capabilities in the household which will, in turn, affects food consumption. Rural people are known to be involved in several income-generating activities to be able to meet up with the demands in the house especially the provision of food. This implies that men and women in the study area participated in several jobs like trading, farming, civil service to meet the household needs. Rural people are involved in food production and other income-generating activities in most developing countries. Most of the rural habitat do not engage in a secondary occupation, this probably means that their primary occupation takes most of their time or maybe it can meet their household needs [3].

In Nigeria, food production is not the sole responsibility of men alone as it is believed in some cultures and circles. In addition to women being expected to look after children and cook on daily basis in most rural areas, they still provide food and engage in other farm work such as weeding, transporting, seedling, harvesting, and processing. However, women play these roles in the face of enormous, social, cultural, and economic constraints like an inadequate supply of quality seeds, low output prices, lack of extension services, and inadequate availability of financial resources. In the rural areas, there is a marked division of labor between men and women members of a household to minimize risks and promote food security, particularly during the crisis period [4]. However, they play separate but complementary roles or responsibilities to secure the welfare of the household. Men influence food security decision-making by providing the resources (capital, land, inputs, etc.) needed to acquire the food processed by women to meet the food needs of the family.

Many factors affect household food security, these factors vary according to location, culture, religion, and political systems. Some of these factors are high food prices, unemployment, low wages, inadequate access to markets, poor storage facilities, selling at harvest due to poverty, inadequate control of property and right to land for agricultural production, poor weather conditions, etc. The equal participation of men and women in attaining household food security may be impeded by cultural and legal constraints and by women's relative lack of time and mobility caused by their workload and multiple roles. Thus, it is critical to maximizing these individuals' participation in ensuring equitable access to and control over the resources needed to meet and achieve food security.

Analysis of different research shows that women contribute more to physical access to food i.e. food availability than men. Women will make

sure that food is available for a member of the household despite all odds. Women's income is more strongly associated with improvement in children's health and nutritional status than men's income. Men were found to be able to contribute more to economic access to food than their female counterparts. This implies that men have more income than women because they have access to farmland which will allow them to produce more and have enough money to make food available. As a result of cultural influence, women have little access to assets like land, agricultural inputs, capital that will make agricultural work easier and also enable them to make more income which will boost food security in rural households. Women were able to sustain access to food, that is, they made sure that food was available for their households over time as compared with their male counterparts. The welfare of family members is always very important to women as they are the caregivers in terms of health, food, and clothing [5].

Women were more affected with constraints like capital, land, and lack of employment than men who will impede their ability to contribute more to food security. Women do not have access to farmland due to cultural discrimination and they also have little or no access to credit facilities and loans, which may be due to lack of collateral which has made it very difficult for banks to be of significant help in making funds available.

In conclusion, men and women have been identified to play a significant role in household food security in the rural areas in Nigeria and several studies showed that women contribute more to household food security than men. They do this even when culture and traditions deny them access to farmland, capital, etc.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN AGRICULTURE

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In the conditions prevailing today, the main point of growth is the development of information and communication technologies (ICT). ICTs create the basis for the development of the digital economy, in which human and digital capital play an increasingly important role. They create the need to direct efforts towards the transition to a new scientific and technological order in which the use of digital technologies is an integral part of people's daily lives. In the economic scientific environment, this phenomenon has been called the digital economy. There are several basic approaches to the term "digital economy". Within the framework of the first – classical approach, the digital economy is understood as an economy based on digital technologies and it can be characterized exclusively as the field of electronic goods and services. According to the second approach, the digital economy is an economic production using digital technologies.

The level of intensification of the agricultural sector lags far behind the global average. Countries with a more developed agricultural sector in 5 years master on average about 55 % of the innovation potential, while in Belarus no more than 10 % is used. Accurate animal husbandry is understood as a general requirement for all livestock processes, which creates opportunities for cost-effective fulfillment of requirements through the use of modern technology, electronic identification of animals, as well as registration and processing of information received from digital sensors. The main elements of precision animal husbandry are: automatic regulation of the microclimate and control of changes in the external environment; monitoring of the quality of livestock products; robotization of milking; monitoring of the main indicators of the physical condition of animals: milk yield, weight gain, temperature.

The market of modern innovative technologies in agriculture does not stand still, but is represented very extensively in the form of elements of precision agriculture. Precision agriculture is an integrated agricultural sys-