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ACCESS TO LAND FOR AGRICULTURE BY WOMEN IN KUBAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NORTH-CENTRAL NIGERIA

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Abstract

Women access to land has been a major problem for agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa. The national laws in many Africa countries give women equal right with men to own land, but in reality, this is very difficult because of traditions, customs, and attitudes that have existed for centuries. This paper examined the nature of women's access to agricultural land and their participation in agricultural activities in Kubau Local Government Area, Kaduna State. Data were collected with the help of Structured Interview, Questionnaire, and Participatory rural Appraisal. 371 questionnaires was administered using purposive Random Sampling. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data through total, average, minimum and maximum value. Bar chart was used to present some aspects of the data. Majority of the farmers 687% in the area had access land through inheritance which is paternal, passing from father to Sons and daughters. The Size of Land holding of the women Farmers in the Study Villages Range between 0.2 and 1.62 hectares. Over half (50%) of the women farmers in Kargi village had farm plots between 0.02-0.45 hectares, which is smaller than the males farmers land size. Similarly in Kubau ward (41.9%) had the same range of farm plots. In Anchau and Damau, a little lower than 50% of the farmers (39.2%) in Anchau and (34.4%) in Damau had farm plots between 0.2-0.45 hectares. Majority (98/70) of the farmers in Kubau carried out planting. Similarly in Anchau (96.76) carried out planting activities. In Damau and Kargi majority of the farmers carried out planting. In conclusion majority of the women farmers in the area inherited small farmland that is not enough for their activities. This bring about low farm products output. Women consideration in terms of land sharing for agriculture need to be emphasized.

Key Words: Women, Access to, Use, Agricultural, Land

1. Introduction

One of the major problems lingering around development throughout Africa is that of Women's access to land. There is a common issue about women and land tenure status that transcends cultural, national and ethnic boundaries, where by women find it very difficult to access land for agricultural purposes. They have the right to cultivate and the right to dispose of crops and income released thereafter but not the right to be allocated land or to alienate land. Their ultimate rights to use land are associated with their relationship to men as mothers, sisters, daughters and wives. More importantly, when land becomes scarce or rises in value, or when rights are formalized through registration or titles, their rights to use land are revealed to be secondary and tenuous.

Men use their position in society to expropriate women's right to land (Gray and Kavene, 2010). Women whose rights to farm plots of land were guaranteed by marital status lost these rights and thus face a diminished tenure status that underlines and reinforces a greater economic and social insecurity (Gray and Kavene, 2010). In most Muslim societies, the practices of the people are governed by the religion and these include land accessibility issues. For instance, there is nothing Islamic about inheritance among the Hausa Muslim, when a father dies, then his farms are usually divided among his sons. Lip service only is paid to the rules of Muslim inheritance, when daughters receive shares; they often proceed to sell them to brothers (Gray and Kavene, 2010).

The need to improve women's right to and access to land is now widely recognized in the debate for legal reforms (Hithorst, 2000). In most customary land holding system, headmen and chiefs on behalf of and in trust take community level decisions about land for the clan or family. Authority is generally described to patriarchal lineage and men take most major decisions, hence women are excluded from taking decision on land matters (Hilthorst, 2000). In the northern part of Nigeria, there is nothing to suggest that women should not own land; however, the concepts of ownership imply that control over land cannot reside with women who are not usually considered household heads even in matrilineal societies (Ega, 2011).

Hartins (2000) showed that majority of women in Africa are the rural peasant farmers and they constitute potential work force in developing countries representing a 35-45% of the Gross National Product (GNP) and more than 50% of staple foods in Africa. In Nigeria, women play a significant role in agricultural production. The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) confirmed this in 2007. The study revealed that women make up to 65-85% of the agricultural labor force in Nigeria depending on the region. Despite the fact that ownership of land and easy access to farm inputs and services by rural women are essential to increase their productivity and hence income status, but still the production is less as a result of land inadequacy and lack of technicality for agricultural activities.

The economic and social wellbeing of women and their children are at increased risk when women face widowhood and divorce, or when the male head of household does not or cannot exercise his traditional responsibilities to his family (Komjathy and Nicholas, 2001).

Therefore, most of the researchers on women and access to land especially in the northern Nigeria, place emphasis on religion and culture as the major constraints to women's access to land. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate whether these problems still exist in Nigeria where agricultural intensification, population growth, urban expansion, capitalism and economic change have caused many changes in land use in the society. The main aim of this research is to examine the nature of women's access to and use of agricultural land in Kubau Local Government Area of Kaduna State. The specific objectives were to:

i. examine sizes of land holdings used by women for agricultural purposes
ii. assess the nature of crops grown by women farmers
iii. investigate the forms of agricultural activities undertaken by women
iv. identify constraints to access to land by Women

2. Methodology

2.1 Study area

Kubau is a Local Government Area Located in northern part of Kaduna State. It is a predominantly inhabited by Hausa speaking people. Kubau Local Government lies between latitude 11° 12' N and 11° 10' N and between longitude 5° 15' East 5° 30' E (figure 1).

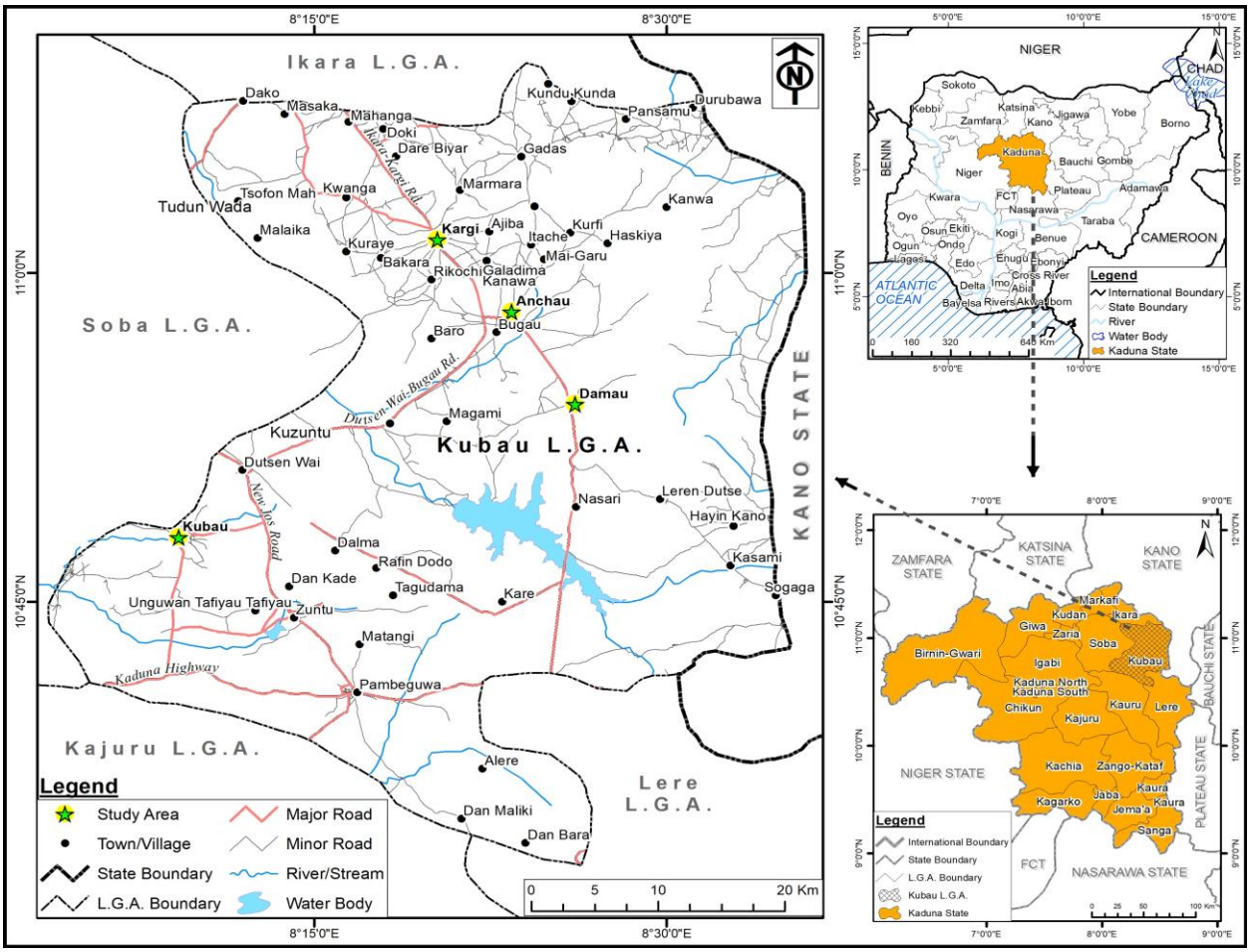

Figure 1: Map of Kubau L.G.A.
Source: Map Gallery, Geography Department, ABU Zaria

The Local Government Area shares boundaries with lkara to the North, Soba to the West, Lere to the South and Kauru to the East. It is about 195km from the state capital (along Jos-Kaduna road). Kubau is 385.5km^2 in size and comprises of 11 wards among which are Damau, Kargi, Kubau and Anchau as a Headquarter, It has a total population of 248,057 according to the 2006 census figure (www.kadunastate.ng.com, 2010). They are largely an agrarian community where most of them including women are farmers who produce crops such as millet, maize, guinea corn, rice and groundnut.

Similarly, they rear animals such as sheep, goat, Local chicken and cattle. The secondary occupations of the women of Kubau include leatherwork and pottery. There are also some businessmen, traders and civil servants among Women farmers.

2.2 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size

The data for this research was collected in four selected wards in the local government area namely Anchau, Damau, Kargi and Kubau, These wards were randomly selected, the lottery method was used to select these four wards, whereby numbers were assigned to each of these wards, written on pieces of papers and putting back all the papers in a container for selection. The reason for selecting four wards was because they accounted for one-third of the wards in the area and these four wards are to represent the remaining wards, since the cultural and socio-economic settings of the wards are almost the same. Within each ward, respondents were selected systematically, where one household was selected after every nine households. Household head and their wives were the target respondents. In the research design due to variation in the population distribution within the wards, varying samples were selected (Table 1)

Table 1: Sampling and Sampling Size.

Study wards	No. of women farmers	Sampling size	% total sample
Anchau	2,500	120	33
Damau	1,850	90	24
Kubau	1,715	81	23
Kargi	1,512	80	20
Total	7,577	371	100

Sources: Fieldwork, 2010

2.3 Data Collection

Reconnaissance survey of the study area was conducted, which made the researcher familiar with the locality, customs and setting of the people. Based on these, the sampling frame and method of data collection were designed upon.

The data used for the research were obtained from primary sources through structured interview and Questionnaire. In the survey, one out of every nine household were visited, respondents were asked a number of questions on access to land, average size of land, what is the land used for, common crop grown, participation of women in agricultural activities, constraints to women's access to land and many more. The type of data was quantitative; Chi-Square (X^2) was in employed in analyzing the data. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was also employed in this research. This technique involves the participatory involvement of the target community and learning from the rural people. Twelve informal discussion sessions were organized, two meetings in each village, one for male and the other for the females. The historical time tag technique was applied were old and aged group of all the four communities wards) contributed through memory recall. During the various meetings, people were invited to the village center and places chosen by the village heads for the gathering; the district; village and ward heads gave the time used for such meetings. Meeting was usually held after the day's labor on the farms, usually in the evenings in most cases. In using the PRA, people were asked whether they allow their wives to own land, whether women have access to land, what other common activities men do share with women in terms of agricultural land and

many more. In addition, respondents were asked a number of questions during interview such as size of holdings, important crops grown, and crops produce and cost of crops produce. Other data collected were on forms of agricultural activities such as planting, weeding, fertilizer application, harvesting and processing of farm produce.

2.4 Data Analysis

A coding form was designed to make the summary and to put sense and order into the raw data collected. All the coded data were analyzed with the aid of SPSS software. The descriptive statistics were computed to include total, average, minimum and maximum. Chi-Square was also use in the analysis; Bar chart was used to present some aspect of the data.

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Age of the Farmers

The age of farmers in the study wards range between twenty-five and sixty-five year (Table 2). Almost half (42%) of the farmers in Anchau village fall within aged bracket of 41-48 years. Over one third (37%) of the farmers in Kubau ward tall within the age bracket of 41-48 years. In Damau and Kargi a little over one-third of the farmers (33.20) and (31.26) fall within the age bracket of 33-40 years respectively. Majority (66%0) or the female farmers fell within the age bracket of (33-48). This corresponds to the age of youth or youthful age, which is the most productive- period of human life. At younger age i.e. between 23-32 years as shown in Table 2 the women are still at childbearing age and still much saddled with the primary responsibilities of keeping the family and ensuring the family welfare. In addition, at old age i.e. between 57-65 years the women are expected to retire from crop production in the study ward (Table 2). Majority of the female farmers in the wards were found to be within the age bracket of 41-48 years, (36.69%).those within this age bracket are not of the childbearing age and as such are not saddled with many primary responsibilities of child bearing and rearing. In addition, at this age bracket, not many of them are housewives, as it is expected they have in laws which per take in these activities. In other wards at a much young age between 26-32 years show in (Table 2) the women are still at the child bearing age and still much saddled with the primary responsibilities of keeping the family and ensuring the family welfare through the cleaning, cooking and washing activities. In addition, at this age women are still strictly guided by the Islamic cultural practices of seclusion (Kulle) which forbade women from inter mingling with menfolk is outside their homes. Majority (66%) of the female farmers were tall within the age bracket of 33-48 years. this corresponds to the age of youth or youthful age which is the most productive years of human life. This corresponds with the finding of Haruna (2004) who confirmed that between ages of 33-48 years are productive ages

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Table 2 Distribution of Respondents According to their Ages

WARD	ANCHAU		KARGI		DAMAU		KUBAU		GRAND TOTAL	
AGE OF FARMERS (YEARS)	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
25-32	4	3.33	6	7.5	6	6.67	4	4.94	20	5.39
33-40	43	35.83	25	31.25	29	32.22	24	29.63	121	32.62
41-48	50	41.67	22	27.5	23	25.56	30	37.04	125	33.69
46-56	23	19.17	27	33.75	32	35056	22	27.16	104	28.03
57-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.24	1	0.27
TOTAL	**120**	**100**	**80**	**100**	**90**	**100**	**81**	**100**	**371**	**100**

Source: Field Work, 2010

3.2 Form of Access to Land

The forms of access to land by farmers in the study villages include purchase, inheritance, hired and gift (Table 3)

Majority of the farmers in Anchau and Kargi had access land through inheritance. In Damau and Kubau a little over half of the farmers (54.4%) and (56.8%) respectively had access to land through inheritance. Majority of the farmers had access to land through inheritance, which is paternal, passing from father to Sons and daughters. Purchase and. hired with payment as means of acquired land for Crop production. However, gift as a means of access to land accounted for small percentage (Table 3). As far as the form of access in the study wards is concerned, it was found in this study, that majority of farmers had access through inheritance. A little less than one quarter of the farmer had access through gift. Some had access through purchase. A situation where majority had access through inheritance conformed to the findings of Arokoyo and Chikwenu, (2000) who opined that the most common and important way of land acquisition in Nigeria is by inheritance, which is usually paternal passing from father to sons and daughters. However, under Islamic law, which applies to a substantial part of the country, women are entitled to have halted the share of their male counterparts.

It was important to test whether there was any relationship between Crops grows and form of access is concerned. The chi-square value at the level of significance of 0.05 Shows there is no significant difference between crops grown and forms of access to land in the study Wards (Table 4).

Table 3 Distribution of respondents according to forms of access to land

WARD	ANCHAU		KARGI		DAMAU		KUBAU		GRAND TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
PURCHASE	21	17.5	13	16.3	10	11.1	6	7.4	50	13.48
INHERITANCE	72	60.0	52	65.0	49	5404	46	56.8	219	59.03
HIRED	12	10.0	4	5.0	14	15.6	6	7.4	36	9.70
GIFT	15	12.5	11	13.8	17	18.9	23	28.4	66	17.79
TOTAL	**120**	**100**	**80**	**100**	**90**	**100**	**81**	**100**	**371**	**100**

Source: Field Work, 2010

Table 4 Chi-square analysis of crops grown by form of access to land

FORMS OF ACCESS	IMPORTANT CROPS GROWN					TOTAL	DF	X^2	PROB
	G CORN	G/NUT	MAIZE	MILLET	RICE				
PURCHASE	1	5	37	1	6	50	12	14.850	0.250
INHERITANCE	3	12	171	12	21				
HIRED	4	2	24	3	3				
GIFT	3	5	49	3	6				
TOTAL	11	24	281	19	36				

Source: Field Work, 2010

3.3 Size of Holding of the Farmers in Hectares

The Size of Land Holding of the women farmers in the Study Villages Range between 0.2 and 1.62 hectares (Table 5). Over half (50%) of the farmers in Kargi village had farm plots between 0.02-0.45. Similarly, in Kubau ward (41.9%) had the same range of farm plots. In Anchau and Damau, a little lower than 50% of the farmers (39.2%) in Anchau and (34.4%) in Damau had farm plots between 0.2-0.45 hectares. From the above figures, it can be said that majority of the farmers have small size farm plots. This is not unconnected with the mode of acquisition, which has been established to be through inheritance. As far as the difference between Size of farms and form of access is concerned, the Chi-square value at the level of significance of 0.05 shows there is no significant difference between the size of land and the forms of access to land (Table 6).

Many had between 0.2-0.45 hectares of farm plots. This size is small and it is not unconnected with the fact that women though being farmers in their own rights or farm laborers on the spouses' fields have no direct access to land except through their status as Wives, daughters or mothers. This conformed to the findings of Momser (2013) who says that women engaged in crops production in Africa, although their farmlands were relatively smaller than their male counter parts.

Table 5 Size of holding of the farmers in hectares

WARD	ANCHAU		KARGI		DAMAU		KUBAU		GRAND TOTAL	
SIZE OF HOLDING (HECTARES)	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
0.2-0.45	47	39.17	40	50	31	34.44	34	41.98	152	40.97
0.46-0.73	6	5	15	18.75	14	15.56	18	22.22	53	14.29
0.74-1.01	38	31.67	16	20	23	25.56	25	30.86	102	27.49
1.02-1.29	10	8.33	5	6.25	14	15.56	3	3.70	32	8.63
1.30-1.62	19	15.83	4	5	8	8.89	1	1.23	32	8.63
TOTAL	**120**	**100**	**80**	**100**	**90**	**100**	**81**	**100**	**371**	**100**

Source: Field Work, 2010

Table 6. Chi-square analysis Size of holding against important crop grown

SIZE OF HOLDINGS IN HECTARES	IMPORTANT CROPS GROWN					TOTAL	DF	X^2	PROB
	G/CORN	G/NUT	MAIZE	MILLET	RICE				
0.5-1.0	8	10	107	9	18	152	12	11.56	0.482
1.5-2.0	2	12	121	6	12	153			
2.5-3.0	1	2	25	2	4	34			
3.5-4.0	0	0	28	2	2	32			
TOTAL	**11**	**24**	**281**	**19**	**36**	**371**			

Source: Field Work, 2010

3.4 Nature of Crops Grown

The crops Grown by Farmers in the Study wards include guinea corn, groundnut, maize, millet and rice (Table 7), It was found that majority of the famers in Kargi (85%). auro7o), Kubau (77%), Anchau (68%) cultivates maize. in addition to maize; groundnut is grown in the study villages. Where it was found that (30.7%) of the form in Damau grow the crop, unfortunately (36%) in Kubau village grow groundnut, a little lower percentage of farmers in Anchau and Kargi (22%) and (31%)grow groundnut as can be inferred therefore, maize is the commonest crops grown by famers in the study villages, which may be due to the soil condition, rainfall pattern, temperature of the environment also due to the fact that maize is favorite crops in the study area.

Table 7. Distribution of respondents according to important crops grown

WARD	ANCHAU				KARGI				DAMAU				KUBAU				GRAND TOTAL			
IMPORTANT CROPS	N		%		N		%		N		%		N		%		N		%	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
NONE	0	28	0	23.3	0	33	0	41.3	0	28	0	31.1	0	26	0	32.1	0	115	0	31.54
GUNIEA CORN	4	26	3.3	21.7	1	25	1.3	31.3	2	33	2.2	36.7	4	29	4.9	35.8	11	113	2.97	30.46
GROUND NUT	10	21	8.3	17.5	4	2	5.0	2.5	6	12	6.7	13.3	4	9	4.9	11.1	24	44	6.47	11.86
MAIZE	81	1	67.5	0.8	68	1	85.0	1.3	70	-	77.8	-	62	-	76.5	-	281	2	75.74	0.54
MILLET	9	23	7.5	19.2	2	15	2.5	18.8	3	7	3.3	7.8	5	13	6.2	16.0	19	58	5.12	15.63
RICE	16	21	13.3	17.5	5	4	6.3	5.0	9	10	10.0	11.1	6	4	7.4	4.9	36	39	9.70	10.51
TOTAL	**120**	**120**	**100**	**100**	**80**	**80**	**100**	**100**	**90**	**90**	**100**	**100**	**81**	**81**	**100**	**100**	**371**	**371**	**100**	**100**

Source: Field Work, 2010.

3.5 Forms of Agricultural Activities

The Forms of Agricultural Activities of Farmers in the study wards include weeding, planting, harvesting, fertilizer application and processing (Table 8). Majority (98/70) of the farmers in Kubau carried out planting. Similarly in Anchau (96.76) carried out planting activities. In Damau and Kargi majority of the farmers carried out planting at (100%) and (88.7%) respectively. Planting is a very important form of agricultural activity for the growth of seed followed by fertilizer application to give soil the required nutrients for the full quality growth of crops. However, in this study it was found that women do not participate in plugging, ridging and land preparation (as aspect of gender division of labor). As earlier pointed out planting and fertilizer application are the work done by women farmers. It was found that 357 (96.23%) of the women and 338 (91.11%) of women are involved in planting and fertilizer application respectively.

As far as the types or crops grown in the study wards is concerned, it was found in this study, that majority of Planting and fertilizer application predominated agricultural activities in the study villages. This confirmed the findings of Okoye (2009) who opined that women carry out farming activities from planting, weeding, fertilizer application and harvesting produce. This is in addition to their numerous domestic chores, which include cooking, fetching water, clearing, washing, looking after home, children and the elderly, collecting firewood, processing and marketing of farm produce.

Table 8: Forms of Agricultural Activities

WARD	ANCHAU		KARGI		DAMAU		KUBAU		GRAND TOTAL	
ACTIVITIES	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
WEEDING	81	67.5	42	52.5	68	75.56	57	70.37	248	66.85
PLANTING	116	96.7	71	88.75	90	100	80	98.77	357	96.23
9HARVESTING	72	60	39	48.75	55	61.11	52	64.21	218	58.76
FERTILIZER APPLICATION	105	87.5	71	88.75	84	93.33	78	96.30	338	91.11
PROCESSING	53	44.16	25	31.25	33	36.67	38	46.91	149	40.16

Source: Field Work, 2010

3.6 Crops and Number of Bags Produced in the Last Cropping Season

The crops and number of bags produced by farmers in the study villages include maize, millet, guinea-corn, groundnut and rice (Table 9). Majority of the farmers in Kargi and Kubau produced 40 bags of maize. In Damau and Anchau majority of their farmers produced 37 bags of maize and 34 bags of maize respectively. Despite the fact that the farming in the villages is characterized by low productions due to low or insufficient resources. Women farmers who produces excess usually store their excess farm produce for sale in tonnes when the prices are high (market speculative of agricultural produces).

Table 9.Crops and Number of Bags Produced in the Last Cropping Season

WARD	ANCHAU				KARGI				DAMAU				KUBAU			
CROPS	NOS	MIN	MAX	MEAN	NOS	MIN	MAX	MEAN	NOS	MIN	MAX	MEAN	NOS	MIN	MAX	MEAN
MAIZE	84	5	34	17	70	4	40	21	73	7.5	37	20	62	5	40	20
MILLET	35	3	17	10	23	3	17.5	7	14	3	15	6	23	3	20	9
G/CORN	33	1.5	22	9	34	3	17	9	40	2	19	9	35	5	22	10
G/NUT	51	3	18	9	17	3	30	12	34	3	17	8	29	4	22	9
RICE	44	4	17	9	14	5	40	13	24	3	12	7	16	4	22	10

Source: Field Work, 2010

3.7 Constraints to Access to Land by Women

In the past, culture was the major constraint to women's access to land, however due to economic changes in all the four wards, majority of the respondents indicate lack of capital as the major constraint to accessing land. They cannot afford to buy land. Most of the respondents said whenever they have found, they can purchase land at any time. This was unlike in the past when woman were not allowed to come out due to their culture and illiteracy. In most of the areas, leasing is very difficult for women as the land owners usually believes that women cannot pay much as their men counterpart much as their men counterpart and its usually done on family relatives mostly pay in kind not by cash. However, women in who belong to family with much availability of land have more and easier access to land than other women with less. Generally, capital is seen as the major constraint to having access to land because their income is smell.

The result reveals that, about three quarters of the respondents indicate that capital (75%) is the major constraint to women's access to land, 17% of the women said culture is the major constraint to women's access to land and while the rest 8% of the women said

excessive interest on loan is the major constraint to women access to land.

Figure 2 shows that one-half (50%) of respondents agree that lack of capital is a major constraint to their agricultural production, just one-fifth (20%) said fertilizer/chemicals is a constraint, and while the rest one-third (30%) agreed land, education and domestic responsibilities are their constraints. in general the majority or the respondents agreed that capital, fertilizer and chemicals are the major constraints to the participation of Women in agricultural production, while a small percentage of the respondents agreed that lack of education and two much domestic responsibility are the major constraints to women participation in agricultural production.

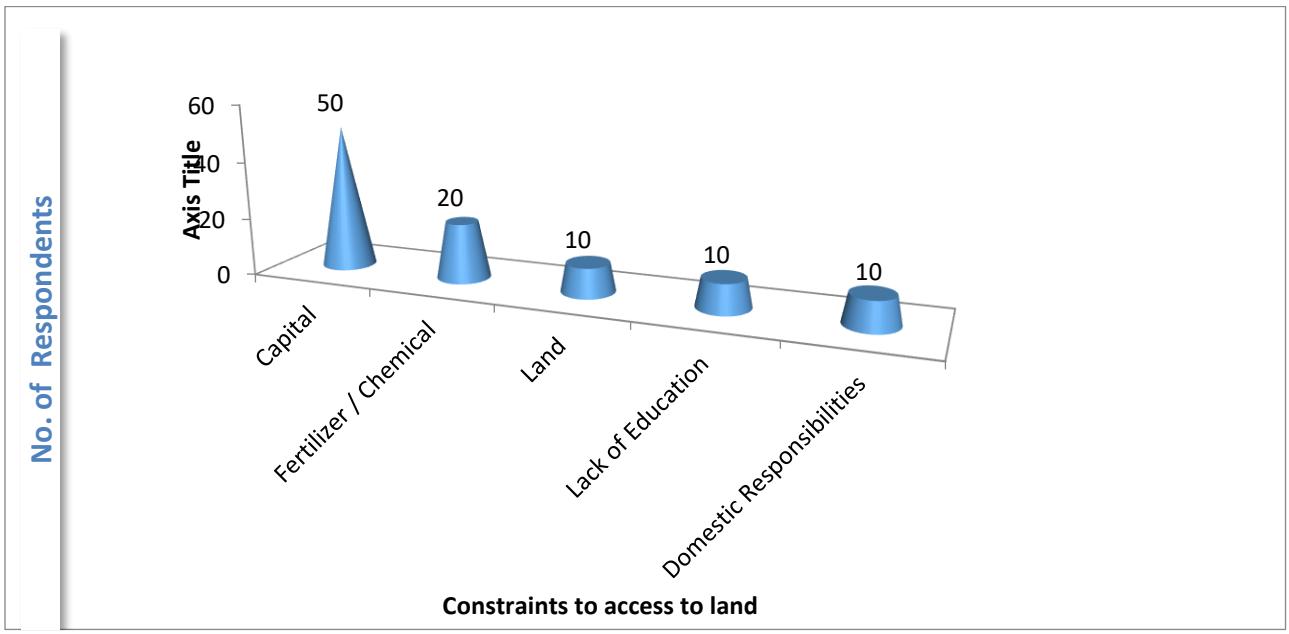

Fig 2. Constraints to Women's Participation in Agricultural Production
Source: Field Work, 2010

Women farmers indicate that capital is the major constraint to women access to land. A little less than one quarter of the farmers (17%) said culture is the major constraint to women access to land and while the rest (8 %%) said, excessive interest on loan is their major constraint to women access to land. This confirmed the findings of Gray and Kevane, (2010) who said that, land is no longer available through Customary Channel as women are severely restricted in their financial and social ability to gain land through Government.

4. Conclusion

This study shows that majority of the women have access to land by inheritance, gift, purchase and hire/loan. The study also shows that, capital is the major Constraint to women's access to land unlike in the past when culture was the major Constraint. The

study further reveals that personal characteristics such as age of the farmers have direct relationship to access to land. However, women participates several agricultural operations for example, age 33-56 years are involved in virtually all aspects of farming activities. The chance for greater participation is, however, hindered by inadequate access to land, capital, chemical/fertilizers, lack of education and enormous domestic responsibilities.

5. Recommendations

In view of the findings of this study, the following recommendations have been emanated:

i. It is recommended that parents and relatives should give women agricultural land. The Land should particularly be given to women who are actively engaged in agricultural production.
ii. Despite the substantial increase in agricultural out-put in the area, women still depend on the traditional methods of crop harvesting and processing. Simple tools in the form of thresher for groundnuts and maize sellers are needed.
iii. There is need to train women in the use of simple technology in agriculture production that is in needed to save time and energy.
iv. It is recommended that the women farmers should be encouraged to participate actively in farmers associations to enhance access of loan' credit facilities and farm inputs.
v. in order to boost the morale of the women farmers, it is suggested that a loan scheme be
vi. Established at the local government level to benefit the farmers. The loan must not necessarily have to be in form of cash but rather in kind, like tractor hiring services, seeds, seedlings, fertilizers and insecticides. Loan repayment should be at the end of every farming season to be supervised by the respective Village heads.

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