

ASSESSING THE PRECURSORS OF POVERTY AMONG FARMERS IN THE SAVANNA ZONE OF CROSS RIVER STATE BEING TETFUND RESEARCH GRANT STUDY

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Abstract

Precursors of poverty relate to inherent factors that determine economic and social development of persons. This paper devotes attention to the investigation of these causes in a typical poverty of ravaged region of Nigeria in the Sub-Saharan belt of Africa. Here predominantly, over 80% of the populations are peasant farmers whose livelihood sustainability are constrained by social and ecological parameters. The paper adopted the approach by isolating the key elements of the social and ecological variable that may contribute to retardation of progress. Following field data acquisition, the data were tested statistically using the chi-square (χ^2) technique of analysis. The results of the two parameters were separately evaluated following the decision rates. From the findings, based on hypothesis I using socio-cultural variables the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative accepted. Hence there is significant difference in the sociocultural precursor in poverty incidence in the area. Again for hypothesis, II, based on ecological parameters. The null hypothesis was also rejected indicating that there is a significant variable in causing poverty in the area.

Keyword:Poverty, Socio-cultural ,Ecological , Farmer

Executive summary

Deriving from the title of this work “ Assessing the precursors of poverty” the general aim and specific objective are clearly embedded. Basically, peasant farmers in different parts of the tropical world are often constrained by certain inherent setbacks that hamper their social and economic development.

Cultural and ecological variables are the strong forces that tend to bedevil their smooth path of growth economically and socially. In this work, these two parameters form the thrust of data analysis that led to the derivation of the findings for the research. The key area of problem identification derived from the precinct of cultural and ecological variation that determine the peoples occupation and life forms.

For the essence of indept assessment and the basis of comparative analysis, the scope of this study was expanded to cover the entire cultural paraphenelia of the people. In line with these two hypotheses were formulated for data analysis for the study.

The area of study is the entire Cross River State, with 18 geopolitical units. These units are politically demarcated into three zones, the north, the central and the south on the political delimitation as senatorial districts.

The population drawn from each local government using peasant farmers as respondents as represented on table 1 below. From the table, a total of 360 peasant farmers respondents were used for data collection using the questionnaire and check list as instruments.

Data was analysed using the chi square χ^2 statistical technique and the findings were discussed based on the results according to the hypothesis stated. The analysis also focused on the analysis of raw data presented on tables 11a and 11b which were used for testing of hypothesis I and II.

1.1 Background of the study

General Overview

Social inequality is a significant feature of the current human society in the world. From the primitive stage of human existence, properties were shared in common. This period witnessed equity of human status and development. In this period everyone had the right to question how resources were shared. In time, this trend changed due to the ability of one group acquiring better tools and technology leading to the group exercising control over the others. Also environmental crises such as crop failure, flood, wind, earthquake and other disasters brought loss of influence by one group against another. This commenced the genesis of slavery and poverty. These phenomena resulted in the transition from communal to feudal society which witnessed the emergence of land owning class and the landless slaves or serfs. Feudalism ended with the emergence of industrial revolution which transformed the world from landend class to capitalist ownership of property (Emeh 1996) Capitalism. Ushered in a new era of sprawling inequalities. Today we speak concerning the rich and the poor citizens of our society. Poverty has many dimensions and causes. And it also has well-marked effect on individuals and groups on the basis of sustainable development. Talking generally, the rural communities in Nigeria and other developing nations are associated with poverty while the urban population are identical with wealth and affluence. Correspondingly the industrialized capitalist nations are epitomes of wealth while the developing nations are domains of endemic poverty. This research endeavour focuses or directed attention to issues of rural poverty in Cross River State.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The problem identification derives from the prevailing scenarios observed in the societies under consideration. In developmental analysis there are general direct and surrogate measures that are employed in the explanation of wealth or poverty.

In certain instances, the parameters used in capturing the essence of poverty or wealth may be illusory in the ingrained assessment. The result at the basic level of analysis of Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. The problem statement of this study derives from the answered puzzle of the principal elements of the physical and social environments that were aggravating the malaise of poverty in the region. This understanding will provide insights on the relevant approaches that will be adopted in mitigating or curbing the menace in the area under investigation.

1.3 Research aims and objectives

Aim of the research:

This research is generally directed at investigating the principal cause's poverty among peasant farmers in the rural communities of Cross River State, Nigeria.

1.4 Research objectives.

From the above stated aim, two specific objectives were stated for the study as follows.

- To investigate the relationship between incidents of rural poverty and the people's life form and culture in the study area.
- To investigate the relationship between incident of rural poverty and ecological conditions or parameters in the area.

1.5 Research hypothesis:

Strictly in line with the stated objectives above two research hypotheses were formulated in null and alternative forms as follows:

Hypothesis I

H₀: The peoples life forms cultural attributes do not significantly contribute to poverty among peasant farmers in the rural communities of cross river state, Nigeria.

H₁: The people's life forms or sociocultural attributes do contribute significantly to poverty among peasant farmers in the rural communities of cross river state, Nigeria.

Hypothesis II

H₀: Ecological conditions do not contribute significantly to poverty among peasant farmers in the rural communities of Cross River State, Nigeria.

H₁: Ecological conditions do contribute significantly to poverty among peasant farmers in the rural communities of Cross River State, Nigeria.

1.6 Scope of the study

Geographically, the study covers the entire cross river state of Nigeria. In terms of ecological variation the state comprises the forest south and the savanna north.

Conceptually the study devoted attention to the prevalence of poverty such as Social cultural parameters ecological parameters, and economic parameters. Granted that economic parameters are predicates of socio culture and ecological parameters, attention was focused more on the two previous ones.

Sources of data: Only primary source data were utilized for the study. This involved employment of the questionnaire and the check list for field data capturing.

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Conceptual explanations.

2.1 The concept of poverty

Poverty has amorphous explanations of meanings. At first sight it connotes absolute deprivation and lack of material means. Poor people generally are seen as the powerless, voiceless and vulnerable lots. Their vulnerability is seen in their inability to adapt to changing social and ecological trends. The poor are seen to be economically, politically, culturally and educationally stagnated (Cakubiro, 2014). All manner of uncomplimentary accolades ascribed to the poor. However some scholars have tended to tend colour to the meaning and explanation of poverty within the precinct of their domain. Aluke (2011) advocate that poverty explains the one who lacks adequate financial resources within the context of a society's financial or fiscal environment.

This was clearly substantiated by Shaefur (1996) who differentiated material poverty, psychological poverty, knowledge poverty, social poverty and perceptual poverty. In Nigeria and most developing countries, poverty of the various categories are rampant or prevalent. We can also briefly turn attention to the general status of poverty in Nigeria vis-à-vis Cross River State.

2.2 Status of poverty in Nigeria

In a world bank report (2018), Nigeria had surpassed India as a nation with the highest number of people living in extreme poverty across the world with an estimated 86.9 million Nigerians measured to be living on less than and 1.90 (₦684) a day. A recent report from the world poverty clock, the figure has increased to 93.7 million in 2019.

A further report from the World Bank (2018) more than half of Nigerians population lives on less than a dollar a day. To further corroborate this, the world data lab noted that the outlook for poverty alleviation in Nigeria is weak and that an estimated 120 million Nigerians are expected to slip into extreme poverty 2030.

Ironically, at the global scale, the picture is significantly different but inherently there are more rural poor than urban poor. This situation is squarely replicated in the cross river situation where rural areas constitute more than 80% of the total land mass of the state with predominantly peasant farmers. This brings in the assumption of precursors of rural poverty which informs the problem definition of this work.

- **The city ecological foot print perspectives and rural underdevelopment.**

Urban geographers in Nigeria in the persons of Mabogunje (1985) Ojo (1989) and Udo (1992) have provided cogent explanations as the roots of urban underdevelopment of the rural areas in Nigeria. The lopsided relationship which is explained based on the nature of rural –urban interaction is what had been described by David, Milton and Satharativiate as “the cities ecological foot print.” This is simply explained to mean the extent to which a city draws its resources from the surrounding country sides.

By this means, the city grows at the expense of the rural areas by tapping the materials and human capital for its development without correspondingly replacing it in another form. Essentially the pre and post colonial Nigeria urban areas grow by exploiting the available rural resources for their development. Clearly started, urban market is feed by rural country sides. Industrial raw materials are derived from the rural areas in the form of wood, hides and skins, and so on.

More poignantly, the virile youths population are drawn from the rural areas to feed the urban industries and other service occupations. Most of the rural –urban migrates from the rural domains move in search of employment that are few and far between. Because the urban centers are not sufficiently generative (Mabogunje 1978) it leads to the grave problem of urban unemployment. Mass migration to the urban areas leads to over-population of the urban centre and under population of the rural areas. While the urban centers suffer labour glut, rural areas suffer rural underutilization of its resources.

A second dimension to the issue of rural-urban imbalance derives from the nature of colonial education received from the colonial administration. The curriculum of the colonial pedagogical learning emphasized literacy, numeracy without thinking and problem solving. (Anni 2002). In the express notion of Anni (2002) the sole aim of the colonial masters was to teach the black Nigeria to learn not to reason independently but dependently. It follows then that colonial form of frictional. Less emphasis was on technical education or enterprise exation learning. This introduced civil service dependency, where other occupations are seen as less lucrative.

2.3 Disparity in rural urban infrastructure

Rural poverty is clearly epitomized in the above phrase “disparity infrastructure”. This concept was captured in a statement of an International Conference on “expo 2000” by a one-time director general of the United Nations Environmental Programme(UNEP) in the clause “Towns and rural areas are growing apart”. Basing this argument on disparity on communication infrastructure he said while the town worked with the internet, on the land there was mostly not even a telephone in the rural areas.

Further on, stated that while many towns were interwinning there was not even a rural partnership, this agrees with an earlier premise by Gould and White 1974 in their mental maps that while the information surface is high in the urban area ignorance surface as corresponding high in the rural areas. This causes the high preference matric of the mental maps of the rural- urban development nexus. Poor networks, lack of basic and social amenities, poor educational facilities in terms of infrastructure and teaching personnel, and other development paraphernalia are the glaring spectacles of urban-rural imbalance which creates rural

underdevelopment and poverty. The marked demarcation presents disillusionment and lack of attractiveness of rural place thereby leading to mass migration to areas of green pastures, the urban centre

The problem of agriculture is another over bearing concern. A food and agricultural organization (FAO) study (2016) showed that the productivity of rural agriculture was declining by 10% annually in the tropics and Nigeria in particular soil impoverishment, soil erosion, lack of farm innovation and other similar tapes in systems organization have all concluded to the nature of the declaiming rural agricultural productivity.

2.4 Some Specific Causes of Rural Poverty

The previous section devotes attention to some general essence of the status of rural-urban imbalance. Here attention is being turned to some particular circumstance of the roots of rural poverty.

A few of these have been explored in the literature and briefly highlighted below:

- **Lack of good job or under employment:** When one lacks a regularly paid job or secure employment the income level of the individual will not be stable. Following a report from economic policy institute (2020) large groups workers with full-time year-round employment are still below federal poverty guidelines. Also in some countries like the democratic republic of Congo, most of the people live in rural areas stripped of natural resources, similarly in the savanna belt of Africa generally seasonal unemployment is a grave reason for rural poverty where most peasant farmer's remain idle in the dry season without productive activity (Grove 1978)
- **Inadequate or functional education:** Illiteracy is given priority in all developmental analysis. People without education wallow in ignorance and poverty. Being uninformed they remain economically, socially and developmentally deformed. Following a UNESCO declaration (2005) over 170 million people could be free of extreme poverty, if only they had basic reading skills. Inadequate capital, distance travelled to school and other related factors account for the large population of illiterate persons in the rural areas of Cross River State Nigeria.
- **Weather and climate change:** Following a World Bank report (2018) climate change has the tendency to impoverish 100 million people in the next decade. The report stated that climate change causes drought, flood and severe storms. It states further that recovery is extremely difficult especially for agricultural communities where they barely have enough to feed themselves. In the rural communities of Cross River State, Nigeria, vagaries in the weather regime due to delayed commencement of rainy season, or early cessation of rainfall and other uncertainties in the weather regimes have led to dramatic loss of crops and crop yields generally. In this year's farming seasons, rice farmers in the savanna zone have colossally experienced crop failures due to sporadic rainfall regime. Nigerian meteorological services Annual review (2012) reports adverse weather events in different parts of the country portrayed gloomy picture for farmers.
- **All and sundry:** Numerous explanations to the causes of poverty have been provided in the literature. Sundry other causes are provided in broad outlines as follows:
 - Social justice
 - Inadequate infrastructure
 - Inadequate government employment
 - Inadequate health care delivery
 - Inflation/highest of living

2.5 Summary of Review.

The review explored wide range of issues predicated on rural poverty generally. The root causes of urban-rural imbalance were carefully examined. Also the status of rural poverty was considered.

Finally, numerous causes of poverty in general were brought forward from the literature. It is therefore hoped that this submission will throw light on the essential precursors of rural poverty of peasant farmers in Cross River State Nigeria.

Economic and livelihood parameters are therefore used as surrogate measures to electricity information

to explain the basis of poverty in the area.

Area of study:

The study area is cross river state of Nigeria. It is one of the 36 geopolitical entities that made up of the 36 federal states of the reaction Nigeria. The states comprises 18 geopolitical units or local government delimitations. A broader geopolitical demarcation splits the state into north, central and south senatorial districts.

Ecologically, the state has two broad ecological biomes, the forest south and the savanna north. These demarcations find their basis on the climate and vegetational parameters that provide the unique identities of two regions. Higher relative humidity, higher vapour transportation and correspondingly higher rainfall create opportunity for development of tropical rainforest which were the prestrike vegetation of the forest or south. Currently only vestiges or these are left due to human activities in agriculture, lumbering and soon.

Method of study

Study Design: This study is a field exploring focused on data collection using the question and check list instrument for editing information from the field. The question is administered to the sampled population of the study checkouts were used as observation instrument for data capturing the relevant surrogate parameters from the field. Surrogate measure are those indices that depict the essence of poverty in an area such as housing equality, social characteristics life modes and life styles environmental equality etc.

The savanna north is climatically characterized by relatively lower humidity less evapotranspirative and less incidence of rainfall, prolonged dry spells of drought or avidity is a significant feature of the savanna ecotone. The vegetation is predominantly grassland end woodland park savanna. The people's occupation status follows closely the regime of weather and climate. The forest south engages mostly in stabilized crop cultivation and squacullire while the savanna north engages more in arable formatting and livestock undertakings. Also in line with the ecological differences, the cultural attributes are correspondingly variegated.

Study population:

The population involved adult male and female residents in rural communities of Cross River State. The population was also restricted to male and female residents who were of regular households and correctly in coherent family hood. Single male and female residents were not captured in the interview procedure.

Sampling technique:

Multi-stage sampling procedure was used in the selection of the population for the study 5% sample size was employed.

Purposive sampling techniques was employed on the basis of the geopolitical units. North, central and south senatorial district respectively from the three senatorial districts, two local government areas each were selected. This the total number of L.G.A used for the study were six out of the eighteen L.G.A that constitute the stage from each L.G.A two rural communities were selected for data collection. 12 rural communities that were utilized for the study from each of these 5% male and female presently married persons ware random by selected for the study. The 5% randomly selection produced variegated numbers according to the relative's numbers of the adult married persons as shown by table 1 below.

Instrument used in data:

Political maps were used in declined areas for data collection. Global positioning systems were employed in weathering areas in terms of co-ordinates of location.

Socio-cultural parameters:

Reponses are to elicited based on a four point rating scale techniques as follows.

A= AGREE, SA = Strongly Agree, D= Disagree and SD=strongly disagree.

Table 1: Socio-cultural precursors of poverty (Hypothesis I)

RESPONSE ITEMS	A	SA	D	SD	TOTAL
1. I Enjoy social outings	123	109	93	22	330
2. Hug outlay of money is spent in burial	114	132	85	25	354
3. Family size is quite large	121	115	118	13	353
4. Land tenure system tangles development	106	121	78	61	353
5. Government land is appropriate is common	77	62	98	109	346
6. There is incidence of frequent inter-communal areas	106	122	62	98	358
7. High bridal price ceremony is common in my area	98	76	111	71	356

Table 2**Ecological percursors of poverty (Hypothesis II)**

RESPONSE ITEMS	A	SA	D	SD	TOTAL
Early cessation or delay in seasonal reversal affects our farm productivity	84	63	100	110	357
Excessive rainfall is a menace to agric productivity	105	110	80	55	350
Drought incidence is a common feature of your area	98	94	115	122	357
Incidents of pests disease affect our crops and livestock	102	96	109	49	358
Poor soil status affect our crops productivity	108	115	103	31	357
Soil erosion incidence is a major constant	118	108	86	42	354
Hard pan formation/ certification affect land development	93	119	72	70	354
Flood incidence is a major constrain to development	126	108	74	48	356
Cully erosion is common or prevalent in our area	114	96	72	81	353
Burial ceremonies take a huge toll of our income	123	127	94	12	356
Frequent incidence of holidays/pastime is common in our culture	127	112	95	23	357
Farm innovation is not readily adopted in our farming systems.	136	128	72	22	358

Method of data analysis

Data will be analysed using the method of chi-square (x^2) analysis for the population under study.

Data presentation and analysis

Data is presented in line with the variable employed for the study as follows:

Samples population by Local Government. Twenty response were randomly samples per each of the Eighteen L.G.A as represented in table i below.

Table 3: Reponses population by L.G.A

ZONE	L.G.A	RESPONTEENTS POPULATION
NORTHERN ZONE	OBANLIKU	20
	OBUDU	20
	BEKWARA	20
	OGOJA	20
	YALA	20
	TOTAL	100
CENTRAL ZONE	BOKI	20
	IKOM	20
	ETUNG	20
	OBUBURA	20
	YAKURR	20
	TOTAL	20-8=120
SOURTHERN	BIASE	20
	AKAMKPA	20
	ODUKPANI	20
	CAL NORTH	20
	CAL SOUTH	20
	AKPABUYO	20
	BAKASSI	20
	TOTAL	140

GRANDS TOTAL: 360 RESPONDEENTS

Ecological parameters (Hypothesis II) here also response are to be based on a four point rating scale. Techniques e.g.

Data analysis

Table 4: Chi square table on sociocultural precursors of poverty (Hypothesis I)

O_{ij}	E_{ij}	$(O_{ij} - E_{ij})$	$(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2$	$\frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}}$
123	100	23	529	5.2900
109	107	2	4	0.9373
93	83	10	100	1.2048
22	37	-15	225	6.0811
114	103	11	121	1.1748
132	110	22	484	4.4000
85	85	0	0	0.000
25	38	-13	169	2.8684
121	106	15	225	2.1226
115	114	1	1	0.0688
118	88	30	900	10.227
13	40	-27	729	18.225
106	105	1	1	0.0095
121	113	8	64	0.5637
78	87	-9	81	0.9210
61	38	23	529	13.921
77	100	-23	529	5.290
62	107	-45	2025	18.925
98	83	15	225	2.7108
109	37	72	5184	140.108
106	103	3	9	0.0874
122	111	11	121	1.0901
105	85	20	400	4.7058
25	39	-14	196	5.0256
98	103	-5	25	0.2427
76	110	-34	1156	10.509
111	85	26	676	7.9500
71	38	34	1156	30.421
123	103	20	400	0.8834
127	110	17	289	2.6272
94	85	9	81	0.8617
12	38	-26	676	17.789
127	103	24	576	5.5922
112	110	2	4	0.0364

95	85	10	100	1.1764
23	38	-15	225	5.5728
136	103	33	1089	10.578
128	111	17	289	2.6036
72	85	-13	169	1.9882
22	39	-17	289	7.4102
Total				352.1995

Decision rule:

The degree of freedom (R-1) (C-1) =(10-1), (4-1)= (9,3) At $\alpha = 0.05$ level of significant and degree of freedom 9,3. A table value of χ^2 (0.05, 4,3)= 3.33 , and 0.352, if the computed χ^2 is > the table χ^2 we reject the null hypothesis or otherwise if $\chi^2 > 3.33$ or $\chi^2 < 0.532$

Table 5: Chi square table on Ecology precursors of poverty(Hypothesis II)

O_{ij}	E_{ij}	$(O_{ij} - E_{ij})$	$(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2$	$\frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}}$
84	104	-20	400	3.8461
63	100	-37	1369	13.69
100	80	20	400	5.000
110	62	48	2304	37.1613
105	102	3	9	0.0882
110	98	12	144	1.4693
80	78	2	4	0.59016
55	61	-6	36	0.59016
98	125	-27	729	5.832
94	120	-26	676	5.6333
115	96	19	361	3.7604
122	75	47	2209	29.4533
102	104	-2	4	0.0384
96	100	-4	16	0.1600
109	80	29	841	10.5125
49	62	-13	169	2.7250
108	104	4	16	0.15384
115	100	15	225	2.2500
103	80	23	529	6.6125
31	62	-31	961	15.500
118	103	15	225	2.1844
108	99	9	81	0.8181
86	79	7	49	0.62025
42	62	-20	400	6.4162

106	103	3	9	0.0873
113	99	14	196	1.9797
81	80	1	1	0.0125
55	62	-1	49	0.7903
93	103	-10	100	0.9708
119	99	20	400	4.0404
72	79	-7	49	0.62025
70	62	8	64	1.03225
126	104	22	484	4.6538
108	100	8	64	0.6400
74	80	-6	36	0.4500
48	62	-14	196	0.0509
114	43	71	5041	117.2325
96	99	-3	9	0.09090
32	79	-17	49	0.6202
81	62	19	36	5.88225
χ^2				294.2595

Decision rule:

The degree of freedom (R-1) (C-1) =(10-1), (4-1)= (9,3) At $\alpha = 0.05$ level of significant and degree of freedom 9,3. A table value of χ^2 (0.05, 4,3)= 3.33 , and 0.352, if the computed χ^2 is > the table χ^2 we reject the null hypothesis or otherwise if $\chi^2 > 3.33$ or $\chi^2 < 0.532$

Hypothesis I:

H₀: Socio-cultural attributes do not contribute significantly to intendants of poverty in the rural areas of Cross River State.

H₁: Socio-cultural attributes do contributes significantly to incidents of poverty in the rural areas of Cross River State.

Hypothesis II

H₀: Ecological conditions do not contribute significantly to incidents of poverty in the rural areas of Cross River State.

H₁: Ecological conditions do contribute significantly to incidents of poverty in the rural areas of cross river state'

Tables I II above were employed for analysis of the hypothesis.

Results and findings

The two hypotheses were focused on analysing two key parameters to the prevalence of poverty among peasant famers in the state. Sociocultural parameters explored the peoples life attributes, while ecological parameters focused on environmental constraints to development

From hypothesis I which analysed the sociocultural attributes of the population and its relation poverty, the decision rule favoured the rejection of thee null hypothesis which do not contribute significantly to prevalence of poverty in the area. Hence, the alternative hypothesis is accepted indicating that sociocultural attribution contribute significantly to prevalence of poverty in the region. This result lends credence to earlier studies on rural poverty such as that by Mabogunje (1985) Ojo (1989) and Ubo (1970) on the basis of rural urban imbalance and rural underdevelopment generally.

Similarly, David , Mittin and Satterthwaite postulates on “ urban ecological foot prints” finds adequate relevance to the findings of the study.

In the same vien, UNEPS Director General (2000) deliberation of the essence of education in rural development is worthy of inclusion in the explanation of this result. To reiterate a paraphrased version of the UNEP’S Boss view , the towns and rural areas are growing apart” again the FAO(2016) study pointed to the reality of rural agricultural productivity decline

Recently a gross assessment of rural poverty analysis presents a gory spectacle of how rural life style among the rural folks home contributed to grass underdevelopment in the area

Lavish expenditures on ceremonies, burials, marriages and festival are common stock in trade among the country folks. Equally unemployment rate is quite high as explained by the world economic data lab.

Hypothesis II

The analysis of hypothesis II using the same technique of chi square (χ^2) focused on explanation of rural poverty on the basis of ecological variables or environmental parameters. At 0.05 level of significance the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate upheld. This means that there is a significant contribution of ecological parameters to incidence of poverty in the study area. Copious literature exist in support if this findings as can be general from a few of the cases cited in this study such is the world bank (2018) report which states that climate change will impoverish over 100 millions people in the next decade. The report went further to state that climate change causes drought, flood and severe storms and recovery is especially difficult for agricultural communities where they barely have enough to feed themselves. This is currently evident in Cross River State where the effect is varigated as caused of the aexial variation in ecological parameters. In current year 2021, the northern savanna zone came under a severe dry spell of weather which resulted in the alteration planting season for rice, yam and cassava, the yield predicated on this poor weather was abysmally poor and most families are experiencing famine and starvation.

Rice yield was grossly affected across all the rice planting communities of the north savanna zone the forest south has its fare-share of the change impact. Over bearing flood incidence leading to destruction of farm crops and displacement of homes. In Akamkpa Cross River State in particular, flood event occurred on the 30th of September this year leading to displacement of people and destruction of form cross and destruction of domestic properties. The Nigerian metrorogical services its yearly review has capatured the magnitude of damage caused by flood incidence on annual basis across the country. Flood damage can be far reaching and impacting in that its recovery is difficult as earlier stated by the world bank report

Becides drought and flood affects, other vagaries such as soil erosion , soil improverishment, soil acidification, hard pan formation and other such ecological effect are common features of rural communities ecology.

The matter is made worse by the fact that farmers coping strategies is limited as result of economic incapacitation , low level technology, low education and conservative ideals of the rural population.

Conclusion

The result of the findings is this paper reveal that there is currently entrenched poverty among peasant farmers in Cross River State Nigeria, most families live below the normal poverty line of I dollar per day. Social life styles are inherently contributory to poverty agravaion due to misplacement of priorities. Ecological factors also have a far-reaching impact. Given the present economic environment, the unrenabling political environment, inadequate education and the low level of education, the situation is likely to aggravate in the near future. There is therefore need for whole rural people re-orientation, mobilization and empowerment in order that positive change could be introduced toward adequate mitigation, adaptation or a adjustment by the rural farmers.

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