Translation and Interpretation of Modern Agricultural Practices into Indigenous Languages for Economic Development

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Abstract

A large majority of people in rural communities cannot read and write. These are the people involved in agric food production both for local consumption and export. They require knowledge of agricultural practices and use of modern agricultural technologies for large productions. Unfortunately both the practice and technology required are written or taught in foreign languages (with international intelligibilities). Thus there is an urgent need to translate and interpret these foreign languages into indigenous languages to enable rural dweller key into food production and other agricultural practices. Any investment in this exercise will enhance and or boost economic development and reduce poverty among large proportions of the citizens who are illiterates. This study therefore sets in the direction to examine the importance of translating and interpreting modern agricultural technologies into indigenous languages to enable rural dwellers the understanding of modern agricultural practices. The data of this study is collected through primary and secondary sources. Primary source by informal interactive sessions with rural dwellers and reference materials like journal articles serve as secondary source materials. The descriptive approach is adopted for this study. The study recommends that agencies and officers handling the sensitization of farmers in the area of modern agriculture should promote the use of indigenous language by way of translation and interpretation and also ensure proper dissemination of information to rural dwellers

Key words: Translation, interpretation, modern agriculture, indigenous language and economic development.

Introduction

Historically, translation and interpretation had served as a means of communication and civilization between different nations of the world .It was the vehicle that bridged the gap between different nations and cultures since time immemorial. Translation and interpretation had played key role in educational development and exchange of knowledge between different languages and nations. The history of modern civilization and contact between nations was no doubt facilitated by translators of earlier time. It is a certain fact that quite a number of languages, scientific and technological developments of the modern day occurred through translation and interpretation of works done by scholars and researchers from other languages. Translation has helped greatly in the development of issues relating to science and technology, religion, cultural dissemination, as well as fastening mutual understanding. Moreover, interpretation is still playing a key role in communication and educational development among people of different languages. Hence, be deployed specifically to play this role in disseminating modern Agricultural technologies to enhance the living standard of rural farmers and national development.

The 21st century has witnessed a revolution caused by rapid development in communication and information technologies. The rate of scientific technological advancement in the world today owes so much to the dissemination of scientific and technological information. In such scenario, translation and interpretation which plays major role in the language of any country become even more important in order to cope with people's increased demand and need to access knowledge to keep pace with the latest development. Translation not only increases the productive capacity or skill of the individual but also his earning power, giving the individual a sense of well being as well as the capacity to absorb new idea, increases his social interaction, gives him access to improved health and provides several more tangible benefits.

The place of language as an effective means of communication cannot be under estimated. Language is the major tool for communication, and communication is one of the most essential activities of mankind. The degree of local community development one can attain is highly dependent on the extent and quality of indigenous language that a facilitator can effectively deploy. However, most Nigerian indigenous languages have not been studies and developed and so not sufficiently utilized for intervention purposes. The gap could explain why some projects and initiatives have not been able to produce effective results that can adequately meet the development needs of the nation. It is argued that for agricultural intervention projects and initiatives to yield positive results, the use of indigenous languages most come to play by the

translation and interpretation of modern agricultural technologies into the indigenous language for a better understanding of the people. This simply means that language is the spine of communication and communication is the pillar of any sustainable development.

Agriculture remains the basis of life for most citizens in Nigeria but growth in the agricultural sector has been slow and it seems clear that Nigeria's economic underdevelopment problem in agriculture may not be close to being alleviated without improved literacy, and literacy in this context, means paying more attention to indigenous languages as effective means of eradicating poverty in the country. Bangbose (1991:30) opines that '… literacy enables the peasant farmers to gain knowledge in the use of fertilizers, use of credit marketing and price trends and other techniques. It helps the industrial worker to convert from old to new plants, and from being unskilled to skilled. Thus increasing government revenue; as the farmers will through knowledge acquired improve production-giving government more to export and the famer is able to pay his taxes with ease. It becomes clear that at its most elementary level, translation and interpretation of modern agricultural technologies for the rural farmers who are mostly illiterates can ensure flow of information at various levels of agriculture.

In recent times, conventional wisdom among government and civil society has been that better farm outputs require the use of modern farming techniques spelt out in civilized forms of communication. But how practicable is it to implement them at the rural farming communities in Nigeria when rural farmers are mostly illiterates? Such modern agricultural information must be effectively translated and interpreted if the farmers must be part of such agricultural innovations.

The Farmers

Farmers are people who cultivate the land for either subsistence or large scale farming. They can also be engaged in livestock farming. Farmers are key consumers of agricultural information for their sustenance and for national development. Agricultural information is meant for all types of farmers. However, specific farmers will require specific information relevant to their trade. In agriculture, there are many types of farmers. But the three major groups constitute: crop farmers, livestock farmers and livestock/crop farmers. Crop farmers usually grow a wide variety of different crops, including wheat, barley, flax, corn, canola, lentils, oats, cotton or mustard, etc. (Rao, 2007), while livestock farming is about raising animals like goats, pigs, sheep, cattle,

camels, poultry, etc. Livestock/crop farming involves cultivating the land as well as engaging in livestock farming.

The potentials of agricultural information to farmers have been reported by Vidanapathirana (2012). For him, agricultural information within the hands of the farmers means empowerment through control over their resources and decision-making processes. This assertion makes it very clear that when farmers are bestowed with information, they become empowered and are able to make positive changes in their farming activities. Indeed, Vidanapathrina (2012) notes that an effective and efficient delivery system of essential information and technology services to farmers will facilitate their critical role in decision-making towards improved agricultural production, processing, trading, and marketing.

According to Okonkwo and Ekwelie, (1983:39), indigenous languages play a very important role in the process of formal and informal education. This will be made possible by translating and interpreting agricultural information into indigenous languages for extension workers to use for educating the rural dwellers thus transforming new agro-technologies to the rural farmers. The rural dwellers are the producers of agricultural resources of the nations. Encyclopedia Britannica Macromedia knowledge (2007) defines rural society as a place where there is low population, high level of illiteracy and lack of commercial institutions. Information is defined as any message or news, viewed or read or told verbally which add to knowledge, awareness or understanding of some topics, or events, problems that prepare one for uncertainty of life. Scientifically information is processed data. It can be loosely defined as that which aids decision making.

Majority of farmers in the rural areas lack useful information and necessary awareness on modern strategies that can improve their farming methods, marketing and food storage due to illiteracy in the language of dissemination. Adomi (2003), observed that majority of farmers live in rural area and lack necessary information and awareness for better tools and implementation strategies that can improve their means of farm method, marketing and food storage for all year round food sufficiency. Information which is a means of transferring events for better awareness to add new meaning that could change events, lives or experiences; this could have considerable implications on farmers, farm produce, implementation of farm tools and the extension services. There is need for good information flow and information sharing among agricultural

stakeholders for better professional update and improved produce which can only be effective when such information is translated and interpreted from English to the indigenous languages for better understanding. Accordingly, Fortin and Pierce (1998) reported that dissemination of adequate information literacy to the grassroots covering rural farmers would enhance productivity.

Oto (2011), observed that farmers in rural areas are predominately not lettered as reading printed media was way far from use by rural farmers from whom majority of farm produce come. There is a paradigm shift from old way to modern technology method of sustaining best practices necessary for meeting production in the agricultural sector. Although there are many information flows in the agricultural sector, there is hardly significant data on farmers' information literacy and awareness towards farm produce and food security with the several interventions that government has put in place in indigenous languages to enhance productivity. It is expected that modern agricultural information should be evidently translated and interpreted in Nigerian indigenous languages, unfortunately, this is not the case as is observed, there are fifteen national agricultural institutions in Nigeria established at different dates with different mandates all geared towards boosting agricultural production. Sadly, all research carried out in this institutions are documented via the civilized form of language communication, though each with its library, it cannot serve for the rural farmers considering their illiteracy level. These institutions are as presented in table 1 below.

Table 1 National Agricultural Research Institutes in Nigeria

NAME OF RESEARCH INSTITUTE	YEAR ESTABLISHED	FORMAL MANDATE
Institute for Agricultural Research P.M.B 1044, Ahmadu Bello University, Samaru Zaria.	1924	Genetic improvement and development of production and utilization technologies for sorghum, maize, cowpea, groundnut, Cotton, sunflower, and the improvement of the productivity of the entire crop-based farming system in the North West Zone of Nigeria.
National Veterinary Research Institute P.M.B 01, Vom	1924	Research into all aspects of animal diseases, their treatment and control, as well as development and production of animal vaccines and sera.

Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research P.M.B 1030, Benin City	1939	Research into genetic improvement Production and processing of oil, coconut, date, raphia and ornamental palm
Institute of Agricultural Research and Training P.M.B 5029, Ibadan, Nigeria	1956	Soil and water management research, genetic improvement of kenaf and jute, and improvement of the productivity of the entire farming system of the South West Zone
Lake Chad Research Institute P.M.B 1293, Gamboru Road Maiduguri, Borno State	1960	Genetic improvement and development of production technologies for wheat, millet, and barley; the improvement of the productivity of the entire farming system
Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria P.M.B 1049, Iyanomo Benin City	1961	Research into genetic improvement, production and processing of rubber and other lather producing plants.
Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria P.M.B 5244 Idi-Ayunre Ibadan	1964	Genetic improvement, production and local utilization research on cocoa, cashew, kola, coffee and tea.
National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research P.M.B 6006, New Bussa	1968	Research into all freshwater fisheries, and long term effects of man-made lakes on ecology and environment throughout the country.
National Cereal Research Institute P.M.B 8, Badeggi, Bida Niger State	1975	Genetic improvement and production of rice, soybean, benniseed, sugarcane and improvement of productivity of entire farming system of the Central Zone
National Horticultural Research Institute P.M.B 5432, Idi-Ishin, Ibadan	1975	Research into genetic improvement, production, processing and utilization of fruits and vegetables, as well as ornamental plants.
Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research P.M.B. 12729, Victoria Island, Lagos	1975	Research into the resources and physical characteristics of Nigerian territorial waters and the high seas beyond; genetic improvement, production and processing of brackish water and marine fisheries.
National Agricultural Extension, Research and Liaison Services, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria	1975	Research into technology transfer and adoption studies; overall planning and development of extension liaison activities nationally; collation and evaluation of agricultural information.

National Root Crop Research Institute P.M.B 7006, Umudike, umuahia, Abia State	1976	Genetic Improvement of cassava, yam, cocoyam, Irish potato, sweet potato, and ginger and overall research in improvement of farming system of the South East Zone
Nigerian Store Product Research Institute P.M.B 1489, km 3, Asa Dam Road, Ilorin, Kwara State	1977	Research into improvement of major food and industrial corps and studies on stored product pest and diseases, pesticides formulation and residue analysis.
National Animal Production Research Institute P.M.B 1096, Shika, Zaria	1977	Research on food animal species and forages

Source: RIU Nigeria 2010 http://www.researchintouse.com/resources/ext/research-institutesnigeria.pdf

These institutions carry out their research in formal, civilized means of communication and document same in the official language of the country where the rural farmers whom these research information are essentially meant for, are not English language literate and there is no evidence of any formal translation and interpretation of research findings of these institutions. The extension workers who are supposed to disseminate this information are mostly secondary school leavers and so are handicap in most cases.

Extension Workers

Beside farmers, the other consumers of information are the extension workers. These are people who are employed by government and have a certain level of education to bridge the gap between the government and the farmers. These groups of people pass on information to farmers or educate them on how to use information derived from research institutes. It is this information in the hands of farmers that empowers them to take control over their resources and decision-making processes and increase productivity (Vidanapathirana, 2012).

The role of extension workers has further been elaborated by Ballantyne (2009,) in a study which describes extension workers and policy makers, researchers and agro- allied firms as beneficiaries of agricultural information.

Nigeria's first involvement in a conscious and purposefully planned agricultural extension was at the time of British colonization. According to Gwyne and Jones (2010:122) the colonial masters introduced extension and extension work "in an effort to encourage farmers to increase agricultural production both for home consumption and for export and also to impose on

farmer's government rules and regulations". With independence and subsequent developments, various governments introduced changes in the nature of extension work but the objective has remained the same, that of bridging the gap between farmers, researchers and policy makers (Gwyne and Jones, 2010). Agricultural extension, according to Gwyn and Jones (2010), is a significant social innovation. It is an important force in agricultural change which has been created and recreated, adapted and developed over the centuries. Van-den-Ban (2009) reports that in several countries, for example, India and Iran, extension work mainly places attention on the adoption of innovations, while in many former communist countries, much attention is on investment and marketing decisions. Hosseini, Mehrad and Gholamreza (2009:1479) in another development points-out that: "agricultural extension worker has an important role in promoting the adoption of new technologies and innovations.

Evenson and Germano (2001), in their analysis of the role of extension workers in Kenya, posit that a national system of agricultural extension can play an important role in increasing farm yields but its effect on yields is not uniform across farmers. This indicates that because of individual differences among farmers, not all the farmers will adopt the innovations provided to them by the extension workers.

In another investigation on the role of ICT in the provision of agricultural information to small scale farmers in Harare, Chisita (2010) explores some of the roles of extension workers. For him, extension workers play a critical role in providing agricultural professional services, farmers training, advisory and technical support to farmers. Similarly, an investigation on the perception of trust and employees' attitudes in Nigeria by Ladebo (2006:410) stresses the role of extension workers in agriculture. Extension workers in the developing nations are expected to promote market oriented agriculture, assist the poor farmers to cope with vulnerability and help in poverty reduction in the rural areas. This suggests that, the role of extension workers is not only that of disseminating information generated to farmers but they are also expected to assist in how to sell their produce, buy seedlings and control of pests, all in an effort to fight food insecurity in the country.

Agricultural research output constitutes an important knowledge base that should be made available to farmers through sources that are not only acceptable to them but also accessible. Thus, the identification of the different sources of information, information services being used

by users (farmers) is needed to bring out the relevance of these sources and services as well as the relevance assigned to the different types of sources and services.

From the foregoing, one could say, the intellectual level and orientation of the extension workers must elicit the confidence of farmers, with whom they interact. Extension workers need to understand adequately, the environment they are serving before they start to disseminate the agricultural information they have acquired. An efficient, dedicated, adequately trained and well-oriented extension worker is essential for maintaining a healthy productive channel of communication and change between research output and the farming community.

Information Required by Farmers

Information generation is a process of creating, developing and communicating ideas which are abstract, concrete or visual. Whatever kind of information generated must be disseminated to the right audience at the right time and through an effective means of communication for such information to be viable and helpful. Rural farmers need among others, the following information in order to be productive.

Agricultural Information

Having adequate and well-presented information (translated and interpreted) will improve the efficiency of rural development, policies, projects and programmes. Agricultural information provision should be the basic component of rural development programmes. Oladele (2011) observed that lack of agricultural information is a key factor that has greatly limited agricultural advancement in developing countries. Thus, agricultural information interacts with, and influences agricultural activities in a variety of ways. This tends to imply that agricultural information can help inform decision-making regarding land, labour, livestock, capital and management. Interestingly, agricultural information is not static but, instead, needs replenishment through research and development translated and interpreted in the language of the people to enhance their understanding. This is why Opara (2008) reports that agricultural activities can arguably be improved by relevant, reliable and useful information and knowledge. Aina (1995), Mooko and Aina (2007) and others have reported in their research findings that agricultural information is an essential recipe for successful farming. One therefore sees that these same recipes can be used by Nigerian famers to increase productivity. However, information *per se* cannot increase productivity unless farmers are provided with the right type of information and at the right time, using the right channels and with all other necessary components in place, like telecommunication facilities, good roads, education, good agricultural

policies. There appears to be other externalities that have to be in place so that information can make an impact. These significant externalities include such things as money, favourable socio-political stability, good governance, etc. (Radhankrishna, 2007). Invwieri (2007) opined that, rural people (farmers) who are mainly illiterate require access to appropriate information to be able to make decisions and participate fully in the national development processes, including agriculture.

Scientific Information

Generally, agriculture is interdisciplinary in nature. For agriculture to be fully developed, farmers need information from different disciplines. Scientific information is one of the innumerable examples, which is generated from universities and research institutes. In India, for instance, Chandrasekan *et al*., (2010), and Rao, (2007), opine that agricultural information in India is mainly derived from universities and research institutes. It includes scientific information which deals with research and development works carried out in universities and research institutes. Scientific information is aimed at providing information on new crops varieties, their requirements, and technical assistance during growing season. The characteristic of this information relates with climate, weather, drought and water stress periods, water sources, quality and availability.

Turkey Demiryurek *et al.,* (2008) argue that agricultural research usually carried out in research institutes with the objectives of such institutes to provide farmers with information on best practices. Demiryurek *et al.,* (2008) further noted that because of information dissemination to dairy farmers in Turkey, functional cooperation between public and private information sources in the system is needed to motivate conventional dairy farmers to convert into modern dairy farming systems. Emad-Kharasani (2009:17) in Iran seem to concur with Demiryurek *et al*., (2008) view that, "Nowadays, scientific and technical information is considered as a basis for material and intellectual sources in different societies and any society which is able to access more information automatically has more potentiality".

Oladele (2006) hold the view that agricultural information is generated in universities and research institutions. This result emanates from a research on multilingualism of farm broadcast and agricultural information access in Nigeria. Oladele, (2006) also pointed out that such information includes scientific and commercial information. It is indicative that research and development has the ability to create a pool of scientific and technical information with a great

wealth in modern societies. Therefore, research and development departments existing in the various universities in Nigeria are a platform for creating material intellectual sources which can enhance Nigeria's wealth.

Demiryurek *et al*., (2008), Opara (2008) and Ekpenyong (2001) all provide further evidence that agricultural information is generated from universities and research institutes. They report that information generated from these institutions include, among others, information on pest and weed control, weather forecast, credit facilities, fertilizer and legislations on agriculture generally. Indeed farmers in Nigeria, like their counterparts from Asia and other parts of Africa, need scientific and technical information because it is among the most important information needed for wealth creation and national development. This is corroborated by Ugboma (2010) in a study on access to agricultural information by fish farmers in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, where it reveals that 98 percent of fish farmers studied prefer scientific information.

The question still remains. How can the rural farmers easily access these scientific informations with the level of illiteracy recorded among rural farmers? Serious efforts should be geared towards ensuring the effective translation and interpretation of this scientific information, as it is important and will enhance agricultural production.

Commercial Information

Commercial information is another type of information generated by research institutes as well as the universities. This information deals with price control, price of fertilizers, price of seeds, and sale of agricultural products. Maru (2008) and Renwick (2010) in separate studies carried out in India and the Caribbean respectively reported that research institutes are behind the generation of commercial information that is related to markets. This type of information is related to production, productivity and profit enhancement. It therefore covers information on commodity price, food quality and safety as well as labeling information. Maru (2008) assert that agriculture is an interdisciplinary activity that requires information from different disciplines and that commercial information is a key to farmers who sell their produce. The fact that farmers require diverse information has been echoed by various researchers including those in Lesotho where Mokotjo and Kalusopa (2010:352) attested that farmers need to have access to agricultural information in order to improve their agricultural production and that farmers need to have access to financial information for their actual performance as well as access to credit".

Similarly, in Nigerian context, Ugwu and Kanu (2011) maintain that most of the agricultural information in Nigeria is generated from universities or commercial outlets as to where a farmer can find fertilizer, credit facilities, cost of inputs and its quality, transaction costs, labour supply and demand, distribution, selling options, agricultural insurance, market price and quality requirements. The availability of commercial information enhances farmers' performances and without it, farmers will be skeptical as to what to produce, how to locate, potential market to sell their produce. To buttress the point that farmers in Africa need commercial information, Meyer and Boon (2003) buttress that South African farmer's wanted information on how to give loans and the repayment of such loans.

It is rather unfortunate that these researches carried out in the universities and other research institutes end in the confines of such institutions. These findings rot on the university shelves as projects and thesis. These researched findings hardly reach the expected audience for implementation. Rural farmers are truly frustrated not knowing what do. They are virtually groping in an endless darkness.

Legal Information

These are generally laws grouped under the heading "agricultural laws", that relate to the production activities, as they are carried out in a commercial setting (Kaniki, 1995). There are numerous Nigerian statutes that subsidize, regulate or otherwise directly affect agricultural activity. These cover any law promulgated by either a state, federal or local government. These may deal not only with plants and animals but also with land use, environmental rules, and the use of food products. Hence, with the increasing sophistication of farming process, issues of intellectual property, trade, finance, credit and generally commercial transaction often arise. All legislations that affect agriculture such as land tenure, the production, distribution and sales of agricultural produce come under this category of legal information (Aina, 1995). This type of information will be the domain of extension workers, policy makers and farmers.

From the foregoing, it may be said that farmers wherever they are, require diverse information, whether scientific, commercial, or legal as long as that information hinges on the success of what they do. Consequently, any farmer who sells his produce will need commercial information, in the same way that he or she will need information about the weather, soil, buyers, loan facilities, etc. Therefore universities and other institutes which produce interdisciplinary information are very crucial to farmers in Africa who need different information to improve yields and

production. In a related development, Ozowa (2008) in a study contends that agricultural information is generated through research efforts from universities and is categorized as: (i) agricultural technology, (ii) agricultural credit and (iii) marketing. His contribution is based on a study on information needs of small scale farmers in Nigeria

These findings confirm that farmers in many parts of Africa, and Nigeria in particular, require technical information about pest control, new seedlings, use of machines and other equipment. Farmers all over the world require a range of information from the weather, loans, soil, seeds, farming mechanisms, control and management, harvesting, storage, marketing, sale, investments and repayment of loans (Opara, 2008).

An investigation of empirical literature reveals that agricultural information output is varied and extensive, hence, it needs to be generated, disseminated and be used by specific farmers based on their different needs Oladele, (2011); Ballantyne, (2009); and Ozowa, (2008). Some of the evidences from the review clearly show that not all information that is generated reaches the end user. Similarly, the research findings of Aina (1995) are still reminiscence of today's occurrences, where it was reported that sometimes the form of information generated for farmers is not used because of the medium of communication, time allotted to air agricultural programs, the language used in communicating information, and the attitude of the end user (farmers).

So far, the review shows a disconnection which may be one of the contributing factors why generated agricultural information has not been sufficiently used in Africa. A striking example is Nigeria, where most rural famers are illiterate and most of the information generated from universities and research institutes have not been stepped down to suit the end user.

The major issue is that majority of farmers in Africa are illiterate and therefore need information in a simplest and quickest way to discharge their duties effectively. Information needs has been defined by Kaniki (1995: 25) "as the state of lack of desirable requisite(s) or commodity i.e., information, necessary to deal with a situation as the individual sees fit". According to Nikolas (2005), information needs arise when a person recognizes a gap in his/her state of knowledge and wishes to resolve that anomaly- as anomalous state of knowledge. This turnout is time given.

It is the information that individuals require to do their job effectively. The farmer cannot be an exception. However, for information to be of optimum use, it must have the following qualities: relevance, accuracy, timeliness, currency, clarity and must be cost effective (Vidanapathrina, 2012).

Many a times, farmers do not always know what their information needs are. They do not know they have an information gap. They are not aware that there is information that could help them to a great deal. They also do not know that new information has rendered obsolete what they previously knew. This leads to a quest for new information so much needed by the farmers. It is only when they are exposed to the relevant information that the need is recognized, this is called dormant need (Nikolas, 2005).

While illustrating a point, Kaniki (1995), used the scenario of a farmer who has two types of fertilizers to choose from for application in his field. In order to apply one type of fertilizer, the farmer would have to reach a decision as to which of the two types of fertilizers to use. This process is called critical task. Therefore, one of the commodities required in this process to arrive at a good decision is information.

As at the fall of the new millennium, human beings are devoting more and more attention to system reform across multiple sectors including agriculture. Particularly in this era of rapid technological advancement and continuing system reform, it is appropriate and critical to assess the impact of such reforms and development in farming by accurate and effective dissemination of information.

Agriculture progresses as farmers adopt innovations from researchers. The extent to which farmers adopt innovations and the speed by which they do so is determined by assessing their information needs. To achieve this, farmers must be linked with the appropriate information that will help them solve their information needs. Due to untimely information, unavailability and unreliable information farmers are forced to take wrong decision thereby jeopardizing their sustenance and national growth (Chandrasekan, *et al*., 2010).

Usefulness of Agricultural Research Information in Nigeria

People can only use the available information at their disposal which is dependent on provision and access. In theory, the more information that is accessible the more it is likely to be used. Therefore, for information to be used there must be potential users who need that information for their day to day activities and there must be those that generate the information.

From the foregoing, it is evident that information is a very important tool for agricultural development. This is so, because some of the developed nations of the world occupy their coveted positions in food security by virtue of information generation and delivery to their people. It is therefore equally desirable for African governments and the Nigerian government in

this case, to intensify efforts in the provision, dissemination and use of agricultural information by the farmers at all levels in order to achieve self-sufficiency in food and generaleconomic development. Similarly, Opara (2008) has noted that in agricultural information there lie the potentials which can definitely boost agricultural production and in the end create a profound impact on policy makers, researchers and the farming communities in Africa including those in Nigeria.

Effects of non translation and interpretation of modern agricultural information

Illiteracy level is much in the area of agriculture as most of the farmers lack access to formal education and agricultural information is conveyed in formal civilized language which is hardly translated and interpreted in the indigenous languages. Because majority of the rural farmers cannot read and write their inability hinders the speed at which they could perform effectively in the use of pesticides, fertilizers, accurate cultivation timing, proper ways of planting and harvesting, proper storage methods, marketing etc. Lack of adequate knowledge and information affects the farmers' sale of produce where the rural farmers await help from intermediary most times. Much of the information produced and disseminated are in English language, majority of the rural farmers are unable to read them. Even when translated and interpreted in printed media into indigenous language those who are unable to read are left out. This means that translators and interpreters will have to go an extra-mile into verbal activity.

Conclusion

Farmers need to keep abreast of necessary information that will enhance cultivation and be well aware of issues and developments surrounding any crop before every farming season. Farmers need to be on top of information to meet investors need and be aware of strategies to reduce spoilage, increase food production and marketing strategies in packaging and storage to enhance food security all years round. The difficulties in building sound information system is not because of ignorance of what should be done but lack of the involvement of translators and interpreter to translate good intentions into farmer operational activities. There is need for proper translation and interpretation of modern agricultural information to be properly disseminated to rural farmers via indigenous languages.

According to Osuji (1995), the centrality of indigenous languages cannot be overstressed. Taking clue from his experience in MAMSER, Osuji recalls that the use of the English language in 1987 for the propagation of MAMSER yielded little or no result. Its impact was not felt even at the grassroots. But when the approach was changed using indigenous languages as means of communicative tool, the result was impressive and rewarding.

Information is a vital resource for successful socio-economic activities, all fields of human endeavour needs information as a necessary component for better performance especially where such information is turned to knowledge and positively used. It is hoped that translating and interpreting modern agricultural technologies into indigenous languages will stimulate rural English language illiterate in the area of modern system of agriculture.

Recommendations

1. Well equipped farm community halls should be made available where farmers could meet and their information needs be disseminated to them appropriately where need be verbal translation and interpretation is carried out accordingly.
2. Effective interpretation should be ensured considering the fact that many Nigerian languages do not have sufficient lexical items to cater for certain lexical expressions, especially those related to foreign technology and issues in science.
3. Available information for farmers should be delivered to them in their indigenous language to give the best knowledge and understanding of practical examples (Israel and Wilson: 2006).
4. Translated and interpreted documents should be evaluated to critically review the quality.
5. Documents from research institutes could be produced in versions to enhance effective communication.
6. Translators and Interpreters should be part of developmental policies. They should occupy offices where their duties could cover ensuring effective translation and interpretation of innovative ideas, initiatives, research findings etc. also to ensure accurate and proper dissemination of information.

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