

Costs and Returns to the Agricultural Enterprises among the Military Personnel

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Abstract

Agriculture is the only form of enterprise military personnel are officially allowed to embark on in addition to defending the Nation and ensuring its national security. While the military are engage in different agricultural enterprises, there is insufficient empirical information on the returns to agricultural enterprises among the personnel. The aim of the study was to investigate economic analysis of agricultural production enterprises among the Nigerian military personnel. The objectives were to: (i) identify the major agricultural enterprises; and (ii) evaluate the costs and returns to the agricultural enterprises. The population for this study comprised all Nigerian military personnel involved in agricultural production. Based on survey as the research design, 275 military personnel from 10 out of all military formations across Nigeria used were selected through a two-stage sampling technique. A structured questionnaire with a reliability coefficient of 0.86 was used for the study. Descriptive statistics, budgeting technique,

The findings of the study were that: the major enterprises were millet/sorghum/soyabean (22.21%), maize/rice/yam (20.11%), maize/yam (17.91%), cassava/yam (15.82%), cassava/maize (12.23%), sole onion (9.66%), sole groundnut (7.58%), sole maize (4.91%), cattle (48.00%), layers (37.00%), broiler chicken (50.00%), and aquaculture (16.00%);

average rate of return per naira expenditure was estimated at 1.58, 1.81, 2.17, 1.64, 2.32, 2.04, 1.43, 1.49, 2.85, 1.90, 2.00, and 1.25 for millet/sorghum/soyabean, maize/rice/yam, maize/yam, cassava/yam, cassava/maize, sole onion, sole groundnut, sole maize, cattle, layers, broiler chicken, and aquaculture, respectively; The study concluded that agricultural enterprises among the Nigerian military personnel were profitable The study recommended that Nigerian military authorities should provide credit support for non-commissioned officers.

Keywords: *Costs and Returns, Agricultural Enterprises, and Military Personnel*

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I. Background to the study

Agriculture contributes significant role in the development of many economies and has the tendencies to reduce poverty as it provides employment, food for human consumption and raw materials for industry use. Agricultural production is a great means to sustainable economic growth in Nigeria (Adebayo, 2010).

The Nigerian military personnel have an important role in sustainable agricultural development in Nigeria as they can contribute immensely to agricultural production (Meludu, & Adekoya, 2010). Food security is an integral part of national security. The Nigerian military whose mandate is to provide national security, therefore, has an important role in agriculture. Active participation of the military in agricultural production should not be seen as an incursion into an unfamiliar ground but a step in the direction that agrees in principle with one of its core mandates, which is ensuring peace (Ogbeh, 2017). The armed forces are one of the most critical elements among all the institutions of government for the agriculture and economic development of Nigeria, this is because Nigerian military authorities allow military officers and their family members to invest in agriculture (Priye, 2013).

Statement of the Research Problem

Nigeria is one of the major African countries that are susceptible to insecurity and terrorism. This has the effect of threatening the territorial integrity, stability and security of the nation. One way to keep the peace and stability of the country is to improve access to food as a basic human need. Improvement in the food security status of the population is the most effective means of improving the security of lives and property of the citizens. Agriculture is the only form of enterprise military personnel are officially allowed to embark on outside defending the nation and ensuring national security (Code of Conduct Bureau- CCB, 1989). However, there is no empirical information on the agricultural enterprises that military officers are engaged in and their

contribution to agriculture in Nigeria has not been given the required attention. While the military personnel must be given special consideration in the area of agricultural support programmes of the government, the lack of information on their participation in agricultural production enterprises may make it difficult for the policy makers to include the military personnel in the agricultural support programmes of the government.

Though it is expected that military personnel carry out agricultural production activities to make profit, the general notion that officers are to provide security often takes precedence over the business interest of the military officers. Little is therefore known about their economic structure in agricultural production, lack of information on profitability would make it difficult for the military personnel to make appropriate decisions on their agricultural enterprises. Besides, inadequate information on the financial structure of the farms might be a major reason why they are not well integrated into many of the support programmes designed for the farmers.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to carry out an appraisal of the economics of agricultural enterprises among the Nigerian military personnel. The specific objectives are to:

- i. identify the major agricultural enterprises among the military personnel;
- ii. evaluate the costs and returns to the agricultural enterprises among the military personnel;

Justification for the Study

Life after retirement has not been easy for most military officers; thereby creating fear in some serving officers who see the kind of life their predecessors are living and do not know how to go about retirement plans. Agricultural production, if carried out with business motive could be a great means of livelihood after retirement from the Nigeria Military. Nigeria Military officers that are retired have paid their dues by being patriotic; this set of people should not have any reason to suffer after retirement.

Findings from this study would provide information to policymakers on how to promote agricultural production. Besides, it will encourage the possibility of improved participation of the military personnel in agriculture and also boost their production.

II. Methodology

Study Area

This study was carried out in Nigeria across all locations with military formations across all the zones in Nigeria. The Nigerian military personnel primary responsibilities are to ensure national security, to protect the country against external foes and non-state elements. Crop production has been seen as a major enterprise among the Nigerian military personnel, the officers were engaging in other forms of agricultural enterprises such as poultry, cattle and fish production. Although the military personnel are faced with different constraints, these forms of enterprises are still considered highly profitable among the military personnel. Their farm locations were mainly in the northern part of Nigeria and a lesser percentage in the south. According to Njoku (2018) the Northwest region accommodates two wide belts of dominant staple cereals, millet and sorghum. The other cash crops that are commonly associated and that are also peculiar to the local economy are cowpeas which are grown in excess, groundnuts, cotton, and sesame.



Fig 1: Map of Nigeria showing Study Area

Sources and Types of Data

Primary data using a well-structured questionnaire was collected and used for this study. The questionnaire was pre-tested for appropriateness propriety and revised based on the pre-test feedbacks before it was administered to the sampled respondents. Information collected includes those relating to demographic and socio-economic characteristics, farm-level inputs and outputs, cost of production and revenue, and constraints to agricultural production among the Nigerian military personnel.

Sampling Procedure

The population for the study comprised all Nigerian military personnel involved in agricultural production. A two-stage sampling techniques was used to select respondents for this study. First was purposive selection of 10 out of all the military formations in Nigeria that comprise the three services, namely, Army, Navy and the Airforce. The three services formations were Defence Industrial Corporation of Nigeria, Kaduna, Kaduna; Nigeria Defence Academy, Kaduna, Kaduna; Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Jaji, Kaduna; National Defence College, Abuja, FCT; Defence Intelligence Agency, Abuja, FCT; Nigeria Military Pension Board, Abuja, FCT; Mogadishu catonement, Abuja FCT; Ushafa Barracks, Abuja, FCT; Niger Barracks, Abuja, FCT; Nigeria Armed Force Rresettlement Centre, Oshodi, Lagos; Defence Headquarters, Abuja, FCT and Armed forces complex Abuja, FCT. The Military formations selected for this study were located within Abuja, Kaduna and Lagos.

The second stage was was proportionate sampling of military personnel across the three military services. The military personnel involved in agricultural production was identified with the assistance of the military authorities. Several means of reaching out to the respondents were used. These includes the use of durbar, during durbar the researcher informed the commander ahead of time then permission was granted and questionnaire were administered. Another means of reaching out to respondents was by informing the Commandants and Commanders ahead of the interview. Also walk in by the researcher into some of the formations

A total of 300 respondents were selected for the study and questionnaires were distributed accordingly. A follow-up was carried out by the researcher to validate the responses provided in the questionnaire. After each visitation, a review was carried out to check for disparities, where required phone calls and revisits were made and some were discarded. At the end of this process, a total of 275 representing about 92% of the total 300 pieces questionnaire were used for use for the study.

Analytical Techniques

This section describes the analytical tools employed for analysis of the stated objectives with STATA 16 as the statistical package of analysis. These tools include descriptive statistics, rate of return, linear programming model, logistic regression model, and farm budgeting techniques.

Descriptive Statistics

The descriptive analysis employed includes: frequencies, proportions, means, standard deviation, percentages and range were used to show the economic characteristics of the military personnel. It was also used to identify the major agricultural production enterprises of the military personnel. Descriptive statistics were also used to analyse the socio-economic characteristics that determine the level of capacity for implementing optimal plan for agricultural production. This procedure summarizes variables statistically. Information about the location, variability, and distribution is provided. The procedure gives a large variety of statistical information in each variables. Descriptive statistics are used to summarize data. The key purpose why we used descriptive statistics is to draw inferences about the population by observing sample members of the population. The best set of descriptive statistics are measured using central tendency including data dispersion. Descriptive statistics give simple summaries about the samples and the observations that were made. Such summaries may be either quantitative, i.e. summary statistics (*Mann, 1995*).

Table 1: Sample distribution of Serving Formations of the Military Personnel

FORMATION	Number sampled	Number used
Armed Forces Command and Staff College	25	23
Mogadishu Cantonment	40	35
Defence Headquarters	40	40
Defence Intelligence Agency	25	20
Defence Industrial Complex of Nigeria	25	25
Military Pension Board	20	16
Nigeria Armed Forces Resettlement Centre	50	48
Nigerian Defence Academy	20	20
National Defence College	20	16
Ushafa Barack	35	32
TOTAL	300	275

Farm Budgeting Technique

The net farm income model was used to estimate the cost and returns to agricultural activities of the military personnel. It was calculated by deducting the total cost of production from the total revenue in each of the enterprises.

$$NFI = TR - (TVC + TFC)$$

Where:

NFI = Net Farm Income in Naira.

TR = Total Revenue in Naira (the proceeds from sales of products depending on enterprises or their combinations by the military personnel)

TVC = Total Variable Cost in Naira (the costs of variable inputs like feed, drugs, fertilizer, piglets, day-old chicks, seeds, labour, pesticides, seeds, labour, veterinary)

TFC = Total Fixed Cost in Naira comprising the cost of depreciation for tractors, plough, ranches, land, pond, shelters, milling machines, poultry house, pens, pumping machine, and mixer.

III. Results And Discussion

Major Types of Agricultural Production Enterprises among the Nigerian Military

Table 2: Major Agricultural Enterprises among the Military Personnel (n = 275)

Enterprise	Frequency	Percent
Type of Enterprises		
Crop*		
Millet/sorghum/soyabean	61	22.21
Maize/rice/yam	55	20.11
Maize/yam	49	17.91
Cassava/yam	202	74.00
Cassava/maize	44	12.23
Sole Onions	27	9.66
Sole groundnut	21	7.58
Sole maize	14	4.91

Livestock*		
Cattle	132	48
Layers	101	37
Broiler chicken	137	50
Aquaculture	44	16
Number of Enterprises		
One	67	24.36
Two	108	39.27
Three	100	36.37
Enterprises Combination		
Crop only	67	24.36
Crop farming and Cattle rearing	26	9.45
Crop farming and Fish farming	51	18.55
Crop, Fish and Poultry production	39	14.16
Crop and Poultry production	31	11.27
Crop, Poultry and Cattle rearing	61	22.18

Multiple responses

Field Survey, 2020

The result of the study shows that the major agricultural enterprises of the Nigerian military personnel are Crop farming, poultry production, cattle and fishery. About 76 percent of the officers were involved in at least two agricultural enterprises and a maximum of three while, 24 percent were involved in one enterprise which is crop production.

Crop production is the highest agricultural enterprise by the Nigeria Military personnel. The study indicates that 100 percent of the respondents are involved in crop farming. This could be because crop farming is highly lucrative. The major enterprises were millet/sorghum/soyabean (22.21%), maize/rice/yam (20.11%), maize/yam (17.91%), cassava/yam (15.82%), cassava/maize (12.23%), sole onion (9.66%), sole groundnut (7.58%), sole maize (4.91%), cattle (48.00%), layers (37.00%), broiler chicken (50.00%), and aquaculture (16.00%). Crop farming is profitable because human must consume food produced from crop farming to survive, food is the first in the hierarchy of the basic need of man. Therefore anyone involved in crop farming will always be in a lucrative business (Ebong, 2007). About 25 percent of the officers were involved in only crop farming while about 75 percent were involved in crop farming combined with other agricultural enterprises

Poultry production is the second most ventured into agricultural enterprise by the officers with about 48 percent, this may be linked to the fact that poultry production is seen as the most lucrative and easy to start livestock production business in Nigeria. The poultry production is part of the livestock production business which is as old as mankind itself. This part of livestock farming potent one of the finest opportunities for entrepreneurs to make a great gain in the shortest period possible. This becomes realistic because of the quick maturity of chickens and turkeys. There is also an overwhelming demand for eggs daily with more than 160 million consumers in the country alone, there is a ready market waiting to be tapped. The demand for poultry products such as eggs is so high that people go about every day looking for where to get the supplies needed (Adegeye & Dittoh, 1982).

Cattle Production is the third agricultural enterprise involved by the officers with about 32 percent of the officers involved in cattle production. This may be due to the demand for scarce resources to venture into cattle farming. For a farmer to have successful cattle farming he requires large farmland, labour, capital, feeding and watering equipment (Osuntogun, 2010).

This study indicates that aquaculture is the least of the agricultural enterprise involved by the officers. This may be because fish farming requires a lot of attention and the major constraint of military personnel involved in agricultural production is frequent posting from one formation to another which prevent them from having enough time to focus on the fish farming business. This may also be because of some limitations of fish farming as shown in the study of Olaoye (2018), non-availability and high cost of quality fish seeds is a factor militating against the adoption of recommended aquaculture production technologies. More so, a greater percentage of the fish farmers (94.6% and 96.0%) listed poaching/predators, high cost and lack of construction equipment respectively as some of the major challenges limiting the adoption of recommended aquaculture production technologies and it was also shown that market price fluctuation and the high cost of production as a challenge disrupting the adoption of fish production technologies.

Costs and Returns to Agricultural Enterprises among the Nigerian Military Personnel

In any agricultural production process, cost is incurred and income is earned from sales of output. In the African context, it could either be monetized or not (Malomo, 2002). The costs and returns to agricultural enterprises of the Nigerian military personnel using rate of return, and farm budgeting techniques (net farm income) is as presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Net Farm Income of Agricultural Enterprises among the Nigerian Military Personnel per Season

Enterprise	Item	Amount (₦)
Crop (per ha)	Total Value of Output	640,000
	Total Cost	353,100
	NFI per season	286,900
Broiler per cycle	Value of output	989,000
	Total Cost	494,500
	NFI	491,500
Egg Production per cycle	Value of output	968,310
	Total Cost	509,637
	NFI	458,673
Cattle (per 42 herd of cattle)	Value of output	4,115,448
	Total Cost	1,444,017
	NFI	2,671,431
Fish (per 465 sqm)	Value of output	1,022,556
	Total Cost	818,045
	NFI	204,511

Field Survey, 2020

Crop farming had an average revenue of ₦640,000 per hectare with an average total cost of ₦353,100 and the net farm income resulting in about ₦286,900 which result in about 81 percent profit margin. This may be because crop farming is considered a very high profit-making agricultural enterprise which also encourages the officers to all have at least a crop farm. Crop production is the most profitable agricultural enterprise in Nigeria because we all eat and most times want to eat what we grow therefore, farmers involved in crop production will always be in business, however, in my study the most profitable was cattle (Akinsokeji, 2017).

The study reveals that cattle production is a highly profitable agricultural enterprise with average revenue of ₦4,115,448 an average total cost of ₦1,444,017 and a net farm income resulting in about ₦2,671,431 which results in about 185 percent profit margin. This can be related to the low cost of production, cattle production requires less labour compared to other agricultural enterprises, most times they are taking out for grazing and when being fed with feed, it is most times at a lower cost compare to other livestock feeds (Niess, 2000).

Poultry farming is also considered as one of the most profitable agricultural enterprises by the Nigerian military personnel with an average cost of ₦1,957,310, average revenue of ₦1,004,137 and a net farm income of ₦950,173 resulting in about 95 percent profit margin. This may be because poultry production presents an efficient business investment opportunity and this reflects in the population (87%) of the officers involved in poultry farming, it is considered one of the major profit-making agricultural enterprises which also encourages the officers to venture into it. Poultry production is the highly profitable agricultural enterprise in Nigeria because of its rapid return on investment, less investment required, continuous source of income through egg production and we all eat and most times broiler intake of feed is comparatively very low while it produces the maximum possible amount of food for us (Akinola, 2006).

The findings of this study show that fish farming is the least profitable of the agricultural enterprises involved in by the Nigerian military personnel and this is also reflected in their participation where only about 16 percent are involved in fish production. The result shows a net farm income of ₦1,022,556 an average total cost of ₦818,045.00 and average revenue of ₦204,511 this indicates that there is a profit margin of about 25 percent which is below average. However, the reason for fish production being the least profitable may be linked to the high cost of initial capital and also fish production requires a lot of concentration and attention which the Nigerian military personnel may not get to offer. This conforms with the study of Nwabeze (2009) that shows a low-profit margin in fish production in Akure as a result of lack of finance, high cost of feeds and inadequate attention by the government to fish farmers compare to other forms of agricultural enterprises.

Table 4: Rate of return per Naira to agricultural enterprises among the military personnel

Enterprises	Mean (rate of returns)
Millet/sorghum/soyabean	1.58
Maize/rice/yam	1.81
Maize/yam	2.17
Cassava/yam	1.64
Cassava/maize	2.32
Sole Onions	2.06
Sole groundnut	1.43
Sole maize	1.49
Cattle	2.85
Layers	1.90
broiler chicken	2.00
Aquaculture	1.25

Field Survey, 2020

As shown in Table 4, the average rate of return per naira expended was estimated at 1.58, 1.81, 2.17, 1.64, 2.32, 2.06, 1.43, 1.49, 2.85, 1.90, 2.00, and 1.25 for millet/sorghum/soyabean, maize/rice/yam, maize/yam, cassava/yam, cassava/maize, sole onion, sole groundnut, sole maize, cattle, layers, broiler chicken, and aquaculture, respectively. The crop production enterprise with the highest rate of return was cassava/maize with the average rate of return of 2.32 resulting to 1.32 net return followed by maize/yam, sole onion, maize/rice/yam, cassava/yam, millet/sorghum/soyabean, sole maize and sole onion. While the livestock production enterprise with the highest rate of return was cattle with an average rate of return of 2.85 given a net return of 1.85 followed by broiler chicken, layers and aquaculture.

Cattle rearing had an average rate of return of 2.85 which implies that for every one naira expended there is a net return of 1.85 naira, this shows that cattle had the highest rate of return to agricultural production enterprises among the Nigerian military personnel, this can be well linked to the fact that cattle production does not require any high level of labour and attention. The rate of return to cattle was higher than that of the crop by 1.0375 broiler by 0.85, layers by 0.95 and aquaculture by 1.60. This indicates that cattle production is significantly different from other enterprises. Average crop farm per hectare with an average rate of return of 1.8125 and the net return of 0.8125 is considered the very high return making agricultural enterprise which also encourages the officers to all have at least a crop farm. The rate of return to crop was higher than that of aquaculture by 0.60. This indicates that crop production is significantly different from other enterprises. The study reveals that the broiler rate of return was 2.00 which result in about 1.00 net return. The rate of return to broiler was higher than that of layers by 0.10, and fish by 1.60. This indicates that broiler production is significantly different from other enterprises. Layers is also considered as one with the averagely high rate of return to agricultural enterprises among the Nigerian military personnel with an average rate of return of 1.90 and a net return of 0.90 which is still above average which also encourages the officers to venture into it. The rate of return to fish was less than that of layers by 0.65.

The findings of this study show that aquaculture is with the least rate of return to agricultural production enterprises among the Nigerian military personnel with the rate of return of 1.25 and this is also reflected in their participation where only about 16 percent were involved in fish production. The result shows a net return of 0.25 which is less than average. However, the reason for fish production being the least net return may be linked to the fact that fish farming requires a lot of concentration and attention which the Nigerian military personnel may not get to offer due to their official responsibilities.

The result of the study indicates that generally, agricultural enterprises among the Nigerian military personnel have a very high rate of return ranging from 1.25 to 2.85 which implies that even fish production that had the least net return still had 0.25. Therefore, the military personnel are hereby encouraged to go into agricultural production as this will be a great means of supplementary income. A farm is considered to produce a high return if it provides a return that is worth the quarter of the cost of production (Aliyu, 2015).

IV. Conclusion

The study concludes that the Nigerian military personnel are involved in various agricultural production enterprises such as from crop production and livestock production. In spite of the constraints faced by the personnel, their agricultural production enterprises are profitable with satisfactory rate of return.

V. Recommendations

The study proffered the following recommendations based on the research findings:

The Nigerian military personnel should venture into agricultural production enterprises. In this regard, government at every level and stakeholders should partner with the Nigerian military so as to improve production and stimulate the interest of the personnel in agricultural enterprises.

There should be increased awareness of the profitability potentials of different agricultural enterprises. This is with a view to encouraging the personel on the need to enagage in cattle as well as cassava/maize enterprises.

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