

**Gender Participation in Rural Training Programmes
in Kwara State of Nigeria**

Tope Sinkaiye

*Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI),
KM 18 Ilorin-Lokoja Highway, PMB 1343, Ilorin, Nigeria
E-mail : topsinkaiye@yahoo.com*

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ABSTRACT The study aimed at examining the extent of involvement of rural men and women in trainings organized by selected Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Kwara State; and how training has affected their participation in such programmes. The subjects studied consisted of 186 men and women randomly sampled and interviewed using a structured interview schedule from September to December, 2003. Data analysis involved the use of both descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings from the study revealed that less than 20 percent of rural men and women had access to the various training opportunities available at the rural level. Many women participated in trainings that improve their gender role performance. Respondents had access to and control over trainings organized by Agricultural Development Programmes, Family Economic Advancement Programme, Village Alive Women Association and Cooperative Societies. Access to and control over trainings organized by Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes (RPAPs) is a determinant of participation in the studied RPAP's, but access to training is more an important determinant than control of training. However, some of the RPAP's did not provide training opportunities for the beneficiaries.