

# Comparative Analysis of Agricultural Land Use Dynamics and Conflicts among Rural Households in Ekiti and Osun States, Nigeria.

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**ABSTRACT**— Land use dynamic facilitates and spurs economic growth by enhancing productivity and efficiency. This study analyzed agricultural land use dynamics and conflicts among rural households in Ekiti and Osun States, Nigeria. A multi-stage sampling procedure was used to select 90 respondents used for the study. Data were obtained with the aid of structured interview schedule and analyzed using descriptive statistics, T-test and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). Findings of the study shows that most of the farmers in Ekiti and Osun States were male, married with mean age of 59 and 57 years and an average household size of six and seven persons respectively, but with low levels of education. A majority of them derived their sources of livelihood from farming activities. The study established changes in land use from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture and the establishment of dams and educational institutions. The study affirmed the eruption of conflicts resulting from land encroachment and farm job displacement in which the affected people were neither adequately compensated nor provided alternative sources of livelihood. The PPMC established a significant relationship between land use conflict and the livelihood assets of the farmers in both States. However, the result of T-test analysis established differences in farm size, farm output and farm income before and after the land use conflict in both States. The study recommends the sensitization and involvement of all stakeholders in decision making regarding agricultural land use dynamics in their communities, and appropriate compensation of rural households whose sources of livelihoods were hampered by the development should be done on time.

**KEYWORDS:** Agriculture, dynamics, land use conflicts, rural household.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Land use dynamic facilitates and spurs economic growth by enhancing productivity and efficiency. It is a heterogeneous term that is essential for the sustainability of human settlement, their socio-economic life and the success of modern community economy. It encompasses of physical structures (such as roads, buildings used by many industries as inputs for the production of goods and services), social infrastructure (such as schools and hospitals), economic infrastructure (such as network utilities) and the latter includes energy, water, transport, and digital communications [3], [16]. Therefore improving accessibility to basic services such as safe water, electricity, sanitation, and social infrastructural facilities for rural populace has been acknowledged as one of the principal ways of promoting sound human settlements, good health, appropriate and decent living conditions [13]. Human well-being is heavily dependent on land use dynamics to provide food, water, power, communication, shelter, transportation, etc. The main goal of land use dynamics is to enhance rapid growth of the nation's economy, agricultural production and improvement of the living standard of the populace such as attaining food security, promote industrial development, relieving unemployment and

poverty alleviation [9]. A proper utilization of agricultural land could promote the expansion of markets, economies of scale and easy operations of factor markets. It could also open up the rural economy to greater competition from outside, which may take the form of cheaper products from lower cost sources of supply or improved products that may displace some locally produced items.

However, land resource is very crucial in any developmental projects within the society whereby land's equitability and accessibility is a critical factor for rural development. Land provides a sense of security in contexts where formal employment opportunities and access to resources are limited and it have major historical, cultural and spiritual significance in the livelihood of the people [7]. Proper utilization of land is essential for sustainable agricultural production and rural development. People depend directly or indirectly on agriculture and land resource for their food, income and survival. As population increases, access to land resources dwindle for rural populace. Land is a limited resource and every parcel of land on our planet can basically only be assigned to one specific use. Whether this is for urban development and rural development, agriculture and forestry, mining and industry or nature conservation, every decision made in favour or against land use can result to conflicts. However, increase in population aggravate urbanization, industrialization, construction of roads, schools, hospitals, railways, airport, electrification, building, government offices, dam, etc. which have resulted to continuous shrinks in available land area per individuals. [6] stated that limited land resource constitutes one of the principal reasons for environmental change and land use conflicts, with significant effect on the quality of life and ecosystems, rural development and management of the developmental projects. The rising resource needs in terms of land due to increase in population has become a threat to food availability as the scrambling for use of land resources generates conflicts.

It is in this background that the study was carried out to analyzed agricultural land use dynamics and conflicts among rural households in Ekiti and Osun States, with the objectives to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, identify the various land dynamics initiated, features and contests of land use conflict and its effects on rural households' livelihood, farm income, farm size and farm size.

## **2. Materials and Methods**

### **2.1 Study area**

This study was carried out in Ekiti and Osun States. The States lies within the tropics between longitudes  $4^{\circ}45'$  and  $6^{\circ}45'$  East of Greenwich meridian and latitude  $6^{\circ}15'$  and  $8^{\circ}5'$  North of equator. The States experiences a typical tropical climate with two different seasons, raining season between April-October while dry season is between November-March. The States are mainly dominated by Yoruba ethnic group and it is the largest ethnic group in West African coast and one of the largest and longest established ethnic groups in African continent [2]. The total population of this area is estimated at about 5.8 million, with land area of about 14,406.60 km<sup>2</sup> [12], [11].

The annual rainfall of about 2,000mm – 2,500mm and high humidity of 85% to 95% at rainy season and 60% or less at dry season and the temperature ranges between 21°C and 29°C [14]. The dry season is also the bringer of harmattan dust; cold dry winds from the northern deserts blow into the region around this time. Hence, crop and livestock production is not constrained by the amount and distribution of rainfall. The soil type in the States is well drained but highly leached soils. These elements favour the cultivation of crops such as cassava, maize, sorghum, yam, rice, cocoyam, beans, cowpea, plantain, cocoa, etc.

**2.2. Sampling Procedure:** A total of 90 rural households from four (4) Local Government Areas were selected using a multi-stage sampling procedure and a well-structured interview schedule to elicit information for this

study. Data were collected on socio-economic characteristics of respondents such as age, marital status, educational level, household size, membership of social association, primary occupation and annual income. Information was also collected on the various agricultural land dynamics initiated in the study area, features and contest of land use conflicts that emanated from the land use dynamics and the significant relation of land use conflicts on the rural household livelihoods, as well as the significant difference in the farm output, income and farm size before and after the conflict.

**2.3. Methods of data analysis:** Data were analyzed with the use of descriptive statistics such as frequencies count, percentages and mean to describe the socio-economic characteristic, various agricultural land dynamics, features and contest of conflicts that emanated from land dynamics. T-test analysis was used to test the significant differences in the farm income, farm size and farm outputs of the respondents before and after land use conflict. Also, PPMC was used to test the significant relationship between the land use conflict and the rural household livelihood.

### **3. Results and Discussion**

#### **3.1 Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents**

Table 1 revealed the distribution of respondents based on their socio-economic characteristics in the study area. The result shows that 73.33 percent of the respondents in Ekiti State were male while 26.67 percent of them were female. This is similar to the result of Osun State where 62.22 percent of them were male and 37.22 percent were female. The result of the pooled data revealed that 67.78 percent of the farmers in the study area were predominantly male while about 32.22 percent of were female. This implies that most of the farmers in the study area were predominantly male due to the energy demanding nature of farming activities coupled with traditional methods of farming, while the female farmers were mostly engaged in processing activities. About 44.44 percent of the rural households in Ekiti State were between the age range of 61-80 years, 31.12 percent were between the age range of 41-60 years, 15.56 percent were between the age range of 21-40 years while 4.44 percent were below 20 years and the remaining 4.44 percent were above 80 years. Their mean age was 59 years and this indicated that most of the farmers were aged people. It was similar to that of Osun State where 40.00 percent of the respondents were between the age range of 61-80 years, 35.56 percent were between the age range of 41-60 years, 15.56 percent between the age range of 21-40 years while 8.88 percent were above 80 years. Their mean age was 57 years. This depicts that most of the farmer in Osun State were aged people. The pooled data revealed that about 42.22 percent of the respondents in the study area were between the age range of 61-80 years, 33.33 percent were between the age range of 41-60 years, 15.56 percent were between the age range of 21-40 years while 6.67 percent were above 80 years and 2.22 percent were below 20 years. The mean age of the respondents in the study area was 58 years. This depicts that a colossal proportion of the farmers in the study area were aged people with greater possibility of decline in supply of physical strength and mental alertness. This might undermine the potential to improve farm productivity and their disposition to agricultural land use dynamics.

It was revealed that most (80.56%) of the respondents in Ekiti State were married while the remaining 20.00 percent were Single. In Osun State, about 64.44 percent of the respondents were married while 35.56 percent of them were single. The result of pooled data revealed that 77.22 percent of the respondents in the study area were married and the remaining 27.78 percent were single. This indicated that majority of the farmers in the study area were married due to age factor and cheap family labour. More than half (53.33%) of the respondents in Ekiti State have between 5-8 persons in their household while 24.48 percent have more than 8 persons in their households and 22.22 percent of them have between 1-4 persons in their households. The average household size of the farmers in Ekiti State was 7 persons. In Osun State, about 71.11 percent of the

respondents have between 5-8 persons in their household while 24.45 percent between 1-4 persons in their households while only 4.44 percent have more than 8 persons in their household. The average household size of the farmers in Osun State was 7 people. The result of the pooled data shows that about 62.23 percent of the respondents in the study area have between 5-8 persons in their household, 23.33 percent have between 1-4 persons in their household and 14.44 percent have more 8 persons in their household. The average household size was 7 people and it implies that most of the respondents have relatively large household size due to cheap farm labour.

It was revealed in Table 1 that about 86.67 percent of the respondents in Ekiti State practice Christian religion, while 13.33 percent were Muslim. However, it was different from the result of Osun State where about 73.33 percent of the respondents were Muslim and 26.67 percent of them were Christian. The pooled data revealed that more than half (56.67%) of the respondents in the study area practice Christian religion while 43.33 percent were Muslim. It depicts that large proportion of the respondents in the study area were Christian. Hence, the common religion practices in the study area were Christianity and Islam. It was observed that the respondents in the study area have one form of formal education or the other, and they could read and write. However, they had low educational background and this could limit their level of involvement in decision making about the agricultural land use dynamics. The result in Table 1 revealed that most of the rural households in the study area engaged in farming occupation and this was their main source of income. They also belong to one or more social association because membership of social association could afford them various communal opportunities such as credit facilities, farm inputs and marketing of farm inputs. There was a little difference in the average annual income of the farmers in Ekiti and Osun States as shown in Table 1. This could be as a result of their farm size and the extent of the farm encroachment. This indicated that majority of the rural households in the study area realized less than ₦50,000.00 per month and this perpetuates the vicious cycle of poverty that had engulfed rural households and their inability to purchase the needed farm inputs and almost-impossible for them to save.

**Table 1.** Socio economic characteristics of the respondents

Socio-economic characteristics	Ekiti State		Osun State		Pooled Data	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	33	73.33	28	62.22	61	67.78
Female	12	26.67	17	37.78	29	32.22
<b>Age (Years)</b>						
Less than 20	2	4.44	0	0.00	2	2.22
21 – 40	7	15.56	7	15.56	14	15.56
41 – 60	14	31.12	16	35.56	30	33.33
61 – 80	20	44.44	18	40.00	38	42.22
Above 80	2	4.44	4	8.88	6	6.67
<b>Mean</b>		<b>59</b>		<b>57</b>		<b>58</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>						
Single	9	20.00	16	35.56	25	27.78
Married	36	80.00	29	64.44	65	72.22
<b>Household size</b>						
1 – 4	10	22.22	11	24.45	21	23.33
5 – 8	24	53.33	32	71.11	56	62.23
Above 8	11	24.45	2	4.44	13	14.44
<b>Mean</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Religion Practiced</b>						

Christianity	39	86.67	12	26.67	51	56.67
Islam	6	13.33	33	73.33	39	43.33
<b>Level of Education</b>						
No Formal Education	14	31.11	33	73.33	47	52.22
Non-formal Education	0	0.00	3	6.67	3	3.33
Primary Education	13	28.89	5	11.11	18	20.00
Secondary Education	12	26.67	3	6.67	15	16.67
Tertiary Education	6	13.33	1	2.22	7	7.78
<b>Primary Occupation</b>						
Farming	28	62.22	41	91.11	69	76.67
Trading	3	6.67	3	6.67	6	6.67
Artisan	5	11.11	1	2.22	6	6.67
Civil service	7	15.56	0	0.00	7	7.78
Retiree	2	4.44	0	0.00	2	2.22
<b>Membership of Social Association</b>						
Yes	42	93.33	41	91.11	83	92.22
No	3	6.67	4	8.89	7	7.78
<b>Annual Income (₦'000)</b>						
Less or equal to 100000.00	22	48.89	1	2.22	23	25.56
100,001.00 – 500,000.00	21	46.67	12	26.67	33	36.67
500,001.00–1,000,000.00	0	0.00	26	57.78	26	28.89
1,000,001.00–1,500,000.00	2	4.44	1	2.22	3	3.33
1,500,001.00–2,000,000.00	0	0.00	1	2.22	1	1.11
Above 2,000,000.00	0	0.00	4	8.89	4	4.44
<b>Mean</b>		<b>247,567.00</b>		<b>898,798.61</b>		<b>516,296.20</b>

Source: Field survey, 2021.

### 3.2 Various Agricultural Land Use Dynamics

The result in Figure 1 revealed the various agricultural land use dynamics in the study area. It was established that commercial agriculture, schools and dam were the common agricultural land use dynamics carried out in the study area. More than half (56.56%) of the respondents indicated that schools were the common agricultural land use dynamics in Ekiti State. Follow by commercial agriculture as indicated by 33.33 percent of them and the remaining 33.33 percent of them indicated that dam was initiated in their community. It was similar to the result of Osun State where 66.67 percent of the respondents indicated that their farm land was converted to educational use (Elementary schools). About 33.33 percent of them indicated that their farmland was converted to commercial agricultural use.

The pooled result revealed that 61.11 percent of the respondents indicated that their farm land was encroached for the establishment of schools. The project was funded by the state and federal government with the aim of improving the educational level of the rural households especially the young ones. Some (33.33%) of the respondents indicated that their farm land was used for dam construction. This project was funded by federal government with the aim of providing drinkable water for the rural households and to reduce the outbreak of water related diseases. This depicts that changes in land use from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture and educational institutions was the common in the study area. The result established changes in

land use from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture and the establishment of dams and educational institutions. This affirmed the assertion of [9] that agricultural land use was changed due to urbanization and by bringing majority of the people who are living in far-off villages into the mainstream of the economy.

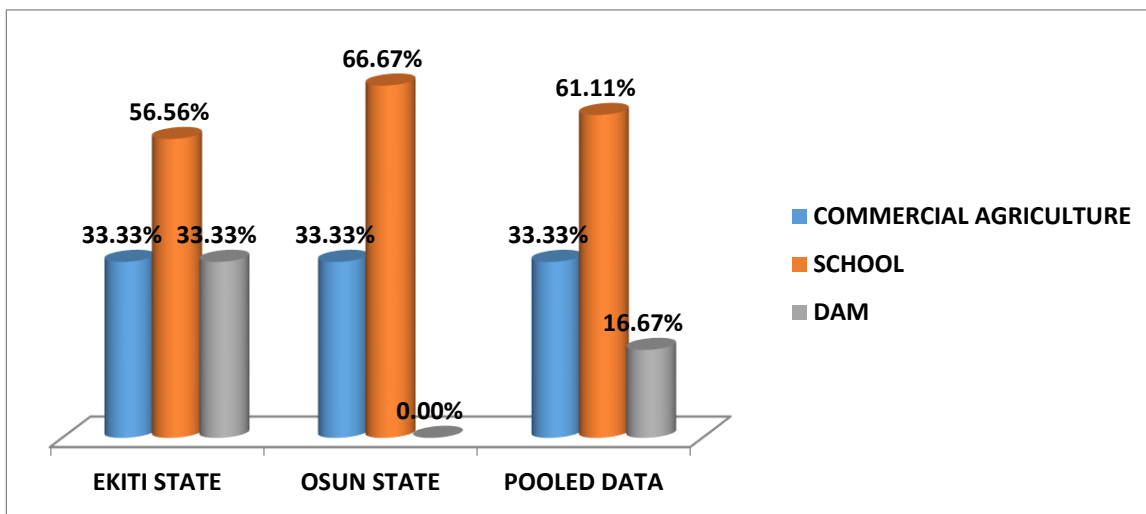


Figure 1. Types of Agricultural Land Use Dynamics

Source: Field survey, 2021.

### 3.3 Causes of Land Use Conflicts

The result in Table 2 shows the causes of land use conflicts among the rural households. It was observed that more than half (55.04%) of the respondents in Ekiti State indicated that agricultural land use dynamics resulted to conflict due to lack of consultation before the commencement of the said projects. Follow by, lack of contractual agreement (54.00%), destruction of farm crops (52.78%), political favouritism (48.89%), land encroachment (46.70%) and frustration and inability to meet household’s financial obligations (39.53%). Also, in Osun State, most (83.33%) of the rural households indicated that the agricultural land use dynamics led to conflicts due to land encroachment without compensation. Followed by, destruction of farm crops (82.67%), lack of contractual agreement (78.89%), political favouritism (76.27%), lack of consultation (76.27%) and inability to meet household’s financial obligations (61.72%).

However, the result of the pooled data shows that the most common cause of land use conflicts in the study area was destruction of farm crops as indicated by 67.73 percent. Follow by, lack of contractual agreement (66.45%), lack of consultation (65.66%), land encroachment (65.02%), political favouritism (62.58%) and frustration and inability to meet household’s financial obligations (50.63%). This depicts that farm encroachment without prior information and adequate compensation was the main cause of land use conflicts in the study area. It was observed that land use conflict resulted to loss of land, livelihood assets and significant reduction in quantity and value of money on crops produced before and after the conflicts. This was in agreement with the findings of [10], that the main cause of land conflict or opposition of developmental projects were payment of little or no compensation fund for land and other resources, encroachment of land, destruction of farm, political favouritism and threats by the law enforcement agents to arrest protesters. [1] opined that farm encroachment, crop destruction and water pollution were the main causes of conflict in the rural communities.

Table 2. Causes of Land Use Conflicts that emanated from Agricultural Land Use Conflicts

Causes of Land Use Conflict	Ekiti %	Osun %	Pooled %
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Lack of consultation to know our opinion before taking the decision to start the project	55.04	76.27	65.66
Lack of contractual agreement	54.00	78.89	66.45
Land encroachment	46.70	83.33	65.02
Destruction of farm crops	52.78	82.67	67.73
Frustrations and inability to meet basic needs after taken over the land	39.53	61.72	50.63
Political favouritism and mismanagement of compensation fund	48.89	76.27	62.58

Source: Field survey, 2021.

### 3.4 T-test Analysis of the Farm Output, Farm size and Farm Income Before and After Land Use Conflicts in the study area.

The result in Table 3 revealed that there was significant difference on the farm size ( $p < 0.01$ ), farm output ( $p < 0.01$ ) and farm income ( $p < 0.01$ ) of the rural households in Ekiti State before and after the land use conflicts. It was similar to the result of Osun State where there was a significant difference in the farm size ( $p < 0.05$ ), farm output ( $p < 0.01$ ) and farm income ( $p < 0.05$ ) of the rural households before and after the land use conflict. The result of the pooled data revealed that there was a significant difference in the farm size ( $p < 0.05$ ), farm output ( $p < 0.01$ ) and farm income ( $p < 0.05$ ) before and after the land use conflict in the study area. This depicts that the rural households in the study area were affected by the land use conflicts or farmland encroachment. Hence, there was reduction in farm size, farm output and income of the affected people due to land encroachment and land use conflict in the study area. The result was in corroboration with the assertion of [17] that there were always differences in food production between war and peaceful years and their contribution to agricultural production. However, [8] opined that there were significant difference in quantity of crops produced and its corresponding value in Naira (₦) before and after communal conflicts.

**Table 3.** Pair sample T-test Analysis showing the correlation of the farm output, farm size and income before and after the land use conflict

Variables	Ekiti State			Osun State			Pooled data		
	T	Corre.	Sig.	T	Corre.	Sig.	T	Corre.	Sig.
Farm size before and after land use conflict	8.387	-.148*	.015	8.234	-.227**	.046	8.310	.188**	0.031
Farm output before and after the land use conflict	9.026	.399*	.000	9.418	.286*	.017	9.222	.343*	0.000
Farm income before and after land use conflict	8.785	.021*	.000	8.934	.127**	.051	8.859	.036**	0.031

Source: Field survey, 2021.

Note: \*\*, \*\*\* represent 5% and 10% level of significant respectively.

### 3.5 Relationship between Land Use Conflicts and the Livelihood of the Respondents in the study area.

The result in Table 4 revealed that there was significant relationship between the land use conflicts and the livelihood assets of the rural households in the study area. The result of Ekiti State shows that was significant relationship between the land use conflict and the livelihood assets of the rural households such as economy ( $p < 0.05$ ), natural ( $p < 0.05$ ) and health ( $p < 0.01$ ). While there was significant relationship between the land use conflict and the livelihood assets of the rural households in Osun State. Such as, physical ( $p < 0.01$ ), economic ( $p < 0.01$ ), social ( $p < 0.01$ ), natural ( $p < 0.01$ ) and health ( $p < 0.01$ ). The result of the pooled data revealed that

there was significant relationship between the land use conflict and the livelihood assets of the respondents. Such as, physical ( $p < 0.05$ ), economic ( $p < 0.05$ ), social ( $p < 0.05$ ), natural ( $p < 0.10$ ) and health ( $p < 0.05$ ). The result of the findings indicated that there was significant relationship between the land use conflicts and the livelihood assets of the rural households in the study area. This corroborate the assertion of [4] that land conflicts leads to the loss of economic resources. Responsible and inclusive Business [15], opined that rather than leading to development opportunities from investment in land use, land grabs mean that livelihoods are lost, human rights violated, and poverty and exclusion perpetuated. [5] observed that conflict have negative impacts on the social, economic and political lives of crop farmers and subsequently, the entire livelihood assets of crop farmers ranging from physical, natural, human, financial, and social to political assets.

**Table 4.** Effects of land use conflict on rural household livelihood

Livelihood Assets	Ekiti State			Osun State			Pooled data		
	Coeff.	Sig	Remark	Coeff.	Sig.	Remark	Coeff.	Sig.	Remark
Physical	0.039	.524	NS	0.742*	.000	Sig.	0.390**	.034	Sig.
Economical	0.140**	.022	Sig.	0.706*	.000	Sig.	0.423**	.067	Sig.
Social	0.096	.117	NS	0.710*	.000	Sig.	0.403**	.041	Sig.
Natural	0.177**	.025	Sig.	0.730*	.000	Sig.	0.454***	.087	Sig.
Health	0.161*	.008	Sig.	0.703*	.000	Sig.	0.432**	.073	Sig.

Source: Computed from survey data, 2021.

\*, \*\* and \*\*\* represent 1%, 5% and 10% level of significant.

#### 4. Conclusion

This study concluded that most of the farmers in Ekiti and Osun States were male, married, aged with a relatively large family size and low educational background. Their major source of livelihood was agriculture. It was established that there was changes in land use from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture and the establishment of dams and educational institutions. The eruption of land use conflicts were caused by land encroachment and farm job displacement in which the affected people were neither adequately compensated nor provided alternative sources of livelihood. Hence, the agricultural land use dynamics have significant difference on the farm size, farm output and farm income of the farmers in the study area. There was significant relationship between the land use conflict and the livelihood assets of the people. The study recommends the sensitization and involvement of all stakeholders in decision making regarding agricultural land uses in their communities and appropriate compensation of rural households whose sources of livelihoods are hampered by the development.

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