

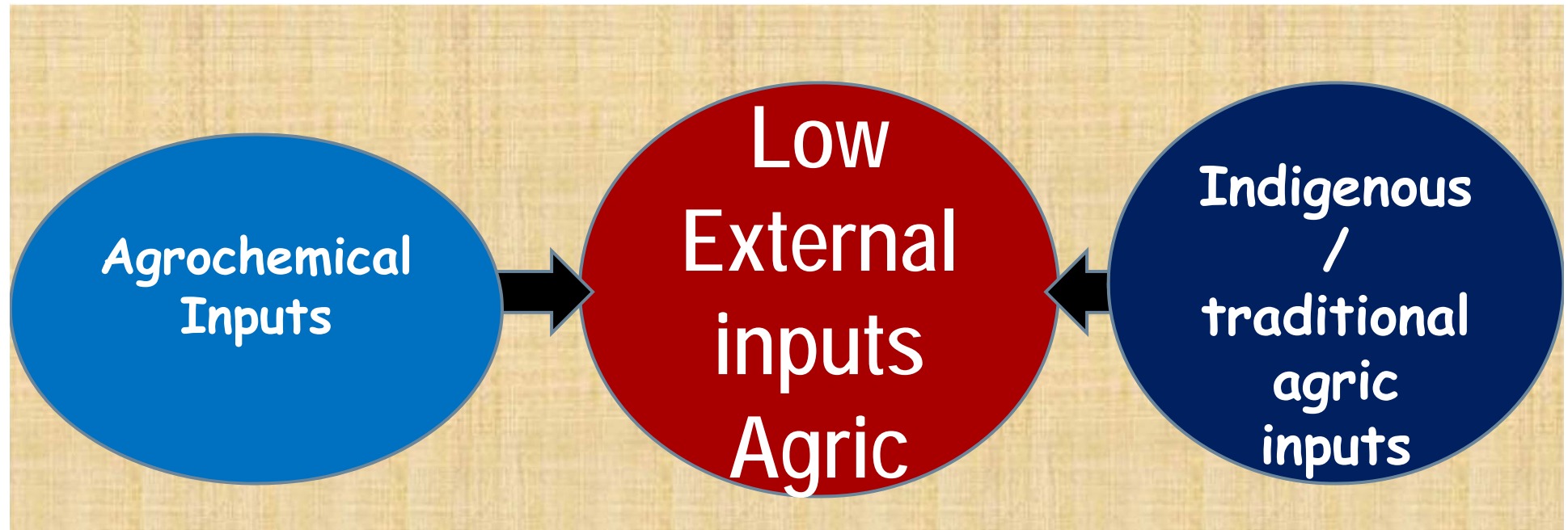
**ASSESSMENT OF TRADITIONAL
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR COMPLIANCE
WITH ORGANIC STANDARD IN NIGERIA**

BY

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Introduction



Thus the claim that African farmers practice organic agriculture by default (AdeOluwa 2010; Oruonye *et al.* 2010; IFOAM 2011; Meludu *et al.* 2012; Olaito 2014)

Introduction cont'd



Organic Agriculture

Organic agriculture combines traditional innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved (IFOAM, 2011).

Objectives of the study



- determine the personal characteristics of respondents in the study area
- identify the traditional practices in use for crop production in Nigeria
- determine the extent of compliance of the agricultural practices with organic principles and standard in Nigeria.


Methodology

Study Area

This study was carried out in Nigeria. Three agricultural zones were selected for this study; Southeast, Southwest, North central zones. Multistage sampling was used to select 177 respondents

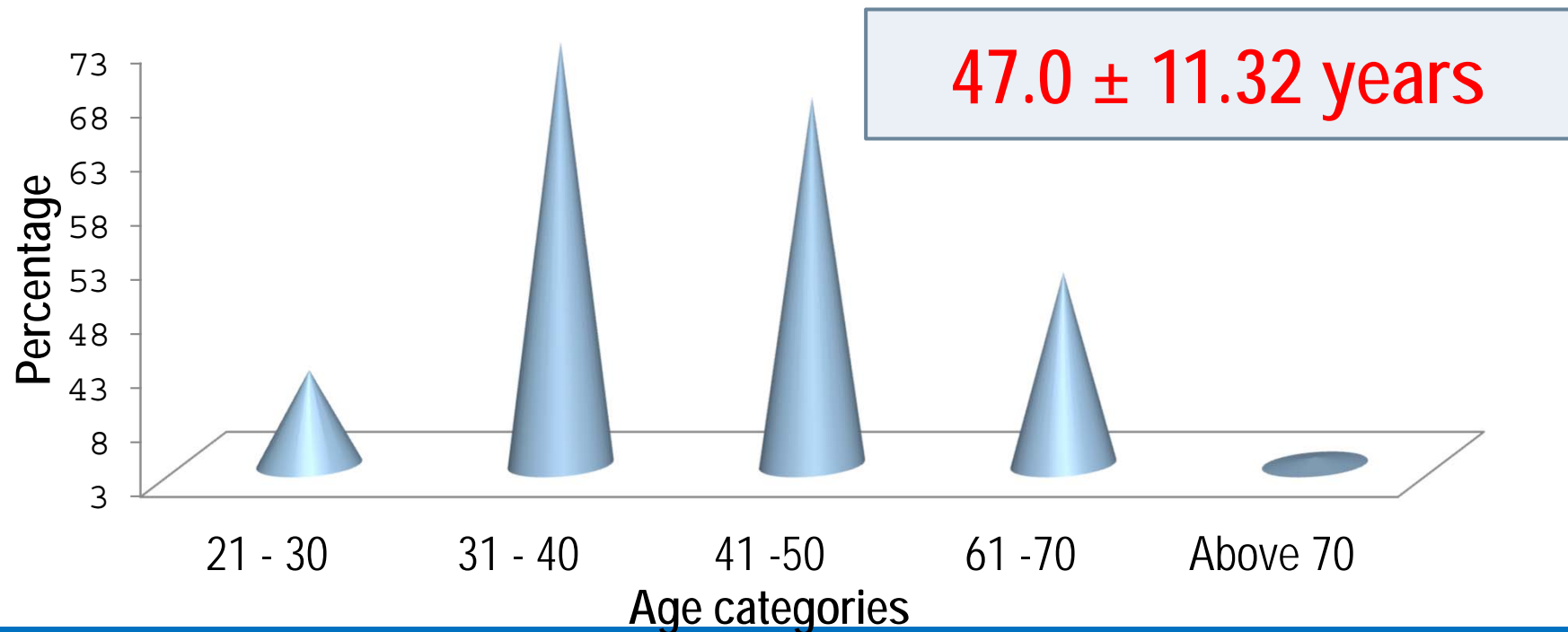
Study population

The population of this study consist of crop farmers in the study area



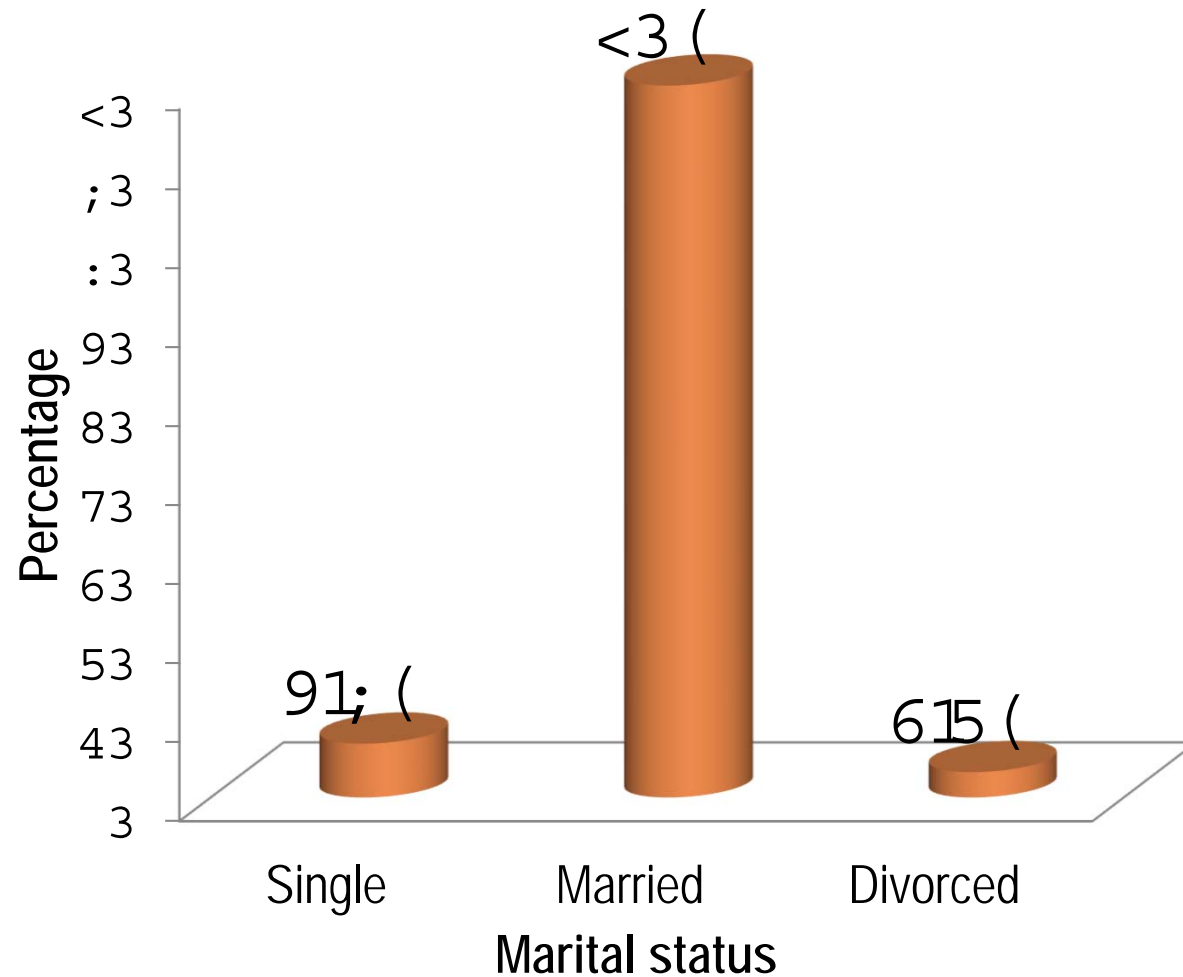
RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Age of respondents



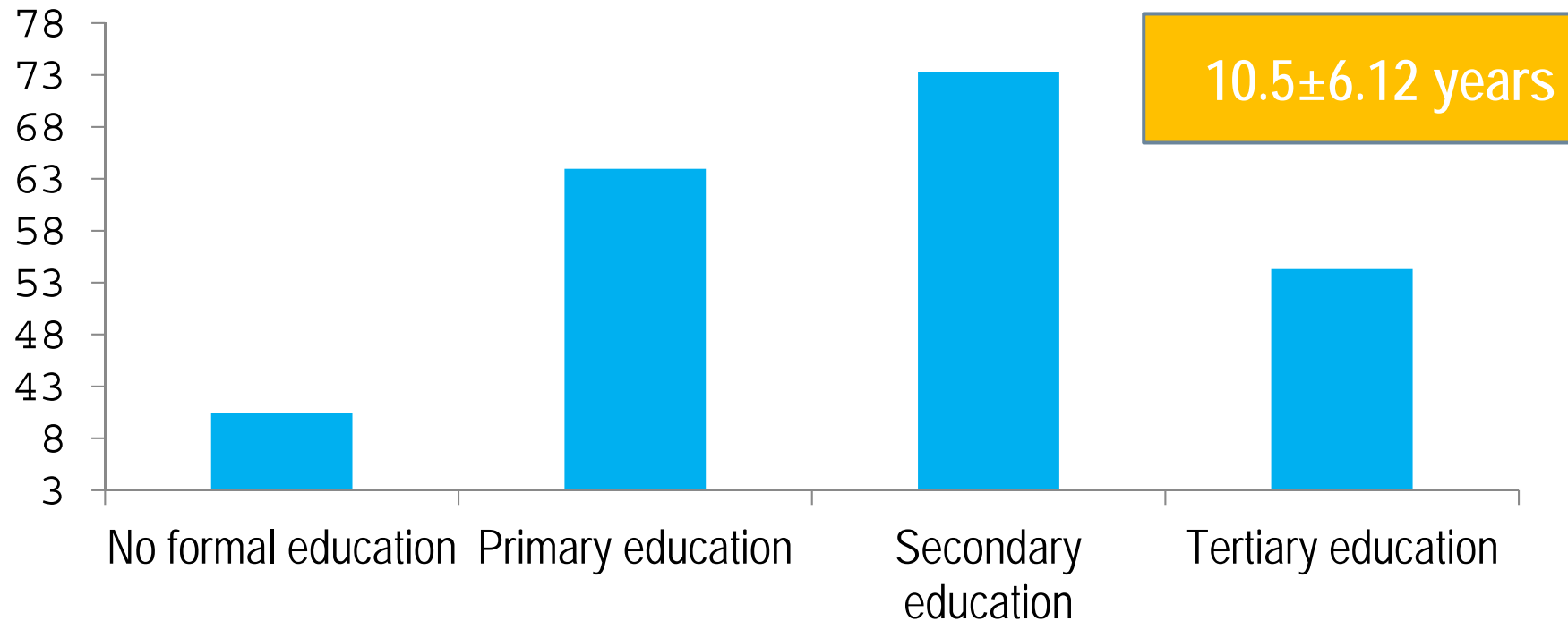
Adepoju *et al.* (2013) that put the average age of most rural farmers at 47 years

Marital Status of respondents (%)



studies have shown that married farmers tend to adopt innovation or new practices than the single due to more responsibilities (Agbamu 2006 and Ekong, 2010)

Level of Education (%)



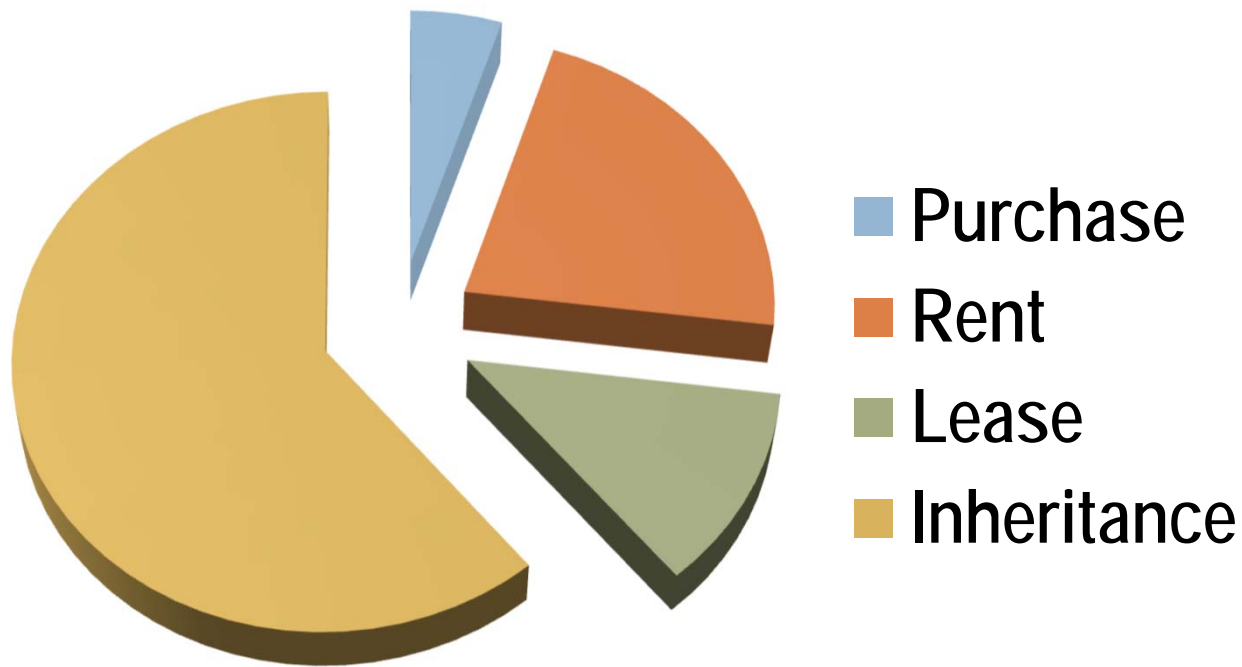
This shows that there is considerable literacy among farmers which is an important factor for use of new idea

Years of farming experience

Years of farming experience	Freq	%	
4-13	88	41.1	
14-23	108	49.1	P = 0.0001
24-33	91	41.9	VIG = 0.166
34-43	89	40.4	
44-53	67	30.5	
54-63	46	21.0	

Nkeme *et al.*, (2015) greater years of farming experience increases the possibility of adoption of new technology

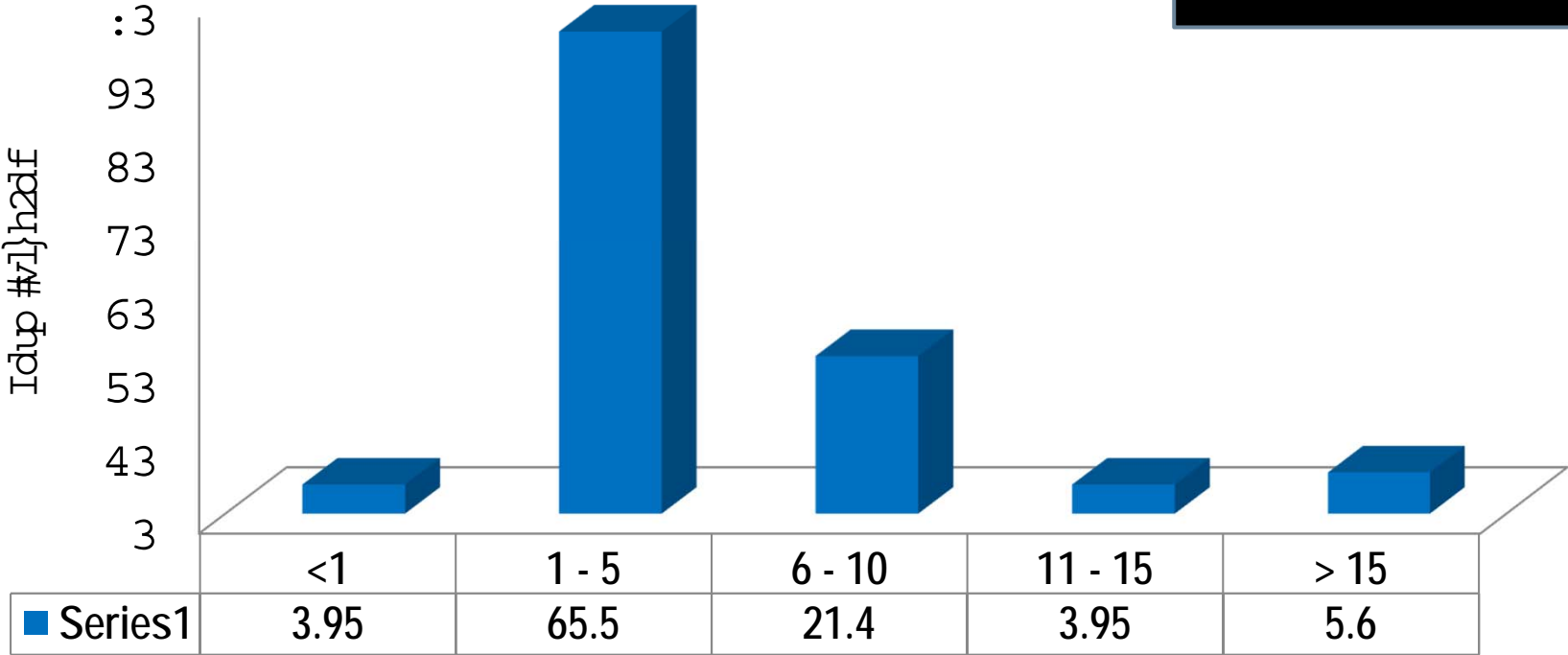
Land acquisition



This finding is in agreement with the finding of Fasina (2016) that most farmers farmed on inherited land

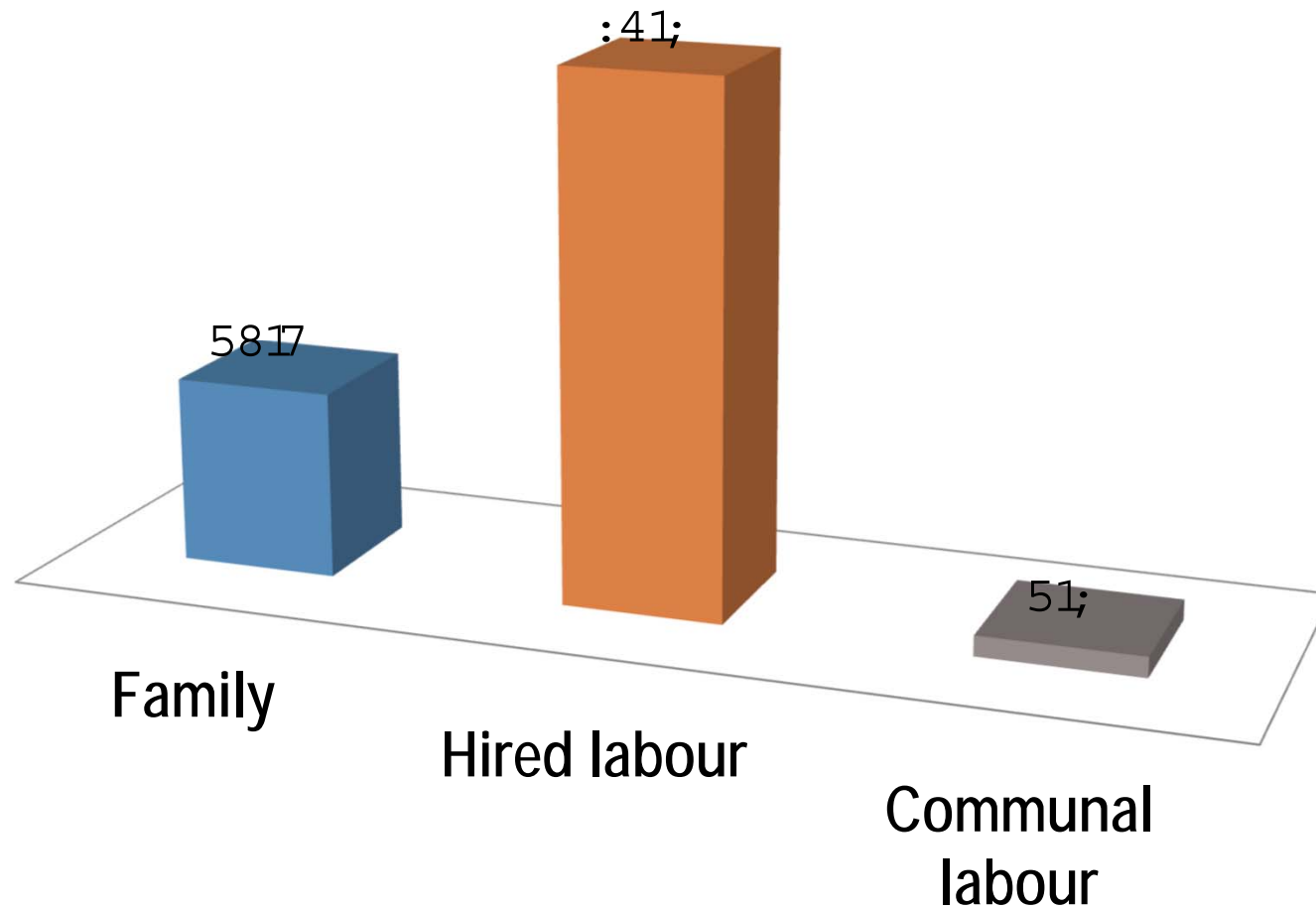
Farm size/ha

5.8 acres

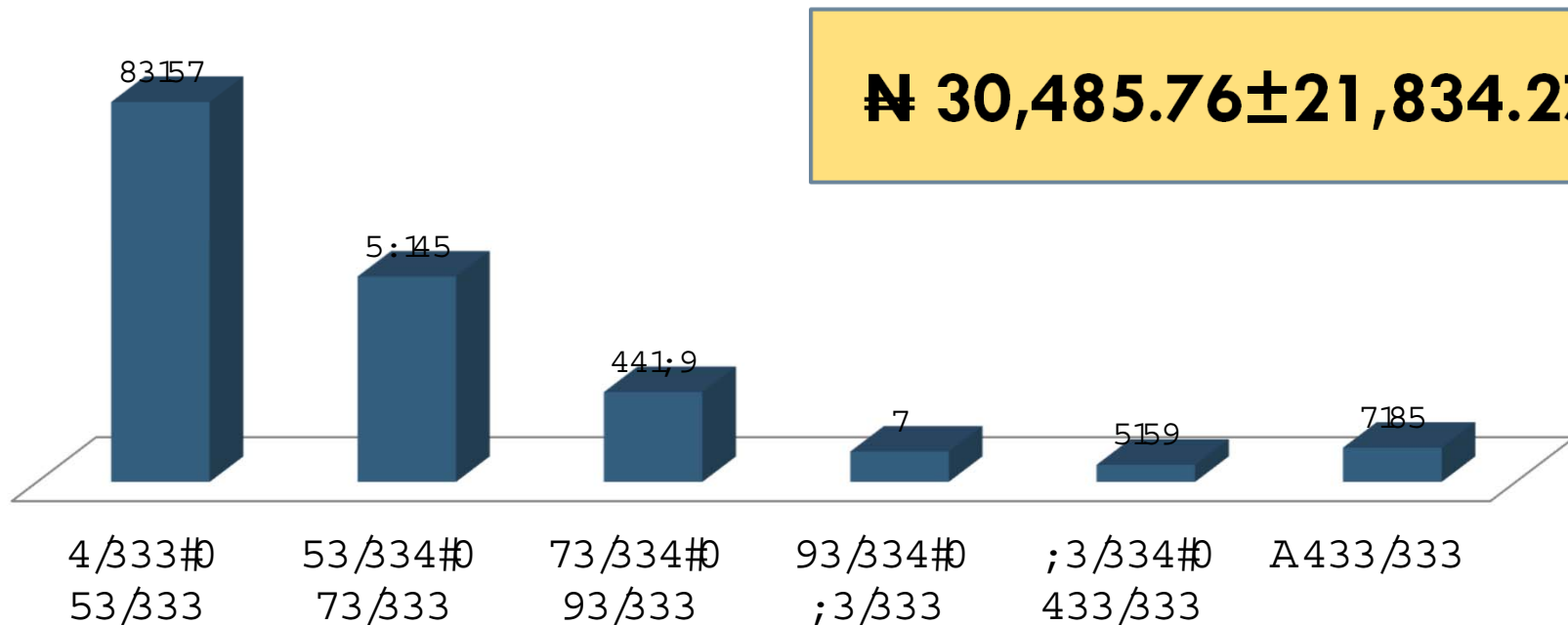


This implies that majority of the farmers are smallholders, which has a lot of influence on the type of agricultural practices that may likely adopt

Labour type

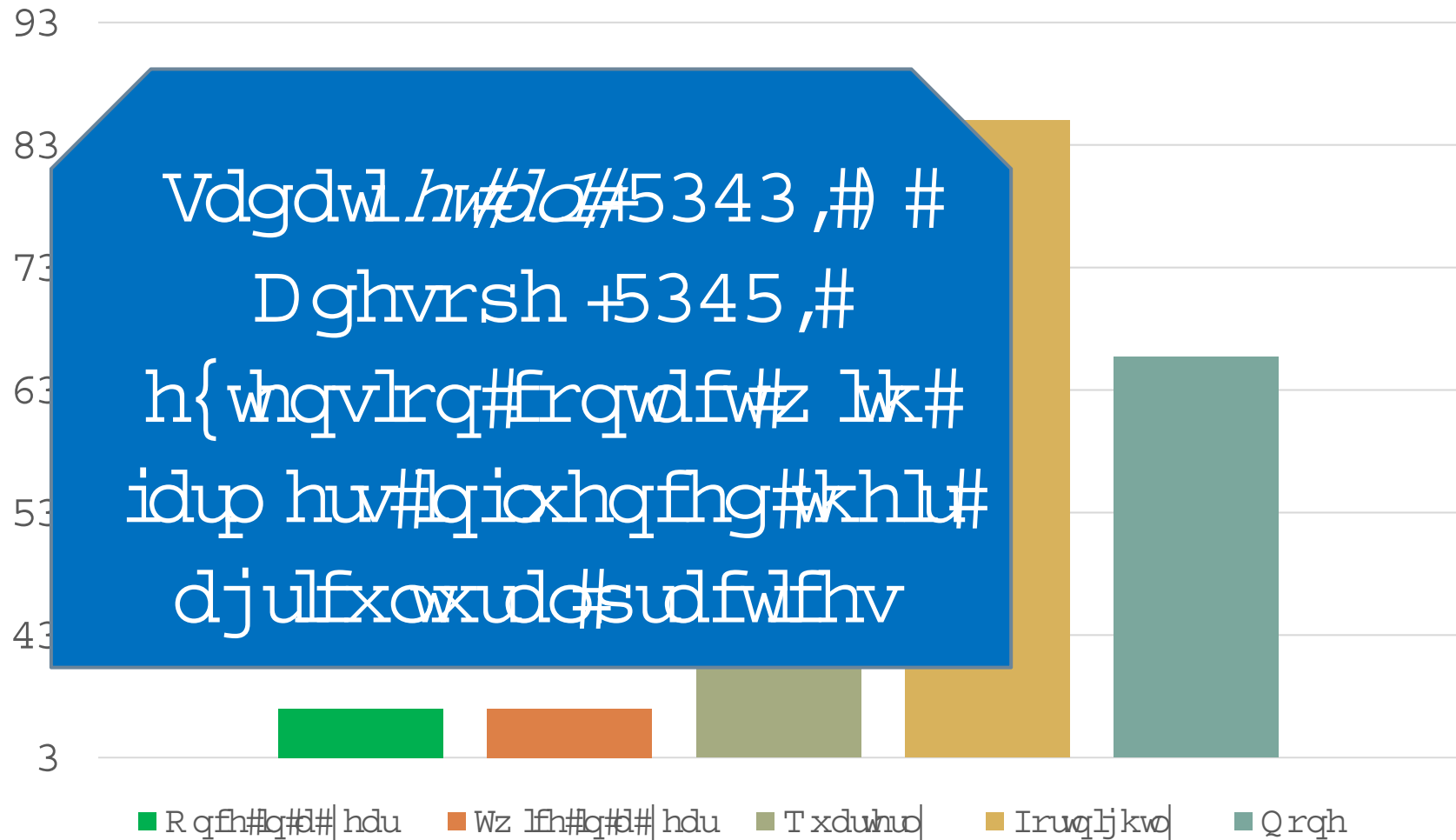


Income / month



This is in agreement with the findings of Ezeh (2013) that most farmers were low income earners

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Traditional practices in use

Pest management

Wood ash	1.00	1 st
Multiple cropping	0.99	2 nd
Trap setting	0.86	3 rd
Neem extract	0.58	4 th

Soil fertility

Cover crop
Wet poultry manure
Crop rotation
Use of wet mulching m

Eze *et al.* (2012) and Meludu *et al.* (2014) that majority of the farmers in African and Asia use some indigenous practices like neem extracts, wild tobacco, wood ash, and chilli to control and repel pest

Extent of compliance with organic standards

Variables	Complied %
General practices	
No use of mineral fertilizer	12.4
No use of herbicides to control weed	11.2
Use cure manure before application	37.3
No use battery powder as seed dresser	58.8
No use of fire for land clearing	21.5
Soil fertility management	
Use of crop rotation	52.5
Use crop rotation plan	39.5
No bad odour of compost before application	48.6
No addition of some synthetic fertilizer to compost	49.7
Pest management	
Use of neem extracts	18.6
No use of same knapsack sprayer for neem extract and synthetic pesticide	16.4
No addition of some chemical pesticides to neem extracts	44.1
No addition of kerosene to neem extracts	32.2

Level of compliance with organic agriculture

Level	Percentage
Crop farmers	
Low	51.4
High	48.6

Babalola (2012); Issa (2015) and Oyekale (2016), that Nigeria farmers still have low compliance to sustainable agricultural practices

Relationship between traditional practices and compliance with OA

Variable	r - value	p -value	Decision
Traditional practices vs. compliance	0.114	0.044	Sig.

some of the respondents are smallholder farmers; who had low access to synthetic inputs and with relatively low income

Conclusion

Majority of the farmers still use some practices similar to organic practices; this does not confer on traditional farming practices the status of organic farming, conscious recognition of and compliance with organic standards would be required to make efforts truly organic.

Recommendation



Therefore, for rapid adoption of organic practices among Nigerian farmers, the need to leverage on the few traditional practices that are similar to organic practices is imperative as well as engaging agricultural extension service for promotion OA and training on organic agriculture standards in Nigeria

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Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) initiative in Nigeria through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through Bio-Vision Africa Trust; through Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) and University of Ibadan (Pillar Implementing Partner).



**THANK
YOU**