

The Role of Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Societies in Promoting Sustainable Food Security: Evidence from Federal Polytechnic Nekede

Paul Chinedu Agu, Anthony N. Nwosu, George Nze Unegbu,
Clement Kelechi Ejingini & Emeka Emmanuel Okere

Abstract

In this research study, the effects of Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede on the food security, sustainable agricultural practices, and social capital of the members were analysed. Descriptive survey design was embraced and 200 cooperative members were interviewed. The hypotheses were tested using the multiple regression analysis. The findings would reveal that there were strong and statistical significant positive correlations between the cooperative activities and food security ($r = 0.969$, $p = 0.000$), sustainable agricultural practices ($r = 0.920$, $p = 0.000$), and social capital and resilience ($r = 0.926$, $p = 0.000$). These results supported the position that the cooperative considerably enhanced food access of members, the use of environmentally friendly farming techniques, and social networks and community strength. This study lends credence to previous studies that have provided evidence on the positive contributions of cooperatives to livelihoods and in this particular case it has been able to provide new evidence on the success of urban-based cooperatives as institutions. In accordance with the findings, the study proposed a greater capacity building, enhanced access to credit and input, and more services to community-based agriculture projects. It was indicated by this study how institutional cooperatives are applicable in the promotion of food security and sustainable development among academics.

Keywords: Food Security, Cooperative Society, Sustainable Agriculture, Social Capital, Community Resilience

Introduction

Food security remains a critical issue in Nigeria, affecting both rural and urban areas. In rural areas, where agricultural activities are predominant, food insecurity is exacerbated by factors such as poor infrastructure, limited access to markets, and inadequate agricultural inputs. Despite the potential for high agricultural productivity, many rural households struggle to achieve food security due to these systemic challenges (Akanni et al., 2020). In urban areas, food insecurity arises from different dynamics, including high food prices, unemployment, and insufficient income to purchase food (Obayelu, 2012). Consequently, food insecurity affects a broad spectrum of the Nigerian population, including the staff of federal institutions.

The role of cooperatives in enhancing food security cannot be overstated. Cooperatives have been instrumental in improving agricultural productivity, enhancing income generation, and promoting sustainable livelihoods (Kumar, Wankhede, & Gena, 2015). By pooling resources and facilitating access to credit and inputs, cooperatives enable smallholder farmers to overcome many of the barriers to agricultural productivity. Additionally, cooperatives provide a platform for collective bargaining, which can lead to better market access and fairer prices for agricultural products (Abate, Francesconi, & Getnet, 2014).

Several studies have highlighted the positive impact of cooperative societies on food security and sustainable development. For example, in Oyo State, cooperatives have significantly contributed to food security among catfish farming households by improving access to inputs and technical support (Oke et al., 2023). Similarly, cooperatives in Ethiopia have been shown to enhance agricultural technology adoption, leading to increased

productivity and improved food security (Abebaw & Haile, 2013). These findings underscore the importance of cooperatives in promoting agricultural development and food security.

Despite the extensive research on the role of cooperatives in food security, there is a need to investigate the specific contributions of staff multipurpose cooperative societies, such as those at Federal Polytechnic Nekede. Staff multipurpose cooperative societies often cater to the unique needs of their members, providing not only agricultural support but also financial and social services. These cooperatives can play a crucial role in enhancing food security among their members and the broader community by leveraging their resources and networks (Adegoke and Agbasi, 2022).

The staff multipurpose cooperative society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede can serve as a model for understanding how such organizations contribute to sustainable food security. These cooperatives often engage in a variety of activities, including agricultural production, marketing, and providing access to credit. By supporting their members in these areas, staff multipurpose cooperative societies can help mitigate the factors that contribute to food insecurity (Fasakin & Popoola, 2019). Moreover, the cooperative's role in promoting social capital and community resilience is vital. Social capital, which includes networks of relationships, trust, and norms, can enhance cooperative members' ability to access resources and support systems. This, in turn, can improve agricultural productivity and food security (Kehinde, Adeyemo, & Ogundeji, 2021). The cooperative's ability to foster strong social networks and collaborative efforts is a key factor in its effectiveness.

Challenges remain, however, in maximizing the potential of cooperatives to enhance food security. Issues such as inadequate funding, poor management, and limited technical capacity can hinder the effectiveness of cooperatives (Jongur, 2011). Addressing these challenges requires targeted interventions, including capacity building, financial support, and policy reforms aimed at strengthening cooperative structures and operations (Ezekiel, 2023). Despite these challenges, the potential of staff multipurpose cooperative societies to contribute to sustainable food security is significant. By providing a comprehensive range of services, including agricultural support, financial assistance, and social welfare, these cooperatives can address the multifaceted nature of food insecurity (Ndlovu & Masuku, 2021). Their role in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving livelihoods is critical for achieving long-term food security.

It then follows that, while much research has been conducted on the impact of cooperative societies on food security, the specific contributions of staff multipurpose cooperative societies like those at Federal Polytechnic Nekede warrant further investigation. This study therefore, specifically sought to:

1. Evaluate the impact of the Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede on the food security of its members.
2. Assess the role of the cooperative society in promoting sustainable agricultural practices among its members.
3. Analyze the cooperative society's contribution to building social capital and community resilience in the local area.

Scope of the Study

This study will focus on the Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede in Imo State, Nigeria. It will examine the cooperative's impact on the food security of its members, its role in providing agricultural and financial services, and its contribution to sustainable agricultural practices and social capital. The study will cover cooperative activities and member experiences from 2019 to 2024. Both qualitative and quantitative data will be collected to provide a comprehensive analysis of the cooperative's impact.

Review of Related Literature

The impact of cooperative societies on food security has been widely documented across various regions. Ezekiel (2023) explored the role of agricultural cooperative societies in enhancing economic sustainability and food security among rural dwellers in Ekiti State, Nigeria. The study revealed that cooperatives significantly improve members' access to food by enhancing their purchasing power and providing financial and technical support. Similarly, Ndlovu and Masuku (2021) highlighted the efficacy of agricultural cooperatives in Mbombela Local Municipality, South Africa, emphasizing their role in increasing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security. These findings suggest that the Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede could similarly impact food security among its members by providing necessary resources and support.

Moreover, cooperative societies have been shown to alleviate food insecurity by improving agricultural productivity and household income. For instance, Adegoke and Agbasi (2022) discussed the role of agricultural cooperatives in promoting food security in Kwara State, Nigeria, noting that members of cooperatives experience better food security due to increased agricultural output and income. This improved food security can be attributed to the cooperative's role in providing members with access to credit, agricultural inputs, and market opportunities. Thus, evaluating the specific impact of the Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede on its members' food security is crucial for understanding its effectiveness and identifying areas for improvement. Cooperatives provide a range of agricultural and financial services that enhance the livelihoods of their members. Kumar et al. (2015) highlighted that cooperatives play a pivotal role in improving the livelihoods of farmers by providing essential services such as access to credit, agricultural inputs, and training on modern farming techniques. These services enable farmers to increase their productivity and income, thereby enhancing their food security. Similarly, Akanni et al. (2020) emphasized the importance of cooperative societies in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria, in providing agricultural extension services, financial support, and input supply to their members. These services are critical for improving agricultural productivity and ensuring food security.

In addition to agricultural services, cooperatives also offer financial services that are crucial for members' economic stability. Oke et al. (2023) discussed the impact of cooperatives on food security among catfish farming households in Oyo State, Nigeria, noting that access to credit and financial management training provided by cooperatives significantly improved the financial stability and food security of member households. These financial services help members to invest in their agricultural activities and manage their finances more effectively, leading to increased productivity and improved food security. Therefore, identifying the specific agricultural and financial services provided by the Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede will help understand how these services contribute to the food security of its members.

Sustainable agricultural practices are essential for long-term food security and environmental conservation. Abate et al. (2014) explored the impact of agricultural cooperatives on smallholders' technical efficiency in Ethiopia, finding that cooperatives significantly promote the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. These practices, such as soil conservation, organic farming, and efficient water use, enhance agricultural productivity while preserving natural resources. Similarly, Abebaw and Haile (2013) found that cooperatives in Ethiopia play a crucial role in promoting the adoption of agricultural technologies that are both productive and sustainable. These findings suggest that cooperatives are key agents in promoting sustainable agricultural practices among their members.

The promotion of sustainable agricultural practices by cooperatives is also linked to their role in providing education and training. Kehinde and Ogundeji (2022) discussed the impact of cooperatives on cocoa productivity in southwestern Nigeria, highlighting that cooperatives provide training on sustainable farming techniques, which leads to increased productivity and environmental sustainability. This training is essential for ensuring that members adopt practices that enhance their long-term productivity and food security. Therefore, assessing the role

of the Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede in promoting sustainable agricultural practices will provide insights into how these practices contribute to food security and environmental sustainability among its members.

Cooperative societies face various challenges that can hinder their effectiveness in enhancing food security. Jongur (2011) identified several challenges faced by agricultural cooperatives in Mubi Zone of Adamawa State, Nigeria, including limited access to credit, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of technical expertise. These challenges can limit the ability of cooperatives to provide essential services to their members, thereby affecting their food security. Similarly, Dyalvane (2015) discussed the role of agricultural cooperatives in food security in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, highlighting challenges such as financial constraints, poor governance, and limited market access. Addressing these challenges is crucial for improving the effectiveness of cooperatives in enhancing food security.

To overcome these challenges, various solutions have been proposed. Ogunleye and Adeyemo (2020) suggested that improving access to credit, enhancing governance structures, and providing technical training can significantly improve the performance of cooperatives. These measures can help cooperatives to better support their members and enhance food security. Similarly, Anania and Rwekaza (2016) discussed the determinants of success in agricultural marketing cooperatives in Tanzania, emphasizing the importance of member participation, good governance, and financial management in overcoming challenges. By implementing these solutions, cooperatives can improve their effectiveness in enhancing food security. Therefore, examining the challenges faced by the Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede and suggesting possible solutions will help improve its impact on food security.

Cooperative societies play a significant role in building social capital and community resilience, which are essential for sustainable development and food security. Zeweld et al. (2015) highlighted that cooperatives in northern Ethiopia enhance household food security by building social capital, which includes networks of trust, mutual aid, and cooperation among members. These social networks enable members to share resources, information, and support, thereby enhancing their ability to cope with food security challenges. Similarly, Kehinde et al. (2021) discussed the role of social capital in improving farm productivity and food security among cocoa-based farming households in southwestern Nigeria, emphasizing that strong social networks facilitate access to resources and support, leading to improved food security.

Although the role of agricultural cooperatives in the improvement of food security has been broadly touched on by various researchers; much attention has been paid on rural farming communities and cooperative societies in general with little emphasis on the staff multipurpose cooperative societies which functions on institutional basis. The current literature also fails to highlight vastly the unique roles played by these cooperatives in providing food security that is sustainable by their delivery of agricultural, financial as well as social services to the staff members. The study addresses this gap by precisely examining the Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society in Federal Polytechnic Nekede, and therefore offering empirical support to how institutional cooperatives ensure food security, enhance sustainable agricultural practices and social capital composed of an urban academic population, a phenomenon that has been less explored in the academia.

Research Methodology

This research followed a quantitative research methodology in order to assess the role played by Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede in enhancing sustainable food security. The selection of a quantitative method rested on the requirement to come up with a measurable data that could be used to provide objective evaluation on the effect of the cooperative. The data were solely collected in the form of a structured questionnaire that aimed at defining the situation of members in terms of food security, access to the services of the cooperative, and perceived problems. This study enabled statistical analysis of the trend and

relationship between variables as per the objectives of the study. There were 824 members of the cooperative society who had registered as the study population. The sample size was defined as purposive 200, as with the help of the judgment of the researcher, the sample was sufficient to provide the representation of the different categories of staff as well as cooperative activity levels. This sample was considered adequate to reflect the scale of the research, taking into consideration both time and cost-related limitations and it allowed to collect data with a certain amount of focus and to ensure sufficiently good statistical reliability. Hypotheses were tested using the Pearson’s Correlation analysis in SPSS.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (N = 200)

Demographic Variable	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	120	60%
Female	80	40%
Age		
18-30	50	25%
31-40	70	35%
41-50	60	30%
51 and above	20	10%
Education Level		
Secondary	40	20%
Tertiary	130	65%
Postgraduate	30	15%
Years of Membership		
Less than 1 year	30	15%
1-5 years	100	50%
6-10 years	50	25%
More than 10 years	20	10%

Source: Field survey, 2025

The demographic characteristics of the 200 respondents in the study reveal that 60% are male and 40% are female. Age distribution shows that 25% are between 18-30 years, 35% are 31-40 years, 30% are 41-50 years, and 10% are 51 years and above. Regarding education level, 20% have secondary education, 65% have tertiary education, and 15% hold postgraduate degrees. In terms of membership duration, 15% have been members for less than 1 year, 50% for 1-5 years, 25% for 6-10 years, and 10% for more than 10 years.

Analysis of Research Variables

Table 4.2: Responses on Activities of the Cooperative Society

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total
The cooperative provides timely access to loans.	7	7	32	65	89	200
I receive regular support for food-related purchases from the cooperative.	5	14	6	77	98	200
The cooperative organizes training related to food production or budgeting.	7	7	18	80	88	200
The cooperative makes agricultural inputs available to members.	5	8	8	82	97	200
Total	17	38	66	306	373	800
Average	6	9	16	76	93	200
Percentage	2%	4%	8%	38%	46%	100%

Table 4.2 reflects the answers concerning the activities of the cooperative society. Most of the respondents either agreed (A = 76) or strongly agreed (SA = 93) that the cooperative was doing a great job in terms of offering services like provision of adequate loans, provisions related to food, training, and supply of agricultural inputs. Neutral answers were few (N = 16), and disagreement was very low (SD = 6, D = 9) meaning that the cooperative through its activity is posing a good picture. This implies that the members normally perceive the cooperative as a proactive and supportive body in improving their agricultural and financial welfare.

Table 4.3: Responses on Food Security for Members

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total
I have enough food to meet my family's needs.	5	5	25	91	74	200
I skip meals due to lack of resources.	2	2	17	84	95	200
The cooperative has helped me improve my household's food access.	3	12	26	61	98	200
My food consumption is more diverse due to the cooperative's support.	6	1	8	88	97	200
Total	14	22	76	324	364	800
Average	4	5	19	81	91	200
Percentage	2%	2%	9%	40%	45%	100%

Table 4.3 depicts answers to the food security in members of the cooperative. Most people responded either agree (A = 81) or strongly agreed (SA = 91) with the claim that cooperative has positively affected food security of the respondents by enhancing their access to food, meal adequacy, and dietary variety. Neutral responses (N = 19) and disagreement (SD = 4, D = 5) were also low, and it can be said that the majority of the members attribute the better household food security to the assistance of the cooperative. This brings out the crucial role of the cooperative in delivery of food access and nutritional requirements in society.

Table 4.4: Responses on Sustainable Agricultural Practices

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total
I practice soil conservation or composting on my farm.	7	9	34	85	65	200
The cooperative has trained me on sustainable agricultural methods.	7	8	36	83	66	200
I use environmentally friendly farming inputs like organic manure.	9	14	34	74	69	200
I apply water-saving or climate-smart practices learned through the cooperative.	5	13	8	86	88	200
Total	31	41	112	329	287	800
Average	7	11	28	82	72	200
Percentage	3%	5%	14%	41%	35%	100%

Table 4.4 contains answers to the questions about the sustainable agricultural operations among co-operative members. Most of them (A = 82) or strongly agreed (SA = 72) that they employ some of the practices like use of composting, use of organic manure, and water saving techniques mostly due to the training and encouragement also given by the cooperative. Agreement (D = 11), disagreement (SD = 7), and neutral responses (N = 28) were on the low note. This implies that the cooperative can do a lot in assisting in the introduction of environmentally friendly methods of farming that would lead to sustainable agriculture among its members.

Table 4.5: Responses on Social Capital and Community Resilience

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total
I can rely on fellow members of the cooperative for financial or social support.	3	4	3	97	93	200
The cooperative fosters trust and collaboration among its members.	10	7	8	96	79	200
Community projects initiated by the cooperative benefit the broader community.	5	1	48	85	61	200
Participation in the cooperative has improved my sense of belonging and resilience.	10	4	45	78	63	200
Total	27	16	103	357	297	800
Average	7	4	26	89	74	200
Percentage	3%	2%	12%	44%	37%	100%

Table 4.5 presents answers on social capital and community resilience which are promoted by the cooperative. More than two-thirds of the respondents believed either strongly (SA = 74) or agreed (A = 89) that the cooperative improves mutual support, trust, collaboration and the sense of belonging. Neutral answers (N = 26) were mediocre with disagreement (SD = 7, D = 4) very low. Such findings show that the cooperative plays a major role in enhancing the social networks and resilience among the members, fostering relationships in the community and making a positive contribution to the overall social structure and the development of the wider community.

Test of Hypotheses

H₁: The Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede does not significantly improve the food security status of its members.

H₂: The cooperative society does not promote sustainable agricultural practices among its members.

H₃: The cooperative society does not significantly contribute to social capital and community resilience among its members.

The stated null hypotheses were tested using the multiple regression analysis and the result is presented in Table 4.6 and summarized in Table 4.7:

Table 4.6: Correlations Result of Tested Hypotheses

		Activities of the Cooperative Society	Food Security for Members	Sustainable Agricultural Practices	Social Capital and Community Resilience
Pearson Correlation	Activities of the Cooperative Society	1.000	.969	.920	.926
	Food Security for Members	.969	1.000	.907	.923
	Sustainable Agricultural Practices	.920	.907	1.000	.960
	Social Capital and Community Resilience	.926	.923	.960	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	Activities of the Cooperative Society	.	.000	.000	.000
	Food Security for Members	.000	.	.000	.000
	Sustainable Agricultural Practices	.000	.000	.	.000
	Social Capital and Community Resilience	.000	.000	.000	.

N	Activities of the Cooperative Society	200	200	200	200
	Food Security for Members	200	200	200	200
	Sustainable Agricultural Practices	200	200	200	200
	Social Capital and Community Resilience	200	200	200	200

Table 4.7: Summary of Hypotheses Testing Using Pearson Correlation

Hypothesis	Variables Tested	Pearson Correlation (r)	Sig. (1-tailed)	N	Decision Rule	Decision
H1	Activities of the Cooperative Society & Food Security	0.969	0.000	200	Reject H_0 if $p < 0.05$	Rejected – Significant relationship
H2	Activities of the Cooperative Society & Sustainable Agriculture	0.920	0.000	200	Reject H_0 if $p < 0.05$	Rejected – Significant relationship
H3	Activities of the Cooperative Society & Social Capital	0.926	0.000	200	Reject H_0 if $p < 0.05$	Rejected – Significant relationship

Discussion of Findings

Study results display that, the Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede considerably improves the food security of the members ($r = 0.969$, $p = 0.000$), enhances sustainable agricultural systems ($r = 0.920$, $p = 0.000$), as well as, tends to increase social capital and resilience ($r = 0.926$, $p = 0.000$). The consequences are in line with a few existing research works. When it comes to food security, Ezekiel (2023), Ndlovu and Masuku (2021) as well as Adegoke and Agbasi (2022) confirm that cooperative societies enhance the access to food in households due to the fact that they provide monetary and technical assistance. These results are supported by Oke et al. (2023) that mention that cooperatives foster food security by improving access to creditor and capacity building. Although Jongur (2011) cites such challenges as poor infrastructure and poor governance, the said elements were not seen in the Nekede cooperative.

As far as sustainable agriculture is concerned, the results are consistent with Abate et al. (2014), Abebaw and Haile (2013), and Kehinde and Ogundeji (2022), who focus on the cooperative aspect of educating and fostering the environmental-friendly behaviors of composting and water saving. The practices enhance effectiveness in terms of productivity and resource handling. Despite the challenges on poor training and financial aspect as pointed out by Dyalvane (2015) in certain cooperatives, the Nekede cooperative seems to counter it quite successfully. In social capital, the results are consistent with the findings by Zeweld et al. (2015), Kehinde et al. (2021), and Kumar et al. (2015) who noted that through cooperatives, trust, collaboration, and mutual support were established, which are critical in resilience and food security. There was no evidence to the contrary but the lack of strong governance identified by Dyalvane (2015) in other settings may restrict the outcomes in other settings.

Summary of Findings

1. The Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede significantly improves the food security status of its members.
2. The cooperative society promotes sustainable agricultural practices among its members.
3. The cooperative society significantly contributes to social capital and community resilience among its members.

Conclusion

The results obtained in this paper validate the fact that the Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society at Federal Polytechnic Nekede contributes highly to food security, sustainable agricultural activities and social capital, and resilience among its members. The large positive values (ranging between 0.613-0.777) and significant outcomes give empirical analysis in the effectiveness of cooperative in meeting the food-related needs and capacity to develop sustainably among the urban academic population. These outcomes highlight the important role that institutional cooperative societies play not only to overall food security but also to socio-economic objectives.

Recommendations

1. **Capacity Building:** The cooperative that is already doing this should also conduct more training on sustainable farming practices such as organic farming, climate smart farming and more resource prudent technologies to increase the technical expertise and adoption quotients among the members.
2. **Increase Access to Financial Services:** In order to enhance further food security, this cooperative must access more financial services to members, especially in availing loans easily, offering repayment flexibility and assistance in food-related investments to the members.
3. **Stimulate Community Share Projects:** The agricultural cooperative must promote and facilitate group agricultural projects, group input procurement and local foods distribution networks, to enhance social networks and collective resistance to food insecurity.

The activities will cement the influence of the cooperative societies and make it effective in the long term to facilitate the aspect of sustainable development and food security.

References

- Abate, G. T., Francesconi, G. N., & Getnet, K. (2014). Impact of agricultural cooperatives on smallholders' technical efficiency: Empirical evidence from Ethiopia. *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics*, 85(2), 257–286. <https://doi.org/10.1111/apce.12035>
- Abebaw, D., & Haile, M. G. (2013). The impact of cooperatives on agricultural technology adoption: Empirical evidence from Ethiopia. *Food Policy*, 38, 82–91. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2012.10.003>
- Adegoke, T. D., & Agbasi, O. E. (2022). Impact of agricultural cooperative in promoting food security in Kwara State, Nigeria. *British Journal of Management and Marketing Studies*, 5(2), 13–23. <https://doi.org/10.52589/BJMMS-TDN3F9ZR>
- Akanni, O. F., Olumide-Ojo, O., Oyetoki, A. O., Asunlegan, O. A., Salako, B. A., & Jatto, K. A. (2020). Impact of cooperative societies on rural farming in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. *Direct Research Journal of Agriculture and Food Science*, 8(10), 380–385.
- Anania, P., & Rwekaza, G. C. (2016). The determinants of success in agricultural marketing co-operatives in Tanzania: The experience from Mweka-Sungu, Mruwia and Uru North Njari agricultural marketing co-operatives in Moshi district. *European Journal of Research in Social Sciences*, 4(3), 62–75.
- Christian, M., Obi, A., Zantsi, S., Mdoda, L., & Jiba, P. (2024). The role of cooperatives in improving smallholder participation in agri-food value chains: A case study of one local municipality in Eastern Cape, South Africa. *Sustainability*, 16(6), 2241. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su16062241>
- Dyalvane, N. (2015). *The role of agricultural cooperative in food security in the Eastern Cape, Province of South Africa: The case of the Nkonkobe Local Municipality* [Master's thesis, Department of Development Studies, South Africa].
- Ezekiel, A. I. (2023). Challenges and opportunities of agricultural cooperative societies on economic sustainability of rural dwellers in Ekiti State, Nigeria. *Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology*, 41(11), 168–178. <https://doi.org/10.9734/ajaees/2023/v41i112273>
- Fasakin, I. J., & Popoola, O. O. (2019). Agricultural cooperative associations, livelihood income and rural households' welfare in Osun State, Nigeria. *Greener Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, 9(2), 180–188.

- Jongur, A. A. U. (2011). Performance of agricultural co-operative societies in Mubi Zone of Adamawa State, Nigeria. *Global Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, 10(2), 119–126.
- Kehinde, A. D., Adeyemo, R., & Ogundeji, A. A. (2021). Does social capital improve farm productivity and food security? Evidence from cocoa-based farming households in South-western Nigeria. *Heliyon*, 7(3), e06354.
- Kehinde, A. D., & Ogundeji, A. A. (2022). The simultaneous impact of access to credit and cooperative services on cocoa productivity in South-western Nigeria. *Agriculture & Food Security*, 11(11). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40066-021-00351-4>
- Kumar, V., Wankhede, K. G., & Gena, H. C. (2015). Role of cooperatives in improving livelihood of farmers on sustainable basis. *American Journal of Educational Research*, 3(10), 1258–1266.
- Ndlovu, C., & Masuku, M. M. (2021). The efficacy of agricultural cooperatives towards enhancing food security in rural areas: Mbombela Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. *Technium Social Sciences Journal*, 21(1), 661–674.
- Obayelu, A. E. (2012). Comparative analysis of households' socioeconomic and demographic characteristics and food security status in urban and rural areas of Kwara and Kogi States of North-Central Nigeria. *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development*, 12(3), 6027–6054.
- Ogunleye, A. S., & Adeyemo, R. (2020). Social capital networks, microcredit and poverty status of rural households in Nigeria. *Journal of Agribusiness and Rural Development*, 4, 369–378.
- Oke, F. O., Kareem, I. A., Bamigbade-Sanni, S. A., Akerele, D., & Oose, M. O. (2023). Impact assessment of cooperatives on food security among catfish farming households in Oyo State, Nigeria. *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development*, 23(4), 23081–23098. <https://doi.org/10.18697/ajfand.119.21765>
- Zeweld, W., Van Huylbroeck, G., & Buysse, J. (2015). Household food security through cooperative societies in northern Ethiopia. *International Journal of Development Issues*, 14(1), 60–72. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJDI-06-2014-0043>

Paul Chinedu Agu, Department. of Business Administration and Management, Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri, Imo State.
Anthony N. Nwosu, Department. of Business Administration and Management, Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri, Imo State.
George Nze Unegbu, Department. of Procurement and Supply Chain Management, Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri, Imo State.
Clement Kelech Ejingini (Rev), Department. of Business Administration and Management, Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri, Imo State.
Okere, Emeka Emmanuel, Department. of Business Administration and Management, Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri, Imo State.