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ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS IN SESAME PRODUCTION REQUIRED BY FARMERS FOR ENHANCED SESAME OUTPUT IN BENUE STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
This study was carried out to assess the entrepreneurial skills in sesame production for enhanced sesame output in Benue State, Nigeria. Three research objectives were raised to guide the study while three null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The research design was a survey method. The sample of 503 respondents, comprising 477 sesame farmers and 26 agricultural extension agents from the three agricultural zones of Benue state was used. A multi- stage sampling procedure was adopted. The instrument was validated by three experts. A reliability coefficient of 0.93 was obtained indicating that the instrument was reliable. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions and inferential statistics of t-test was used for testing the null hypotheses. The study showed that twelve entrepreneurial skills in planning and management of sesame production are required among which are formulation of specific objectives, decision on the location of farm, identification of some funds, checking to ensure seeds are in good conditions, removal of weeds regularly and application of farm yard manure. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that the identified entrepreneurial skills in sesame production should be used to train sesame farmers in order to enhance the production of sesame in Benue State and Nigeria at large.

Keywords: Assessment, Entrepreneurship, Sesame, Production

Introduction

Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L) plant grows in tropical and subtropical parts of the world, including Asia, Africa and South America, it is cultivated for its edible seeds which are a popular addition to many dishes (Beth 2021). Beth further revealed that sesame belongs to the family of pedeliaceae and is one of the most ancient crops and oil seeds known and used by mankind. It is also known as beniseed in English, simsim as it is known in East Africa, *ajonjoli* as it is known in French. The English word sesame is traced back to Arabic word 'sim-sim', the Coptis 'semsem' and the early Egyptian word 'semsent'. The local names in Nigeria include 'beniseed' in English, 'ridi' in Hausa, 'iswa' in Tiv, 'yamati' or 'eeku' in Yoruba, 'igorigo' and 'doo' in Jukun, 'oncha' or 'igogo' in idoma and 'ehia' in Igede. It is usually referred to as the "Queen of oil seeds" due to the excellent quality of oil it produces.

Sesame is produced in regions with temperatures above 27^0C and rainfall between 625 and 1100mm (Amit *et. al.,* 2020). The crop can withstand dry conditions but not water logging (Amit et al 2020). On an estimated 9,983,165 hectares of land, 5,531,948 tonnes of sesame were produced globally in 2017. Sesame is primarily produced in Asia (56.4%), with Africa (39.3%) and America (4.4%) following. Nigeria (192,295.96 tonnes) is the eight-largest producer of sesame out of the top ten countries in the world, after China (616,004.96 tonnes) and India (665,566.67 tonnes) (FAOSTAT, 2018). Sesame seed has over 15% margin in terms of value added compared to other cash crops such as sheanuts and palm kernels (Nyiatagher and Ocholi, 2015).

Fiseha, *et al.* (2019) stated that Nigeria is one of the fastest growing countries in Africa where sesame has great economic

importance ranging from its uses as protein feeds for poultry, in the manufacturing of margarine, perfume, lubricants and lamp fuel. Nutritionally its oil can be extracted from the seed and the cake made into kulikuli which together with the leaves are used to prepare local soup. The oil is also used locally for cooking as well as for medicinal purposes such as treatment of ulcers and burns. The stem and the oil extract are equally used in making local soap. Mshelia, *et al.* (2012) found out that the dried stems can be burnt to ashes, dissolved in water, stored and allowed to settle and the filtrate used in soap making. Internationally, sesame seed is the most sought-after vegetable oil as its industrial ingredients is good for the production of margarine, canned sardine, corned beef, soap and ink (Sankar, *et al.,* 2010). The paste of ground sesame seeds is good for bread making, and the oils highly valued for their capabilities in fighting, preventing, reversing illness and disease.

Sesame is produced in Nigeria mainly in the Central, North Western and North Eastern zones, where it is utilized for various purposes and serves as a cash crop. Dennis, (2018) reported that more than 90% of the sesame produced in Nigeria comes from Benue State in the North Central Nigeria. Since the production of sesame fluctuates in Nigeria particularly in Benue State, it is important to assess the entrepreneurial skills in sesame production required by farmers for enhanced sesame output.

One of the major challenges facing developing and underdeveloped countries of the world is poverty. It is the main obstacle challenging most people particularly in third world nations like Nigeria. Sesame is currently one of Nigeria's principal export oilseeds and is mainly produced by small-scale farmers. Different reports indicate that there is huge potential in growing sesame seeds in the country and there is high market demand at both local and international levels. However, the production and supply of sesame does not meet the demand for both market and household consumptions. This is because, most farmers lack the entrepreneurial skills in various operational areas of sesame production such as planning, planting, and managing of sesame farm. Farmers' deficiency in these operational areas limits the level of smallholder farmers' participation in sesame production. For instance, of an estimated 3.5 million hectares of land available for the crop, only about 335,000 hectares are currently used for sesame (Fiseha *et' al.,* 2019), suggesting a vast potential for increased production of the crop in Nigeria. Nigeria exported 54,276 metric tonnes in 2016 meanwhile the country has the potential to raise its production capacity to over one million tonnes annually. This suggests the need for a study that will provide a platform for helping farmers with the entrepreneurial skills for a profitable and sustainable sesame production in Benue State. This study, therefore, was designed to assess entrepreneurial skills in sesame production required by farmers to enhance sesame output in Benue State, Nigeria.

An entrepreneur is a person who makes money by starting or running businesses especially when this involves taking risks (Wagener, *et al.,* 2015). An entrepreneur is a person who organizes and manages enterprises, especially a business, usually with considerable initiative and risk (Phelan and Sharpley, 2012). Entrepreneurial skills are skills needed to succeed in business, or profession. Entrepreneurial skills are the basic skills necessary to enable one start, develop, finance and succeed in enterprise.

It has been recognized that entrepreneurial skills have emerged as an aspect of Agricultural Science with the aim of utilizing farm resources efficiently and effectively, in particular, the role of the skills deemed critical to the success of farm ventures thereby leading to poverty reduction by creating employment through the startup of new entrepreneurship or the expansion of existing ones as it increases social wealth by creating new employment (Ikwuakam, *et al.,* 2023). Entrepreneurial skills development contributes to increased income markets, new industries, new technology, new institutional forms, new jobs and net increases in real

productivity which culminates in higher standards of living for the population (Karimi, *et al.,* 2014). Moreover, entrepreneurial skills are viewed nowadays as key components of economic growth because small rapidly growing firms started by entrepreneurially minded individuals, create wealth and a significant number of jobs in particular economies, thereby impacting greatly on social and economic development. The skills needed for the success of farm ventures are all encompassing, that is such skills are necessary in the cultivation/production of any given farm crop such as sesame production, maize, rice etc. (Hussain, *et al.,* 2014).

Entrepreneurial skills would enhance sesame productivity directly by improving the quality of labor, increasing the ability to adjust to disequilibria, and through its effect increase income generation to the farmers (Phelan & Sharpley, 2012). Entrepreneurial skill is perceived as an important factor in farm production in a rapidly changing technological and/or economic environment (Hussain, *et al.,* 2014). Since farming methods in Benue State are largely traditional, there is great economic justification for Benue State farm households to invest in entrepreneurial skills. This is needful as new higher yield crop varieties are available in some areas, and some farmers in many areas have adopted certain modern inputs, primarily chemical fertilizers. Indeed, entrepreneurs' access to innovations and information has direct bearing on their willingness to adopt such innovations for wealth creation. These innovations are disseminated through the Agricultural Extension Agents. The Agricultural Extension Agents or practitioners are found throughout the world, usually working for government agencies (Hussain, *et al.,* 2014).

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the Entrepreneurial skills required in planning sesame production in Benue State?
2. What are the Entrepreneurial skills required in planting sesame seeds in Benue State?
3. What are the Entrepreneurial skills required in managing sesame farm in Benue State?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study and were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

1. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the responses of the Sesame Farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in planning sesame production in Benue State.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the responses of the Sesame Farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in planting sesame in Benue State.
3. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the responses of the Sesame Farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in managing Sesame in Benue State.

Methodology

The study was executed in Benue State. Created in 1976 out of the old Benue-Plateau, the State is in the North-Central Nigeria with its capital in Makurdi. Benue State lies within the lower river Benue trough in the middle belt region of Nigeria. Its geographic coordinates are longitude 7° 47' and 10° 0' East; Latitude 6° 25' and 8° 8' North. The State has a tropical and humid climate with two distinct seasons – the wet and dry seasons. The rainy season lasts from April to October with annual rainfall in the range of 100-200mm. The dry season begins in November and ends in March. Temperatures fluctuate between 21–37 degrees Celsius in the year. The south-eastern part of the state adjoining the Obudu-Cameroun mountain range, however, has a cooler climate similar to that of Plateau State.

The State shares boundaries with five other states namely: Nasarawa State to the North, Taraba State to the East, Cross-River State to the South, Enugu State to the South-West and Kogi State to the West. The State also shares a common boundary with the Republic of Cameroon on the South-East.

The study adopted a survey research design among the population of 5,029 subjects (farmers of sesame and agricultural extension agents). A sample of 503 respondents comprising 477 sesame farmers and 26 Agricultural Extension Agents in Benue State constituted the study sample using multi-stage sampling technique. Data were collected using a questionnaire titled: Entrepreneurial Skills in Sesame Production (ESSP). The instrument was validated by two experts from the Department of Agricultural Education and one from the department of crop production, all from Joseph Sarwan Tarka University, Makurdi. The instrument was trial tested on 20 respondents and data collected were analyzed using Cronbach Alpha. A reliability coefficient of 0.93 was obtained. Mean and Standard deviation were used to answer the research questions, while t-test was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussion

Research Question 1

What are the Entrepreneurial skills required in planning sesame production in Benue State?

Table 1

Mean Ratings and Standard Deviation of Respondents on Entrepreneurial Skills Required in Planning Sesame Production (N= 503)

S/N	Entrepreneurial Skills in Planning of Sesame Production	$\bar{X}_1$	Std_1	$\bar{X}_2$	Std_2	$\bar{X}_g$	Std_g	Remark
1	Formulate specific objectives for sesame production enterprise	2.96	.865	2.88	.821	2.92	.84	Required
2	Review the objectives periodically to meet the business and economic situation such as changes in demand and supply	2.95	.921	2.87	.893	2.91	.91	Required
3	Draw up an activity schedule to cover the different stages of sesame production	3.16	.920	3.11	.900	3.14	.91	Required
4	Decide where to locate sesame crop farm	3.06	1.035	2.99	1.031	3.03	1.03	Required
5	Identify market outlets for sesame products	3.07	.927	2.99	.911	3.03	.92	Required
6	Decide on the cropping system to be adopted in the farm (mono/mix) cropping	3.07	.716	2.99	.647	3.03	.68	Required
7	Forecast profit for sesame production	3.17	.976	3.11	.968	3.14	.97	Required
8	Identify relevant records to keep for sesame production	2.82	1.178	2.70	1.173	2.76	1.02	Required
9	Decide on the quantity and quality of labour force to be employed	3.55	.855	3.56	.829	3.56	.84	Required
10	Make a budget for sesame production enterprise	3.11	.828	3.05	.793	3.08	.81	Required
11	Identify sources of fund to buy the inputs	3.35	.951	3.32	.957	3.35	.95	Required
12	Prepare a sketch to indicate the size of sesame production farm	3.22	.944	3.17	.930	3.20	.94	Required

Source: Field Survey (2021)

Key: $\bar{X}_1$=mean of Sesame Farmers; $\bar{X}_2$=mean of Agricultural Extension Agents; Std_1= standard deviation of Sesame Farmers; Std_2=standard deviation of Agricultural Extension Agents; N= number of respondents, $\bar{X}$ = mean of respondents, **Std** = standard deviation of respondents, $\bar{X}_g$ = grand mean of respondents, $\mathbf{Std_g}$ = grand Standard deviation of respondents

Result presented in Table 1 revealed that all the 12 skills items had their grand mean values ranging from 2.77 to 3.56, indicating that their mean values were above the cut-off point of 2.50. This showed that all the 12 entrepreneurial skills were required by farmers for planning of sesame production in Benue State. However, the study indicated that the respondents showed that the entrepreneurial skills in planning of sesame production mostly required by the farmers was the decision on the quality and quantity of labour force employed. The Table also showed that the grand standard deviation of the items ranged from .69 to 1.03, indicating that the respondents were not too far from the opinion of one another in their responses on the entrepreneurial skills required by farmers

for the planning of sesame production in Benue state.

Hypothesis One

There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the responses of Sesame Farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in planning sesame production in Benue State.

The findings of this study corroborate with those reported by Akeke, *et al.* (2022) who highlighted the planning skills to include land preparation, variety selection, weed and fertility management among many other skills. However, the study indicated that the respondents showed that the entrepreneurial skills in planning of sesame production mostly required by the farmers was the decision on the quality and quantity of labour force employed and also identify source of fund to buy inputs should be considered most, which is the gap in which this work has bridged. The finding agreed with the finding of Sani, *et al.* (2024) who found that planning is a significant entrepreneurial skill that improve performance and self-employment of student.

Table 2

t-test Analysis of Sesame Farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents on Entrepreneurial Skills Required by Farmers in Planning Sesame production

Status	N	Mean	Std.	Std. Error of Mean	Df	Sig.	Alpha Value	Remark
Sesame Farmers	477	3.1242	.92633	.04492	369	.26	.05	NS, NR
Agric Ext Agents	26	3.0617	.90442	.04483				

Source: Field Survey (2021)

Table 2 shows a p-value of .26 which was greater than the alpha value of .05. This indicates that there was no statistically significant difference in the mean ratings of the responses of Sesame Farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in planning sesame production in Benue state. Therefore, the hypothesis of no significant difference for the two groups of respondents (sesame farmers and agricultural extension agents) on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in planning sesame production in Benue state was accepted.

Research Question 2

What are the Entrepreneurial skills required in planting sesame seeds in Benue State?

Table 3

Mean Ratings and Standard Deviation of Respondents on Entrepreneurial Skills Required in Planting of Sesame Seed (N= 503)

S/N	Entrepreneurial Skills in Planting of Sesame Seed	$\bar{X}_1$	Std_1	$\bar{X}_2$	Std_2	$\bar{X}_g$	Std_g	Remark
13	Check to ensure that seeds are in good condition before planting	3.13	.753	3.07	.701	3.10	.73	Required
14	Select suitable site (well drained loamy soil or sandy-loam) for sesame cultivation	2.99	.767	2.90	.677	2.95	.72	Required
15	Determine the correct time for planting (early or late planting)	3.04	.745	2.94	.717	2.99	.73	Required
16	Arrange sesame seeds for planting according to size and shape	2.98	.775	2.87	.707	2.93	.74	Required
17	Clear the farm site with tractor or cutlass for easy ploughing	2.99	.778	2.89	.706	2.94	.74	Required
18	Pack foreign materials out from the farm site using rake to allow the plough to work freely	3.00	.797	2.89	.745	2.95	.77	Required
19	Plough the site to loosen the soil	2.99	.758	2.89	.685	2.95	.72	Required
20	Measure out intra-row spacing of 30cm-40cm for aeration and planting of companion crops.	2.96	.777	2.83	.714	2.91	.75	Required
21	Use broadcasting method for planting	2.94	.762	2.80	.676	2.87	.72	Required

Source: Field Survey (2021)

Key: $\bar{X}_1$=mean of Sesame Farmers; $\bar{X}_2$=mean of Agricultural Extension Agents; Std_1= standard deviation of Sesame Farmers; Std_2=standard deviation of Agricultural Extension Agents; N= number of respondents, $\bar{X}$ = mean of respondents, **Std** = standard deviation of respondents, $\bar{X}_g$ = grand mean of respondents, $\mathbf{Std_g}$ = grand Standard deviation of respondents

Result presented in Table 3 revealed that all 9 skills items had grand mean values ranging from 2.91 to 3.11, indicating that their mean values were above the cut-off point of 2.50. This showed that all the 9 entrepreneurial skills were required by farmers in planting of sesame seed in Benue state. However, the study indicated that the respondents showed that the entrepreneurial skills in planting of sesame seeds mostly required by farmers was to check to ensure that seeds are in good condition before planting. The Table also showed that the grand standard deviation of the items ranged from .73 to .78, indicating that there was less disparity in the opinion of the respondents on the entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in planting of sesame seed in Benue State.

Findings of the study shows that, nine (9) entrepreneurial skills were required by farmers in planting of sesame seed in Benue State. These entrepreneurial skills include: check to ensure that seeds are in good condition before planting; select suitable site (well drained loamy soil or sandy-loam) for sesame cultivation; determine the correct time for planting (early or late planting); arrange sesame seeds for planting according to size and shape; clear the farm site with tractor or cutlass for easy ploughing; pack foreign materials out from the farm site using rake to allow the plough to work freely; plough the site to loosen the soil; measure out intra-row spacing of 30cm-40cm for aeration and planting of companion crops among others.

Hypothesis Two

There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the responses of Sesame Farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in planting of sesame seed in Benue State.

Table 4
t-test Analysis of Sesame Farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents on Entrepreneurial Skills Required by Farmers in Planting of Sesame Seed

Status	N	Mean	Std.	Std. Error Mean	Df	Sig.	Alpha Value	Remark
Sesame Farmers	477	3.0022	.76800	.03977	501	.12	.05	NS, NR
Agric Ext Agents	26	2.8978	.70311	.04443				

Source: Field Survey (2021)

Table 4 shows a p-value of .12 which was greater than the alpha value of .05. This indicates that there was no statistically significant difference in the mean rating of the responses of Sesame Farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in planting of sesame seed in Benue State. Therefore, the hypothesis of no significant difference for the two groups of respondents (sesame farmers and agricultural extension agents) on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in planting of sesame seed in Benue State was not rejected.

The findings of this research validate the report of Yahaya, *et al.* (2022) and Victor, *et al.* (2020) who reviewed that for farmers to have bountiful harvest, it is important for them to have certain entrepreneurial skills such as ability to select the right cultivars as well as planting sesame at appropriate dates. Many researchers studied the influence of cultivars and planting date on sesame yield and its attributes. The optimum time of sesame planting for achieving higher seed yield per ha has been reported by many investigators *i.e.*, 29th April, early planting, in Egypt, on April or May, 1st March in India, 26th February in Bangladesh, 1st-22nd July in Nigeria, and 20th June in Pakistan. However, this study indicates that the respondents showed that the entrepreneurial skills in planting of sesame seeds mostly required by farmers was to check to ensure that seeds are in good condition before planting.

Research Question 3
What are the Entrepreneurial skills required in managing sesame farm in Benue State?

Table 5

Mean Ratings and Standard Deviation of Respondents on Entrepreneurial Skills Required in Management of Sesame Farm (N= 503)

S/N	Entrepreneurial Skills in Management of Sesame Farm	$\bar{X}_1$	Std_1	$\bar{X}_2$	Std_2	$\bar{X}_g$	Std_g	Remark
22	Spray appropriate herbicides for weed control	2.97	.766	2.84	.691	2.92	.73	Required
23	Remove weeds regularly to avoid competition for nutrients, especially for nitrogen and for good aeration	2.94	.767	2.79	.661	2.87	.72	Required
24	Apply farmyard manure 2-3 weeks after planting to supply necessary nutrients as well as improve the soil structure	3.52	.753	3.59	.696	3.56	.72	Required
25	Observe leaves, buds, flowers, shoots, fruits or seeds carefully to detect pest and disease infestation especially at the beginning of the flowering	3.41	.723	3.43	.699	3.42	.71	Required
26	Spray appropriate fungicides to attack disease infestation if symptoms are noticed.	3.30	.761	3.30	.799	3.30	.78	Required
27	Inspect laborers (where employed) periodically to ensure that recommended practices are followed	3.24	.756	3.23	.775	3.24	.77	Required
28	Observe sesame crop leaves after withering for maturity	3.36	.684	3.29	.659	3.33	.67	Required

Source: Field Survey (2021)

Key: $\bar{X}_1$=mean of Sesame Farmers; $\bar{X}_2$=mean of Agricultural Extension Agents; Std_1= standard deviation of Sesame Farmers; Std_2=standard deviation of Agricultural Extension Agents; N= number of respondents, $\bar{X}$ = mean of respondents, **Std** = standard deviation of respondents, $\bar{X}_g$ = grand mean of respondents, $\mathbf{Std_g}$ = grand Standard deviation of respondents

Result presented in Table 5 revealed that all the 7 skills items had grand mean values ranging from 2.88 to 3.55, indicating that their mean values were above the cut-off point of 2.50. This showed that all the 7 entrepreneurial skills were required by farmers in management of sesame farm in Benue state. However, the study indicated that the respondents showed that the entrepreneurial skills in management of sesame farm mostly required by farmers was to apply farmyard manure 2-3 weeks after planting to supply necessary nutrients as well as improve the soil structure. The Table also showed that the grand standard deviation of the items ranged from .67 to .77, indicating that there was less disparity in the opinion of the respondents on the entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in management of sesame farm in Benue State.

The findings revealed that, seven entrepreneurial skills are required by farmers in management of sesame farm in Benue State. These entrepreneurial skills include: check to ensure that seeds are in good condition before planting; spray appropriate herbicides for weed control; remove weeds regularly to avoid competition for nutrients, especially for nitrogen and for good aeration; apply farmyard manure 2-3 weeks after planting to supply necessary nutrients as well as improve the soil structure; observe leaves, buds, flowers, shoots, fruits or seeds carefully to detect pest and disease infestation especially at the beginning of the flowering; spray appropriate fungicides to attack disease infestation if symptoms are noticed; Inspect laborers (where employed) periodically to ensure that recommended practices were followed among others were important entrepreneurial skills that farmers required for production of sesame in the study area.

Hypothesis Three

There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the responses of Sesame Farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in management of sesame farm in Benue State.

Table 6

t-test Analysis of Sesame Farmers and Agricultural Extension Agents on Entrepreneurial Skills Required by Farmers in Management of Sesame Farm

Status	N	Mean	Std.	Std. Error Mean	Df	Sig.	Alpha Value	Remark
Sesame Farmers	477	3.2486	.74428	.01763	501	.30	.05	NS, NR
Agric Ext Agents	26	3.2100	.71143	.01950				

Source: Field Survey (2021)

Table 6 shows a p-value of .30 which is greater than the alpha value of .05. This indicates that there was no statistically significant difference in the mean rating of the responses of sesame farmers and agricultural extension agents on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in management of sesame farm in Benue state. Therefore, the hypothesis of no significant difference for the two groups of respondents (sesame farmers and agricultural extension agents) on entrepreneurial skills required by farmers in management of sesame farm in Benue State was not rejected.

The result of the present study agrees with the report of Raikwar and Srivastva (2013) who found that, proper and timely management of sesame enhanced grain yield due to use of adequate nutrients, line-sowing, and timely weed management. Raikwar and Srivastva further remarked that proper management of fertilizer resulted in high yielding of sesame. He also reported that effective weed management and control resulted in considerable yield increase. Nyiatagher and Ocholi (2015) emphasized access to credit and fertilizer use to sesame output. However, the study indicated that the respondents showed that the entrepreneurial skills in management of sesame farm mostly required by farmers was to apply farmyard manure 2-3 weeks after planting to supply necessary nutrients as well as improve the soil structure.

Conclusion

It was concluded based on the findings that agricultural sector is critical to the development of Nigeria's economy. Nigeria has great potentials for crop production including sesame. Sesame is important both to human and animals. However, the production of sesame in Nigeria seems bedeviled with a lot of problems including lack of entrepreneurial skills in planning, planting, and management of sesame farm. Sesame farmers and Agricultural extension agents in Benue State agreed with all the entrepreneurial skills in sesame production to be required by farmers. The sesame farmers require entrepreneurial skills in planning of sesame production, planting of sesame seed, and management of sesame farm.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. The identified sesame entrepreneurial skills in the study should be made available to all sesame farmers in Benue State;
2. The identified sesame entrepreneurial skills in this study should be incorporated into the program of the skill acquisition centers in the state so that it could be used for training and retraining of sesame farmers;
3. The identified skills in the study should be integrated into agricultural education curriculum so that undergraduate would acquire skills in sesame production.

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