

Effect Of Agricultural Cooperative Societies On Poverty Alleviation Among Rural Households In Ikere Local Government Area

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Abstract

The study examined the effect of agricultural cooperative societies on poverty alleviation among rural households in Ekiti State with a special reference to Ikere Local Government Area. Primary data sources were used in the study through self-administered questionnaires and were analyzed using linear regression model. Result from the study revealed that Agricultural Cooperative Societies have a positive and significant contribution to ending poverty and hunger among rural households in the Ikere Local Government Area. The study concluded that Agricultural cooperative societies have a positive and significant effect on poverty alleviation among rural households in Ekiti State. The study recommends that Agricultural Cooperative Societies should be more generous in credit facilities to their members. Also, while that is important, the Societies are encouraged to educate their fellow members on the judicious use of funds for profitable investment activities which can reduce poverty lines in their communities.

Keywords: *Agricultural Cooperative Societies; Poverty Alleviation; Small Scale Farmers; Rural Households; Credit Facilities.*

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I. Introduction

According to Nlebem and Raji (2019), the only business model that simultaneously addresses the economic, democratic, and social components of reducing poverty is agricultural cooperative societies. The International Cooperative Alliance defines a cooperative as "an independent group of citizens joined voluntarily to achieve their shared economic, social, and cultural needs and ambitions via a jointly owned and democratically managed firm," as stated by Mohammed and Lee (2014). Since cooperative members may participate in all aspects of the company, from harvest to sale, they are a great method for farmers to organize (Davis, 2008).

Agricultural cooperatives helped small-scale farmers to expand their operations, sell their products, and strengthen local economies (Woldu et al., 2013). According to Taiwo et al. (2015), cooperative groups "provide the best vehicle for reaching the majority of the small-scale farmers at the grassroots" in Nigeria. Furthermore, it was said that the agricultural community was serviced by the bulk of cooperative groups in Nigeria at the time. The other 4% of cooperatives are major consumers of food and other agricultural goods while not being involved in agriculture themselves.

In 2001, the International Labor Organization (ILO) recognized the importance of cooperatives in the advancement of the economy, society, and politics. Giving members the chance to earn more money and escape poverty is one of the organization's main economic responsibilities. Credit availability, material transportation, inventory management and product marketing are all benefited by these developments. Agricultural cooperative societies can improve farmers' living conditions, offer production, funeral, health, and life insurance, protect consumers from commodity adulteration, and engage in other charitable activities like caring for the children, elderly and the disabled and opening up employment opportunities for those from underprivileged backgrounds. (Boadu et al., 2023). Agricultural cooperatives act as political representatives for its members and the wider public. The continuation of this exceptional agricultural achievement depends on farmers banding together and cooperating more across fields. This opens the door to a number of benefits, including the realization of economies of scale necessary for participation in value chains, adoption of quality management practices, the inclusion of processing steps requiring little in the way of technological investment, the procurement of product certification through group certification schemes, and the promotion of goods (World Bank, 2008).

Mohammed and Lee (2014) contend that by joining agricultural cooperatives, farmers and other low-income individuals may be able to get the assistance they need and maintain rural economies. A reliable supply of food and other agricultural goods is provided by farmer cooperatives, giving rural populations year-round,

dependable choices for self-employment. Members of a newly formed cooperative organization must choose representatives to represent them at lower levels of management. This might aid farmers in remote areas in learning more about state and federal agricultural policies (Boadu et al., 2023).

Farmers' cooperatives are generally credited as being the main driver of rural modernisation and growth. According to Nnadozie et al. (2015) farmers in cooperative groups have access to production inputs like fertilizer, seed, chemicals, etc. and learn about cutting-edge techniques for maximizing the environment's natural resources. Farmers in the region could establish agricultural cooperative societies to work together on a variety of tasks, such as decision-making, identifying service gaps and filling them, educating farmers, obtaining funding, negotiating contracts, warehousing and processing goods, and marketing the finished goods (Nnadozie et al., 2015). The knowledge and skills of rural farmers are growing as they learn about contemporary agricultural methods.

It is perplexing why the poverty rate in the nation has remained so high although several studies have indicated that agricultural cooperatives may help bring about good change in the lives of individuals living in rural Nigeria. Nigeria is the sixth-largest oil producer in the world, and it has a sizable population, but Adekola (2017) notes that it also has the highest poverty rate in the world. The federal, state, and municipal governments of Nigeria have several organizations striving to reduce hunger and poverty. Okpata (2009) mentions a number of initiatives, including Better Life for Rural Women, Operation Feed the Nation, the Green Revolution, the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP), the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), Vision 2020, the You Win Program, and the Subsidy Reinvestment Initiative (Sur-P). Elem (2017) asserts that the issue seems to be becoming worse as these initiatives progress and that, despite their introduction, over 70% of people's living conditions have become worse.

The studies show high rates of unemployment, maternal and newborn mortality, illiteracy, a lack of access to sanitation and healthcare, and a large number of epidemic-related fatalities. Anyone who wants to work in agriculture has significant challenges due to a lack of land and resources. Despite the fact that many people go to bed each night hungry, the average person may expect to live for 46 years at most. According to recent statistics, Nigeria, not India, has the highest rate of poverty in the world (Abbas, 2016). Since the great majority of Nigerians believe that agricultural cooperative societies may be effective in the fight against hunger and poverty, this study looks at how these organizations operate and the functions that the Nigerian government plays in assisting them. The main concern is thus whether or not Agricultural Cooperative Societies have helped low-income and food-insecure rural communities in the Ikere-Ekiti Local Government Area.

II. Literature Review

Poverty Alleviation

The term "poverty alleviation" describes the coordinated initiatives taken by governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to solve the problems encountered by those who are poor. A "humanitarian response" is sometimes used to describe the coordinated efforts of local, national, and international organizations to assist people in need in a particular location at a certain moment. According to this view, the provision of essential social services like clinics, schools, clean water, and toilets is just as important in the fight against poverty as the supply of economic services such as loans, skill education, and agricultural supplies (Abbas, 2016).

Over the years, a number of poverty reduction projects have been created, implemented, and extended in an attempt to improve living conditions for Nigerians. Among the numerous programs that have been put into place in the past are NALDA (National Agricultural Land Development Authority), DFRRI (Directorate of Food, Road, and Rural Infrastructures), NDE (National Directorate of Employment), FSP (Family Support Programme), FEAP (Family Economic Advancement Programme), BLP (Better Life Programme), and PAP (Poverty Alleviation Programme) (Abbas, 2016).

However, compared to what the government and the public had hoped, the impact of these fantastic efforts and strategies to combat the problems of rising poverty in Nigeria seems to be modest. The failures of earlier administrations are directly responsible for the present one's incapacity to carry out anti-poverty initiatives, according to prominent academics working to alleviate poverty in the country (Oshewolo, 2010; Abbas, 2016). They contend that instead of helping the poor, the bulk of anti-poverty efforts have benefited politicians and the elites.

Cooperative Societies

Using a combination of their resources and effort, people have formed cooperatives to solve social and economic issues (Otto & Ukpere, 2011). The Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers was founded in England in 1844, and it is possible that this is when cooperation organizations as we know them today first began. Rochdale Pioneers originally intended to utilize member donations to fund a for-profit enterprise for the mutual benefit of the members (ICA, 2015). Thrift cooperatives, on the other hand, can trace their beginnings back to 1851, when Herman Schulze-Delitzsch established a credit association to assist struggling German peasant farmers (Taylor,

1974). The Gbedun Cooperative Produce Marketing Society Ltd., the country's first cooperative, was legally founded in 1935 under the Cooperative Societies Ordinance No. 6, an Indian Cooperative Societies Act of 1912-inspired law. (Yebisi, 2014).

Cooperatives perform a number of functions in a market economy to assist its members in meeting their own production and consumption demands. They aid in the state's welfare objectives of reducing poverty and increasing the economically autonomous of the poor in a market economy (Parthasarthy, 1991). However, with the aim of reducing inequality and exploitation, cooperatives are seen as viable interim measures leading to a socialist mode of government inside a socialist society (Khyostov, 1975 cited in Shylendra, 2011). In order to attain bigger development objectives, cooperatives are thus considered as a means to an end, particularly for the impoverished and most vulnerable groups in society. As a consequence, the effect cooperatives have on the social groups with the lowest incomes serves as an accurate indicator of their effectiveness. According to Oladejo (2011), via cooperatives, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) have the best finance alternative accessible across all economic sectors and programs. Realizing that people cannot satisfy their material needs alone leads to the creation of cooperative groupings (Kareem et al., 2012). For instance, they make it easier to start new businesses, accumulate wealth, provide essential social services and assistance, and divide productive units into distinct groupings (Aribisala, 2012). Cooperative groups should thus get a lot of support since they might be effective change agents. Cooperatives are an essential element of small business financing. Microenterprises, which make up the majority of the informal sector of the economy, must adopt new strategies and find unconventional sources of funding in order to keep up with the constantly shifting dynamics of financial development, particularly in relation to financial inclusion in developing countries.

Small-scale farmers and artisans, as well as other urban and rural communities with low incomes and high debt burdens, were the primary benefactors of credit unions and cooperative banks in the beginning. As a result, the historically high difficulty of obtaining finance for small business development has motivated micro-entrepreneurs or owners of small businesses to gain from working with others to create cooperative societies. If they banded together, they could launch and grow their businesses with a lot less personal commitment and work (Akpan, 2015). Cooperatives are important as an unrecognized source of capital for start-up firms, according to Oladejo (2013). Since cooperative societies are typically more readily accessible to micro- and small-entrepreneurs or borrowers than traditional banking institutions, they provide a substantial potential for government action to promote the establishment of new firms.

According to Onugu and Nwankwo (2013), cooperatives are groups of people who get together to address social and economic challenges and improve their level of life. They can be found in practically every community. Cooperatives come in a variety of forms that meet the diverse demands of its members and promote economic development. Examples include cooperatives for manufacturing, cooperatives for construction and housing, cooperatives for consumers, cooperatives for multiple purposes, and cooperative thrift and credit institutions.

Producer cooperatives were founded as a result of increased output of products and services. A society that is based on producer cooperatives is really characterized by a strong cooperative nexus. This indicates that all of the components of the cooperative complex have a solid, useful link with one another. In a society that is thriving, everyone is related to everyone other in intimate ways.

Common sources of financing for cooperative societies and organizations include the cooperative's members, its retained economic surpluses, and outside investors such as banks, suppliers, the government, and charitable groups (Oluyombo, 2010). To find out how much of the special intervention funds managed by the Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank really reach agricultural cooperative organizations, Agbo and Chidebelu undertook an empirical investigation in 2010. It was shown that the operating requirements of the bank, such as the minimal credit need, the permitted types of agriculture, the maximum loan amounts, and whether insurance is required for the loan, affect access to the intervention fund. Owners of small businesses may gain by joining a cooperative society since, according to prior research by Aribaba (2012), cooperative loans have a beneficial effect on the success of these businesses.

III. Theoretical Review

The Collective Active Theory

Marshall introduced the concept of communal active theory in (1998). According to the theory, communities prosper when its members are dedicated to cooperating to accomplish shared objectives and restrained by shared ideals. This school of thought contends that society may be organized and ruled by its members via the adoption of accepted rules and regulations and the consent of like-minded individuals. The idea of collective action may be used to describe the phenomena as well as groups, organizations, agencies, or even community action. According to Marshall, collective action is the deliberate effort of a group of people (either directly or via an organization) to achieve a common goal, in this case, the reduction of a financial burden that the group as a whole is bearing. He was alluding to the provision of rural or local public goods or services, which,

in his opinion, helped reduce negative externalities by directly responding to people's preferences and needs; this, too, was an example of a group acting freely to serve its own interests. It might improve the quality of life for vulnerable populations including the elderly and which would benefit society as a whole and reduce poverty.

The Dependency Theory

This idea is based on the writings of Marx (1970) as it was presented by Frank (1980). It was developed to counter modernization theorists who claim that adopting the political and social institutions of more developed, capitalist nations is the only way for emerging nations to experience long-lasting social and economic growth. Dependency theorists, on the other hand, contend that the debate of why many developing nations are still underdeveloped and technologically behind has been greatly aided by the participation of Western structures and institutions. According to this viewpoint, foreign influences play an equal role in fostering growth and development as do domestic institutions. Because their primary goals are profit maximization, mass exploitation, and the transfer of foreign money, foreign institutions have failed to enhance the economy or the social and economic life of the people. Indigenous populations in emerging nations that collaborate to advance their civilization get the greatest tangible benefits. Dependency theorists put a premium on cooperative organizations since they were first developed locally, which may be vital in ensuring growth in developing nations. This ideology's main component is its rejection of the idea that foreign institutions and structures may serve as a model for development in underdeveloped nations, which entails breaking ties with the West and its development paradigm.

Empirical Review

Boadu et al. (2023) examined the effect of cocoa cooperatives on revenue of cocoa farmers in Ghana. The study used a random sampling technique through structured questionnaires to obtain primary data from different households. The data was analyzed with aid of descriptive statistics, multiple linear regression model and Kendall's coefficient of concordance. Findings showed that while the price of cocoa remain constant, there is increase in the income level of cooperative members. Credit access and extension service have significant effect on revenue of cooperative members. The therefore concluded that cooperatives membership play crucial role in revenue generation of cocoa farmers in Ghana.

The impact of cooperative societies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria was examined by Mboho et al. (2024). Specifically, the study examined the effect of job creation, capital availability for business and poverty alleviation. The sustainable development theory was adopted. Findings revealed that cooperative societies have positive and significant effect on the sustainable socio-economic development of rural communities through the provision of funds and employment generation. Ige and Adeyemo (2019) looked at the poverty rates among cocoa farmers in southern Nigeria. The Tobit regression model, p-alpha poverty indicators, and descriptive statistics were used to examine the data. The average monthly household expenditure for cooperators was \$9298.12 (\$47.19), whereas the average monthly expenditure for non-cooperators was \$5333.03 (\$27.1). In comparison to non-cooperators, cooperative members had a poverty rate of 25%, a poverty depth index of 5.32 percentage points, and a severity index of 1.59 percentage points, whereas non-cooperators had a rate of 40%, 14.68 percentage points, and 6.41%. According to Tobit regression analysis, poverty levels are positively correlated with household size, farm size, and years of agricultural experience, while they are negatively correlated with cooperative membership, credit, and employment.

Fasakin and Popoola (2019) investigated how farmers' income and well-being in rural Osun State, Nigeria, were affected by their membership in agricultural co-operative groups. Descriptive statistics and the Probit Regression Model were utilized for analysis after the data was gathered using a multistage random sampling procedure. The average age of farmers was 37, and 67.57 percent of them were married. There were 37.8 percent female and 62.1 percent male farmers. Five and a half percent of all residences included only one to five occupants, and almost half (45.95%) of all residents had previously worked on a farm. A sizable minority (39.46%) of persons (who made up the vast majority) did not depend on agriculture as their main source of income. More than half (42%) earn between 60,000 and 80,000 Naira each month, and the clear majority (76.33%) are actively involved in co-operative groups. 35.14 percent of all causes causing poor welfare and poverty levels may be attributed to poor credit availability. The results of the Probit regression model demonstrated that factors such as age, sex, years of schooling, monthly income, access to credit, and farm size have a substantial impact on membership in cooperative organizations in the research region. All of the age, sex, farm size, and loan availability factors were positive and statistically significant at the 1% level, while the income and education coefficients were unfavorable and did not become significant until the 10% level. For human consumption and financial advantage, farmers in the study region also raise livestock and companion animals. This group includes animals including goats, sheep, chickens, pigs, and catfish. Cooperative societies are advised to include adult education into their empowerment programs in order to increase the literacy rate among its members in rural

regions. Agricultural cooperative members would gain from greater access to short-term loans, credit, and agricultural inputs in addition to higher revenue and a stronger sense of community.

Nlebem and Raji (2019) looked at the productivity of farmers and rural redevelopment in the Etche Area Council of Rivers State. From the Etche Local Government Area, fifty farmers were chosen at random. Twenty (20) of them really participated in agricultural cooperatives. The four objectives of the research were taken into consideration while creating the data collection questionnaire. Using the test-retest approach, the instrument's reliability was assessed, and a coefficient of 0.65 was obtained as a result. While averages and standard deviations were used to examine the data from the study questions, the z-test was used to evaluate the hypotheses. It has been shown that agricultural cooperative societies increase farmers' income and productivity as well as the sales and marketing of agricultural goods, all of which contribute to the revitalization of rural regions. The most significant finding of the research was that encouraging farmers to organize agricultural cooperatives may increase their eligibility for subsidies.

Paos (2018) examined Kamanga go Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited, an agricultural cooperative that provides agricultural inputs to farmers in the Kaoma district of Zambia's Western Province. Both quantitative and qualitative analyses were performed on the data from 47 respondents who were chosen at random. The cooperative organization helped its members raise their quality of living and lessen their susceptibility to poverty by providing access to commercial services and agricultural supplies. According to the study, despite the difficulties cooperatives face in providing goods and services to their members in the fight against poverty, the government and non-governmental organizations should support the formation of new cooperatives for improved service delivery to members (such as poor roads, high costs of seeds and fertilizers, and a lack of credit facilities). Also, the implications of Canada's broad usage of cooperative farming techniques on the management of agricultural resources were the main subject of this research. When used with big, reasonably diversified agricultural companies, group farming, as investigated by Gertler (2011), may assist effective resource management. The study's results do, however, imply that agricultural cooperative members get access to a variety of tangible advantages. Benefits appear to be paid out inconsistently. Yang and Liu (2012) in their study, looked at how farmer economic organization and agricultural specialization affect the growth of rural income in China and found that cooperative members made more money from their crops than non-members in China.

Farmers' cooperatives' impact on rural development in Okrika LGA, Rivers State, Nigeria was examined by Nlerum and Ogu (2014). Each of the 105 farmers that participated in the survey was selected at random. The majority of respondents—90%—were farmers' cooperative members, with fishermen making up 61% of the total. 100% of the farmers surveyed said receiving financial assistance was the biggest perk of joining a farmers' cooperative, and 93.7% said that encouraging cooperation in addressing problems was the biggest contribution farmers' cooperatives make to rural development. At least 75% of respondents in each poll group said they had helped local businesses grow their leaders or recruited volunteers for rural initiatives. Two of the cooperative's projects that have had less success include supporting rural enterprises and providing agricultural extension services. In order to improve extension services and help rural-based enterprises, the research advises farmer's cooperatives to provide more funding in this area.

Tilahun et al. (2016) discovered that participants in cooperative frankincense enterprises had a favorable and statistically significant influence on rural income by using household survey data gathered in Ethiopia. The relationship between smallholders in Ethiopia, participation in cooperatives, and dairy output was examined by Chagwiza et al. (2016). A total of 2050 people were requested to complete a survey, and 1684 of them did so. When dairy producers joined agricultural cooperative organizations, their income rose, according to the findings of a linear regression analysis of the data. In addition, Adekola and Dokubo (2017) looked into cooperative organizations in the Nigerian state of Rivers to see whether their efforts to combat poverty among its members were having an impact on society as a whole. Three unresolved problems in the area were resolved by this research. In the study, 2,355 members of 21 registered cooperative societies were questioned about their interactions with the thrift and loan and thrift and credit services provided by their respective organizations. The twenty-one (21) thrift loan and credit cooperative groups included in the research recruited 1,103 individuals, or over half of their membership, using a stratified random sample approach. In the research region, cooperative organizations were shown to be successful in reducing poverty and enhancing members' financial circumstances. However, the success of cooperative poverty reduction initiatives has been hindered by problems such a lack of finance and corruption among cooperative group presidents in the State. Cooperative education is thus necessary for cooperators in order to maintain efforts to eliminate poverty through cooperation.

IV. Methodology

Research Design, Population and Sampling technique

Descriptive survey research design was employed in the discourse of this study. All the Agricultural Cooperative Societies in Ekiti State formed the study population. There are 15,673 registered Cooperative Societies in Ekiti as at 2020 with about 804,525 active members in all the local governments in Ekiti State.

However, Ikere council area has about 113 Cooperative Societies. Literature revealed that covering a large population maybe difficult and bring about spurious result which is likely untenable. Therefore, a random sampling technique was employed to select 120 active members from the 113 Cooperative Societies in Ikere Ekiti. Hence, these 120 respondents were the target sample size of this study.

Model Specification, Source of Data and Analytical Technique

In order to determine the effect of agricultural cooperative societies on poverty alleviation among rural households in Ekiti State, linear regression model is employed

$$PAL = f(ACS) \text{-----} 3.1$$

Where:

PAL = Poverty alleviation among rural households

ACS = Agricultural Cooperative Societies

The primary data for this study were sourced through structured questionnaire drawn in line with the objectives of the study.

T-test and linear regression were used to examine the effect of the variations of Agricultural cooperative on poverty eradication in Ikere Ekiti.

V. Results And Discussion

The research hypotheses were tested at 5% significant level through inferential statistics and regression analysis. Notably, the questionnaires were coded, analyzed and interpreted.

Table I: Regression analysis of the effect of Agricultural Cooperative Societies on Poverty Alleviation among Rural Dwellers in Ikere Ekiti.

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	2.186	.136		16.075	.000
	Agricultural Cooperative Societies	.359	.095	.375	3.793	.000

Source: SPSS 20, 2023

From the above Table, the following regression equation was drawn

$$PAL = 2.186 + 0.359_{ACS}$$

From the regression result, the PAL (poverty alleviation among rural dwellers) is 2.187 when Agricultural Cooperative Societies is held constant. Also, Agricultural Cooperative Societies exhibit a positive and significant effect on poverty alleviation among rural households in Ikere Ekiti. This implies that a unit increase in Agricultural cooperative societies activities will lead to 35.9% increases in poverty reduction among household in Ikere Ekiti. Hence, it can be concluded in accordance of this result that Agricultural Cooperative Societies has significantly contributed to end poverty and hunger among rural households in Ikere Local Council Area of Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Table II: Present the result of the Regression Analysis				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.675 ^a	.540	.431	.430

a. Predictors: (Constant), Agricultural Cooperative Societies

Source: SPSS 20, 2023

The result in Table II revealed a correlation value of 0.675, this shows a good linear relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. The $R^2 = 0.540$ ($P = 0.00 < 0.05$) which portrayed that 54% of the changes in Poverty reduction was accounted for by Agricultural Cooperative Societies. The adjusted R^2 showed the actual contribution of the Agricultural Cooperative Societies to the poverty reduction. Hence, the explanatory variables contributed about 43.1% variation to the dependent variable. The F value of 14.385 significant at .000 displays a good explanatory power of the independent variable. This is evidence that the model is of good fit.

Table III: Present the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2.655	1	2.655	14.385	.000 ^b
	Residual	16.245	88	.185		

	Total	18.900	89			
a. Dependent Variable: Poverty alleviation among rural household						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Agricultural Cooperative Societies						

Source: SPSS 20, 2023

The result of the ANOVA helps in detecting the weakness or strength of the model. The result in the Table III showed that the value of F-test is 14.385 with a significance value of 0.00 at 5% significant level. Since the p-value (0.00) is < 0.05, then, F-test is significant hence it can be concluded that the regression model is of good fit. Therefore, the study rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the alternate hypothesis which stated that Agricultural Cooperative Societies has significant effect on poverty alleviation among rural households in Ikere Local Council Area of Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Discussion

The study investigated the effect of agricultural cooperative societies on poverty alleviation among rural households in Ekiti state. It investigated whether the creation of agricultural cooperative societies would assist rural people of Ikere LGA, Ekiti State, Nigeria. It discovered that these cooperatives have actually helped reduce poverty and provide a reliable supply of food. According to the study's results, agricultural cooperative societies in Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State, have the potential to be a key factor in lowering poverty and food insecurity among rural communities. This study demonstrates the numerous ways in which agricultural cooperative societies help the economy, including by giving micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) access to alternative funding, giving members access to low-interest loan facilities, rewarding and motivating members, and offering deep discounts on food and other necessities. The results supported Pinto's (2009) claim that agricultural cooperative societies are particularly helpful in rural Nigeria.

VI. Conclusion And Recommendation

This study intends to investigate the role of agricultural cooperative societies in helping rural Nigerian households escape poverty by focusing on the town of Ikere-Ekiti in the state of Ekiti. By providing credit to their members who operate a wide range of micro, small, and medium-scale enterprises, especially in the agricultural produce sector, the conclusion from the broad question using the Likert Scale demonstrates that storage agricultural cooperative societies are the growth engine of the rural economy. Its impact may also be seen in the form of member-only discounts on a variety of products. According to the historical record, agricultural cooperative organizations made a significant and positive contribution to the alleviation of poverty in rural regions. The study's results support the recommendation that Agricultural Cooperative Societies expand the types of loans available to its members. While that's obviously important, Societies should also be coaching its members on how to put their savings to work in productive investment opportunities that may bring down poverty rates in their communities.

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