

Effect of Cooperative Inspection Activities on the Performance of Farmers Cooperative Societies in Anambra State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the effect of cooperative inspection activities on the performance of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. The study Specifically modeled the effect of cooperative education and training, frequent inspection, inspectors frequent visitation and inspection activities on total output of Farmers cooperative societies, membership strength of Farmers, community investment of Farmers cooperative societies and members participation of Farmers Cooperative Societies in Anambra State respective using a descriptive survey design on a sample of 96 management committees of selected cooperative societies in Anambra State. The study was anchored on Systems Theory propounded by Ludwig von Bertalanffy in 1930s. Data collected for the study were analyzed using descriptive statistics and chi-square statistics. The results from the analysis revealed that cooperative education and training has significant influence on the total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. Cooperative Societies activities have significant effect on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. Inspectors' frequent visitation has no significant influence on the community investment of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. Inspection activities have significant influence on members' participation of Farmers Cooperative Societies in Anambra State. Based on the findings, the following are recommended; to increase farmers output, cooperative societies should sustain cooperative education and training because it was found to have significant influence on the total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. Cooperative societies should advertise their activities so that non members will its benefits and key into their activities by subscribing to its membership. Areas of cooperative community investment should be specifies to enable inspectors focus that. This will help improve the contributions of cooperative to community investment. Inspection activities should be done regularly as it has a positive influence on the participation of members.

Keywords: Cooperative, Inspection Activities, Performance, education and training, Community investment .

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1. Introduction

Ensuring the growth and development of cooperative societies particularly agricultural cooperatives has been one of the major objectives of the governments at various levels in Nigeria since the introduction of cooperative. This was because the original impetus for the introduction of cooperative by the government was in agriculture and more precisely in the marketing of agricultural product to obtain a fare price for the cocoa farmers in western Nigeria at that time. ^[1] Cocoa was one of the major cash crops that plays a crucial role in the nation's socioeconomic transformation. It forms a substantial part of the country's foreign exchange earnings, and cocoa farmers formed most of the cooperative societies before it began to spread to other parts of the country. ^[2] However, it is not in doubt that before the discovery of oil in Nigeria, that farming has sustained the country in terms of food security, employment generation, source of industrial raw material, income generation and has in the past been an important provider of resources for investments in other sectors of the economy. ^[3]

Consequently, sustaining farmers cooperative societies

became one of the primary objectives of the government. The governments at various levels in Nigeria have placed farmers cooperative societies under a ministry for the purpose of inspection and supervision aimed at enhanced and improved performance. According to cooperative law (NCSD No 90 of 1993), Cooperative inspection is an exercise carried out by the director of cooperatives or someone appointed by him to monitor and check the exercise of cooperative societies and their business transactions to ensure that they do not go out of defined principles and practices. In view of this, farmers cooperatives are organized and managed through the system of large or small, multipurpose or single purpose and central or federal which have in an unimaginable way contributed immensely in the economic development of Nigeria by providing; locally needed services, employment, circulate money locally and contribute to a sense of community or social cohesion. All these systems put together are under direct coordination, inspection, regulations, examination of the federal government through the office of the Director of Cooperative and his Assistants. ^[4]

Farmers Cooperative societies therefore, when

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established in Nigeria are subjected to constant inspection to ensure that they do not deviate from their stated objectives which may hamper their survival. ^[5] As such, the duty of the Director of Cooperative does not end when a society is registered. ^[6] The Director of cooperative is empowered to visit all the cooperative society at any reasonable time to inspect and ensure that board of directors composition, general information, membership, share capital, meetings, society activities, business transactions, infrastructure, equipment, physical and financial records, income and expenditure, staffing, education and training are all up to date. The Anambra state cooperative federation like other state federations regulates the activities of the entire cooperative under the auspices of the state ministry of trade, commerce, market & wealth creation. It should however be noted that in different states, different names are given to the ministries where cooperative federation exists. Whatever their names, such ministries have their responsibilities towards cooperatives and of course cooperative federations. Like all the other cooperative federations in Nigeria, the Anambra state cooperative director is charged with the responsibility of inspecting the activities of all cooperative societies in the state, including farmers' cooperative societies. This is to ensure that the cooperative societies remain proactive in the areas of promotion, organization, coordination, education, inspection, supervision, administration, training, interpretation and advice. However, most farmers cooperative have failed to translate their group potential into increased agricultural production and income. This is not unconnected to poor membership strength, poor fund mobilization and poor leadership (Oboh, Lawal & Agada, 2008). It is believed that if the membership strength of cooperatives is improved, the members of the societies will have better access to various agricultural production and promotion facilities and consequently increase their income (Oboh, et al, 2008).

Therefore, with proper inspection, the performance of farmers cooperative in the aspect of output, membership strength, community investment and members participation are bound to improve. Suklev and Debarliev ^[7] posited staff profile, community investment, members, environment, customer satisfaction, employ qualified employees, level of employees retention, shareholders satisfaction as non-financial indices. However, the performance measure for this study focuses on total output, membership strength, community investment and members' participation of farmers' cooperative societies.

2. Statement of the Problem

This study was necessitate by the perceived irregular and inappropriate Inspection of most of the farmers' cooperative societies activities; this has consequently affected the performance of farmers cooperative in Nigeria, thus, affecting food production distribution in the country. Over the last decade, Nigeria's domestic food production has consistently lagged behind national food demand. ^[8] The increasing pattern of the annual shortfalls is a dangerous pointer to the fact that the nation may be on the threshold of food insecurity (Okolo, 2006). Despite effort by the government to bridge the gap between food demand and supply through farmers' cooperative, the country has remained import driven. ^[9] For instance, Lawal & Adelowo, (2013) mentioned that if

cooperatives are established without their activities have been checked at regular intervals, there is tendency that they go out of the dictates of business practices which could deny them the prospects of achieving stated objectives.

In Anambra state, it is doubtful if the Director of Cooperative and his Assistants are frequently carrying out their duties (Inspection of society activities) to enable farmers cooperative societies improve their performance in terms of total output, membership strength, community investment and members' participation. Umebali ^[10] stated that social and economic performance of cooperative societies can only be improved, when inspection activities are carried out regularly. Several empirical studies by different researchers show farmers cooperatives performance, its determinants and factors influencing its performance in different ways ^[11,12] and output which will reduce rural poverty, and increase food security. ^[13] Cooperatives can also invest in the communities they operate by so doing create employment for the inhabitants of the community. ^[14] This improvement in the performance of farmers is vital for rural development and members' social-economy. ^[15]

However, there is no empirical study on cooperative inspection activities that has directly or indirectly affected the performance of farmers' cooperative societies in Anambra State, Nigeria. There is therefore need to examine the effect of cooperative inspection activities on the performance of Farmers Cooperative Societies in Anambra State, Nigeria. This is because when the effect of cooperative inspection activities on the performance of farmers cooperative are known it will help the Director of cooperative in wakening the activities carried out by Cooperative inspectors, and as a result increase the farm output, strengthen the membership of farmers cooperative and intensify community investment which will help to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of food in Nigeria and enhance rural development.

3. Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the effect of cooperative inspection activities on the performance of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. Specifically, the study intends to:

- i. Evaluate the influence of education and training on total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.
- ii. Determine the effect of frequent Inspection of cooperative society's activities on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.
- iii. Investigate the influence of Inspectors frequent visitation on Community investment of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.
- iv. Access the influence of Inspection activities on membership participation of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested in the study:

Ho1: Education and training has no significant influence on the total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State

Ho2:Frequent Inspection of Cooperative Society's activities has no significant effect on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State

Ho3:Inspectors frequent visitation has no significant influence on the community investment of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State

Ho4:Inspection activities have no significant influence on the membership participation of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

4. METHODOLOGY

Area of Study

This study was carried out in Anambra State and in particular, the agricultural zones of the State. Anambra State is in South-Eastern zone of Nigeria. Its name is an Anglicized version of the original 'Omambala', the native name of the Anambra River. The capital and the seat of government is Awka. Onitsha and Nnewi are the biggest commercial and industrial cities, respectively. Boundaries are formed by Delta State to the west, Imo State and Rivers State to the south, Enugu State to the east, and Kogi State to the north. The origin of the name is derived from the Anambra River (Omambala) which is a tributary of the famous River Niger. The indigenous ethnic groups in Anambra State are the Igbo (98% of population) and a small population of Igala (2% of the population) who live mainly in the north-western part of the State. Anambra is the eighth most populated State in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the second most densely populated State in Nigeria after Lagos State. The stretch of more than 45 km between Oba and Amorka contains a cluster of numerous thickly populated villages and small towns giving the area an estimated average density of 1,500–2,000 persons per square kilometer. Anambra State is rich in natural gas, crude oil, bauxite, ceramic and has an almost 100 percent arable soil. Other resources in the area are agriculture, human capacity, tourism and industries.

Population of the Study

The population of the study is made up of all the management committees' members of farmers' cooperatives in Anambra State. Anambra State has a total of two thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven (2787) registered agricultural cooperative societies with a membership strength of fifty four thousand four hundred and sixty-six (54,466), (Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Market & Wealth Creation, Anambra State, 2020).

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

To determine the sample size, for the purpose of questionnaire distribution, multi-staged sampling technique was adopted. This was carried out in four stages. According to Chukwuemeka [16], multi-stage sampling is somewhat the combination of the other sampling techniques. At least, it combines two methods. The first stage was the division of the state into three agricultural zones using judgmental sampling. Judgmental sampling is a non probability sampling that makes use of typical cases among the population to be studied, which the researcher believes will provide him with the necessary data needed. [17] The agricultural zones were selected from the three senatorial districts of the state. The second stage was a sub-sampling

also called a two-stage sampling. This was a random selection of selecting two local governments each (Anambra East L.G.A, Anyemelu L.G.A; Orumba South L.G.A, Aguata L.G.A. Awka North, and Dunukofia L.G.A.) from the agricultural zones. In the third stage otherwise called the three-stage sampling, the simple random sampling technique was also used to select four farmers' cooperative societies each from each of the six selected local governments in the agricultural zone. In the fourth stage, simple random sampling technique was again used to select four members of management committee each from each of the four farmers' cooperative societies, thus making the sample size a total of ninety-six (96) management committee.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, mean, and standard deviation) and the inferential statistics such as chi-square statistics. The demographic profiles were processed using descriptive statistics. Thereafter, the objectives were processed using descriptive statistics (like percentages, mean and standard deviation) and the three hypothesis; Ho1, Ho2, Ho3 and Ho4, set for the study were analyzed through independent chi-square statistics. Stated below are explanation and result of the tests of the hypotheses.

Thus, the model of this study is stated as follows:

Chi-Square Formula

The formula for the chi-square that was used to test the null hypothesis is stated thus:

$$\chi^2 = \sum (O_i - E_i)^2 / E_i$$

Where: O_i = observed value (actual value)

E_i = expected value.

5. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This section deals with the presentation and analysis of data collected from the field of study. The aim is to present the data in an interpretable form so that the variables of the study can be well understood.

Table 2 shows that 65.2% respondents are males while 34.8% of the respondents are females. As shown in table 4.2, 15.2% of the respondents are between the ages of 18-32. 17.4% of the respondents, are between the ages of 31-40. 15.2% of the respondents, are between the ages of 41-50. 41.4% of the respondents, between the ages of 51-60, while 10.9% of the respondents, are between the ages of 61-70. From table 4.2, all the respondents had formal education. 12.0% of the respondents had primary education. 62.0% had secondary education while 26.0% had tertiary education. With respect to farming experience, table 4.2 reveals that 25.0% of the respondents had 1-5years farming experience. 41.3% of the respondents had 6-10years farming experience. 21.7% of the respondents had 11-15years farming experience, while 12.0% of the respondents had 15-30years farming experience.

From table 2, 63.0% of the respondents are married. 25.0% of the respondents are single, while 12.0% of the respondents are widow/widower. With respect to farm size, table 4.2 revealed that 12.0% of the respondents farm on 1-5plots of land. 43.5% of the respondents farm on 6-10plots of land. 30.4% of the respondents farm on 11-15plots of land, while 14.1% of the respondents farm on 15-30plots of land. With respect to farmers output, table 4.2 reveals that 10.9%

of the respondents had 10,000 - 50,000 naira as monthly farm output. 63.0% of the respondents had 51,000 - 100,000 naira as farm output. 12.0% of the respondents had 101,000- 150,000 naira as monthly farm output, while 14.1% of the respondents had 151,000 - 200,000 naira as monthly farm output.

Table 3 above, shows the descriptive statistics of the influence of cooperative education and training on total output of farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. The table revealed that the various mean scores and standard deviation for each item. Item 1 (\bar{x} = 3.0, SD = 0.5010), Item 2 (\bar{x} = 3.2, SD = 0.5855), item 3 (\bar{x} = 3.1, SD = 0.0096), item 4 (\bar{x} = 3.5, SD = 0.4686), item 5 (\bar{x} = 3.0, SD = 0.0633), item 6 (\bar{x} = 3.5, SD = 0.4828) and item 7 (\bar{x} = 3.1, SD = 0.2343). All items under this section were accepted because they had mean scores above the average benchmark of 3.00. The grand mean showed a value of 3.2 which means that cooperative education and training have influence on total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Table 4 above shows the descriptive statistics of effect of frequent inspection of cooperative society's activities on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. The table revealed that the various mean scores and standard deviation for each item. Item 1 (\bar{x} = 3.2, SD = 0.5855), Item 2 (\bar{x} = 3.8, SD = 0.8644), item 3 (\bar{x} = 3.1, SD = 0.1730), item 4 (\bar{x} = 3.2, SD = 0.0299), item 5 (\bar{x} = 3.4, SD = 0.7668), item 6 (\bar{x} = 3.6, SD = 0.2343) and 7 (\bar{x} = 3.5, SD = 0.3443). All items under this section were accepted because they had mean scores above the average benchmark of 3.0. The grand mean is 3.1 which statistically imply that frequent inspection of cooperative society's activities has influence on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Table 5 above shows the descriptive statistics of influence of Inspectors frequent visitation on Community investment of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. The table revealed that the various mean scores and standard deviation for each item. Item 1 (\bar{x} = 3.5, SD = 0.4828), Item 2 (\bar{x} = 3.0, SD = 0.5010), item 3 (\bar{x} = 3.4, SD = 0.1632), item 4 (\bar{x} = 3.6, SD = 0.7819), item 5 (\bar{x} = 3.4, SD = 0.7668), item 6 (\bar{x} = 3.0, SD = 0.3128), 7 (\bar{x} = 2.6, SD = 0.7819), item 8 (\bar{x} = 2.4, SD = 0.7668) and item 9 (\bar{x} = 2.0, SD = 0.3128). With the exception of items 1-4, all the other items were not accepted because they had mean scores below the average benchmark of 3.0. The grand mean is 2.3 which shows that inspectors constant visitation has no effect on Community investment of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Table 6 above shows the descriptive statistics of effect of inspection activities on members participation of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. The table revealed that the various mean scores and standard deviation for each item. Item 1 (\bar{x} = 3.2, SD = 0.5855), Item 2 (\bar{x} = 3.7, SD = 0.8134), item 3 (\bar{x} = 3.1, SD = 0.1730), item 4 (\bar{x} = 3.2, SD = 0.0299), item 5 (\bar{x} = 3.4, SD = 0.7668), item 6 (\bar{x} = 3.6, SD = 0.2343) and 7 (\bar{x} = 3.5, SD = 0.3443). All items under this section were accepted because they had mean scores above the average benchmark of 3.0. The grand mean is 3.2 which statistically imply that inspection activities has influence on members participation of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One

Ho1: Cooperative education and training has no

significant influence on the total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Hypothesis one was tested using Chi-Square Tests.

From the chi-square results,

Chi-Square = X^2 = 34.825a

No of samples = N = 96

Degree of Freedom = df = 4

Probability Value = P < 0.000

The Probability value = P < 0.000 shows that the result of the chi-square statistics is statistically significant. We therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate by concluding that cooperative education and training has significant influence on the total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Hypothesis Two

Ho2: Cooperative Societies activities has no significant effect on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State

Hypothesis two was tested using Chi-Square Tests.

From the result of the chi-square results,

Chi-Square = X^2 = 11.194a

No of samples = N = 96

Degree of Freedom = df = 4

Probability Value = P < 0.024

The Probability value = P < 0.024 shows that the result of the chi-square statistics is significant. We therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate by concluding that frequent inspection of cooperative Societies activities has significant effect on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Hypothesis Three

Ho3: Inspectors constant visitation has no significant influence on the community investment of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Hypothesis three was tested using Chi-Square Tests.

From the result of the chi-square results,

Chi-Square = X^2 = 14.534a

No of samples = N = 96

Degree of Freedom = df = 4

Probability Value = P < 0.001

The result shows that our test statistics is not significant at 0.240 as indicated by the probability value. We therefore fall to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that inspector's frequent visitation has no significant influence on the community investment of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Hypothesis Four

Ho4: Inspection activities have no significant influence on the membership participation of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Hypothesis three was tested using Chi-Square Tests.

From the result of the chi-square results,

Chi-Square = X^2 = 42.114a

No of samples = N = 96

Degree of Freedom = df = 4

Probability Value = P < 0.000

The result shows that our test statistics is not significant at 0.000 as indicated by the probability value. We therefore reject the null hypothesis and conclude that

Questionnaire Distribution and Response Rate**Table 1: Questionnaire Distribution and Response Rate**

Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative (%)
No Returned	92	95.8	97.8
Not Returned	4	4.2	100
Total	96	100	

Source: Computation from field survey, 2021

Out of the 96 questionnaires distributed only 92 were dully completed and returned. This shows that only 95.8% of the questionnaires were dully completed and returned for the study.

Demographic Profile of the Respondents**Table 2: Distribution of Respondents According to Gender**

Variable	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative (%)
Gender			
Male	60	65.2	65.2
Female	32	34.8	100
Total	92	100	
Age			
18-32	14	15.2	15.2
31-40	16	17.4	32.5
41-50	14	15.2	47.7
51-60	38	41.4	89.1
61-70	10	10.9	100.0
Total	92	100.0	
Educational Qualification			
Primary	11	12.0	12.0
Secondary	57	62.0	74.0
Tertiary	24	26.0	100.0
Total	92	100.0	
Farming Experience			
1-5	23	25.0	25.0
6-10	38	41.3	66.3
11-15	20	21.7	88.0
15-30	11	12.0	100.0
Total	92	100.0	
Marital Status			
Married	58	63.0	63.0
Single	23	25.0	88.0
Widow/Widower	11	12.0	100.0
Total	92	100.0	
Farm Size			
1-5plots	11	12.0	12.0
6-10plots	40	43.5	55.5
11-15plots	28	30.4	85.9
15-30plots	13	14.1	100.0
Total	92	100.0	
Farmers Output			
10,000 - 50,000 naira	10	10.9	10.9
51,000 - 100,000 naira	58	63.0	73.9
101,000- 150,000 naira	11	12.0	85.9
151,000 - 200,000 naira	13	14.1	100.0
Total	92	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Analysis and Presentation of Data Based on the Questionnaire

Table 3 Influence of cooperative education and training on total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State

Tons	N	\bar{X}	Std. Dev.	Decision
1-5	92	3.0	0.5010	Agree
6-10.	92	3.2	0.5855	Agree
11-15	92	3.1	0.0096	Agree
16-20	92	3.5	0.4686	Agree
21-25	92	3.0	0.0633	Agree
26-30	92	3.5	0.4828	Agree
31 and Above	92	3.1	0.2343	Agree
Grand Mean		3.2		

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 4: Effect of constant Inspection of cooperative society's activities on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State

Items	N	\bar{X}	Std. Dev.	Decision
Constant inspection of society activities help farmers benefit from economies of scale by availing the best way of hiring services, as such leads to increase membership.	92	3.2	0.5855	Agree
Proper inspection of society's activities enhances the Social needs of members like the desire to develop personal relationships, as such boosts membership strength.	92	3.8	0.8644	Agree
Constant inspection of society activities increases access to improved skills for members thereby leads to increase in membership.	92	3.1	0.1730	Agree
Proper inspection of the society activities exposes the cooperative to a more effective means of getting government aid.	92	3.2	0.0299	Agree
Constant inspection of Society's activities increases farmers purchasing power and cut its costs through service sharing as such leads to increase in membership.	92	3.4	0.7668	Agree
Constant inspection enables the society to have a stronger bargaining power for loans as such leads to increase in membership.	92	3.6	0.2343	Agree
Constant inspection of society activities improves the marketing opportunities for farmers, as such leads to increase in membership.	92	3.5	0.3443	Agree
Grand Mean		3.1		

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 5: Influence of Inspectors frequent visitation on Community investment of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Items	N	\bar{X}	Std. Dev.	Decision
Constructing farm market	92	3.5	0.4828	Agree
Building of local bridges	92	3.0	0.5010	Agree
Building of event centers	92	3.4	0.1632	Agree
Awarding of scholarships	92	3.6	0.7819	Agree
Building of Health center (like, maternity clinic or health clinic)	92	2.4	0.7668	Disagree
Building of Vocational center (for empowering youth in skill acquisition)	92	2.0	0.3128	Disagree
Digging of Bore-hole (for water supply)	92	2.6	0.7819	Disagree
maintenance of Local road for easy access to market	92	2.4	0.7668	Disagree
Building of Educational Centers (-like adult education and primary schools)	92	2.0	0.3128	Disagree
Grand Mean		2.3		

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 6: Effect of Inspection activities on members participation of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State

Items	N	\bar{X}	Std. Dev.	Decision
Patronage of society business	92	3.2	0.5855	Agree
Members share capital	92	3.7	0.8134	Agree
Marketing of farm produce through the society	92	3.1	0.1730	Agree
Attending society meetings	92	3.2	0.0299	Agree
Payment of loan taking	92	3.4	0.7668	Agree
Payment of dues and subscriptions	92	3.6	0.2343	Agree
Society Governance	92	3.5	0.3443	Agree
Grand Mean		3.2		

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 6: Effect of Inspection activities on members participation of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State

Items	N	\bar{X}	Std. Dev.	Decision
Patronage of society business	92	3.2	0.5855	Agree
Members share capital	92	3.7	0.8134	Agree
Marketing of farm produce through the society	92	3.1	0.1730	Agree
Attending society meetings	92	3.2	0.0299	Agree
Payment of loan taking	92	3.4	0.7668	Agree
Payment of dues and subscriptions	92	3.6	0.2343	Agree
Society Governance	92	3.5	0.3443	Agree
Grand Mean		3.2		

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 7: Influence of cooperative education and training on total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

	Value	d.f	Ssymptotic (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	34.825a	4	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	34.825	4	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	34.825	1	0.000
No of valid Cases	92		

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 8: Effect of frequent Inspection of cooperative society's activities on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State

	Value	d.f	Ssymptotic (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	11.194a	4	0.024
Likelihood Ratio	11.276	4	0.024
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.435	1	0.006
No of valid Cases	92		

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

6. Discussion of Findings

The study sought to examine the effect of cooperative inspection activities on the performance of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.. The result from the analysis revealed that cooperative education and training has significant influence on the total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. The finding agreed with that of ^[18] who posits that a farmer cooperative without a strong component of education is in danger of losing its essential character; that is, the human and personal characteristics which distinguish it as a cooperative. Education is of paramount importance to the cooperative sector. Training and education has been shown as performance improvement related benefits for the farmers' cooperative societies. Training is a function of capacity building in organizations which is used to enhance output and helps to attain objectives of organizations (Abell, 2004).

Frequent inspection of Cooperative Societies activities has significant effect on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. This findings was corroborated by Agbo in Anigbogu et al. (2017) who identified specific benefits accruable to farmers if they are members of cooperative societies as: get a strong bargaining power for loans and other services; a favourable atmosphere for a more effective government aid scheme; improved marketing opportunities for members; provision of services for members at highly reduced costs; mobilization of funds for farm business; improved dissemination of extension services through the group approach; self-reliance and motivation for members; increased access to improved skills, exchange of ideas and educational opportunities through adult education and literacy programmes; and creation of avenues for members democracy and assume collective responsibility. United Nations in Anigbogu et al. (2017) stated that cooperatives play a meaningful role in uplifting the socio-economic conditions of their members

and local communities. Farmers join cooperatives for external support, cooperative performance, market access and collective bargaining, access to input services and credits, wealth creation risk sharing. ^[19]

Inspectors' frequent visitation has no significant influence on the community investment of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. This findings are in line with the findings of Birchall ^[20] which posits that among the benefits cooperative enterprises can provide for the community and economy in which they are created, the following are highlighted: they create and retain local jobs, have a more long-term commitment to remaining in the community (Birchall, 2004), provide local leadership and development, reduce the impact production has on the environment (Majee & Hoyt, 2011).

Inspection activities have significant influence on members' participation of Farmers Cooperative Societies in Anambra State. This finding is in line with Rajesh, Raju, Reddy, Scrthvasan & Sninani [21] which posited that members' participation is very crucial to the effective performance of cooperative society which is also pertinent to their goal attainment.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study examined the effect of cooperative inspection activities on the performance of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State. The results from the above analysis are summarized as follows:

i. Cooperative education and training has significant influence on the total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

ii. Frequent Inspection of Cooperative Societies activities have significant Effect on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

iii. Inspectors' frequent visitation has no significant influence on the community investment of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

iv. Inspection activities have significant influence on the

members' participation of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

The study concludes that cooperative education and training has significant influence on the total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State, frequent inspection of Cooperative Society activities has significant effect on the membership strength of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State, inspectors frequent visitation has no significant influence on the community investment of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State and Inspection activities has significant influence on the members participation of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

Based on the findings, the following are recommended;

i. To increase farmers output, cooperative societies should sustain cooperative education and training because it was found to have significant influence on the total output of Farmers cooperative societies in Anambra State.

ii. Cooperative societies should advertise their activities so that non members will be aware of its benefits and key into their activities by subscribing to its membership.

iii. Areas of cooperative community investment should be specified to enable inspectors focus that. This will help improve the contributions of cooperative to community investment.

iv. Inspection activities should be done regularly as it has a positive influence on the participation of members.

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