

Farmers' Educational Level and Attainment of Sustainable Development Goal Two in Cross River State, Nigeria

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This study focused on farmers' educational level and attainment of sustainable development goal two in Cross River State, Nigeria. To achieve the purpose of this study, a null hypothesis was formulated to guide the study. A review of related literature was carried out based on the variable of this study. The survey research design was considered useful for the study. Multi-stage sampling approach involving stratified sampling, simple random sampling, and systematic random sampling techniques were used in the study to select 900 subjects used as sample in each ward in the research area. A twenty-item modified four (4) points Likert scale questionnaire titled Farmers' income and Attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 2 Questionnaire (FIASDGQ) was used for gathering data for the study. The hypothesis formulated was tested at 0.05 alpha level. To test the hypotheses formulated for the study, One Way Analysis Of Variance (ANOVA) statistical tool was used for data analysis. The results from data analysis and hypothesis testing indicated that there is a significant influence of farmers' educational level on the attainment of sustainable development goal two in the study area. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended among others that farmers should be trained and educated on modern farming techniques and innovations through agricultural extension workers.

WORDCOUNT:(223)

KEY WORD: farmers, educational level, attainment, sustainable development, goal two, Cross River State.

INTRODUCTION

The world is experiencing a steady increase in population growth. The world population reached 8billion in late 2022 and 8.2-8.3 billion in 2025/2026 and it is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030, 9.8-10 billion in 2050, and could peak at 10.3-11.2 billion before the end of the century. Nigeria's population in 2026 is projected to be approximately 242 to 243 million people and it is projected to reach approximately 262-264 million people by 2030 and as the most populous country in Africa and number sixth in the world, the world-meter estimates a yearly growth of around 2.06% to 2.1% with projections suggesting it could become the world's third most populous country by 2050, World Population Highlights (2025) and Nigeria Demographic

(2025) in Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO, 2026). This increase in the world population is certainly going to bring a high demand on the limited world resources, most notably on food production and supply chain. In this era of globalization coupled with the projected increase in the world population, rise in global conflicts together with poverty escalation becomes a global challenge for humanity in achieving sustainability. This unarguably poses a threat to the second global sustainable development goal and to promote sustainable agriculture and its related environmental security comes with a significant challenge to attain food security. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2026), together with the World Food Programme (WFP, 2021) defines food security to be a situation whereby all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

John and Gorlon (2023), asserts that achieving food security, reduce poverty and ending hunger remains a critical issue in the face of global population growth. The influence of farmers' educational level like educational qualification, income, household sizes and age ranges, access to basic farm inputs such as farm implements, planting materials and pests/disease control chemicals on sustainable development goal two in this direction cannot be underestimated. It is evidence that progress continues in the fight against poverty and hunger, but yet it is obvious that, an unacceptably large number of people still lack the food they need for an active and healthy life.

Farming remains the backbone of Nigeria's economy that is employing millions and contributing significantly to ending of hunger and national food security. Therefore to meet the increasing demand for agricultural produce, farmers' access to farm implements has become very essential concern. Obu and Lawrence (2025) assert that, farm implements, ranging from simple hand tools to sophisticated machines for agricultural produce, adopting efficient tools and technologies in farming play a crucial role in achieving higher productivity and reducing labour intensive processes. They observe that, farmers in rural areas require easy access to farm implements stressing that, stakeholders in agriculture must work together to make this possible for farmers with low income standing. The researchers suggest that extension services should help rural farmers learn how to use implements effectively for higher productivity, while public and private sectors should provide financing options such as hiring-purchasing or leasing for expensive machinery like tractors to smallholder farmers. Obu and Lawrence (2025) notes that farm implements are essential for scaling up agricultural production in Nigeria. He believes that from tractors and plough to sprayers and planters, are tools that revolutionizing how farming is done, enabling farmers to save time, improve yields, and reduce costs. The researcher noted that, with increased awareness, affordable options, and government backed up initiatives for easy

access to basic farm implements, Nigeria farmers can look forward to a more productive and profitable farming seasons. This implies that, by investing in the right implements, the agricultural sector in Nigeria can continue to grow, ensuring food security and improving livelihoods.

Similarly, achieving sustainable development goal two in Cross River State, Nigeria, the use of pests and disease control chemicals are vital for modern food security through enhancing crops yield, controlling pests, diseases and reducing post harvest losses so as to be able to feed a growing population. Pests and diseases have the potential to damage fruits and vegetable crops. Various grasshoppers, weevils, beetles and small insects like trips reducing crop yields and certain fly larva can cause significantly damage to crops yield and require timely control in order to ensure improve crop yield, food security, and sustainable agriculture in the study area.

As the countdown to the sustainable development goal two (SDG2) 2030 targets tickles, this study would explore the current state of food security within the sub-Saharan Africa and the connection of food security with the various contributing factors such as economic growth, governance, geopolitical, climatic, population, and environmental factors in relation to achieving sustainable development goal2 in the study area. Sustainable agriculture and government institutions play crucial role in achieving sustainable development goal two with emphasis on ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture. This may involve the protection and sustainable management of the ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands. Ipeh and Agbebia (2023) contend that the preservation of ecosystems by encouraging sustainable water use, promoting water-saving irrigation techniques, safeguarding water quality, support food production and ensures the availability of natural resources necessary for agricultural production and environmental sustainability is a sure way in addressing climate change which can affects crop yield, water availability and food production. Ekposin (2025) believes that government institutions can affects sustainable agriculture by facilitating capacity-building programs and knowledge sharing platforms for farmers, such as training on sustainable agricultural practices, providing access to information and technology, and promoting farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange through collaboration among governments, stakeholders, and community farmers in the area of food security is essential for effective implementation of short and long-term success in ending hunger and reduce poverty. He observes further that the integration of environmental sustainability into agricultural practices and leveraging on the role of government institutions by creating an enabling environment for food production and strengthening government institutions may also help to effectively achieve sustainable development goal two even as it requires a multi-dimensional approach involving policy coherence, capacity-building, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable

farming practices at all levels of the agricultural system. This study therefore aims at assessing the farmers' educational level and the attainment of SDGs2 in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

The world is faced with many challenges. Among these problems include hunger and starvation and this is associated with food insecurity; sanitation and hygiene, disease and sickness, water scarcity to mention but a few. Though the entire world is at risk of these problems, the third world nations and most especially Nigeria is badly affected and the question that we should be bordered about at the moment; is Nigeria ready for sustainable development goal two-zero hunger target by 2030 or are we really serious about ending hunger? In Cross River State for instance, there are several problems that has plagued the people. One of the major problems that have challenged the government and the people is the issue of hunger/starvation. It is very common to see children, women and men begging for food or money to buy food at public places such as eateries, parks, filling stations, resorts, churches, mosques, markets, school gates and government offices. The issue of hunger in Cross River State is an indication that the state needs to put in place urgent measures in an attempt to achieve sustainable development goal two by 2030 as stipulated by the UN-SDGs in 2015 and avoid the devastating consequences of hunger and starvation on the people and the society at large. The issue of insecurity, burglary, theft, armed robbery, violence and other social vices that are witnessed in the society today cannot be separated from hunger and food insecurity and, it seems the situation is getting worse by the day.

In view of this, the government, individuals, scholars and non-governmental organizations may have relentlessly worked in synergy to promote the production and distribution of food, subsidization of farm inputs, information and guidance on modern agricultural practices all in a bid to boost food production. But, it is glaring that despite all these efforts so far, it seems that nothing tangible has been achieved. However, one should not be surprised because all these efforts seem more of paper work than in practice. Otherwise, why will a government that hopes to eradicate hunger and ensure food security allow agriculture as basic as it is to food security to be an option rather than a compulsory subject in senior secondary school curriculum. If this continues unabated, Students/Youths would tend to believe that farming is a dirty profession exclusively for the aging and poor people. Looking at this from any angle, no state no matter how wealthy can attain SDG2 even beyond 2030 if agriculture that is the main driver of food security is built on such a weak/faulty foundation. Farming feeds the world. No person survives on earth without food but, it is only few persons that are feeding the many people that live on earth.

It is against this background that this study was conceived to examine; to what extent do farmers' educational level and influence the attainment of sustainable development goal 2 in Cross River State, Nigeria?

Purpose of the study

This study focuses on farmers' educational level and attainment of sustainable development goal two in Cross River State, Nigeria. Specifically, this study sought to;

1. find out the influence of farmers' educational level on attainment of sustainable development goal two in Cross River State, Nigeria

Research questions

The following research question was posed to guide this study;

1. How does farmers' educational status influence the attainment of sustainable development goal two in Cross River State, Nigeria?

Statement of hypotheses

The following hypothesis was formulated to direct this study;

1. Farmers' educational status does not have any significant influence on the attainment of sustainable development goal two in Cross River State, Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Farmers' educational level and attainment of sustainable development goal two

Farmers' education level in the context of this study means the extent of individual awareness or knowledge expressed in his ability to read and write manifesting in a change in value and attitude for a sustainable use of the immediate environment. Juel and Sam (2022) asserted that farmers' education qualification can be described as low or high depending on the yardstick for measurement. However, poor educational background refers to a situation whereby a person cannot read or write effectively, otherwise referred to as illiteracy

It is a general view that illiterates are individuals who have not or have very low formal education and have no expert skill of doing things other than the traditional ways of doing things. According to Anijah-Obi (2001) as cited in Unimna and Ati (2024) illiteracy is a Cankerworm which if allowed to eat deep into the fabric of the society, can destroy the environment within one generation in the same manner as the termites destroy a log of wood. "This implies that, illiterates or low educated individual demonstrate little regards for environmental issues" (P. 69:8).

O'Neil (2021) stressed that the importance of education by any standard in any society especially developing countries such as Nigeria, cannot be overemphasized. Poor educational background has the capacity of hindering individuals from having a better knowledge of the needs to prudently use the environment especially in the aspect of development of the society. He noted that, education provides diverse opportunities for individuals to fathom out a plan developmental process that ensure environmental sustainability and breeds progressive human existence on earth.

Olabinjo and Opatola (2023) conducted a study to determine the extent of farmers' awareness on environmental sustainability ethics using Delta, Edo and Cross River States, Nigeria. From a simple linear regression analysis of data he collected from a sample of three hundred (300) respondents out of a population of 5,393 registered farmers in the study area using a 30 item self-structured questionnaire, it was gathered that on the issue of awareness, the literate farmers mostly in the larger cities were found to be quite aware of cleanliness and sustainable resource use ethics compared to their illiterate counterpart. In the rural areas on the other hand, the illiterates were quite conscious and understand the value of a clean environment, but were found to have poor spacing orientation. The findings also revealed that farmers' level of education influences their awareness on how to preserve, conserve, and use water, land and air in a justifiable manner for the interest of the present and next generations. The result of the analysis also indicated that the lowly or uneducated farmers in other hands lack the prudence in the use of environmental resources such as water, forest, land and air in a sustainable manner. Ogbonna's findings are in support of the present study in that the attainment of sustainable development goal two in the study area is inextricably link to farmers' educational status which influences their readiness to adopt sustainable agricultural practices that could guarantee food security in their domain.

Nwafor and Williams (2018) carried out a research on the Influence of Women Educational Attainment and Environmental Management in Southern Ijaw Education Zone, Bayalsea State, Nigeria. Nwafor and Williams adopted a multistage sampling approach to draw a sample of four hundred and fifty (450) participants from a population of five thousand, and eighty seven (5,087) registered Catholic Women Organization (CWO) in the study area. Data were collected from the respondents with a 25 items self structured questionnaire. Result from the analysis of data using a one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) shown that education eradicates illiteracy and that when a society is full of educated women, food security will be enhanced, natural resources will be on the path towards sustainable management and poverty will tend to be reduced to a manageable standard. The findings also showed that the education of women is a panacea and sure bait to sustainable environment. The study of Nwafor and Williams though

having some similarities such as farmers' education status and one way analysis of variance statistical tool used with the present study but differs significantly in terms of the research problem, area of study, sample size, population under study and the variables used in the study. Hence, the findings of the present study differ with a wider coverage in relation to sustainable agriculture, a pathway towards the attainment of sustainable development goal two in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Akpan, Patrick and Essien (2024) conducted a study on farmers' education for the attainment of the United Nation sustainable development goal (SDG) number two: assessment of some indicators in Nigeria. The study examined the journey so far towards achieving the United Nation Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 2 ("zero hunger) from the year 2001 to 2022 in Nigeria. Data was gathered from official sources such as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), FAO, ADP and the World Bank, and then analyzed using descriptive tools. The findings revealed that a significant population of Nigerian farmers are still lowly educated and undernourished, representing over 15.00% of the country's population. The study observes that due to the low level of farmers' education, fertilizer and water use efficiency in agriculture were found to be very low relative to the other countries in Africa where farmers are highly educated. The finding further shows that agricultural land marginally increases on yearly basis without a corresponding increase in productivity due to farmers' level of exposure to modern agricultural practices.

Eneji, Dantani and Afu (2021) carried out a study on farmers' education and sustainable development: the Nigerian experience for the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs) number 2. This research work examines the nexus between farmers' education and sustainable development in Nigeria. They opined that farmers' education is continually poised to play major roles in the achievement of national food security and sustainability via the development of skilled human resources required for agricultural productivity. The study found that in spite of this recognition, education and training institutions have not been able to adequately equip agriculturists and farmers with tools to produce adequate food, generate income and employment and reduce poverty for sustainable national development. Nevertheless, it was argued that farmers' education in developing nations is still faced with many challenges which have prevented it from adequately addressing the issue of sustainable development. The study concludes that no nation can develop without well-educated people and a strong agricultural base which provides food security for sustainable development and the role of farmers' education in the provision of improved, relevant and effective cropping, research and outreach as well as the achievement of food security requires a critical mass of dedicated and well-trained farmers. It was

however recommended in the study that there is need for a radical change in both the curriculum content and delivery; employing modern methods in teaching which seek to develop in the individual appreciation and love for work through knowledge and skill acquisition based on attitudinal change and orientation. There should be focus on developmental plans to revive the agriculture sector given the high volatility in the oil sector and recent economic recession in the country, and the government of Nigeria through its apex bank should reform and align its financial sector to increase their lending to agriculture through low demands for collateral by banks; high capacity to develop appropriate credit instruments for agriculture/farmers' at low interest rates.

Another study by Mabe, Mumuni and Sulemana (2021) examined smallholder farmers' awareness of Sustainable Development Goal 2 and improve household food security in the Northern Region of Ghana. As stated earlier in this study, Sustainable Development Goal 2 aims at ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. Whilst some smallholder farmers are aware of this goal, others are not. The question that arises is whether or not awareness translates into food security. The study sought to find out whether or not smallholder farmers' awareness of Sustainable Development Goal 2 improves household food security in the Northern Region of Ghana. The study used cross-sectional primary data collected from two districts and two municipalities in the region. An endogenous switching regression treatment effects model with ordered outcome was used to estimate the effects of smallholder farmers' awareness of Sustainable Development Goal 2 on household food insecurity level. The age of household head, distance of households to the regional capital, membership of farmer-based organizations and access to e-extension, education, and ownership of radio are the key drivers of farmers' awareness of Sustainable Development Goal 2. The results from the endogenous switching regression treatment effects model with ordered outcome showed that households who are aware of the second goal are more food secure than their counterparts who are not. It is therefore prudent for stakeholders promoting and championing Sustainable Development Goals to educate farmers on the significance of goal 2 as their awareness of the goal is critical to achieving food security.

Elujekwute, Aja, Danburam and Nyitar (2021) carried out a study on enhancing farmers' education for sustainable development goals (SDGS) in Nigeria. This research work examined the need for enhancing Farmers' Education for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria. It also appraised on how to improve the quality of education for rural farmers and implicated the fact that once quality education is assured, the outcome of it is development. Moving further, the educational administrators have a lot to do for schools to achieve the goals of ensuring qualitative and result oriented education. However, it was observed that in higher institutions of learning

despite accreditation by expectative agencies, they are found wanting in the area of enhancing quality and skillful education and hence stunted efforts towards achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). It was observed also that corruption and examination malpractice, lack of learning by doing were identified to be hindering every efforts made towards achieving enhanced quality and skillful education that could guarantee sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Nigeria. In view of the above, it was recommended amongst other that, the Agencies established for accreditation in Nigeria should strengthen and instilling consciousness on the educational stakeholders in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). It was also argued that the educational administrators/managers should faithfully carry out their duties and concerted efforts be made by stakeholders in vocational education such as parents, teachers, school proprietors and the society in ensuring that corruption and examination malpractice are reduced to the barest minimum in schools. Following their submission in the present study, it can be added that, if farmers are adequately trained or educated or equipped in modern practices in agriculture, more food could be produced and the SDG2 will be achievable.

A study by Oweibia, Elemuwa, Akpan and Elemuwa (2024) analyzed Nigeria's journey towards sustainable development goals: A comprehensive review from inception to present. The study critically examines Nigeria's journey towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since their inception. Nigeria, a United Nations member state and a major oil producer, faces challenges like socio-economic disparities, political instability, corruption, and prevalent poverty, despite its cultural richness and natural resources. The primary aim was to evaluate Nigeria's alignment with the SDGs within its national development frameworks, highlighting the significance of these goals in addressing the country's multifaceted developmental challenges including poverty, health, education, and environmental degradation. The study conducts a detailed analysis of Nigeria's background, including its cultural diversity and developmental hurdles. It reviews national policies and initiatives, notably the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), and the role of the Ministry of Budget and National Planning in coordinating SDG efforts. Findings suggest partial progress in SDG integration within Nigeria's development plans. While some strides have been made in areas like policy alignment and strategic planning, challenges persist in effective implementation and tackling systemic issues like inequality and corruption. The analysis reveals that, while Nigeria has made efforts to incorporate the SDGs into national policies, significant gaps remain in addressing key challenges. The complexity of Nigeria's socio-economic and political landscape presents both hurdles and opportunities for sustainable development. The study advocates for more robust policy implementation, enhanced stakeholder engagement, and targeted strategies to overcome specific challenges. By addressing

these areas, Nigeria can accelerate its progress towards the SDGs, paving the way for comprehensive and sustainable national development.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted for this study was the descriptive survey design. It is a design that uses both quantitative and qualitative data to provide the researcher with relevant and accurate information without manipulating the variables to gain deeper knowledge of the research problem. Hence, this design is relevant to this study as it helps in collecting accurate data for describing the present trend of the farmers' educational level, access to farm inputs and the attainment of sustainable development goal two (SDG 2) in Cross River State, Nigeria.

The study was carried out in Cross River State. It is one of the 36 states that is located in the South-South Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. Cross River State is a coastal state in South Eastern Nigeria, its capital is Calabar, and it is named after the Cross River which passes through the state. The state was created on 27th May, 1967 from the eastern part of the Eastern Region by General Yakubu Gowon military administration. Cross River State lies between latitudes 4°28'N and 6°55'N of the equator, and longitudes 7°50'E and 9°28'E of the Greenwich Meridian and has a land mass of 23,074km². The population of the study comprised all registered farmers in Cross River State. As at the time of study, the population stood at 5,681 male and female registered farmers. (Cross River Ministry of Agriculture, 2025). A breakdown of the distribution of the population is shown in Table 1.

A multi-stage sampling approach involving stratified sampling, simple random sampling, and systematic random sampling techniques were used in the study. In the first stage, Cross River State was stratified into three (3) strata that made up the three (3) Education Zones. They are: Ogoja Education Zone with 5 Local Government Areas (L.G.As), Ikom Education Zone with 6 LGAs and Calabar Education Zone with 7 LGAs; giving a total of eighteen (18) LGAs.

In the second stage, a simple random sampling technique was adopted to select Local Government Areas from the three Education Zones. In each of the Education Zones, 30% of the Local Government Areas was used for the study. The researcher wrote the names of all the Local Government Areas with registered farmers on pieces of paper, folded them into a ball-like shape and dropped them into a bowl. The researcher then blindly picked 30 percent from each bowl with replacement. With this method, 2 L.G.As from Ogoja Education Zone, 2 L.G.As from Ikom Education Zone and 3 L.G.As from Calabar Education Zones making a total of 7 L.G.As were proportionately picked for the study. In the third stage, a systematic sampling technique was adopted to select a sample from each of the Local Government Area selected for the study

With the sampling techniques adopted above, thirty three (33%) of registered farmers in each of the selected Local Government Area was taken as a sample. The researcher obtained the list of registered farmers in each L.G.As selected. Therefore, a sample of 924 respondents drawn from a population of 2,799 registered farmers in the seven (7) LGAs selected was used for the study.

The instrument designed for data collection in this study was a questionnaire titled: Educational level and Attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 2 Questionnaire (ELASDGQ). The instrument was divided into three (3) sections – ‘A’ ‘B’ and ‘C’. Section A elicited information on respondents’ educational level such as farmers’ educational qualification consisted of ten (10) items which was designed to measure the sub-independent variable. Section C contained ten (10) items that focused on the attainment of sustainable development goal two. Responses were rated using four point Likert-type scale starting from Very true (VT), True (T), NT (Not true) and VU (Very untrue).

TABLE 1

Sample distribution of registered farmers from the selected Local Government Areas in the Education Zones of Cross River State

S/N	Education zones	No of LGAs selected	Population of farmers	Sample (33%)
1.	Ogoja	Ogoja	293	97
		Obudu	407	134
2.	Ikom	Yakurr	316	104
		Ikom	510	169
3.	Calabar	Biase	231	75
		Calabar Municipality	627	206
		Odukpani	415	136
	TOTAL	7	2799	924

Source: Field work, 2026

The researcher visited the Ministries of Agriculture in each Local Government Area selected for the study and obtained a list of Registered Farmers’ Association. This way, the researcher contacted Chairmen of the Associations, introduced himself and sought their consent to be used for the study. The farmers consented and agreed to meet with the researcher on their meeting days. Thereafter, the researcher in company of 2 trained research assistants personally visited the farmers in their meeting venues in each of the seven (7) Local Government Areas on agreed dates and administered the questionnaire to 924 respondents according to the sample sizes in each local government area. Enough time was allowed to enable the respondents to supply all the needed information. All 924 administered questionnaires were retrieved from the respondents

after they had responded accordingly to the items in the instrument. The exercise lasted for about 7 weeks.

During sorting, it was discovered that out of the 924 questionnaires administered, 24 were invalid while only 900 were valid. Preparation of valid data for statistical analysis was achieved by assigning numerical values to the responses of the items in the questionnaire. A coding schedule was prepared by developing a key for which all information obtained from the questionnaire was coded for analysis. The scoring was done using the scoring key and each response was given a degree score ranging from 4 - 1 for positively worded items as shown below: Very True (VT) - 4 points, True (T) - 3 points, Untrue (UT) - 2 points and Very Untrue (VU) - 1 point. The reverse was used in the negatively worded items.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Presentation of results

Hypothesis

The null hypothesis states that farmers' educational level does not have any significant influence on the attainment of sustainable development goal two in Cross River Stat, Nigeria.

To test this hypothesis, the attainment of sustainable development goal two was compared across farmers with no formal education, FSLC/SSCE, NCE/ND/HND and B.Ed/ B.Sc/above using the one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). The result is presented in Table 6.

The information in Table 2 shows that farmers' educational level significantly influence the attainment of sustainable development goal two in Cross River State ($F=11.926$; $p=0.000$). Hence the null hypothesis that farmers' educational level does not significantly influence the attainment of sustainable development goal two in Cross River State is rejected at the 0.05 level of significance. To find out the direction of influence a Post Hoc test using Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD) test was performed as reported in Table 3.

TABLE 2

Summary data and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the influence of educational level on the attainment of sustainable development goal two

Educational level	N	$\bar{x}$	SD		
No formal Edu.	30	38.14	4.70		
FSLC/SSCE	509	61.25	6.07		
NCE/ND/HND	200	62.74	5.56		
B.Ed/B.Sc/Above	161	62.50	3.27		
Total	900	59.82	6.47		
Source of variance	SS	Df	MS	F	P-value

Between groups	1383.874	3	461.291	11.926*	.000
Within groups	15201.068	893	38.68		
Total	16584.942	896			

Significance at the 0.05 level of significance

The information in Table 3 shows that the attainment of sustainable development goal two of farmers with No formal education is significantly lower than that of farmers with FSLC/SSCE; significantly lower than that of farmers with NCE/ND/HND, as well as significantly lower than that of farmers with B.Ed/B.Sc/ Above. But farmers with no formal education do not significantly differ in their attainment of sustainable development goal two from those with NCE/ND/HND and those with B.Ed/B.Sc/ Above. However, farmers with no formal education and FSLC/SSCE do not significantly differ in their attainment of sustainable development goal two from those with NCE/ND/HND in Cross River State.

TABLE 3
Fisher's LSD test of the influence of farmers' educational status on attainment of sustainable development goal two

Level of education		Mean difference	Standard error	p-value
(I)	(J)	(I-J)		
No formal edu.	FSLC/SSCE	-3.1095	-7211*	.000
	NCE/ND/HND	-4.5987	1.0828*	.000
	B.Ed/B.Sc/Above	-4.3551	1.2125*	.000
FSLC/SSCE	No formal Edu.	.4892	1.1537	.198
	NCE/ND/HND	-1.2456	1.2762	.330
	B.Ed/B.Sc/Above	-3.3224	1.1631	.322
NCE/ND/HND	No formal Edu.	.2436	-5103	.172
	FSLC/SSCE	-1.3215	1.4323	.531
	B.Ed/B.Sc/Above	-1.3421	1.3242	.654
B.Ed/B.Sc/Above	No formal Edu.	.2342	-3243	.132
	FSLC/SSCE	-1.4342	1.4235	.000
	NCE/ND/HND	-1.3323	1.5231	.000

* Significant at 0.05 level of significance

Hypothesis one which was stated in a null form was rejected. This is because education is the foundation for farmers' empowerment and societal progress, fostering critical thinking resulting in economic stability and innovation. This implies that educational level (no formal education, FSLC/SSCE, NCE/ND/HND and B.Ed/ B.Sc/above) significantly influence the attainment of sustainable development goal 2 in Cross River State, Nigeria because those with higher level of educational qualifications in the study area tend to have positive influence on the attainment of

sustainable development goal 2 than their counterparts with less level of educational qualifications. This result is not coming as a surprise to the researcher but buttress the view point of most scholars in the review of related literature who submitted that farmers' education significantly influences the attainment of sustainable development goal 2. This finding is in support of the findings of Ogbonna (2000) as cited in Okon, (2023) who conducted a study to determine the extent of farmers' awareness on environmental sustainability ethics using Delta, Edo and Cross River States, Nigeria. From a simple linear regression analysis of data he collected from a sample of three hundred (300) respondents out of a population of 5,393 registered farmers in the study area using a 30 item self-structured questionnaire, it was gathered that on the issue of awareness, the literate farmers mostly in the larger cities were found to be quite aware of cleanliness and sustainable resource use ethics compared to their illiterate counterpart. In the rural areas on the other hand, the illiterates were quite conscious and understand the value of a clean environment, but were found to have poor spacing orientation. The findings also revealed that farmers' level of education influences their awareness on how to preserve, conserve, and use water, land and air in a justifiable manner for the interest of the present and next generations.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

Based on the results of the findings in this study, the researcher concluded that there is a significant influence of farmers' educational level on the attainment of sustainable development Goal 2 in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Implications of Findings

The implications of the findings include the following:

Farmers' education directly enhances food security by boosting agricultural productivity, enabling the adoption of sustainable techniques and increasing farmers' income. Also, educated farmers are better equipped to implement innovative green technologies, manage environmental resources and improve crop yield. This ultimately leads to higher food availability, a path way to attainment of sustainable development goal two vice versa.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in this study based on the results of the findings;

1. Farmers should be trained and educated on modern farming techniques and innovations through agricultural extension workers.
3. Farmers are also encouraged to maintain a small family sizes to boost household efficiency. This can be achieved through family planning and education

4. The government, Non Governmental Organization (NGOs) and well spirited individuals should invest in rural infrastructure and strengthening the agricultural value chain to encourage youth's engagement in agriculture.
5. Government should modernized farming especially at the rural areas by providing farmers with improve equipment such as tractors, power tiller and specialize implements to less burdensome in farming.

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