



SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES OF CATEGORIES OF MARRIED WOMEN AMONG THE TIV OF NIGERIA



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ABSTRACT

The study identified socio-cultural and economic factors that influence the contribution of categories of married women in agriculture among the Tiv of Nigeria. Specifically, the study identified categories of married women among the Tiv; identified agricultural activities of the categories of married women, identified the specific agricultural tasks performed by the different categories of married women among the Tiv and identified socio-cultural factors that influence the agricultural activities of categories of married women among the Tiv. The finding revealed that categories of married women were influenced by socio-cultural and economic factors differently depending on the priorities, needs, concerns and peculiarity of the category. Chi-square analysis revealed that there was significant difference in the agricultural tasks performed by the categories of married women at $P < 0.05$ with $\chi^2_{tab} = 15.51$ against $\chi^2_{cal} = 53.63$. Also socio-cultural and economic factors significantly influenced the participation of categories of married women among the Tiv at $p < 0.5$ with $\chi^2_{tab} = 26.29$ and $\chi^2_{cal} = 44.23$. It was concluded that categories of married women participate in all agricultural activities and tasks at different levels and extent, and their participation is influenced by socio-cultural and economic factors differently depending on priority, needs, concerns and peculiarity. It was recommended that agricultural and home economics extension education should identify different category of women as they design and implement projects and programmes for their benefit and to take cognizance of socio-cultural and economic factors that influence their contribution among different socio-cultural groups.

Keywords: Socio-cultural, factors, Agriculture, activities, Categories, married, women, Tiv.

INTRODUCTION

Rural women in addition to their roles of providing care for the home, the children and the aged contributes to the much needed labor inputs for food production, processing and distribution of arable crops, livestock and fisheries. In spite of these contributions, there are still constraints to women participation in agriculture such as restricted access to land, credit, input and glaring discrimination under the guise of culture and tradition which impedes their effectiveness.

A number of factors are responsible for the plights of women in agriculture across different cultures and communities. Some of these factors are cultural, while others are negligence and can easily be alleviated by policy decisions (Nnonyelu, 1995).

Ejembi, Ivande and Oguiche (2003) observed differences in the specific roles of categories of married women among Benue women and found the factor responsible for this to be societal expectation as well as lack of economic resources to adopt certain innovations among young adult females. These influenced them to migrate to non agricultural sector of the economy to enable them meet their needs. Their findings also revealed that the older category of women were not very literate while the younger category were mostly literate. This was an indication that innovations were likely to be adopted faster and more easily by the younger generation following their literacy status that puts them in an advantageous position to comprehend innovations easily irrespective of their complexities.

Ani (2013) advised that when multiracial societies with different socio-cultural characteristics and different ethnic groups are found within the same extension area, extensions programme should reflect these differences. It is also observed that the effect of the societal socio cultural expectation lead to hard work by women but very low returns for their hard work. Nnonyelu and Badjeck (1996)

observed that in many societies, women do not own land, neither are they allowed to inherit any land nor even make decisions in respect of land; rather they have right of use of community land on condition of marriage to a husband who is a member of the community. This culture limits women's capacity to expand their farm enterprise especially when they have become a threat to their husbands (Ekong, 2010). These natural and socio-cultural variations in the experiences of women exist according to cultures, as well as according to the different categories of married women. The identification of categories of married women among the Tiv on the basis of the concept of generation uses age, marital position, and duration of marriage. Generation is the pivot responsible for the movement of historical evolution that results in human variation that manifests vital attitudes traceable to the previous people (Ortega, 1933). Meads, (1978) in her study of cultural change and commitment from generation to generation identified three cultural evolution styles (generations) in which the members of the society learn from behaviours of different generations. According to Meads (1978) the three evolutionary styles which were (1) post-figurative culture- where the past detects the future. (2) configurative culture- where the member of the society learn from behavior of the contemporary and (3) Pre figurative culture- where the parents learn from their children, were the three generations of the time. Each generation (category) is expected to transmit certain ground work of idea through education resulting in changes that may have influence on the behavior, performance, and attitude of married women in the different categories. The influences of the generations manifest in the tasks that married women are performing in agriculture among different cultures and communities. For instance, whereas it is forbidden for women in Senegal to involve in forestry, forestry is the concern of women in

Kenya (Hyma and Nyamwange, 1993). This development persists especially among rural communities.

The problem that has made this study pertinent is that development agencies have always treated married women as a single individual group (category) of people without taking note of the different categories of married women and their role as expected by nature and society. This has resulted in poor achievement of development goals, due to inability to identify right target group or audience. In addition to this, the importance of the contribution of women in agriculture, have recently been recognized and programmes have been formulated to enhance the performance of women in agriculture. However, there has not been a conscious study of the factors that influence the agricultural activities of the category of Tiv married women bearing in mind the concept of generational influences.

The purpose of the study therefore is to identify socio-cultural and economic factors that influence the contributions of categories of married women in agriculture among the Tiv of Nigeria. Specifically the study is to: identify the categories of Married women among the Tiv, identify agricultural activities of the different categories of Tiv married women, identify agricultural tasks performed by the different categories of Tiv married women and identify socio-cultural factors that influence the agricultural activities of categories of Tiv married women.

In view of the foregoing, the following hypotheses were tested:

H₀: There is no significant difference in the agricultural tasks performed by the different categories of married women among the Tiv.

H₀: Socio-cultural and economic factors do not significantly influence the participation of categories of Tiv married women in agriculture.

The findings of this study will be of immense benefit to extension agencies, development programmes and non-governmental agencies that are concerned about the plight of women like Women in Nigeria (WIN), Food and Agricultural Organizations (FAO), State Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs) among others. The study will also expose the different categories of women as classified by the Tiv people of Nigeria with the various agricultural activities that the different categories perform and the socio-cultural factors that negatively or positively influence their performance. This will benefit rural sociologists, extension agents and developmental agencies that will by this knowledge be able to identify which group or category of married women for any programmes they intend to implement among women.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Benue state Nigeria. The state has 23 local government areas with a population of 5.1million (NPC, 2006) out of which 2,055,186 are women. Over 70% of the state's population is residing in the rural area engaging in agricultural activities as their major occupation. Of the 23 local government areas, Tiv land occupies 14 local government areas.

The Study employed the survey design to get information from the respondents. This design was considered appropriate because the study solicited information from sample that was drawn from a larger population. The

population of the study consists of all married Tiv women in Benue state Nigeria where majority of the Tiv reside. To get a representation of the whole Tiv married women in Benue state, two Local Government areas of Gboko and Guma were purposively selected for the study. This was because Gboko is the headquarter of all Tiv in Nigeria while Guma is a neighbouring LGA to Makurdi, the state capital which accommodates all indigene of Benue State and those who combine interest in farming and other occupations easily access Guma for their farming activities. All married women sampled for the study participate in all agricultural activities. A sample of 150 married Tiv women were randomly selected for the study using the stratified randomly sampling technique. Tiv married women were classified into three categories as daughters (DTS), mothers (MTS) and grandmothers (GMS) based on their age, position/duration in marriage and changing status in relation to child bearing.

Fifty women were randomly selected from each of the stratified categories for the study. Fifty married women who were between ages 18-34 and were not married for not more than five years were classified as daughters' category. Fifty respondents in the mother category were married for more than five years and were between ages 35-54 while 50 respondents in the grandmother category were older women that have had grandchildren and were between ages 55 and above and were married for more than ten years.

Structured interview schedule/questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. Also Focus Group discussion was used to verify the characteristics that enhance the classification of the categories of women.

The instrument was subjected to both face and content validity through comments, observations and suggestions by experts in Agriculture, Extension, marriage and family counselors in the departments of Agricultural extension and Home Science and Management of the University of Agriculture Makurdi.

To establish reliability of the instrument, a pilot study was conducted on a sample of ten daughters, ten mothers and ten grandmothers in Agan Council ward of Makurdi LGA which is outside the study sample. After two weeks interval, the sample instrument was re-administered on the same category of married women. The first test was correlated against the second test scores Cronbach alfa coefficient of 0.76 showed to be reliable.

Data for the study were analyzed using frequency, percentage and chi-square was used to test the hypotheses.

Chi-square formula used was:

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{O - E}$$

Where;

Σ = Summation

O = Observed frequency

E = Expected frequency

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result on Table 1 shows that there were three categories of married women among the Tiv namely; *ukiriki* but classified in this study as the daughters (DTS) category, *nyorato* (middle wife) classified as mothers (MTS) and *pendatyou* (main wife or senior wife) classified as

grandmothers (GMS). From Table I, the following characteristics were peculiar to the different categories of married women. The daughters (*ukiriki*) or junior wife category are newly married women who were between ages

18-34, have spent not more than five years in marriage and may have produced up to two children. Due to their short stay in marriage, they have not acquired many plots of land

Table 1: Characteristics of categories of married women among the Tiv

Characteristics	Daughters (DTS)	Mothers (MTS)	Grandmothers (GMS)
Age (years)	15-34	35-54	55 and above
Marital status	Junior wife (<i>ukiriki</i>)	Middle wife (<i>nyorato</i>)	Senior wife (<i>pendatyo</i>)
Marital duration	Married for not more than 5years	Married for more than 5years	Married for over 10 years
Child bearing status	Has none or not more than two children	Has as many children as desired	Has grand children
Number of farming plots (Tsa)	Yet to have plots or few if any	Has as many plots (<i>Tsa</i>) as per number of children in marriage	Has numerous plots (<i>Tsa</i>) enough to share among her children who may also have married
Decision on farm issues	Has no choice but makes do with what is given to her	May be consulted on some issues	Contribute to decision on farm issues and may take decision if the husband or head of family is absent

Source: Field survey, 2015

(*Tsa*) which is acquired through the process of accessing and cultivating a piece of land from the family land as result of marriage to the family (FGD). According to the process, when the piece of land which was accessed by women through their marriage to the family or community is cultivated, it becomes the land (*Tsa*) of the person who cultivated it. She continues to use it for farming activities and may pass it on to her children when she becomes a mother or grandmother.

The mothers (MTS) (*nyorato*) or middle wives category are second wives or those married women of age 35-54, who have spent more than five years in marriage and may have produced many children but are not yet grandmothers (GMS). Due to their long stay in marriage, they have acquired a good number of plots of land (*tsa*) for their farming activities and are even consulted on some farming issues by their husbands.

The grandmother (GMS) (*pendatyo*) main wives or senior wives category are those married women who are ages 55 and above, have spent more than ten years in marriage and have become even grandmothers. Due to the duration of their marriage, they have acquired numerous plots of land (*tsa*) and can even share them out to their married sons. They are involved in decision on farming issues and may take decisions in the absence of the family head or her husband.

The participation of categories of married women in agricultural activities among the Tiv was investigated under agricultural activities performed and types of crops/livestock produced and tasks performed by each category (Table 2 and 3).

Results in Table 2 show that the daughter (DTS) category of married women participated in cultivation (74%), harvesting (72%) and processing (68%) more than the mother and grandmother categories. On types of crops produced, Table 2 shows that all categories of married women cultivated yam (100%), guinea corn (100%) and cassava (100%), while rice a food crop which doubles as a cash crop in the study area was produced by more mothers (100%) and grandmothers (100%) categories compared to the daughters (32%) category of married women. Other vegetables like okra, potatoes, green leaves, pepper and garden eggs were produced more by the mother category (50%) than the daughter (32%) and grandmother (30%) categories respectively. This could be due to the fact that

the mothers' category of married women has more children that need these crops for growth/development and for breakfast than the daughters who have few children and grandmother who have grown up children who would not necessarily depend on their mothers for feeding. On livestock production, majority (68%) of the mothers and grandmothers categories of married women were fully involved in goat production compared to the daughter category (48%). Meanwhile, all categories of married women among the Tiv were rearing chickens (100%); while more (34%) grandmother category raised pigs compared to mothers (26%) and daughter (16%) categories. Married women's participation in agriculture also depended on the contribution of their husbands, children and in some cases hired labor. However, the degree of their dependence varied from category to category. Generally, all categories of married women among the Tiv perform all agricultural tasks in all agricultural activities.

Results in Table 3 shows that the daughter category of married women performed more energy requiring physical tasks like bush clearing (100%) planting (100%) land preparation (100%) weeding (100%) feeding livestock (100%) cleaning pens (100%) and tethering (100%); while the mothers and grandmother category perform more skill requiring tasks like fertilizing (100%), storage (100%) and preserving (100%). Mothers category of married women were also shown to perform some physical tasks that were performed by the daughter category as well as the skill requiring tasks performed by the grandmother category. Result in Table 3 also shows that mother's category performed such tasks like weeding (100%) planting (90%); land preparation (80%) and bush clearing (70%) which were physical tasks requiring a lot of energy, while also performing such skill requiring tasks like harvesting (100%), fertilizing (100%) preserving (100%), storage (100%), processing (100%) and marketing (100%). Despite the participation of categories of Tiv married women in agricultural activities, there were factors that influence their participation (Table 4).

An inter-category analysis of the factors revealed that each category of married women was influenced by the factors differently depending on its priority, needs, concerns and peculiarity. The daughter category felt, according to order of priority, that they would be able to participate effectively in agriculture when they have: access to agricultural inputs

(fertilizers and herbicides) (100%); right to decision on farm management operations (100%); reduced on and off farm drudgery (100%); provided with improved processing and preservation facilities (100%) and have rights to own part of produce (100%). The mothers and grandmothers felt same as daughters but due to their peculiar needs, concern and responsibility or peculiarity, felt that in addition to the

order of priority indicated by the daughters category; improved family health (86%); improved market operations (74%) among others should be the order of priority rather than right to own part of produce as indicated by the daughters. The mothers and grandmothers category did not see right to own part of produce as a factor because it did not affect them.

Table 2: Agricultural activities of different categories of married women among the Tiv of Nigeria

Agricultural activities	Daughter (DTS)		Mothers (MTS)		Grandmother (GMS)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cultivation	37	74	34	68	30	60
Harvesting	36	72	31	62	26	52
Processing	34	68	28	56	16	32
Distribution	45	90	50	100	16	32
Livestock production	24	48	26	52	27	54
Types of crops produced						
Yams	50	100	50	100	50	100
Rice	16	32	50	100	50	100
Guinea corn	50	100	50	100	50	100
Groundnut	32	64	39	78	42	84
Cassava	50	100	50	100	50	100
Maize	29	58	38	76	41	82
Tomatoes	30	60	28	56	31	62
Melon	9	18	18	36	15	30
Soyabeans	15	30	20	40	15	30
Millet	16	32	18	36	17	34
Benniseed	5	10	5	10	5	10
Other vegetables (okro, green leaves, pepper)	15	30	25	50	16	32
Type of livestock produced						
Pigs	8	16	13	26	17	34
Goats	24	48	34	68	34	68
Chicken	50	100	50	100	50	100
Others (fish, rabbit etc)	1	2	11	22	10	20

Source: Field survey, 2015

More (66%) GMS and MTS (60%) category than DTS (58%) category perceived increase access to improved agricultural information and technology as a factor. This may be due to their peculiarity and responsibility as second in command in the absence of their husbands. All (100%) mothers participated in marketing while more (72%) grandmothers than daughters (70%) participated in marketing. This might be due to the fact that these categories are matured enough to undertake far and wide marketing of agricultural produce.

Responses of the category of married women on socio-cultural and economic factors for influencing productivity

tasks and participation in agriculture as per Tables 3 and 4 were used to test the hypotheses for the study using chi-square. The finding as presented in tables 5 and 6 shows χ^2 tab = 15.51 against 53.63. Thus the null hypotheses reject and alternative accepted that there is significant difference in agriculture tasks performed by categories of married women among the Tiv while χ^2 tab of 26.29 against 44.23 rejected the null hypotheses and accepted that socio-cultural and economic factors significantly influence the participation of categories of Tiv married women.

Table 3: Agricultural tasks performed by different categories of married women among the Tiv

Agricultural tasks	Daughter		Mothers		Grandmother	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Bush clearing	50	100	35	70	20	40
Land preparation	50	100	40	80	22	44
Planting	50	100	45	90	35	70
Weeding	50	100	50	100	32	64
Fertilizing	25	50	50	100	50	100
Harvesting	35	70	50	100	35	70
Preserving	15	30	50	100	50	100
Storage	25	50	50	100	50	100
Processing	45	90	50	100	35	70
Marketing	35	70	50	100	36	72
Feeding livestock	50	100	40	80	15	30
Cleaning livestock pen	50	100	35	70	5	10
Tethering livestock	50	100	25	50	5	10

Source: Field survey, 2015

The position of women in marriage determines the level of their involvement in agricultural activities in the study area. For instance in the Tiv traditional society, main wives

(*pendatyough*) or senior wives serve as deputies to their husbands in polygamous families. In a family with three wives for instance, the first or main wife (*pendatyough*)

coordinates the activities of either the second wife (Nyorato); who does not have specific roles, and the third. Despite the above classification, only wife can find herself in one of these categories at any e given time. As soon as the woman gets married to her husband as his first and probably only wife she starts as a junior wife. She understudies her mother-in-law if any or any senior woman in the family compound, but division of roles comes as soon as her husband marries another wife. In that case the woman who got married to him first becomes the first wife and his deputy and the others take their positions as they get married to the man with probably separate roles. In monogamous families, where the first wife could also be the only wife, the duration in her marriage comes as the check on the level of authority especially in decision making. A similar situation was found among the Jie, Turkuna and Nuer in South Africa (Wagner, 1956) where women were allocated cattle at marriage but the chief wives received an allocation in excess to hold in trust for their husbands for subsequent reallocations.

The demands of the daughters (DTS) for right to own part of produce and access to decision on farm issues look like protest demands, and indications that the daughter category were not contented with their position as far as benefit and decision on issues in agricultural activities was concerned. The implication of this is that, since the daughter category does not participate in decision making and has no free access to agricultural produce, modern agricultural technologies and innovations would continue to be adopted slowly. This may be so because the daughter category was 92 percent more literate than the other categories (Ivande, 2003). As the grandmothers (GMS) and mothers (MTS) categories took more personal decisions on agricultural issues they did not demand for the right to own produce as the daughter category. Thus the need to identify the various generations and ascertain their capabilities, needs, and concerns for effective extension work.

wife (ukiriki) or junior wife, who serves the husband, the other wives and in some cases, the mother-in-law (FGD).

Agbamu (2006) also asserted that each farmer as a unique individual or categories of individuals has to decide on whether to accept or reject innovations that are being promoted in their communities; since each farmer (categories of farmers) has characteristics that influence how he or she or they receive(s) information, process it and either uses or discards it.

It is to be noted from the findings of this study that the daughter category does the bulk of the agricultural activities (Table 3). They indicated higher level of participation in cultivation (74%) harvesting (72%) and processing (68%) than the grandmothers and mother generations. This could be due to the fact that they are physically stronger than the other generations and can afford to perform tedious tasks under these activities. If this category is capable of undertaking all these activities it is only fair that they should be given the opportunity to exhibit all their potentials both physically and mentally. This opportunity was not given to the daughter category because society had laid down rules which different categories of married women needed to echo out. Members of the daughter category of married women undertake tedious tasks like weeding, land clearing, making of ridges, planting, covering of planted mounds among others. However, Focus group discussion revealed that even though the daughter category indicated doing a lot of weeding. Weeding of full grown yam farms was done by more grandmothers and mothers categories than daughters' category for the need of special skills to handle the full grown farm, which is an evidence of the expectation of the society; otherwise, as they can weed they should be able to weed all forms of farms. Nothing prevents the daughters' category in terms of capability, from weeding even full grown yam farm.

Table 4: Socio-cultural and economic factors that influence agricultural activities of categories of married women among the Tiv

Factors	Daughter		Mothers		Grandmother	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Improved family health	28	56	35	70	43	86
Improved literacy	35	70	28	56	23	46
Increased access to improved agricultural information and technology	29	58	30	60	33	66
Access to agricultural inputs (fertilizer and chemicals)	50	100	50	100	50	100
Mutual understanding and cooperation between husband and wife	28	56	26	52	16	32
Legal right to own land	23	46	15	30	11	22
Access to credit facilities	50	100	50	100	50	100
Right to own part of produce	36	72	13	26	9	18
Right to decision on farm management operation	50	100	10	20	7	14
Provision and improvement of processing and preservation facilities	50	100	50	100	50	100
Reduction of on and off farm drudgery	50	100	50	100	50	100
Improved market operations produced	31	62	45	90	37	74

Source: Field survey, 2015

The importance of studying the agricultural activities of married women according to the categories cannot be over emphasized since it was with the classification of this homogenous group of married women into categories that brought out to light the fact that different categories of married women have different needs, concerns and peculiarities, which if not taken into account may affect their performance in agriculture and other endeavors. This agrees with UNICEF (1994) which observed that women's needs and ways are peculiar and have to be understood

starting from childhood to adulthood. If the married women involved in agriculture are to be understood and treated properly, factors that influence their participation ought to be understood.

All generations of women have their concern, needs, and peculiarities. In the views of Lagemann (1978), individuals who are not precisely the same age but who have a common cause to pursue in relation to what constitute their concern belong to the same category (generation). Accordingly, the result of this study revealed that the three

categories of married women among the Tiv had some issues and factors that were of common concern to all of them. But a look at the individual category indicated that each category had needs and concerns that were peculiar to them. (Ivande, 2003) observed that in an intergenerational study of categories of women in Guma and Gboko, Benue State, married women admitted reinvesting money into farming and paying medical bills. However, the concerns and peculiarities of the categories become glaring when instead of paying children's school fees which was the next important issue among the grandmothers and mothers generation, the daughter generation opted for buying clothes. School fees for children of school age were not the concern of the daughter generation because their children were not of school age yet. Addressing the concerns of clientele ensures effectiveness of any programmes. Ani (2013) advised that the design and implementation of extension programmes should consider some fundamental concerns of the beneficiaries. The different concerns of the different categories may affect their performances and commitment to agriculture adversely or positively. This agrees with Ani (2013) who observed that for learning to be timely and effective, extension service providers should recognize that individual differences exist in people and have significant implication for development of programmes. Focus group discussion with the daughter category further disclosed that they performed most of the physical tasks in agriculture on various farms that are not necessarily their own. On getting married to a person who has a right of use of community land, a woman does not automatically qualify to own a farm. She has to work on other people's farms to get experience. It is through this process that plots of land are procured. As a woman works on others' farms for the first year she gets married, she acquires seeds. The following year, she starts her small plot of farm with the seeds she acquired from the previous year for her work on others farms. The more years she spends working on others farms, the more "tsa" (previous plot of land) she gets. Once she gets enough "tsa" to enable her rotate her farms she can then have her independent farm and may become more committed and have the right to make decisions on farm issues. This agrees with Ani (2013) who observes that the benefit of involving people in programmes is long term commitment to the programme. This period may take about five years. It is expected that within this five years the woman may have had children that require proper feeding, which the owner of the farm on which she works might not be happy to give out to her to feed her children.

Naturally, that period of apprenticeship does not attract commitment since the daughter category does not have any personal concern. Due to the natural expectation that the daughter category might not be committed to the farm because it is not their own division of labor comes in. Focus group discussion with the grandmother and mother generation indicated that on yam farms, they plant the seed while the daughters cover the planted mounds. The daughter weeds the farm the first time after planting but when the farm is full grown, grandmothers and mothers do the weeding. This, according to the older and more mature categories, is because any tasks that need special skills and commitment would be better done by the owner of the farm

who might not mind the pains as she would reap and use her harvest at will.

The relationship between the categories of married women among the Tiv and the selected variables shows that there was significant difference in the socio-cultural and economic factors that influence the participation of categories of married women in agriculture among the Tiv of Nigeria (Table 5). A chi-square to check productivity and participation enhancement factors shows significant difference at $P < 0.05$ with χ^2 tab=26.29 and χ^2 cal = 44.23 (Table 6).

Table 5: Chi-Square Analysis of tasks performed by categories of Tiv married women in agriculture and the extent of influence of socio-cultural and economic factors on their performance

Variable	Df	X ² -cal	X ² -tab	Remarks
Agricultural tasks performed	8	15.507	53.63	Significant
Categories of women				

Significant at $p < 0.5$

Table 6: Chi-Square Analysis of tasks performed by categories of Tiv married women in agriculture

Variable	Df	X ² -cal	X ² -tab	Remark
Socio-cultural and economic factors	16	44.23	26.29	Significant
Participation by categories of women				

Significant at $p < 0.5$

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that all categories of married women among the Tiv of Nigeria participate in different activities of agriculture. However, the different categories of married women identified socio-cultural and economic factors that influence their participation in agriculture according to their needs, concern, peculiarity and responsibility. Socio-cultural expectations of the society were found to have influenced the extent of participation and commitment of more of the daughters' category of married women among the Tiv than other categories of married women.

Based on the findings of study, I therefore make the following recommendations:

1. Extension should identify the various categories of married women as they implement programmes that are to benefit all women.
2. Extension should design programmes and projects, bearing in mind the needs, peculiarities and responsibilities of the different categories of married women.
3. Extension project implementers should take cognizance of factors that enhance the participation of the different categories of married women into consideration in the planning and implementation of any extension programmes targeting women.
4. The daughter category of married women should be given opportunity to exhibit both their physical and mental potentials in agricultural issues.

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