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Factors Influencing a Succession Plan Among Aged Crop Farmers in Rural Communities of Ogun State Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: *This study examined the aged crop farmers' perception towards succession plan, determined the level of succession plan intention among the respondents, and revealed the factors influencing succession plan among aged crop farmers in rural communities.*

Research Method: *A sample size of 192 aged crop farmers from the four agricultural zones who were above 60 years old were selected by means of multistage sampling procedure. Data were collected through structured interviewed method and summarised using appropriate statistics.*

Findings: *Results revealed respondents' mean age as 75.14±9.76 year, with majority being male (86.5%) and married (72.4%) respectively. Furthermore, the respondents' mean of farming experience was 50.02±14.79. It was established that 79.2 percent of the respondents had a succession plan and there was a low succession plan intention. The factors associated with the succession plan at $p \leq 0.05$ were farming experience ($\beta = 0.485$), household size ($\beta = 0.330$), perception ($\beta = 0.402$) and life after retirement from farming ($\beta = 0.183$).*

Research Limitation: *The study did not interview all the aged crop farmers in the study area due to limited resources.*

Originality/ Value: *The study provides an insight to factors associated with succession plan among aged crop farmers in order to ensure continuity in farm business.*

Keywords: *Aged farmers, farm management practices, succession plan, rural community development*

INTRODUCTION

An essential segment in the development and sustainability of developing countries is agriculture. It is the major occupation in Nigeria and its continuity is germane to a sustainable rural development, hence, its impact to the country's GDP, and rural development cannot be over emphasized. As far back as 1960, agriculture has been critical to Nigeria's speedy economic transformation, poverty alleviation, better governance, together with national and food security. Among these aforementioned constraints, family farm and succession plan of the farm have been part of the major constraints facing investment in agriculture.

Errington (1998) reported that intergenerational farm transfer is a multifaceted process that involves three inter-related processes: these are through inheritance, succession and retirement. In the Nigeria context, inheritance is the transfer of aged farmer's assets to an identified potential successor mainly at the point of his demise or retirement. At the stage of "causal" retirement of the aged farmer, many resources are transmitted to the successor after critical and family decision

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on the farm has been well established. These assets are: equipment, buildings, barns, crops, hired labour and the most importantly farmland. Anecdotally, investigations of intergenerational farm transfer have limited attention to the lack of successors willing to take over as documented in Ireland and other developed nations (Hernæs *et al.,* 2000; DEFRA, 2002; Bohak, 2011; Ingram and Kirwan, 2011; Barclay *et al.,* 2012). Also, there is an alarming aging farming population from census to census and it was reported that there is 'lack of new blood' entering into the profession (Hennessy and Rehman, 2007; Zagata and Lostak, 2014).

The succession plan has been well explored and viewed from various perspectives with similar and/ or equal concept especially in the developed countries (United Kingdom, France, Iowa, Australia, Canada, Finland, amongst others). Although the actual process of succession is complicated and gradual, it sometimes required high sense of acceptance of responsibilities by the successor. It involves the transfer of leadership, managerial control and ownership of family and farming assets from one generation to another (Goode, 2019). Therefore, it is imperative to explore Nigerian aged farmers' succession plan intention, which has called for the attention of the government, extension agents and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector. To achieve this, there are needs to explore the following objectives:

a) Describing the demographic characteristics of the aged crop farmers;

b) Examining the respondents' perception towards succession plan;

c) Determining the level of succession plan of aged crop farmers; and

d) Examining the factors influencing succession plan among aged crop farmers.

Hypotheses for the study

Hypothesis one: There is no significant relationship between succession plan of aged crop farmers and their demographic characteristics.

Hypothesis two: There is no significant relationship between succession plan of aged crop farmers and their perception towards it.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The area of study

The study focused on Ogun State, southwest Nigeria. The State came into existence in 1976 from the formal western State. It covers a total of 1,640,076 square kilometres of landmass where about 60 percent are cultivable cash land (National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, 2016). The backbone of its economy is agriculture and provides major occupations for its people in the rural areas. The main cash crops cultivated are cocoa, and coffee, among others (Solanke, 2014).

Sample selection

A multistage selection technique was used in selecting aged cash crop farmers from the four agricultural zones who were above 60 years of age (United Nations, UN, 2013). Firstly, a purposive selection technique was deployed in selecting two (2) Local Government Areas (LGAs) with the highest dominations of cash crop farmers from each zone, and in total, eight LGAs were selected. These LGAs were: Yewa South and North from Ilaro zone, Odeda and Abeokuta North from Abeokuta zone, Ijebu North and East from Ijebu zone, and finally Obafemi owode and Remo North from Ikene zone. Secondly, two rural communities were purposively selected from selected LGAs due to their high degree of rurality and cultivation of cash crops to give sixteen rural communities. Finally, twelve aged crop farmers (60 years above) were selected through snowballing technique from each community to give a total of one hundred of ninety-two (192) respondents.

Data analysis

A well-structured interview schedule was used in gathering data on aged cash crop farmers' socio-economic characteristics, their succession

plans and retirement options, and their perception towards farm succession plans. Data were summarised by frequency, percentages, mean, standard deviation, and charts. Besides, appropriate inferential statistics like Chi-square, and Correlation were used in testing the hypotheses. In addition, regression analysis was used to isolate factors influencing a succession plan.

This technique was used to show the magnitude of variation in the dependent variable (succession plan) brought about by all the independent variables all together.

The mathematical model for the study is given thus:

$$Y = a + b_1c_1 + b_2c_2 + b_3c_3 + b_4c_4 + b_5c_5 + b_6c_6 + b_7c_7 + U$$

Y= Succession plan intention

a= Intercept coefficient

b_1c_1= c_1-Marital status, b_1-coefficient to be estimated

b_2c_2 = c_2-Age, b_2- coefficient to be estimated

b_3c_3= c_3-Farming experience, b_3- coefficient to be estimated

b_4c_4 = c_4-Nature of faming system, b_4- coefficient to be estimated

b_5c_5 = c_5-Years in formal education, b_5-coefficient to be estimated

b_6c_6 = c_6-Years of residency, c_6-coefficient to be estimated

b_7c_7 = c_7-Perception towards succession plan, c_7-coefficient to be estimated

U= Error term

Measurement of variables

In measuring succession plan intension, reactions of the respondents were taken on eighteen generalised intension statements against a Likert-type scale of strongly disagreed (1), disagreed (2), undecided (3), agree (4) and strongly agreed (5) for positive statements and these scores were reversed for negative statements, internal consistency was carried out on the scale through Cronbach's Alpha and the alignment score was 0.080, which was a good one. The summation of the score was calculated as a measure of succession plan intension which was used to test for hypotheses. The succession plan intension was further categorised into three, which are, high, moderate and low, using the equal interval method of grouping as used by Adeloye *et al.* (2021). The respondents' perception about succession plan was measured by their reaction to declarative perception statements towards the succession plan. As a result of the researchers' observation of the farmers and information gathered from literature, twenty declarative perception statements were developed. The reaction was against a Likert-type scale of strongly disagreed (1), disagree (2), undecided (3) agree (4), and strongly disagree (5) for the positive, and these scores were reversed for the negative statements.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic characteristics of aged crop farmers.

The results in Table 01 revealed that the average age of the respondents was 75.16±9.763. This implies that most aged cash crop farmers were very old and the strength to cultivate a large area of farmland has diminished. This study also indicated that a lot (86.5%) of them were male. The domination by males seen among aged cash crop farmers may be traced back to the culture of the people where most of the children who inherit the farm were predominantly male because of the assumption that the female gender has little or no inheritance within the family after marriage as reported by Oni (2014). It also implies that cash crop farming is labour-intensive, which could not be supported by the female. The finding validates that of Adesope *et al.* (2018) report that the majority of cocoa farmers in Ondo State were male. Results in the table further showed that more than two-third (72.4%) of the respondents were married. This implies that the proceed of the marriage, that is, wife(ves) and child(ren) might

serve as cheap labour and potential successor(s) of the farm. This supports the findings of Mehrabani and Mohamed, (2011) which report that marriage brings an array of benefits like big household size that could result in an increase in agricultural activities through contribution of cheap farm labour. Besides, the mean of the year of farming experience was 50.02±14.794. The implication is that a lot of the respondents had many years of farming experience which was above 30. This may be that many of them had been involved in farming activities right from their childhood and most of them were born into farming. A lot of respondents (78.1%) were into small-scale farming. This could be as a result of their advanced age which may hinder them from cultivating and managing a large area of land. This is in support of Adesope *et al.* (2018) who noted that many crop farmers are into small-scale farming in Ogun State Nigeria. The mean of years spent in their communities was 59.72±17.071. This implies that the respondents had lived in their communities for a long time and most of them were born in the community where they currently reside. The mean of years spent in formal education by the respondents was 4.21±1.546. This might be connected with the fact that their parents did not put high value on formal education; their emphasis was using the children as cheap labour on the farm. The mean farm size was 1.80±1.31 Ha. This implies that cash crop farmers also operate on the small size farmland; this may be so, because the capacity of aged cash crop farmers has reduced due to age. This finding is similar to that of Osarenren *et al.* (2016) which reports that the farm size of the majority of cocoa farmers in Edo State Nigeria ranges between 1 and 3 hectares.

Table 01 Respondents by their demographic characteristics

Variables	Percentages	
Age (years)		
Below 71	42.2	Mean= 75.14
71-80	24.0	Standard deviation= 9.763
Above 80	33.8	
Sex		
Male	86.5	
Female	13.5	
Marital status		
Married	72.4	
Divorced	2.6	
Separated	3.6	
Widowed	21.4	
Farming experience (years)		
Below 31	27.7	Mean= 50.02
31-60	51.5	Standard deviation= 14.794
Above 60	10.8	
Nature of farming system		
Subsistence	6.3	
Small-scale	78.1	
Large-scale	15.6	
Years of formal education		
0 (No education)	47.9	
1- 6 (Primary)	24.5	Mean= 4.21
7- 12 (Secondary)	22.4	Standard deviation= 1.546
Above 12 (Tertiary)	5.2	

Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 01: Respondents by their demographic characteristics (Cont.)

Variables	Percentages	
Years of residency		
Below 41	25.6	
41- 80	64.0	Mean= 59.72
Above 80	10.4	Standard deviation= 17.071
Farm size (Ha)		
Below 1.0	12.0	
1.1-1.5	32.8	Mean= 1.80
1.6-2.0	51.0	Standard deviation= 1.31
2.1-2.5	2.6	
Above 2.5	1.6	

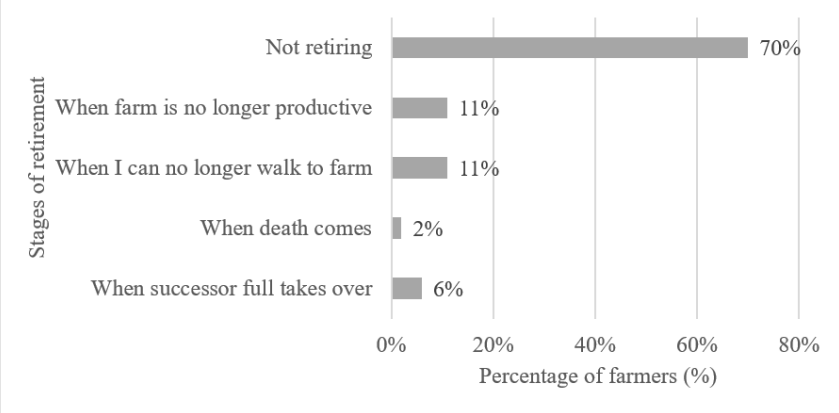
Source: Field survey, 2018

Aged cash crop farmers' stages of retirement

Results displayed in Figure 01 showed that majority (70%) of the respondents indicated that they do not want to retire from farm; 11.0 percent of the respondents indicated that when the farm was no longer productive, they would retire from the farm; 11.0 percent indicated that by the time they were very old and could no longer walk to the farm site, they would retire from the farm; 2.0 percent claimed that when the inevitable (death) arrived, that would be the end of their farming career; while 6.0 percent claimed that they would retire from farming when their identified successor had fully taken over the management activities on the farm. This implies that although majority of the farmers did not show an interest in retirement, farmers who showed an interest were on the basis of farm productivity and health status. This study is in agreement with Beginning Farmers, (2015) that reported farmers' retirement decision is subjected to farm productivity, health status, and income amongst others.

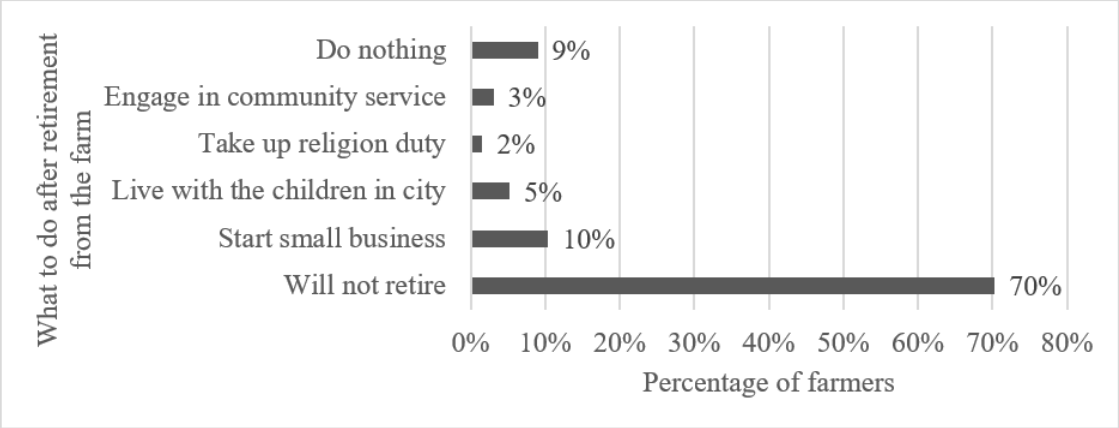
Life after retirement from farm

The study further revealed the aged farmers' life after retirement as shown in the Figure 02. It was determined from 30.0 percent of respondents who intend to retire from the farm that 9.0 percent had not yet decided on what next to venture into after they retired, 3.0 percent of respondents planned to engage in community service, 2.0 percent of respondents planned to take up activities at the place of worship, 5.0 percent of the respondents planned to stay with their children in the city while 10 percent of the respondents planned to venture into small scale business that is less tedious and brings income. However, 70 percent of the respondents reported that they were not retiring from farming because they had no other sources of income and faming had been the occupation that sustained them till the very moment. Going forward, a majority of aged farmers do not plan to retire from the farm because their culture and traditional realities do not give room for retirement in Nigeria. The culture attaches retirement to dying soon, but they want a succession plan because they like continuity when they leave the stage. This finding is in consonance with that of Ekong, (2010) that indicated that aged farmers in Nigeria, are psychologically tied to the land, that is, agriculture has been their major occupation from inception especially, in the rural areas where more than half of the population practices agriculture as a means of sustainable rural livelihood.



Source: Field survey, 2018

Figure 01: Distribution of aged cash crop farmers by stages of retirement



Source: Field survey, 2018

Figure 02: Distribution of aged crop farmers by life after retirement from farm

Perception of aged cash crop farmers towards the succession plan

The results in Table 02 showed that the respondents have varied perceptions of succession plans. The grand mean score was 4.18, the results revealed that there was a favourable perception on statements such as succession is essential for the continuation and rural development (mean = 4.55); future viability of the farm is guaranteed by succession plan (mean = 4.53); a well–planned succession ensures suave switch from one generation to another (mean = 4.49); succession plan helps in facing future challenges (mean = 4.47); good retirement decisions are possible through it (mean = 4.44) amongst others. However, there was unfavourable perception of statements with less than 4.18 as a mean score. These include: serious thought should not be given to farm succession (mean= 4.17); succession plan is a waste of resources (mean= 4.15); succession plan is of no use since am not going to retire from the farm (mean= 4.11); disadvantages of succession plan outweigh its benefits (mean= 4.09); and planning for succession is tantamount to leaving the world (mean= 3.94) among others. Figure 03 revealed the overall perception of aged cash crop farmers and indicated that a lot (90.6 %) had a positive perception of a succession plan while 3.1 percent of respondents had an indifferent perception and 6.3 percent had a negative perception of the succession plan. The fact that a lot of farmers had a positive perception of succession plans might stimulate their decision to key into it. This suggests that there is an inherent prospect in putting in place a succession plan among aged cash crop farmers in Ogun State, Nigeria. This

result corroborates that of Arowolo *et al*. (2015) and Arowolo *et al.* (2017) who stated that the majority of poultry farmers in southwestern Nigeria had a favourable perception towards succession plans.

Aged crop farmers' succession plan intention

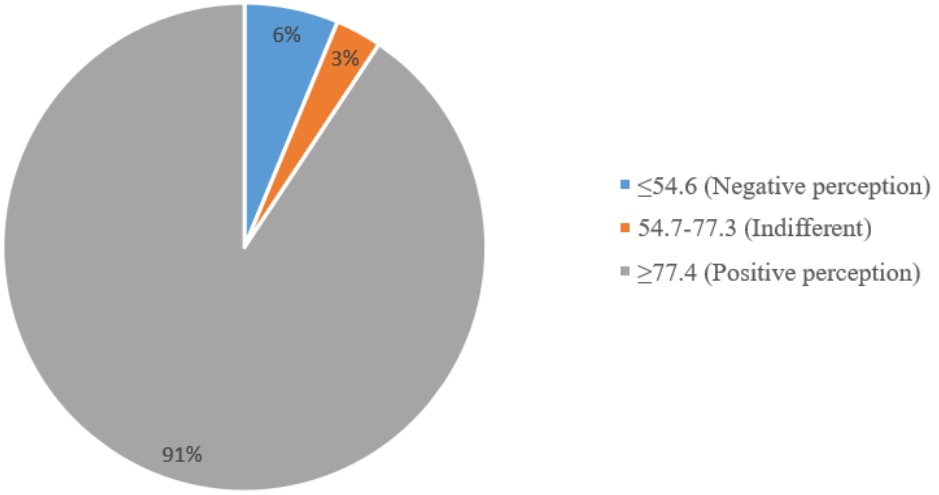
Results in Table 3 revealed that a succession plan intention grand mean was 2.54. The findings revealed that 11 out of 18 succession intention statements were favourably responded to, by the aged cash crop farmers and they rated above the succession plan intention grand mean score. These statements include: aged farmers intend to plan for succession because farm brings income for them (mean 2.90); farm brings huge returns so they are expected to plan for succession (mean = 2.81); succession is on-going because they want to share responsibility with successor(s) (mean = 2.74); want to consider succession for the farm as it is important to integrate the youth into agriculture (mean = 2.73); thus they intend to plan for succession (mean = 2.72); intend to share responsibility with successor, therefore, succession process is on-going (mean = 2.66); intend to consider succession for farm because it is important to integrate the youth into farming (mean = 2.65); and expected to consider farm succession for the farm because it is important to integrate the youth into farming (mean = 2.63) amongst others. Generally, the intention of aged cash crop farmers as described in Table 4 indicated that most of the respondents (49.0 percent) had a low intention towards a succession plan while an equal share of respondents (25.5 percent) had a high and moderate level of succession plan intention. This implies that about half of the respondents had a low intention towards a succession plan. This is because although they like continuity when they leave the stage, potential successor(s) who are supposed to take over the farm have little or no interest in the family business. Nevertheless, due to traditional, cultural and community norms, aged farmers believe inheritance of farmland is continuum and majority of the aged farmers were indisposed to the idea of selling the farmland.

Table 02: Distribution of respondents by their perception towards succession plan intension

Perceptional Statements	Mean
Succession is essential for the continuation and rural development	4.55
Future viability of the farm is guaranteed by succession plan	4.53
It ensures suave switch from one generation to another	4.49
It helps in facing future challenges	4.47
good retirement decisions are possible through it	4.44
It is necessary to make plans for succession	4.44
Conversion to non-farm use is the likelihood of farm without succession plan	4.42
Succession is important for farm business' survival and sustainability	4.39
Succession plan solves communication issues between parents and their children.	4.36
Succession plan addresses issue of conversion of farms to non-farming activities	4.30
Serious thought should not be given to farm succession	4.17
Succession plan is a waste of resources	4.15
Succession planning is of no use since am not going to retire from my farm	4.11
Disadvantages of farm succession outweigh its benefits	4.09
Planning for succession is tantamount to preparing to leave the world	3.94
It is culturally not acceptable to consider female heirs as farm successor	3.96
Succession plan is not a function of farm continuation	3.87
Male heir(s) should be farm successor(s)	3.86
Decay is the end of farms with declared successors	3.72
Succession planning should not be communicated to the children before the retirement age	3.32

Grand mean= 4.18; Strongly disagreed (1), disagreed (2), Undecided (3), agreed (4), strongly agreed (5)

Source: Field survey, 2018



Mean = 83.59, S.D = 12.15, n = 192; Source: Field survey, 2018

Figure 03: Overall perception of the succession plan by aged crop farmers

Table 03: Aged crop farmers' succession plan

Succession plan statements	Mean
Farm brings income, I want to plan for succession	2.90
Farm brings huge returns, am expected to plan for succession	2.81
I want to share my farm responsibilities to successor due to my old age, thus, the process of succession planning is on-going.	2.74
I want to consider succession for my farm because it is important to integrate the youth into agriculture	2.73
Farm brings income, I have intend to plan for succession	2.72
I intend to share my farm responsibilities to successor due to my old age, thus, the process of succession planning is on-going.	2.66
I intend to consider succession for my farm because it is important to integrate the youth into agriculture	2.65
I am expected to consider succession for my farm because it is important to integrate the youth into agriculture	2.63
I am expected to share my farm responsibilities to successor due to my old age, thus, the process of succession planning is on-going.	2.63
I want to keep the viability of the farm business so, succession plan is very important for farm success	2.61
I intend to keep the viability of the farm business, therefore succession plan is very important for farm success	2.59
Due to no interest of new generation in farming, I want to sell the farmland at a particular time	2.53
Due to no interest of new generation in farming, I intend to sell the farmland at a particular time	2.53
It is expected of me to keep the viability of the farm business, therefore succession plan is very important for farm success	2.52
Due to no interest of new generation in farming, I am expected to sell the farmland at a particular time	2.39
Succession planning is extremely difficult and a complex process, therefore, am not expected to plan for it	2.01
Succession planning is extremely difficult and a complex process, hence, I do not intent to plan for it	1.99
Succession planning is extremely difficult and a complex process, hence, I do not want to plan for it	1.92

Strongly disagreed (1), disagreed (2), Undecided (3), agreed (4), strongly agreed (5)
Source: Field survey, 2018

Table 04: Overall level of respondents' succession plan intention

Total intention score	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
≤ 41.3	94	49.0	Low
41.4-62.7	49	25.5	Moderate
≥ 62.8	49	25.5	High

Mean = 45.55, S.D = 17.55, n = 192

Factors influencing farm succession plan among aged crop farmers.

Results in Table 5 reveal that farming experience (β = 0.485, t = 7.757, p<0.01), household size (β = 0.330, t = 3.056, p<0.05), years of residency (β = 0.125, t = 2.125, p<0.05), perception (β = 0.402, t = 6.813, p<0.01), and life after retirement from farm (β = 0.183, t = 2.940, p<0.05) were significant factors influencing farm succession among aged crop farmers. The significance of farming experience might be due to accumulation of experience that could be shared with the successor(s), which could enhance the continuity of the farm estate. The significance of household size might be because of the conflict associated with the outcome of succession plan among successors, especially in polygamous households with a larger size. This finding is in tandem with that of Barclay *et al.* (2007) which indicated that most polygamous farmers avoided thought of succession because it revealed the picture of unequal treatment of their children. The significance of year of residency could be attributed to cultural values attached to leaving successor(s) to maintain the estate of the respondents after retirement from farming. The significance of perception towards succession plans might be because aged cash crop farmers perceive thoughts about succession plans as tantamount to wishing them early death, therefore, they rarely discuss nor do anything about it. This finding is in line with that of Arowolo *et al.* (2017) which affirmed that older groups of farmers barely discuss issues of succession because they perceive that such thoughts are tantamount to wishing them to die early. The significance is that the number of years of formal education might be due to enlightenment and social status that come with it, therefore, the more their years of formal education, the more it is expected that they value and put the succession plan in place. This finding is in agreement with that of Ogutu *et al.* (2019) that identified educational status of the farmers as one of the factors influencing succession plans in Kenya. The significance of life after retirement from farm might be attached to the fact that, the respondents would prefer retirement free from burden, stress and the likes; therefore, they would bother on the issue of succession plans.

Table 05: Factors influencing succession plan intention among the respondents

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	*P*- value
	β	Std. Error	β		
Constant	0.800	0.968		0.827	0.414
Age	0.152	0.120	0.105	1.263	0.165
Farming experience	0.126	0.280	0.485	7.757	0.000**
Stages of retirement	0.142	0.137	0.110	1.036	0.107
Household size	0.465	0.152	0.330	3.056	-0.003*
Years of formal education	0.070	0.196	0.057	0.359	0.002*
Years of residency	0.064	0.072	0.125	2.125	0.004*
Perception	0.191	0.202	0.402	6.813	0.000**
Life after retirement from farm	-0.087	0.061	0.183	2.940	0.004*

*$R = 0.689$, $R^2 = 0.474$, F= 6.675, Beta (β) = Regression coefficient; *Significant determinant at 0.05 level of significance;*

***Significant determinant at 0.01 level of significance*

Source: Field survey, 2018

Test of hypotheses

Hypothesis one: There is no significant relationship between the succession plan of aged cash crop farmers and their demographic characteristics.

Results in Table 6 show that the nature of farming ($\chi2 = 21.704$; $p \leq 0.01$), stages of retirement ($\chi2 = 13.789$; $p \leq 0.01$), and life after retirement from farm ($\chi2 = 23.813$; $p \leq 0.05$) had a significant association with perception towards succession plans by aged crop farmers. This implies that these variables determine the perception of the succession plan. Furthermore, the contingency coefficient (C) revealed a strong association between respondents' nature of farming (C=0.319), and proposed life after retirement from farm (C=0.332) with their succession plan, based on Kerlinger, (1986) which described a C value of 0.28 as a moderate association, and greater values as a strong association. This study is in agreement with Calus, (2009) who reported that the family farm perpetuation will hinge on the handiness of a successor, type of farming system, and farming environment.

Results in Table 06 show that farming experience ($r = 0.408$; $p \leq 0.01$), years of residency ($r = 0.165$; $p \leq 0.05$), and years of formal education ($r = 0.065$; $p \leq 0.05$) had a significant relationship with the succession plan among aged crop farmers. The null hypothesis is accepted for marital status and age, while the null hypothesis is rejected for nature of faming system, life after retirement from farm, stages of retirement, farming experience, years of residency, and years of formal education. This implies that an increase in farming experience, years of residency, and cash crop farming activities will also increase the intention of aged farmers to have a succession plan. This established that increase in the farming experience as reported by Stiglbauer and Weiss, (2000); Vogel, (2007); Glauben *et al.* (2009) has an increasing effect on a succession plan.

Hypothesis two: there is no significant relationship between respondents' succession plan and their perception towards it.

Results in Table 6 show that there is no significant relationship between respondents' succession plan intension and their perception ($r = -0.094$; $p \leq 0.05$). The null hypothesis is therefore, accepted. Although aged farmers show a favourable perception toward a succession plan, their succession plan has not been influenced because of the low interest of prospective successor to take over the farm. These findings support the opinion of Beginning Farmers, (2015) and Arowolo *et al.* (2017) that most farmers encourage their children to seek an alternative career apart from farming which invariably does not encourage the successor to consider taking over the farm business.

Table 06: Relationship between the selected demographic characteristics and succession plan

Variables	χ^2	D.F	C	p-value	r	r^2
Marital status	4.945	6	0.158	0.551		
Nature of farming system	21.704	2	0.319	0.000**		
Life after retirement from farm	23.813	12	0.332	0.022*		
Stages of retirement	13.759	4	0.259	0.008**		
Age					-0.080	0.006
Farming experience					0.408**	0.166
Years of residency					0.165*	0.027
Years of formal education					0.065*	0.004
Perception toward succession plan					-0.094	0.010

C- Coefficient of contingency, r- Correlation coefficient, r^2- Coefficient of determination

*** Significant at P ≤ 0.01; * Significant at P ≤ 0.05 D.F- Degree of freedom, χ^2=Chi-Square value*

Source: Field survey, 2018

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It was concluded that crop farmers in Ogun State had an average age of 75.14 years while the majority of crop farmers were Christians and married. It was revealed that majority of aged cash crop farmers had a low level of intention towards a succession plan while only aged farmers had a low intention towards a succession plan because their potential successors had no interest in agricultural business and were not willing to take over the farm. Furthermore, many of the respondents have a positive perception towards a succession plan; however, their perception had no influence on their intention to establish succession plans. Farm size, annual income, household size, farming status, nature of farming, education qualification and marital status of the aged cash crop farmers are variables that significantly determine intention of farms towards a succession plan. It was recommended that cash crop farmers in Ogun State and Nigeria at large should endeavour to commence planning for succession by selecting and grooming potential successor(s), because having no plan for their potential successor(s) might result into future generational conflicts in the family, but having it will ensure farm continuity. These will increase the number of aged farmers with succession plans and reduce the number of farms to be closed down.

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