



## CAUSES AND EFFECT OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION ON FARMERS' OUTPUT AND INCOME IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

The study examined the causes and effects of rural-urban migration on farmers' output and income in the three senatorial districts of Kwara State. Primary data were collected with the aid of structured questionnaire and focused group discussion (FGD). Two hundred and fifty-six respondents comprising of 149 migrant families and 107 non-migrant families were sampled using stratified random sampling. Descriptive statistics and t-test statistics analytical tools were used to achieve the stated objectives of the study. The findings reveal that majority (72.0%) of the respondents were male, 34.0% were within the age range of 41-50, 62.0% were married, and 69.0% had no formal education. The study also shows that 69.5% of the migrants migrated in search of job opportunities, 35.6% migrated in order to abandon rural farming activities. Results of t-test statistic on the impacts of rural-urban migration on the household output and income of famers revealed that the average output of non-migrant household was 12213.41 kg and average output of migrant household was 6524.36 Kg. The study recommends that establishment of vocational training centers in the rural areas for training youths by the government for self-employment and assisted with micro loans as a startup capital after graduation will go a long way to reduced rural-urban migration.

**Keyword:** Rural-urban, migration, output, Farmers' income.

### INTRODUCTION

Rural areas are a key sector in every nation's economy and their rapid development and modernization have gained the attention of policy makers and governments all over the world. This is

because a sizeable majority of the population lives therein therefore; the future of the country depends largely on it. Typically, rural dwellers are less vocal, characterized by a culture of poverty, as most people live barely above subsistence level (Laah et al, 2013). Rural areas in developing countries are usually deprived of the basic needs of life such as housing, medical care, postal communication, education, transport etc. Specifically, rural areas refer to geographical areas that lie outside the densely built-up environment of towns, cities and the sub-urban villages and whose inhabitants are engaged primarily in agriculture as well as the most basic of rudimentary form of secondary and tertiary activities (Ezeah, 2005). A careful survey of the current demographic situation in Kwara State shows that a great proportion of its economically active population is settled outside the homeland, predominantly in the South-western parts of Nigeria primarily in search of economic fortune. Rural- urban migration of Kwarans to Lagos dated back to the last decade of the 19th century. However, prior to the establishment of colonial administration, evidence abound of rural-urban migration associated with origin of the people dating back to the 18th and early part of the 19th centuries. During those periods, population was constantly being redistributed through migration of small groups. Migration from kingdoms to acephalous communities caused by disputes of office (Chieftaincy) seems to be common in State then. The pre-independence and four of the post-independence National Development Plans all fall within this period when greater emphases were placed on urban development to the detriment of the rural area. Therefore, a shift of the neglected rural Population in order to enjoy urban privileges was inevitable (Akangbe, 2006). Migration was the result. In Nigeria and many developing countries, there has been rapid

growth of cities at the detriment of the rural areas. The rural population is gradually shrinking, while the urban population is blooming. Nigeria is a typical example of a country, where there had been a tremendous expansion of urban areas consequent to the rapid rural-urban migration (Chikaire et al., 2012). Migration mainly concerns young adults who are more likely to have a positive net expected return on migration due to their longer remaining life expectancy, or because social norms require that young adults migrate in search of a better life (De Haan and Rogally, 2002). Both low and high skilled individuals are more likely to migrate but usually for different reasons: "surplus" low-skilled individuals have strong incentives to move to the city in search of a manual job they may not find in the rural area, while "scarce" educated workers may find that their human capital is better rewarded in cities than in rural areas (Lanzona, 2014).

There exist many empirical literatures on the effect of rural-urban migration on rural areas. However, previous studies on the effect of rural-urban migration on farmers' livelihood activities reported positive effects of rural-urban migration on farmers' livelihood (Ajaero and Onokala, 2013), others reported negative effects (Gimba and Kumshe, 2000). Most of these studies do not provide conclusive evidence on the income and output of farmers, in which this study was carried out to address. It is important to note that rural areas are the agricultural nerve of the Kwara State and the nation at large. This concern motivated the current study of the causes and effect of rural-urban migration on the farmers' output and income in Kwara State.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objective of this research was to assess causes and effects of rural-urban migration on farmers' output and income in the study area. Other specific objectives were to:

- i. Describes the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers in the study area;
- ii. Assess the major causes of rural-urban migration in the study area, and
- iii. Determine the impact of rural-urban migration on household output and income.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Study Area**

The study was conducted in six selected communities across the three senatorial districts of north, central and south of Kwara State. The State is bounded by Benin to the west and by the Nigerian states of Niger to the north, Kogi to the east, and Ekiti, Osun, and Oyo to the south. Kwara State is located on latitude  $8^{\circ}30'$  and  $8^{\circ}50'N$  and longitude  $4^{\circ}20'$  and  $4^{\circ}35'E$  of the equator and consists mostly of wooded savanna, but there are forested regions in the south. The population is estimated to be 2,365,353 persons based on the National population census (NPC, 2006), and projected to be 3,968,842 based on 3.2% growth rate in year 2019. The vegetation of the area consists of mixed guinea woodland to forest savannah and an annual rainfall range of about 1,016-1,524 mm. The people of Kwara State are predominantly subsistence farmers. The major forms of farm labour are family and exchange labour. Land tenure system is predominantly by inheritance usually on the paternal side which leads to land fragmentation as family population increases. The major crops produced in the area are maize, cowpea, yam, millet, sesame groundnut, palm oil

production and other palm fruit products processing like palm kernel and palm kernel oil. Other economic activities in the area are livestock rearing, poultry keeping, hunting, petty trading, basket, mat and local hand fan weaving. The farming systems are majorly crop rotation and mixed cropping.

**Fig. 1: Map of Kwara State Showing the Study Area Sources of Data and Sampling Techniques**

A multi-stage sampling procedure was used for the purpose of this study. The first stage involves purposive selection of Kwara State, been one of the most affected area in terms of rural-urban migration in the State {National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2010}. The second stage was the selection of two Local Government Areas (LGA) selected in each of the



three senatorial districts in the State. The third stage was purposeful selection of a communities in each of the LGA that were mostly susceptible to rural-urban migration in the State. The communities includes: Afon in Asa LGA, Oke-oyi in Ilorin

East LGA, Sanmara in Irepodun LGA, Lomo in Ifelodun LGA, and Ejidongari and Gbugbu in Moro LGA and Edu LGA respectively. In the final stage simple random sampling was employed in selecting migrant families and non-migrant families from each of the communities. However, 25% of the sample frame involving 590 and 430 migrant and non-migrants respectively was used as sample size. Consequently, a total of 256 respondents comprises of 149 migrant and 107 non-migrants were used as sample size for the study.

**Table 1: Composition of Respondents in the Study Area**

LGA	Communities Selected	Migrant Sample Frame	Sample Size (25%)	Non-migrant Sample Frame	Sample Size (25%)
Asa	Afon	92	23	81	20
Ilorin	Oke-oyi	86	22	102	26
East					
Irepodun	Sanmara	111	28	76	19
Ifelodun	Lomo	83	21	99	24
Moro	Ejidongari	95	24	45	11
Lafiagi	Gbugbu	123	31	27	07
<b>Total</b>		590	149	430	107

**Source: Reconnaissance survey,**

The study uses both primary and secondary data for this study. The primary data was obtained through field survey. Primary data were collected using quantitative and qualitative methods. The Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methods involving Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KII) at village level was used as a qualitative data collection method. An in-depth interview was conducted with farmers who are the relevant stakeholders to the questions of effects of rural-urban migration through the use of a well-structured

questionnaire conducted. The secondary data was obtained from office of bureau of statistics and ministry of agriculture and rural development in the State. The information was collected on the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers, causes of rural-urban migration, and the effect of rural-urban migration on farmers' output and income in the study area. Descriptive statistics and t-test were used to describe the social economics characteristics of farmers and to test for the impact of rural-urban migration on the household output and income of famers.

The specific expression used to determine the t-statistic was as follows:

$$t = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1}{n_1} + \frac{S_2}{n_2}}}$$

**Where:**

t= calculated t value;  $\bar{X}_1$ = mean value of household that are engage in rural-urban migration;

$\bar{X}_2$  = mean value of household that are not involved in migration;

$S_1$  = standard deviation of household that are engage in rural-

urban migration;  $S_2$  = standard deviation of household that are

not involved in migration;  $n_1$  = sample size of household that are

engage in rural-urban migration;  $n_2$  = sample size of household

that are not involved in migration.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The result presented in table 2 indicates that the Majority (34%) of the respondents in the study area were within the age range of 41 -50 years with an average of 45 years of age. This implies that the youths constitute the active labour force, but



when they migrated, they leave children and the aged behind which will have a negative effect on productivity. The result also reveals that the Majority (72%) of the respondents are males and married (62%) but lack formal education (69%). Furthermore, majority (79%) of the respondent had 4-6 persons per household size with only 2% of the respondents had household size between 1-3 persons. The result illustrates that most of the respondents had large families' households. This result conformed to Omonigho (2013), Babatunde et al. (2013), Oladimeji et al. (2015) who observed that the majority of farming household heads are male, married with large household size and productive



Variables	Percentage	Means
<b>Age (Years)</b>		
21-30	6.9	
31-40	40.2	34 years
41-50	33.3	
51-60	16.7	
60 and above	2.9	
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	72.5	
Female	27.5	
<b>Marital status</b>		
Single	31.4	
Married	41	
Divorce/separated	28.5	
<b>Formal education</b>		
Primary educ.	17.7	
Secondary educ.	7.8	
Tertiary educ.	4.9	
No formal educ.	69.6	
<b>Household size</b>		
1-3	2.0	
4-6	79.4	5 persons
7-9	15.7	
10 and above	2.9	

**Table 2: Distribution of socio-economic Characteristics of Respondent in the Study Area**

### **Causes of Rural-Urban Migration**

The causes of rural-urban migration of farmers in the study area were presented in Table 3. The result indicates that higher proportion (69.5%) of the migrants migrated in order to seek for employment opportunities in towns. This may be due to concentration of industries, government offices and organizations in the urban centers that youths are moving to

urban centers in search of jobs. This high level of migration among the youths from rural to urban centers has affects food production, thereby causing the problem of food insecurity in the study area. According to Chikire et al. (2012), for any meaningful development to take place in agriculture and rural areas, the youths who are educated and active need to remain in the rural areas to initiates ideas that will lead to the progress and development of agriculture and rural areas.

The result also divulges that about 35.6% of the migrants migrate in order to escape from rural farming activities. This may not be unconnected with the fact that farming activities are largely done through the use of traditional methods and implements such as hoes and cutlasses at subsistence level. Thus, making the youths to loss interest in farming and migrate to urban areas in search of better means of livelihood. This finding is in line with Yohanna, (2014), who opined that lack of interest in farming evolved through the use of crude methods and implements.

About 33.9% of the migrants migrate in order to seek for improved education since most of the rural areas don't have schools and for those who have schools, the schools lack basic teaching and learning facilities and qualified teachers. While about 28.8% of the migrants attested to the fact that lack of basic amenities such as pipe-borne water, electricity, good roads and health facilities are among the major reasons why youths migrate from rural to urban centers. This finding agrees with Adesiji et al. (2009), Babatunde et al. (2013), Oladimeji et al. (2015) who asserted that rural dwellers are attracted to urban centres to earn additional income, to have access to amenities, education amongst others.

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondent Based on Reason for Migration**

<b>Reasons for Migration</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Employment	69.5
Tedious nature of farming activities	35.6
Education	33.9
Lack of basic amenities	28.8

\*Multiple responses allowed

### **Impact of Migration on Household Output**

The impact of migration on household output and income is presented in Table 4. The result shows that an average output of non-migrant and migrant households were 12213.41 and 6524.36 respectively and the calculated t-value was 3.14 and exceeds the critical value (t-critical two tail) of 1.79. Two, the result also shows an average income of non-migrant and migrant households were 41623.91 and 13,150.63 respectively while the calculated t-value was 9.73 and exceeds the critical value (t-critical two tail) of 1.79. The result shows that there was significant difference between output/income of households that migrated compared to non-migrant households. The result implies that migration has a significant impact on both output and income of the farmers in the study area. The finding is in line with Oladimeji et al. (2015) who opined that the migration of rural dwellers to urban centre enable them to earned additional income to supplement income from agricultural activities.

**Table 4: Impact of Migration on Household Output**

	Output of Household (Kg)		Income of Household (₦)	
	Migrant	Non-Nigrant	Migrant	Non-Migrant
Mean	12213.41	6524.36	41623.91	13150.63
Standard deviation	16480.1	51261.71	1116.75	1591.77
Observations	149	107	149	107
H. Mean Difference	0		0	
Df	101		101	
† Stat	3.142		-9.729	
	2.25E-			
P(T<=t) one-tail	06		1.391E-12	
† Critical one-tail	1.742		1.542	
	4.33E-			
P(T<=t) two-tail	06		2.78E-12	
† Critical two-tail	1.79**		1.79**	

\*\*p < 0.05

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study assessed the causes and effects of rural-urban migration on the farmers output and income in Kwara State. It can be concluded therefore that the causes of rural-urban migration in the study area are: searching for employment in urban centers, the youths escaping from tedious manual labour involved in rural farming activities, search for improved education and the quest to enjoy basic social amenities not present in the study area and this out-migration has contributed negatively to the output and income of farmers in the area. Base on the findings, recommendations such as provision of job opportunities for rural youths and establishment of vocational training centers in the rural areas for training of youths for self-employment and those youths

that passed out of vocational training centers should be given micro loans as a startup capital. Intensive effort should also be made towards financing the rural farming enterprises and encouraging effective and efficient agricultural activities through National Policy Framework so as to stimulate youths' active involvement in agriculture and discourage their migration from the rural to urban centers.

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