

Full Length Research

Assessment of the Role of Kambuwa Annual Agricultural Show to National Food Security: A Review

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This paper reviewed the roles of kambuwa annual agricultural show to national food security. Specifically, it ascertained the roles of governmental and nongovernmental agencies in organizing Agricultural shows. Similarly, the paper ascertained the step by step procedure for organizing agricultural shows. It further identified the strategies required for improving the organizational efficiency of agricultural shows in kambuwa and Nigeria at large. It highlighted the techniques to be adopted in improving the methodologies in organizing kambuwa and national agricultural shows. The review also unveiled the preparatory procedures of agricultural shows. The paper lastly showed the impediments to successful organization of kambuwa and national agricultural shows

Keywords: Assessment, Roles, Annual Agricultural Show, Kambuwa, National Food Security.

INTRODUCTION

This year's Kambuwa Agricultural show was organized between 29th and 30th January 2021. Of the four shows successively organized by the village Head of Kambuwa, this is one of the most important Agricultural events that ever happened in Ngaski Local Government area of Kebbi State, as it created an avenue where farmers were able to familiarize with important dignitaries from the state level, suppliers of agricultural inputs

like ATASP-1 and ICRISAT who gave gifts to best performing farmers and sold agricultural products. It was a place where the general public were able to satisfy their curiosity relating to agricultural inputs and outputs.

Agricultural shows are an important part of cultural life in small country towns, and a popular event in larger towns and cities. Shows range from small

events in small country towns usually lasting two days, through medium-sized events of three days, to large shows, which may run for up to two weeks and combine elements of an amusement park with those of an agricultural show. Although in many countries agricultural shows are increasingly under financial pressure, many towns or areas have a show society and in some areas, several towns and villages in the area all have an annual show. Larger shows often include live entertainment and fireworks in the main arena (Olayide 2019).

Since the 19th century, agricultural shows have provided local people with an opportunity to celebrate achievements and enjoy a break from day-to-day routine. With a combination of serious competition and light entertainment, annual shows acknowledged and rewarded the hard work and skill of primary producers

and provided avenue for rural families to socialize. City shows also provide city people with an opportunity to engage directly with rural life and food production (Jacobson 2015).

Agricultural shows are often enlivened with competitive events, including sheaf tossing, show jumping, food competitions, and tent pegging. Garba (2014) opined that Agricultural shows are organized to provide forum to showcase agricultural potentials and products and to expose farmers to improved technologies and new trends in agricultural production and practices. Agricultural shows will, also, contribute to the country's drive to achieve food security and development of agro-based industries as well as attract global interest for the development of Nigeria's agricultural potentials and opportunities. A well planned agricultural show will promote public-private partnership (PPP) for the development of the agricultural sector of the economy, encourage and attract young people to the farm and support gender-based activities to help the women and rural folks (Olayide, 2019). It is in recognition of the importance of agricultural shows to farmers, in particular, and the state economy, in general, that the government of Kebbi State started to organize agricultural shows through Kambuwa Village in order to boost food security and so that farmers can make better decisions in order to take advantage of market opportunities and increase their productivity level.

MEANING OF AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Agricultural shows served as educational forum, a meeting ground for farmers and ranchers to exhibit their crops and animals and learn new and innovative agricultural practices and technologies. An agricultural show is therefore a public event showcasing the equipment, animals, sports and recreation associated with agriculture and animal husbandry (Ekarius, 2018). It is a public event that shows new or high quality examples of farming, skills, farm equipment, animals, and crops, among others. It could also comprise a trade fair, competitions, and entertainment. Agricultural shows are an important part of cultural life in small country towns, and act as popular event in larger towns and cities. Agricultural shows are farmer-oriented agricultural extension outreach programmes (Ifenkwe, 2012).

Some early shows also included entertainment, such as horse racing, music, shows, and games. By early 1900s, entertainment was considered an essential component for many shows (Rasmussen, 2014), leading to more and wider varieties of attractions. While agricultural shows continue to provide educational venues for agricultural producers, they are increasingly focusing on a larger public segment through educational and entertainment programs directed to non-agricultural producers. Today, agricultural shows are recognized as a traditional and respectable segment of the events and

attractions industry.

ROLES OF GOVERNMENTAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES IN ORGANISING AGRICULTURAL SHOW

1. Organizing is the process of bringing together both human and physical resources to accomplish organizational objectives. It is the process of designing and maintaining an intentional structure of roles and positions, which makes it possible for people to work effectively towards the accomplishment of set objectives.
2. Organizing a successful agricultural show demands collaboration and participation of scientists, agricultural firms, Agricultural Extensionists, mass media, farmers, farm organizations, schools, ministries of agriculture and education, and the general public.
3. Agricultural show provides an opportunity for all those engaged directly or indirectly in agricultural production or related activities to showcase agricultural raw materials, as well as products of agro-allied industries and to interact to exchange ideas and information for the overall improvement of the agricultural sector. Some of these are active participants (teachers), while others join only as observers and learners.
4. Federal Government of Nigeria (2008) reported that the organization and coordination of agricultural shows at the local, national and state levels depend on the individual organizing it, government parastatal or agency involved. At the national level, personnel of the federal ministry of agriculture, All –Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) carry out the operations of the project while at the state level, personnel of the state ministries of agriculture and Agricultural Development Projects (ADP's) carry out the work of the project and at the local level, a district head or a village head could shoulder the responsibility of organizing the show which is typical of the show organized by Kambuwa Village Head. Thus, full responsibility and implementation of agricultural shows rest with Nigerian institutions and Nigerian personnel under various committees
5. Agricultural show in Kambuwa area of Kebbi State may be organized at two levels namely; Village level and local Government level depending on the level of its maturity. Agricultural show at the zonal level may be organized along the lines of the existing senatorial districts in the state. The venue of the zonal agricultural show may be at the zonal headquarters of each of the senatorial districts respectively. This zonal arrangement is often made to save the anticipated huge cost if each of the local government councils in Kebbi State were to organize a separate show.
6. The most critical components in the planning and organization of agricultural shows is adequate publicity before, during and after the shows. This is essential to

sensitize and mobilize the people as well as publicize activities of the shows. Media coverage may include television (TV), radio and newspapers, publication of fliers, programme brochure, speeches etc are important in ensuring success of the shows. Okereke, (2013), opined that the scope and depth of any agricultural show depends on availability of funds. The central planning committee works out approximate cost estimate for sponsorship of the shows as the case may be, and passes same up for approval and hopeful release of funds

Importance of Agricultural Show in Kambuwa

Agricultural show in kambuwa serves as an avenue for the farmers to:

1. Meet fellow Farmers

When it comes to farming, the best pool of agricultural knowledge is fellow farmers. For most farmers who have been in business for some time, they probably have a network with fellow farmers from the surrounding villages. However, in order to enrich one's farming knowledge, there is a need for the farmer to widen his network and intellectual horizon. The more the farmer's network grows, the more the farmer is likely going to receive more beneficial farming advice from exchanging ideas (Onochie,2017).

2. Access to Experts

Like most other businesses, experts play a big role in the success of farms. Due to technology, most farmers now rely on information written by experts online or they spend time listening to radio or video broadcasts and the like created by agricultural companies and farming experts. This is no doubt helpful but this does not substitute the beauty of hearing information from the horse's mouth. When farmers attend agricultural shows, they will hear directly from the experts and they are able to ask for any clarifications that they may want.

3. Learn More on Technology

Industry experts, Agencies like ATASP-1, ICRISAT and researchers exhibit their work at agricultural shows. These people also pilot their innovations at such events and if the farmer is in attendance, he will be able to learn all there is to know about the latest farming technology at the earliest. Besides learning more on new innovations, the farmer also has the opportunity to meet with and ask researchers how different farming technologies can be used to better productivity and also how a particular innovation can be applied on a specific farm taking into consideration different factors present only at that

specific farm (Onochie 2017).

STEP BY STEP PROCEDURE FOR ORGANIZING AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

Kingman (2012) a typical agricultural show will possess certain general features such as sponsorship, organizing committees, preparation of guidelines, venue, publicity, setting up of exhibits, registration of participants, judging of exhibits, etc

Pre-show Activities

Soliciting for Sponsorship

Enyinnia et al, (2017) reported that sponsorship entails payment, in cash or kind, for organizing agricultural show either for pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest or advantage. Donations, in cash or kind, can be used as prizes for excellent performance. Generated cash can be used to procure tangible goods, print certificates for participants or erect exhibition structures.

Preparation of Participation Guidelines

Preparation and release of detailed guidelines for agricultural shows are the responsibility of the organizing committee. The guidelines should contain the date, time and venue, names of organizers and Sponsors as well as rules and regulations for the participation. It should also specify categories of exhibits, judging criteria, names of coordinators and other logistic details. The rules and regulations should be explicit on the number of entries permitted per participant, the constitution of an exhibit, mode of delivery and recovery of exhibits, award of prizes, as well as procedure for protest, where necessary. Timely release of the document which should be packaged to create aesthetic impression to guarantee adequate preparation and enhance the success of the show (Iwueke, 2017).

Organizing Committee and Coordinators

Jacobsen (2015) reported that there is need for a broad-based committee involving all stakeholders, who will work out details and assign duties to sub-committees (finance, protocol and publicity, transportation and logistics, accommodation, security etc). The coordinators of the various programs and their assistants should be clearly spelt out in the guidelines, with details of their roles and contact particulars.

Securing and Preparing the Venue

Agricultural shows should be held in venues with ample space and good terrain. The venues must be

made easily accessible. All the paths lanes and tracks should be neatly laid out, cleared and cleaned. Part of the arrangement for an agricultural show involves erection of booths, canopies, pavilion and other aspects of pedestal arrangement. To prevent visitors from coming too close to the exhibits, it is advisable to put light fences with stakes or ropes in order to maintain a proper distance between the visitors and the exhibits. It is best to organize agricultural shows in the dry season. The attendant increase in human and vehicular traffic during such activities will lead to a messy environment if it is organized during the rainy season.

Procurement of Prizes

Davidson (2016) reported that prizes must be procured in advance. Prizes come in form of cash, awards, certificates, books, farm inputs or sponsorship to higher competitions. Sometimes, participants who come first, second and third in each category are awarded prizes while others receive certificates of participation. Award of prizes come as part of the closing ceremony except in events where there are protests from one or more participants. Such protests are usually made in writing and delivered to the Coordinator before the end of the show. Reward to farmers and other participants motivate them to improve on their performance. Furthermore, certificates won by farmers at these shows strengthen their credibility when such farmers apply for loans and other forms of assistance from government.

Publicity

Ifenkwe (2012) stated that the need for wide publicity for agricultural shows cannot be overemphasized because it increases the level of participation. Government and privately owned print and electronic media should be used for publicity even as the show is going on. In addition, posters and handbills should be circulated with details of events provided to guide the participants.

Setting up of Exhibits

The venue of the show should be made accessible to participants a day or two to the event to enable them identify allocated space for their products and to deliver and display the more durable exhibits. Jones and Garba (2014) explained that organizers should therefore, make arrangements to secure such exhibits. Fruits, vegetables and other perishables that need to retain their natural colour, firmness, vigor and aroma should be displayed close to the time of judgment to avoid desiccation and to enable them retain much of the valuable qualities.

Packaging of Exhibits

Exhibits may not portray the desired message unless they are properly packaged using communication techniques that quickly appeal to the sense of the sight. Colours have meanings and connotations, and so should be selected based on the mood or interest to be portrayed.

Agricultural Show Day/registration of Participants

It is important to keep a record of all participants including their institutional affiliation and contact addresses. A record of such participants may be necessary for purposes of follow-up contacts to either show appreciation, request for or supply inputs and information.

Opening Ceremony

This involves a greater number of persons some of who may not participate in other activities of the show. A separate programme is usually prepared for the opening ceremony which features such activities as opening prayers and remarks, welcome and keynote addresses, announcements and official declaration marking the commencement of the programme or show.

Judging of Exhibits

Onochie (2017) reported that judges are Provided with different criteria for assessing each category of exhibits, and these are used to identify the entries. Participants are not expected to be present as the judges move round to perform their duties of scoring the entries. Their names or identities must not be found on the exhibits either. Participants are not to remove or altar any part of exhibit while the judging of exhibits is in progress until the end of the show. The decision of the judges concerning the relative merits of the exhibits shall be final. However the organizing committee reserves the rights to review and decide on any point in dispute. Ene (2015) opined that judges should, therefore, be persons who are well-educated and experienced in the field of agriculture, and men of integrity who are capable of giving an unbiased opinion on the quality or value of an exhibit.

Post-Show Activities

Participants collect their exhibits at the end of the show. This is followed by dismantling of the pavilion and booths. Participants are at liberty to donate the exhibits to the organizers, preserve them for future contests, or sell them to the general public (Okereke, 2013).

Appreciation

It is important for organizers of agricultural shows to write to show appreciation to people they consider have made useful contributions toward a successful hosting of an agricultural show. These include the participants, sponsors and judges. Interviewing these participants will equip the organizing committee to host such events in future (Lakwo, 2018).

Evaluation

It is usually desirable to put up a report on the organization and implementation of agricultural shows from the entries made at the show ground and other observations. Ajayi (2016) supported this view as he reported that such reports will guide future performances and provide a bench mark for future evaluations.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL SHOW FOR NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

Agrarian studies indicate that agricultural productivity can be increased, and food supply and demand balance maintained in Nigeria through a number of ways; regular input supply and mechanization; rural infrastructural transformation; adoption of agri-business approach; social, ecological and institutional transformation; and favorable and stable agricultural policies (Mijindadi, 2012). Agricultural productivity can be increased through information and communication technologies (ICT) revolution; integrated Soil fertility management, Agricultural shows facilitate the process of agricultural modernization because they promote awareness, participation and motivation of farmers towards self-sufficiency in food production

(Eleje, 2018) and therefore, enhance farmers' education (knowledge and skills). Although the system gives beneficiaries at different levels the opportunity to improve on their basic skills and knowledge, agricultural shows provide fora for further interaction by stakeholders in the educational and agricultural sectors.

Organizing farmers' field days, agricultural shows, field trips, workshops and conferences, farmers and extension agents alike will be more likely to change their behaviour if they discover for themselves that the knowledge and insight gained from past experiences are no longer adequate to deal with current problems of agriculture. The extension administrator should therefore, organize different avenues through which extension personnel and farmers can interact and gain more knowledge on new development around the world (Eleje, 2018).

Agricultural shows provide opportunity to display and disseminate improved agricultural innovation. This is with a view to encourage participants, mostly farmers,

who have not been doing well to emulate their more successful counterparts and to motivate progressive farmers to further excel. Onuchie (2017) reported that a successful show is one that educates and motivates participants to adopt agricultural innovations. Wide spread adoption of good agronomic and animal husbandry practices will lead to enhanced productivity at the household level and ultimately overall improvement of food security of the nation.

Food and Agricultural Organization (2012) stated that, agricultural shows provide a unique opportunity for participants to establish business contacts and relationships and also promote agricultural investment on a sustainable basis. A World Bank study in 2010 indicated that the South of England Show in Ardingly is a diverse event that showcases agricultural and rural activities highlighting the importance of the countryside and giving children, youth and adults alike the opportunity to learn about and take part in these activities. The South of England Show also offers a regional food and wine pavilion with cookery demonstrations and the food and farming campaign that intends to help people learn about the origins of their food. The show has a variety of areas and activities, including an agricultural machinery display, a livestock show, equestrian events, an ecology village, crafts, shopping, and performances by bands such as the royal signals band and much more. The communiqué issued at the end of the all Nigeria Food and Agricultural show (ANIFAS 2002) revealed some of the benefits of organizing agricultural shows which may include:

- i. Direct linkages with international organizations for aids and grants;
- ii. Better knowledge of improved farming techniques, plants and livestock from other parts of the world;
- iii. Free revolving loans to farmers from the best local government council by the Bank of Agriculture (BOA);
- iv. Thirty percent (30%) reduction in cost of agricultural equipment at the fair; and
- v. Provision of agricultural consulting services to all participants by some foreign technical partners (News Agency of Nigeria NAN Features, 2011).

IMPEDIMENTS TO SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

Impediments according to Mann (2018) are the limitations imposed on a decision – maker or organization in trying to choose an optimum strategy. These limitations are very important factors to be considered in organizing agricultural shows, extension organization and administration. Government efforts to manage and administer agricultural shows are constrained by lack of funds, illiteracy of the farmers on the significance of the show, bad roads leading to the venues, inconsistency in government policy and weak pressure group. Other impediments which could affect

particularly the effective participation of women farmers according to Akarue, (2019) include high cost of farm inputs, late delivery of farm inputs especially fertilizer, lack of adequate education, lack of good storage facilities for farm produce and lack of proper training in modern farming methods/techniques. Extension agents, who should be at the fore front of such programmes, are inadequate and those available are not adequately educated in their professional line. According to Daudu (2018) they have a sub-university qualification which is not very suitable for extension service.

Agricultural show as a component of agricultural extension teaching has not lived up to its responsibility due to a number of reasons; principal amongst which are inadequate funding, policy inconsistency, inadequate skilled manpower, social apathy to government programmes etc.

TECHNIQUES TO BE ADOPTED IN IMPROVING THE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF KAMBUWA AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Sponsorship of Kambuwa agricultural show should go beyond the sole responsibility of kambuwa village Head. State Government, agro-allied companies, private individuals and other stakeholders should be actively involved. If properly promoted, and harnessed, accruing funds, from private donors could reduce the financial burden of sponsorship organizers and government. Enyinnia et al, (2017) reported that agencies responsible for organizing agricultural shows ought to adopt cost saving measures such as streamlining the size of the central organizing committee, sponsorship of farmers to be borne by local governments and farmers commodity associations etc unwieldy committee size breeds conflict and duplication of efforts. Donation of prizes to outstanding exhibits/exhibitors could be sourced from the private sector to complement government efforts (Ifenkwe, 2012).

Foresight and vision of the founding fathers of agricultural shows in essence still holds much relevance to our agricultural development needs today.

CONCLUSION

The following conclusions were drawn based on the review:

i. The most important procedures in organizing agricultural show are securing venue for the show and publicity. Securing venue for the show is necessary because the nature of the venue selected can determine attendance.

ii. Top on the list of rewards to be given to participants of agricultural shows was farm inputs. Rewards to

farmers and other participants in form of cash or farm inputs motivate them to improve on their performance.

iii. Most frequently used medium of communication to inform farmers about organization of agricultural shows was television followed by radio. TV has ability to shape values, attitudes and perception of rural people both positively and negatively. In support of this, though TV is not generally available for rural people and is not used as a major source of providing information for rural farmers in the state, it is becoming a necessary reality in most developing countries like Nigeria. Radio is the most powerful and yet cheapest mass medium for reaching large numbers of people even in isolated and remote areas. Television should therefore be used to educate rural farmers about agricultural shows since agricultural shows involve behavioral change and positive perception.

iv. The major constraints to organization of agricultural show were: lack of funds, policy inconsistency, lack of incentives and absence of political will by government. Government efforts to manage and administer agricultural shows are constrained by lack of funds, Inconsistency in government policy,

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were drawn based on the findings of the study.

I. There is need for the formulation of a functional policy for agricultural show to be made an annual event as this will open new channels of communication and links between researchers, policy makers, farmers and consumers of agricultural produce thus facilitating interaction.

II. Avoidance of wanton bush clearance without immediate replacement as this will pave way for environmental problems such as erosion, drought etc disasters such

III. The review revealed that there was shortage in the number of personnel engaged in the organization and administration of agricultural shows. To achieve effectiveness, there is need for recruitment of adequate and well trained staff for regular hosting of agricultural shows.

IV. Adequate funding and timely release of budgetary estimates by individuals wanting to organize the show, agencies or government so as to properly plan and organize agricultural shows.

V. Provision of incentives to farmers in form of cash prizes, honours, farm inputs and study tours so as to encourage them pick interest in agricultural shows. VI. Encourage private sector enterprises, especially large corporate organizations to be more involved in the organization of agricultural shows in partnership with relevant government agencies and local communities.

VII. Organize farmers into viable associations to ensure

their active participation in the organization of agricultural shows. These associations when properly formed can also play important role in policy advocacy.

VIII. Promotion of best practices such as securing ample space, theme selection, publicity etc when considering idea to organize agricultural shows.

IX. Policies on agricultural shows must be clearly defined and be sustainable over a given period of time.

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