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Membership of Co-Operative Societies and Adoption Behavior of Women Farmers: Implication for Rural Development

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ABSTRACT The study investigated the relationship between membership of Co-operative Societies by women farmers and their adoption behavior. It covered Oke-ogun area of Oyo State; which comprises eleven Local Government Areas. Three Local Government Areas were purposefully selected. A total of One hundred and fifty five respondents were randomly interviewed through structured interview schedule in proportion to the number of women farmers in each sampled farming communities in the selected Local Government Areas. Result obtained shows significant relationship between membership of Co-operative societies and adoption of improved cassava varieties by women farmers in the area of study. Also, positive and significant relationship were found between membership of cooperative and demographic-socio-economic characteristics such as number of children assisting in farm work ($r = 0.373$); sources of credit ($r = 0.675$). Membership of cooperative societies is very significant to favorable adoption behavior of women farmers towards agricultural innovations, hence should be encouraged as a strategy for improving the agricultural productivity and livelihoods of the women farmers, which is crucial to the achievement of sustainable rural development in Nigeria.

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