Introduction

The relationship between livelihoods and food security is influenced by a wide variety of factors that vary in importance across contexts and over time. A livelihood comprises the assets and activities required for a means of living. It is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from shocks and stresses, and maintain or enhance its assets now and in the future (Maxwell, 1995).

Food security means the provision and access to nutritionally sufficient and culturally acceptable food by each member of the household for healthy life obtained through socially acceptable ways (FAO, 2006). The definition of food security in this study is based on the FAO’s definition; “a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (FAO, 2008).

Food security will be achieved when equitable growth ensures that the poor and vulnerable have sustainable livelihoods (USAID, 1995). In practice, livelihood security and food security are linked in a bi-direction relationship. Food production constitutes one of the most basic livelihood activities, and can be a critical source of food access, particularly for rural households. The household’s livelihood security in turn is affected by its food security. Households with poor food access and/or poor food utilization tend to suffer more from illness or other physical debilitations thereby impairing their labour productivity and/or their ability to engage in livelihood activities (USAID, 2013).

Objectives

The broad objective of the study was to assess the influence of access and ownership of livelihood assets on household food security in Nigeria. Specifically, the study – examined the access of households’ members to different livelihood assets • evaluate the food security status of rural farm households in Nigeria • assessed the influence of access to livelihood assets on rural farm household food security in Nigeria

Research and Methods

Primary data were collected with the aid of a structured questionnaire using multistage sampling technique from 1,925 cereal farming households across six agro-ecological zones in Nigeria. Data were collected on socioeconomic characteristics, access and ownership of livelihood assets and food security survey module.

Food Security Status was assessed using Household Food Security Survey Modules (HFSSM). The data were further analyzed using percentages, mean and Ordered Probit model of household food security.

Results

Access and Ownership of Livelihood Assets

Discussion

Livelihood and food security status of farming households in Nigeria. It may be concluded from the above results that the proportion of food secure households is more than the food insecure households.

Influence of Access to Ownership of Livelihood Assets on Household Food Security Status in Nigeria

References


