



FACTORS AFFECTING CREDIT ACCESSIBILITY IN THE BANK OF AGRICULTURE, KATSINA STATE IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study analyzes the factors affecting credit accessibility in the Bank of Agriculture Funtua Katsina State of Nigeria. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to draw data from 176 respondents in the study area using structured questionnaire, also secondary data was collected from the Bank of Agriculture, Funtua in Katsina State. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics and multiple linear regression. The study revealed that 55% of the respondents were in their youthful ages, also 49% had no formal education. The regression coefficient of age of farmer and household size were significant at 5% probability level but age of farmer is inversely related, access to farm inputs, access to extension information and farmer's other business were significant at 1% probability level, interest rate subsidies was found to be significant at 10% probability level and limited bank branches, lack of information about the bank and lack of collateral were the problems faced by the respondents in loan acquisition, the study therefore recommends establishment of more bank branches and more efficient extension service on the importance of credits as the solutions to the said problem.

Keywords: Credit, Farmers, Bank of Agriculture

INTRODUCTION

Micro-finance is the provision of financial services to low-income clients or solidarity lending groups including farmers, consumers, and the self-employed, who traditionally lack access to banking and related services (NIRSAL, 2024). More broadly, it is a movement whose object is a world in which as many poor and near-poor households and farmers have permanent access to an appropriate range of high quality financial services, including not just credit, but also savings, insurance, and fund transfers (CBN, 2024). Access to financial service is seen and viewed as the most important and the most talked about (and still talked about) problem of agriculture, it is regarded as the greatest limiting factor to the development of agriculture in Nigeria and consequently, the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. Indeed, World Bank (2023) says "It is the only one element in the package of inputs and services needed to raise the productivity of small farmers". Simon *et al.*, (2013) reported that one of the basic problems facing underdeveloped countries is the scarcity of domestic capital relative to the size of investment required to achieve high and self-sustaining rate of growth of the nation and per capita income (Famogbiele, 2013).

According to Shenggen (2009) investment in agricultural finance or rather rural finance not only contribute to growth, employment and wages in the rural area, but also help the development of national economy by providing labor, human and physical capital, cheaper food and market for urban, industrial and service development, these translate into growth in the national economy which reduces poverty in both rural and urban area. He further argued that for Nigeria as a nation to meet the pre-requisite for economic growth, it must improve her agricultural production, which could lead to improved standard of living through abundant food supply at low and affordable price (Simon *et al.*, 2013). Thus, the diversification of Nigeria's economy has made the oil sector a major source of revenue generation; consequently led to

neglect of agricultural sector, which also resulted in its underfunding and low productivity (Muhammad *et al.*, 2017). It is against this background that this study is hereby set to investigate the factors affecting the accessibility to micro-credit for farmers in Katsina state and possibly make recommendations on how to make micro-credit more available and accessible to the farmers in the study area in particular and the country at large. Therefore the broad objective of this study is to determine the factors influencing micro-credit accessibility in the bank of agriculture in the study area, describe the socio economic characteristics of the farmers (credit takers) in the study and to describe the problems faced by farmers in accessing loan in the bank of agriculture in the study area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Description of the Study Area

Katsina State is among the north-west states in Nigeria, it lies on latitude 11° 08'N and 13°22'N longitude 6°52'E and 9°20'E covers a land area of about 24192km². The State shares boundary with Kaduna, Kano, Jigawa and Zamfara State with an international border with the republic of Niger (Muhammad, 2017). The state is made up of 34 local government area with 3 ADP zones namely Ajiwa zone (Zone I), Dutsin-ma zone (Zone II) and Funtua zone (Zone III). The duration of the rainfall in the state is between May and October with the mean annual rainfall of 257mm, the minimum and maximum temperatures are 15⁰ and 39⁰ respectively (NIMET, 2023). The Harmattan which is the dry, cold and laden winds is experienced from December to January. Katsina state is an agrarian state with most of the indigene engaged in agricultural activities, both food and cash crops are grown in the state however, crops grown in Katsina state include millet, sorghum, maize, groundnut, Guinea corn and cotton (Yakubu *et al.*, 2022). Katsina state ADP is called the Katsina state Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (KTARDA) and it is divided into three zones,

Ajiwa zone (Zone I), Dutsinma zone (Zone II) and Funtua zone (Zone III). Hausa, Fulfulde and Kanuri are the languages predominantly spoken in Katsina State Ahmad *et al.*, (2025). The state has a projected population of about 9,300,382 people (NPC, 2023). Funtua Agricultural zone comprised of

Funtua, Danja, Bakori, Dandume, Sabuwa, Faskari, Malumfashi and Kafur local government areas. For this study Funtua, Bakori and Dandume local government were selected for this study.



Figure 1: Map of the Study Area

Source: GIS Unit, Shenyang Agricultural University, China 2017

Sampling Procedure and Sample size

A multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted for this study, the first stage involved a convenient selection of Katsina south district (Funtua Agricultural zone) which is located at the southern part of Katsina state, this part of the state has been selected primarily because of the fact that it is the most viable district in the state agriculturally, and it is the only zone with a functionally operating bank of Agriculture, consequently agricultural production in the state has its main base in the district . the second stage involved a purposive selection of three local government area have been in the agricultural zone based on the advice of block extension agents in the district (BEA). The selected local government areas were Funtua, Bakori and Dandume local government areas. The third stage involved a random selection of two villages from each of the local government area selected, the fourth stage involved a random selection of at-most thirty farmers from each of the village selected, and this made us to arrive at the sample size of one hundred and seventy six farmers.

Data Collection

Both primary and secondary data were used in this study. For the primary data, structured questionnaire was used to collect the primary data needed to achieve the study objectives. While secondary data was sourced from reviewed journals, textbooks, bulletins and news letters from relevant agricultural organizations, past Projects, Dissertations, Thesis and internet sources.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistic such as mean, percentages, frequency distribution, tables, range, mean and standard deviations was used to achieve socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and problems faced by farmers in accessing loan in the bank of agriculture in the study area, while multiple regression was used to determine factors affecting credit accessibility.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio economic characteristics of the Respondents

Age distribution of the respondents

Table 1 has shown that 28 percent of the respondents (farmers) are within the age bracket of 31-40 years, 27 percent of the respondents are within the age of 21-30 years, 21 percent among them are within the age bracket of 41-50 years, farmers within the age the age bracket of 51-60 years constitute 15 percent, 7 percent among them are within the age of 15-20 years while only 2 percent among them are above 60 years. This finding shows that majority of the farmers are in their productive age. Base on the amount of credit obtained by the farmers, the farmers (borrowers) within the age bracket of 15 – 20 years had obtained a total amount of N740000.00 and on average, a farmer in this class could obtain N56923.00, the farmers within the age bracket of 21 – 30 years had obtained a total amount of N3000000.00, on average, A farmer in this group could obtain N63830.00, furthermore the farmers within the age interval of 31 – 40 years had obtained a total amount of N3110000.00, on average, a farmer within this age group could obtain N62200.00, Also the farmers within the age bracket of 41- 50years had obtained a total

amount of N3140000.00, on average, each farmer within this age bracket could obtain N87222.00. The farmers within the age bracket of 51 – 60 years had obtained a total of N3850000.00, on average, each farmer could obtain a total of N148076.00, similarly the farmers above the age of 60 years had obtained a total of N1000000.00, on average, each farmer in this class could obtain a total of N250000.00, this shows

that the eldest among the farmers had obtained a greater amount of money from the bank, this is possibly because of the fact that the older a person is, the wider his social network and the bigger and more profitable the enterprise he manages, the bigger his enterprise the higher the need for loan from the bank to finance production and marketing. These finding corroborate with that of Muhammad *et al.*, (2017).

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their ages

Age (years)	Frequency	Percentage	Amount obtained	Average amount obtained
15-20	13	7	740000	56923
21-30	47	27	3000000	63830
31-40	50	28	3110000	62200
41-50	36	21	3140000	87222
51-60	26	15	3850000	148076
>60	4	2	1000000	250000
Total	176	100	14840000	84318

Source: Field Survey 2016, Amount in Nigerian Naira (N)

Sex distribution of the respondents

Table 2 below revealed that majority (81%) of the respondents are males while only 19 percent of the respondents are females. This is because the culture of the northern Nigeria has dictated that males are farm workers while females takes care of the family and children at home. Further analysis of the data base on the amount each gender obtained revealed that the males among the farmers obtained a total of N12317200.00 from the bank in the year 2014, on

average, each male farmer had obtained a total of N86134.00 from the bank, the females among the farmers had obtained a total of N2522800.00 from the bank, on average, each female farmer obtained a total of N76448.00 from the bank in 2014. This finding agrees with the findings of Tiku and Agbogo (2008) who reported that male farmers have a comparative advantages in the developing world over female farmers in terms of access to financial services

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage	Amount obtained	Average amount obtained
Male	143	81	12317200	86134
Female	33	19	2522800	76448
Total	176	100	14840000	84318

Source: Field Survey 2016, Amount in Nigerian Naira (N)

Marital status of the respondents

From Table 3, majority (83%) of the respondents are married while only few (17%) of them are unmarried. Base on the amount of money farmers had obtained as credits, the married farmers had obtained a total of N11130000.00 from the bank, on average each married farmer had obtained a total of N76232.00 from the bank, conversely, the unmarried farmers had obtained a total of N3710000.00, on average, each

unmarried farmer had obtained a total of N123666.00 from the bank in 2014, the unmarried farmer had a higher amount of money because they have less responsibilities so they invest all their time and resources for the development of their farming activities as such their businesses are bigger and more profitable. This finding corroborates with the finding of Adesiji *et al.*, (2011).

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their marital status

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage	Amount obtained	Average amount obtained
Married	146	83	11130000	76232
Single	30	17	3710000	123666
Total	176	100	14840000	84318

Source: Field Survey 2016, Amount in Nigerian Naira (N)

Household size of the respondents

From Table 3, majority of (80%) of the respondents have the household size of 0-10 persons in the household, 13 percent of the respondents have the household size within the range of 11-20 persons and only 7 percent of the respondents have the household size that is within the range of 21-31 persons. For the amount obtained by individual farmers with respect to their household size, finding revealed that the farmers with the household size ranging from 0- 10 persons had obtained a total amount of N4303600.00 from the bank in the year under

study, on average, each farmer with the household size falling within this range had obtained a total of N30307.00, the farmers with the household size ranging from 11- 20 persons had obtained a total amount of N5936000.00 from the bank in the year 2014, on average each farmer had in this class had obtained a total amount of N269818.00. Farmers with the household size ranging from 21 – 31 persons had obtained a total amount of N4600400.00 from the bank in the year under study, on average, each farmer in this group had obtained a total of N418218.00

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according to their household size

Household size	Frequency	Percentage	Amount obtained	Average amount obtained
0-10	142	80	4303600	30307
11-20	22	13	5936000	269818
21-31	11	7	4600400	418218
Total	176	100	14840000	84318

Source: Field survey 2016, Amount in Nigerian Naira (N)

Educational qualification of the respondents

The findings revealed that 49 percent of the respondents had no formal education, 29 percent have finished primary school education, 15 percent had attended secondary school while only 7 percent had attained tertiary school education.

Base on the amount of credits farmers obtained with respect to their educational qualifications, finding revealed that farmers who had no formal education had obtained a total amount of N4748800.00 from the bank, on average, each farmer in this class could obtain a total amount of N55218.00 from the bank, the farmers who had primary school education had obtained a total amount of N4452000.00, on average,

each farmer in this group could obtain a total amount of 87294.00 from the bank, farmers who had secondary school education had obtained a total amount of N2671200.00 from the bank in the year 2014, on average, each farmer in this group could obtain a total amount of N102738.00 from the bank in the year 2014, the farmers who had tertiary school education had obtained a total amount of N2968000.00 from the bank, on average, each farmer could obtain a total amount of N228307.00 from the bank in the year 2014, this shows that the more educated the farmers they are, the greater amount of money they had obtained, disagree with the finding of Olagunju (2010).

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents according to their educational qualifications

Educational qualification	Frequency	Percentage	Amount obtained	Average amount obtained
No formal education	86	49	4748800	55218
Primary education	51	29	4452000	87294
Secondary education	26	15	2671200	102738
Tertiary education	13	7	2968000	228307
Total	176	100	14840000	84318

Source: Field Survey 2016, Amount in Nigerian Naira (N)

Availability of collateral for respondents

Base on collateral availability, the finding revealed that 58 percent of the respondents do not have collateral security for the obtainment of loan in the bank, farmers without collateral often use group lending schemes to obtain loan from agricultural banks. 42 percent have collateral security. Base on the amount obtained by the respondents with respect to their individual collateral availability, finding revealed that the respondents who had collateral had obtained a total amount of N9200800.00 from the bank in the year under

study, on average each farmer with collateral had obtained a total of N124335.00 from the bank, furthermore the respondents who had no collateral had obtained a total amount of N5639200.00 from the , on average, each farmer with no collateral could obtained a total amount of N55286.00 from the bank in the year under study, this shows that the respondents with collateral had obtained a higher amount of money than those without collateral because the borrowers without collateral are considered risky borrowers by the bank.

Table 6: Distribution of the respondent base on collateral availability

Collateral security	Frequency	Percentage	Amount obtained	Average amount obtained
Have collateral	74	42	9200800	124335
Have no collateral	102	58	5639200	55286
Total	176	100	14840000	84318

Source: Field survey 2016, Amount in Nigerian Naira (N)

Factors affecting credit accessibility in the Bank of Agriculture

Table 7. shows that the coefficient of multiple determination, R^2 value of 0.25 revealed that 25% of the factors affecting credit accessibility are explained by the independent variables, this is possibly because that there are other important variables that are not included in the model, the regression coefficient of age of the farmer (X_1) is negative and significant at 5% probability level, this shows that as the farmer age is increasing, his credit accessibility is negatively affected, this is because the older farmers are averse to risk involved in loan default, this put them in a big disadvantages in loan acquisitions as such they mostly feel reluctant to apply for loan in the bank. The regression coefficient of household size (X_2) is positively related and significant at 5%, this shows that as the family size increase, the farmer has more mouths to feed thus his financial burdens increase hence the need for the expansion of production arise, this will push him apply for

loan and thereby increasing his credit accessibility. The regression coefficient of access to farm input (X_5) is negative and significant at 1% probability level, this implies that as the farmer have reduced access to farm inputs, his or her credit accessibility is negatively affected, this is because the government distribute farm inputs like fertilizers, pesticides free of charge to help farmers cut down production cost and cultivate food crops to meet the national demand, as the cost of input procurement is added in the list of the inputs needed in the production process, the farmer's financial demands increase hence he becomes in need of financial service, this would make him consider applying for loan and this increase his credit accessibility. The regression coefficient of age of the farmer (X_1), household size (X_2) and access to farm inputs (X_5) agrees with the finding of Awotide *et al.*, (2015). The regression coefficient of subsidies (X_6) is positive and significant at 10% probability level, this implies that as the farmer have more access to interest rates subsidies, he or she

becomes motivated to apply for loan in the bank and this will increase his credit accessibility. The regression coefficient of access to extension information from the nearby research center (X_4) is also positively related and significant at 1% level of probability, this shows that as the farmers access to extension information increase, his credit accessibility increase, this is because the farmer with more access to extension services is more likely to be enlightened about the prospects and benefits of financial services thus he will be motivated to apply which will inturn increase his credit

accessibility, this finding corroborate with finding of Olagunju Funke (2010). The regression coefficient of non-farm enterprise is positively related and significant at 1%, this shows that as the farmers diversify their business their cash demand increase as such they will be pushed to apply for loan and this increase their credit accessibility. The regression coefficient of marital status (X_2), Bank collateral requirement (X_8) and the nature of loan acquisition procedure (X_9) are not significant, this implies that the variables have no significant effect on the farmers credit accessibility in the study area.

Table 7: Regression results of the factors affecting credit accessibility

Variables	Regression coef.	Standard error	t- value
Age of farmer (X_1)	-0.006	0 .002	0.020**
Marital status (X_2)	0 .043	0.037	0.249
Household size (X_3)	0.009	0.004	0.023**
Access to information (X_4)	0 .117	0.029	0.000***
Access to farm inputs (X_5)	-0.116	0.030	0.000***
Subsidies (X_6)	0 .044	0.026	0.095*
Non-farm enterprise (X_7)	0 .121	0.036	0.001***
Collateral requirement (X_8)	-0.026	0.027	0.325
Loan acquisition procedure(X_9)	-0.013	0.027	0.625

$R^2 = 0.25$

$F = 6.17$

$R\text{ Adj} = 0.2100$

Root MSE = 0.1549

Source: Field survey 2016 *** Significant at 1%, **Significant at 5%, * Significant at 10%

Problems of loan acquisition and accessibility

From table 8, it is revealed that 32% of the respondents have problem accessing loan from the Bank of Agriculture because of the limited number of the branches of the bank in the state, for example the bank of Agriculture Funtua in Katsina state is serving the whole of Funtua Agricultural zone, so most the farmers that are far from the bank have limited knowledge about the bank and they credit they offer, 15% complained about the procedure of the bank for loan acquisition, they said

the procedures are stressful- the bureaucracy involved is too much, 14% complained that the money they are granted is lower than what they actually apply for as such they find it difficult to take advantage of investment opportunities, 10 percent complained of inadequate information about loan and 8% complained of lack of collateral, 7% complained of high interest rates, 8% complained of the delay by the bank in disbursing loan and only 6% complained of politicization and corruption in the loan disbursement considerations.

Table 8: Distribution of the respondents according to their perceived problems

Problem	Frequency	Percentage%	Ranking
Inadequate Banks	57	32	1st
Stressful loan acquisition procedure	27	15	2nd
Insufficient fund granted	25	14	3rd
Inadequate information about bank	19	10	4th
Lack of collateral	14	8	5th
High interest rates	13	8	6th
Delay in disbursement	11	7	7th
Political interference and corruption	10	6	8th
Total		176	100

Source: Field survey 2016, Note that the problems are arrange in order of effect on loan acquisition

CONCLUSION

The study analyze the factors affecting credit accessibility in the Bank of Agriculture of Katsina state in Nigeria. The study revealed that majority (55%) of the farmers (borrowers) in the study area are in their productive age, also majority (81%) of them are males and also majority (83%) of them are married, furthermore the study shows that majority (80%) have a household size ranging from 0 – 10 persons in a household. The study also revealed that 49% of the respondents had no formal education, 42% had access to farm inputs from the government in form of aid, it also revealed that majority (76%) of the respondents engage in other business apart from farming- they are mostly migrant workers and 56% among them have access to a subsidized interest rate loan, the study

also revealed that only 42% had collateral security for the obtainment of loan from the bank.

The study concluded that factors like age of farmer, household size, farmers access to farm inputs and interest rate subsidies, farmers other business, among others as the factors influencing credit accessibility in the study area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings in the study, the following recommendations are made: More branches of the bank of agriculture should be established and there is the need for a total overhaul of the bank administratively, farmers should be enlightened more through effective and efficient extension services about the prospects and benefits of financial service, also the loan acquisition procedures should be made easy,

more funds should be injected into the bank to allow the farmers have access to financial resources they need to take advantage of investment opportunities, and the government should review its agricultural and rural financial policies to allow for wider inclusion and coverage in credit availability and accessibility. Lastly, bank of agriculture should widen its scope to stretch beyond the provision of credits, other financial services like savings and insurance should be made known to farmers as the services are equally important for the growth and development of both agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises in Katsina state and Nigeria at large.

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