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Full Length Research Paper

Commercial horticultural practice in Nigeria: Its socio-spatial effects in Lagos city

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Street -by-street distribution of urban horticultural garden in Eti-Osa local government area of Lagos State, Nigeria was carried out with a view to understanding their socio-spatial effects on urban land use and development. The local government has two residential communities (Ikoyi and Victoria Island). A total number of 75 gardens were identified and the study purposively selected all of them for questionnaire administration. Sixty three (63) managers of the horticultural gardens were available for interview. It was observed that a greater percentage of the studied horticultural gardens are oriented towards monetary gains (79.4%) and are concentrated in Ikoyi (74.6%) than Victoria Island (25.4%). The gardens occupied about 0.25% of the total land area in Eti-Osa Local Government Area. The mean area used for the horticultural practice is 885.32 m. The minimum plot coverage of the area used for the practice is 100 m^2 while the maximum is 3,500 m^2. The gardens have inadequate set backs to roads, with their mean being 1. 45 m. This results in off street parking by motorists who were customers to these horticulturists, causing traffic congestion in the area. Twenty percent of the horticulturists get into the practice with the primary aim of improving the aesthetic value of the urban space. The study evidently showed that it becomes imperative for urban planners to educate these horticulturists to rate urban aesthetics above economic gain accrued from the practice of horticulture in the built environment.

Key words: Built environment, commercial horticulture, garden, green space, socio-spatial, urban planning.

INTRODUCTION

The world global warming and depletion of ozone layer are part of negative effects of man's destruction of green belts on earth surface. It should be noted that only18% of earth surface hosts agriculture, industrialization, road networks, housing and other socio-spatial activities. The rest is occupied by seas, mountains and ice (Encarta, 2005). There have been persistent campaigns for more green spaces in the built environment. Scholars' interests in green spaces in modern cities indicate that urban planners should not only perceive urban horticulture as a means to urban aesthetics but as one of the strategies to achieving green revolution in urban areas.

In Sub- Sahara region of Africa, little attention has been given to spatial distribution of green space in city planning. This is despite the fact that by 2025, about 71% of African populations would concentrate on less than 30% of the total continent's land areas where green space as at present is less than 3% of their urban land uses (Brockerhoff, 2000; UN-Habitat, 2003a).

In the history of Nigeria's cities, urban horticulture has not been formally recognized or promoted as a feasible means of improving urban green space, aesthetic or of increasing employment opportunities of urban agriculturalists (Adeniyi, 1975; Adejumo, 2003; Oduwaye, 2006). This is probably because town planning laws originated from the "work camp" or township pattern of colonial days where no provision was made for horticultural gardening in the urban areas (Tricaud, 1987; Nwafor, 1982 and Eboh, 1992).

In addition, most Nigeria's cities were organically formed and became expanded to meet the urbanisation challenges arising from population influx, city governance and economic development. This lack of master plans that established the creation and guide the expansion of

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these cities, the need for green space in Nigeria built environment is becoming very obvious. Many of her communities are becoming more urbanised with little or no attention to green space. Such cities include Onitsha, Enugu, Aba and Umuahia in the East; Port-Harcourt and Uyo in the Southeast; Kaduna, Maduguri, Kano and Jos in the North and Lagos, Ibadan, Abeokuta and Akure in the Southwest, to mention but few.

Lagos, the most populated city in Southwestern Nigeria is one of such urban environment where green space must be urgently attended to. The city with limited land, chocked with housing development, has many heavy industries and hosts the highest number of automobiles in the country (Ayeni, 1979; UN -Habitat, 2003b). In this city, a focus on horticulture that promotes aesthetic and provides green plants in urban area should be of more interest to urban environmentalists. Physical observations in the city show that most individuals who practice urban horticulture take it as vocation to cope with the hostile economy.

The social implications of this, first to the horticulturists and much more on urban land use planning and development in Lagos are not well documented in research. Of recent, efforts have been made by the state government to beautify the city and promote environmental sanitation. These have been piecemeal in approach. It is upon this identified problem (the need for green space) that this study is based. The study therefore examines the spatial distribution of commercial horticulture in the study area and the social implications of this on urban land use. This is with a view to using information observed to challenge urban planners to look beyond the traditional practices of mere setting out of buildings and communication routes (Keeble, 1969) but rather give desired attention to urban green space in urban land use planning and development. This is imperative in the present global warming era.

The concepts of urban horticulture and green space

The concepts of urban horticulture (UH)

Horticulture is the art of gardening or plant growing; in contrast to agronomy - the cultivation of field crops such as cereals and animal fodder, forestry - cultivation of trees and products related to them, or agriculture - the practice of farming. Urban horticulture (UH) can also be seen as intensive production of a range of vegetables; aromatic, medicinal, flowering and ornamental plants grown mainly in the city or at its close periphery where there is competition among land uses (Moustier, 1999).

The origin of horticulture lies in the transition of human communities from nomadic hunter-gatherers to sedentary or semi-sedentary horticultural communities, cultivating a variety of crops on a small scale around dwellings. (Von-Hagen, 1957; McGee and Kruse, 1986). A characteristic of horticultural communities is that useful trees are often to be found planted around the built environment or specially retained from the natural ecosystem. The significance of this in promoting healthy environment is found in the works of Ebenezer Howard (Ademola, 2002; Moss-Eccordt, 1973).

This practice of horticulture plays a role in the development of healthy communities in three distinct ways. First, it provides a physical condition with appealing outlook. Second, it promotes good health as carbon related gasses generated in cities are utilised during plants' photosynthesis while oxygen that is useful for man is released as their bye product. Third, plants generally enhance the economic and social values of the community (Ward, 1992; Adejumo, 2003). Many urban horticulturists contribute their quota to vegetable production. The sales of these vegetables and ornamental plants provide markets for both horticulturists and middlemen and women in the business.

The concept of urban green space

Nature has made provision for green space on the earth surface and has made man‘s existence to be directly or indirectly dependent on plants. This is termed 'environmental determism'. This means that the environment determines man's actions and existence on earth surface. Men's activities on the space to attain satis-faction have produced the concept of 'environmental possibilism' (Golledge, 1975). This is a situation where man believes that all things are possible to be achieved in the environment, with little or no consideration to aftermath effects of his activities in altering nature. This has led to deforestation, uncontrolled pollution and clearing of the earth surface for building and road construction among others.

The centrality of balanced eco-system between man and plant has forced man to reason on the need for 'environmental probabilism' (Goodchild, 1974; Egunjobi, 1989). Here, global warming and rapid depletion of ozone layer have posed great threat to life and man has subjected his activities to environmental tests. One of the results of such tests is the promotion of green space in the built environment. Historically, this could be traced to the era of industrial revolution in Europe when the birth of town planning brought relieve to the unhealthy industrial cities. During this era, development of urban green space is manifested through conservation of existing green belts in cites, tree planting, soft landscaping, urban agriculture, creation of green parks and gardens among others. Urban green provides an essential structural and functional contribution to cities so as to make them more attractive and liveable (German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, 2007). In modern times, public's demand for green space is becoming stronger. This has aesthetic, improved urban recreation

and access to clean air or serene environment. Besides, green space protects biodiversity and absorbs pollutants. Green space helps in keeping the quality of city life (Liu et al., 2008; Ze et al).

Considering the advantages of green space in cities, most developed nations have inculcated a good attitude toward green space in their citizens (Ward, 1992). In African nations, the general attitude in green space planning is, however, often expressed solely through spontaneous action and direct intervention to a pressing problem. Consideration is centred only on the short-term effects that are set against limited time horizons. Few of African cities where little attention has been given to urban green space include Abuja, part of Cairo, Cape-town among others (City of Cape Town, 2005; Abegunde, 2008; Cairo City Guide, 2008). Like many other third world nations, rapid urban development in Malaysia has caused lack of green spaces in urban settings (Liu et al., 2008). Consequently, this has contributed to the problems and issues related to urban pollution, heat island, erosion and flood (Omar et al., 2000). Putting green space planning into practice remains, therefore, a major challenge and urban green space development really needs to be firmly supported by national and regional governments of cites all over the globe. This is why there is the need for every urban community to set up its own green space strategy. (Huat, 1998).

A green space strategy sets out a community's vision for using its green space and the goal it wants to achieve, plus the resources, methods and time needed to meet these goals. A green space strategy is expected to form part of a suite of key local government documents. It should be comprehensive, council-wide document, which should directly contribute to delivering the council's corporate aims and objectives, which are set out in the community strategy (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, 2006). In another dimension, as there is the need for housing, industrial development, infrastructural provision, so must a community set its strategy towards achieving green space planning.

Where this fails, the public will seek for alternatives, just as slums develop where there is housing shortage. Such indiscriminate green space development will not only contradict planning laws, but also creates nuisance in the environment and until this is addressed, both the social and economic aspects of residents will be affected by lack for it.

The Garden city theory

Relevant to this study is the theory of garden city developed by Ebenezer Howard (1850 - 1928) (Moss-Eccordt 1973:10; Ward 1992:2). Howard's thoughts were first presented to the public as concepts guiding urban green space development. These are explained in his two famous books entitled "Tomorrow: A peaceful path to real reform", published in 1898 and "Garden cities of to-morrow", a slightly revised version of the former published in 1902 (Gallion, 1975; Melville, 1975).

According to him, town (city) and country (village) are to be integrated to each other so that green nature with fresh air in the latter will suppress the depressing, ugly, haphazard growth and unhealthy conditions in the former. In another dimension, green space or greenbelt and agricultural land will be major components in the garden city. By implication, the green space would be provided in the city master plan for people to enjoy leisure and fresh air. It will also separate the city and low order settlements, serving as a horizontal fence of farmland.

In the contrary, what exists within towns and between rural areas and cities today is that natural resources including forests and water bodies are cleared or reclaimed respectively to create space for buildings and road system. That is why many millennium cities and towns still lack enough open spaces for leisure. However, the requirement of the greenbelt or agricultural land for the Garden City in Howard's view was 5,000 acres for every 6,000 acres (Ward, 1992). In his view, urban people need space and healthy environment to rest and spend leisure time after working for long hours.

To ensure a safe, comfortable and friendly environment for people, the concept of Garden city has since been applied to promote urban green space. It was used to design the first group of new towns built in Britain after the Second World War. It was also applied in Singapore, beginning in 1968. The government of Malaysia also applied the Garden City theory to Putrajaya by using about 70% of the land for green space development (Putrajaya Holding, 1999). The theory emphasizes the allocation and functions of green space in urban. This has made it relevant in city planning till date.

The study area

Lagos is the chosen city for this study. The city with its large population has limited land with less than 3% of it devoted to green space. The general structure of land use distribution in the metropolis shows that residential areas occupy the single largest proportion - 9,669 ha (52.1%), commercial - 1,021 ha (5.5%) and industrial - 1,448 ha (7.8%). Institutional and special uses constituted 2,784 ha (14%), transportation - 3,340 ha (18%) and open spaces has just 520 ha (2.8%) (Oduwaye, 2006). The 2.8% for open space include all urban land for recreation (parks and garden, urban agricultural land, commercial and individual horticultural gardens and incidental open spaces). Planning standard for settlement of the kind of Lagos specifies a devotion of about 7.5% of its land use for recreation and open spaces.

Lagos consists of 20 local government areas. Among these, two of them host communities that historically form the centre of Lagos city. They are Lagos Island and Eti-Osa local government areas. Other local governments consist of communities that latter sprang up after colonisation. They are counted as periphery of Lagos city. Between the two local governments that form the historical centre of Lagos city, Ikoyi and Victoria Island are the most planned communities in the area. As could be seen in Figure 1, these two communities are in Eti-Osa local government council.

The choice of such Ikoyi and Victoria Island provides opportunity to assess urban horticulture in a planned residential zone of the

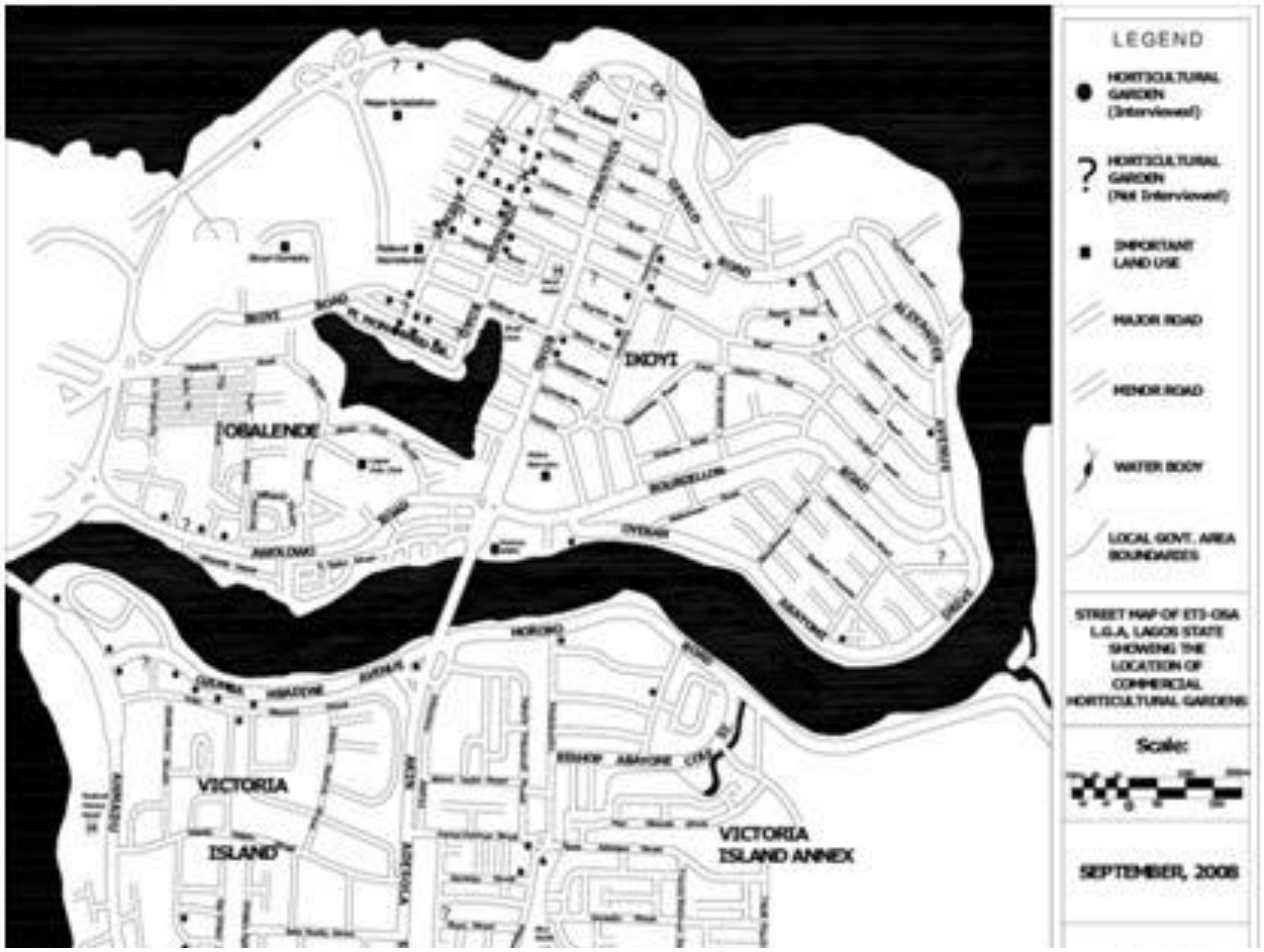

Figure 1. Street map of Eti-Osa local government area, Lagos showing the location of commercial horticultural gardens.

central area of Lagos city. Since the area is planned for low-density residential use with urban aesthetics in view, the quality of urban green space in the place may not be more than what operates in other areas that are planned for medium and high densities, or organically developed districts in Lagos city.

METHOD OF STUDY

Data for this study were derived from primary source. Before questionnaire administration, a pilot study was conducted to establish the total number of commercial horticultural gardens and specific spots of their locations in the study area. During this process, average area of land occupied by each of them and their setbacks to abutting roads were determined. Figure 1 shows two communities (Ikoyi and Victoria Island) that form Eti-Osa local government area where the study is based. As reflected in the Figure, seventy-five (75) commercial horticultural gardens were identified in the area. Fifty seven (57) were located in Ikoyi while 18 were in Victoria Island. These were all visited during questionnaire administration, of which only 63 of them were available for questionnaire administration. In other words, 16 (25.4%) of the managers of the gardens visited in Ikoyi were available for interview.

The rest 47 (74.6%) were from Victoria Island.

These automatically became the sample size. Information requested from the horticulturists include their socio-economic background, plot sizes and setbacks, methods of land acquisitions and social inclination of the horticulturists to green space development. Data collected were analysed through the use of frequency table. Other statistical techniques used were chi-square and correlation.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Socio-economic Background of horticulturists in Eti-Osa local government, Lagos

The socio-economic characteristics of respondents focus-ed on were gender, marital status, educational level, household sizes and years of experience in the practice of horticulture. According to information presented in Table 1a, most

Table 1a. Socio-economic characteristics of urban horticulturists.

Variable	Number of horticultural gardens	Percentage
Gender		
Male	59	93.7
Female	04	06.3
Marital status		
Single	27	42.9
Married	26	41.3
Widowed	04	06.3
Divorced	06	09.5
Educational level		
Informal	09	14.3
Primary school	14	22.2
Secondary school	23	36.5
Tertiary institution	17	27.0
Household Size		
Below 5 members	24	38.1
5 -9 people	24	38.1
Above 10 people	15	23.8
Years of experience in horticulture		
Below 5 years	13	20.6
5 - 10 years	27	42.9
Above 10 years	23	36.5
Total	63	100

N = 63 in all cases in the Variables. Source: Authors' Field Survey Data, 2009.

Table 1b. Mean, median and standard deviation of the socio-economic characteristics of the urban horticulturists.

Variable	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Age	38.95 years	39 years	20 years	58 years
Income	N36920	N35,000	N10,000	N85,000
Distance between residence and work	7.87 km	8 km	1km	20 km

N = 63 in all cases Source: Authors' Field Survey Data, 2009.

(93.7%) of those engaged in horticulture in the study are males. Their females respondents accounts for 6.3%. The import of this is that the practice is dominated by males.

Single and married horticulturists are 42.9 and 41.3% respectively; widowed (6.3%) and divorced (9.5%) have negligible fraction of the total. Information on the educational level of horticulturists revealed that very few (14.3%) of them lack formal education; while a little over one quarter of them have been to tertiary institutions. Those with secondary and primary school certificate are 36.5 and 22.2% respectively. Horticulturists with less than five years of experience represent 20.6% of the sample. This implies that about three quarter of them have been practicing horticultural gardening for more than four years before the time of this study.

Most of the horticulturalists are below the age of 40 years. As reflected in Table 1b, their mean and median ages were 39years. The minimum and the maximum ages of these horticulturists are 20 and 58 years respectively. This is an indication that they are all in active ages. The minimum and maximum monthly income of these horticulturalists are 10,000 and 85,000 naira while their mean and median monthly income are N36,620, N35,000 respectively. This implies that these horticulturists earned above 7 Dollars per day as profit realized from the practice

Table 2a. Social and spatial effects of the location of horticultural gardens in Eti-Osa local government, Lagos.

Variables	Number of horticultural gardens	Percentage
Purpose of locating horticultural gardens in Eti-Osa local government		
Provision of money (for \monetary gain)	35	55.6
Provision of food	15	23.8
Aesthetic	13	20.6
Total	63	100
Observed traffic problems created by the horticultural gardens*		
Obstruction to visibility	33	52.38
Road side parking by customers	63	100
Narrow lane due to display of potted plants at road side	57	90.47
Lack of space for pedestrians between gardens and roads	56	89.0

* Multiple responses observed during field work.
Source: Authors' Field Survey Data, 2009.

Table 2b. Social and spatial effects of the locations of horticultural gardens in Eti-Osa local government, Lagos (mean and median).

Variable	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Setback to roads	0	1.45 m	0	12m
Area of land used for horticultural garden	885.32 m^2	750 m^2	100 m^2	3,500 m^2
Average number of customers (output products) recorded per week	35.4	35	15	60
Spatial distribution of customers (input products)	37.30 km	0.00 km	0.0 km	450 km
Spatial distribution of customers (output products)	2.73 km	2.0 km	1.0 km	15 km

N (total) is 63 in all cases. Source: Authors Field Survey Data, 2009.

(a Dollar = 140 Naira). As reflected in the Table, the mean and median distances from working place to residence of the horticulturists are 7.87 and 8 km respectively. The import of this is that most of them resided within a distance of less than 10 km radius to their garden centres.

Social and spatial effects of the location of urban horticultural gardens in Eti-Osa local government, Lagos

From Table 2a, it can be established that a little more three quarter (79.4%) of the horticulturists are into practice to raise money for their needs. Less than a quarter (20.6%) of them practice horticulture to provide aesthetics in the built environment. It is evident that these horticulturalists were inclined to the economic gain accrued from the practice. In other words, their contributions to urban aesthetics are very lower than what is expected in garden city development.

The observed traffic problems created by the locations of horticultural gardens in the area revealed that all their mobile customers that patronize these gardens park their vehicles by the road sides during shopping. Over 90% of these horticulturists acknowledged that road widths were reduced whenever they displayed their potted plants by the road sides. More than half (52.38%) of the respondents observed that their gardens obstructed visibility for road users. As evident in Table 2b, these horticulturists acknowledged that they received customers every week. The average number of customers received per week is 53.

Investigation on the average distance traveled by customers to these horticultural garden centres revealed that they covered about 2.73 km. This is an indication that most of these customers hailed from distances less than 3km to where these gardens were situated. On the

Table 3. Set backs of horticultural gardens to roads in Lagos (in metres).

Setback (metres)	Number of horticultural gardens	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
0	37	58.7	58.7
1	3	4.8	63.5
2	11	17.5	81.0
3	3	4.8	85.7
4	3	4.8	90.5
5	1	1.6	92.1
6	2	3.2	95.2
7	1	1.6	96.8
10	1	1.6	98.4
12	1	1.6	100.0
Total	63	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field Survey Data, 2009.

Table 4. Methods of acquiring land for commercial horticultural practice in Lagos.

Method of acquiring location	Number of horticultural gardens	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Rent	22	34.9	34.9
Leased from government	13	20.6	55.6
Purchased from individuals	9	14.3	69.8
Illegal possession without permission	16	25.4	95.2
Gift from individuals	3	4.8	100.0
Total	63	100.0	

Source: Authors' Field survey Data, 2009.

contrary, the average distance from where the input products in the practice were obtained from is 37.3 km.

The plots of land on which the practice are carried out have a mean of 885.32 m^2 (Table 2b). The minimum plot size is 100 m^2 and the maximum is 3,500 m^2. Information obtained from field survey showed that the total land area used by all the horticultural gardens in the study area is 55,773 m^2 or 5 ha. This represents about 0.25% of the entire land area in Eti-Osa local government (43,015,639 m^2) . This is less than what Oduwaye (2006) identified as the proportion of land (1.1%) utilised in Lagos city as open spaces. This is an indication that the area used for urban horticulture in the study area was not just less than what obtained in Lagos State but far less than 70 - 80% of urban space specified in the garden city theory of Ebenezer Howard (Ward, 1992).

Another important aspect of the horticultural practice examined is the setbacks to roads. The mean setback to the roads by these horticultural gardens is 1.45 m. The minimum setback is 0.00 m while the maximum is 12 m. From these findings, there are indications that setbacks of these horticultural gardens to road are grossly inadequate. Where these occur, urban horticultural practice in the study area is likely to obstruct visibility to motorists and thorough fare to pedestrians. Off street parking recorded above are evidence to these. The practice would be generating negative physical planning effects in the study area.

As shown in Table 3, pieces of land used for urban horticulture in Eti-Osa local government are not designed for such. Rather, the horticulturists use available setbacks in the study area for gardening. As can be seen in Table 4a, only 20.6% of the commercial horticulturists secured their spaces from government. Other sources of securing spaces include rent (34.9%), purchase (14.3%) and gifts (4.89%) from individuals. About 26% of the managers of these gardens indicated that they possessed their spaces without the consent of any development control agency.

Bivariate analysis of the effects of horticulturists' education on urban horticulture in Eti-Osa local government

The correlation coefficient measuring linear association between variables in Table 4b shows that there existed very weak but positive correlation among pairs of variables tested. Specifically, the correlation between level of education of horticulturists and area of land used

Table 4. Correlation between education of urban horticulturists and the area of land used for commercial horticulture and setbacks to roads in Lagos.

	Horticulturists educational level	Area of land used for commercial horticulture	Setback to road
Horticulturist educational level	1.0		
Area of land used for commercial horticulture	0.041	1.0	
Setback to road	0.0115	0.174	1.0

Source: Authors' Field Survey Data, 2009.

Table 5. Contribution of commercial horticulture to green space in Lagos.

Variables	A	B	C	D
A	1.0			
B	0.186	1.0		
C	0.011	0.270	1.0	
D	0.083	0.513	0.204	1.0

Source: Authors' Field Survey Data, 2009.
A = Importance of horticulture to the natural environment
B = Horticulturists that have planted trees for public use
C = Horticulturists that have planted shrubs and hedges for public use D = Horticulturists that have planted flowering plants for public use.

for commercial horticultural practice is 0.041, while the association between the former variable and set back to road is 0.115. Similarly, the tested result between area of land used for horticulture and the setbacks to abutting roads is 0.174. All these coefficients are very weak to explain that there existed correlations between educational levels of the horticulturalists and reasons for the use of limited spaces or inadequate set backs in urban horticultural practice in the study area.

The Spearman rank correlation coefficient of the contribution of horticulture to green space is revealed in Table 5. According to the Table, the importance of urban horticulture as revealed in the planting of trees, shrubs and hedges and flowering plants are 0.186, 0.011 and 0.083 respectively. This indicates that the correlation coefficients among each pair of tested variables are very weak, though positive.

In the Table, there exists very significant and positive coefficient of 0.513 between horticulturists who ever planted flowering plants and those who have planted trees. This implies that most commercial horticulturists who have attempted to plant flowering plants in public places have likely also planted trees for public use in the study area. The correlation between those who ever planted shrubs and hedges for at public centres in the area is 0.270. This is not a strong correlation. Implicit to this is that horticultural practice in Eti-Osa Local Government make little or no significant attempts in planting trees, shrubs and hedges and flowering plants towards urban green space development. Where such contribution to green space occurs, the likelihood is high that those involved in the planting of trees are the same set of horticulturists who engages in the planting of flowering plants.

The chi- square test was conducted to know if there is significant difference in the educational levels of horticulturalists who planted trees in public places in the study area. This gives a figure of 4.480 with P value being 0.214. It indicates that there is no statistical significant difference in the level of education of respondents in relation to tree planting in urban space for public purpose.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The study has assessed the spatial and social effects of commercial horticulture in Lagos City, citing Eti-Osa Local Government Area as case study. It used primary data purposively collected from 63 managers of these gardens. The study observed that setbacks to roads from these gardens are grossly inadequate while most of the spaces used for the practice are not formally acquired from the appropriate authority. It was evident that only a negligible percentage of these horticulturists are concerned about the aesthetics of the urban space. This is an indication that the horticulturists need to be oriented on the priority of green space development in the built environment.

The horticulturists also acknowledged that their activi-ties cause traffic problems like obstruction to visibility, roadside parking, lack of passage way to pedestrians and reduction of road width by their potted plants. The physical planning implications of these are that their activities obstruct visibilities to road users and disturbed thorough fare for pedestrians. This could cause vehicular conflicts and road accidents. There are no indications that the law enforcement agencies in the area had enforced laws and order on activities that encroached on road setbacks and obstruct visibility to road users. This is hazardous to residents in the environment. There is the need for such agencies to wake up to their responsebilities.

Study showed that only one fifth of these horticulturists

aimed at providing aesthetics to the environment in the course of practicing horticultural gardening in the study area. The rest of them were either using their horticulture to make money or practice farming to feed their family. There is the need for the government to critically examine the socio economic implications of their informal activities and the contributions they can make to urban green space and aesthetics.

The study noted that about 0.25% of the total land area in Eti-Osa Local Government is used for urban horticulture. This is far less than the specification of garden city theory that proposed that green space in urban environment should be more than half of the built up areas. This implies that there is the need to incorporate more area for green space development in planning urban area in Lagos State and Nigeria as a whole. The study also revealed that more than one quarter of the urban horticulturists illegally acquired the plots of land they use without the consent of development control agency. The question arises whether this agency was having impact in the study area or not. There is the need to reappraise the activities of development control agency in the study area so that urban land can be used for their specific purposes.

The study posits that urban horticulturists should be oriented toward aiming at urban aesthetics and green space development, rather than focused on economic gain accrued from the practice. In addition to this, urban planners in Nigeria cities should incorporate more spaces towards green space development and from these provide areas of land where commercial horticulture can be practiced in future master plan design. This will contribute towards development goal for global green space as environmental degradation through deforestation, global warming and excessive use of land for building and road construction plagues the present world.

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