



# Empowerment Programmes and Their Impact on Agricultural Productivity and Market Participation among Female Farmers in West African Rice-Growing Regions of Nigeria: A Comparative Study

Temitope Olayiwala<sup>1,2</sup>, Oluwatobiloba Idowu<sup>3,4</sup>, Gbemisola Ajayi<sup>5</sup>, Olufunmilayo Adeyemi<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Calabar

<sup>2</sup> Department of Research, Babcock University

<sup>3</sup> Babcock University

<sup>4</sup> Department of Research, University of Calabar

<sup>5</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso

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**Correspondence:** [tolayiwala@yahoo.com](mailto:tolayiwala@yahoo.com)

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## Author notes

*Temitope Olayiwala is affiliated with University of Calabar and focuses on Psychology research in Africa.*

*Oluwatobiloba Idowu is affiliated with Babcock University and focuses on Psychology research in Africa.*

*Gbemisola Ajayi is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso and focuses on Psychology research in Africa.*

*Olufunmilayo Adeyemi is affiliated with University of Calabar and focuses on Psychology research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Female farmers in West African rice-growing regions of Nigeria face significant challenges related to agricultural productivity and market participation. Empowerment programmes are seen as a potential solution to address these issues. The study employed mixed-methods research including surveys, focus group discussions, and interviews with female farmers from various empowerment programme participants. Data were analysed using statistical software to identify patterns and trends. Empowerment programmes demonstrated a positive impact on agricultural productivity, with an average increase of 15% in crop yield among participating women compared to non-participants. Market participation rates also saw an increase of 20%, indicating improved access to markets for these farmers. The findings suggest that empowerment programmes are effective in enhancing both the agricultural productivity and market participation of female farmers, particularly those engaged in rice cultivation. Based on the study's results, policymakers should prioritise funding and implementation support for empowerment programmes targeting female farmers. Additionally, there is a need to tailor these programmes to better address specific challenges faced by different groups of women farmers.

**Keywords:** *African Geography, Empowerment Programmes, Gender Studies, Agricultural Development, Market Integration, Participatory Research, Rural Sociology*



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