

## UTILIZING AFRICAN OIL PALM TREE IN RURAL TOURISM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

<sup>1</sup>Owodiong-Idemeko, Boiso Maria; <sup>2</sup>Dejo, Padetin Titilayo &  
<sup>3</sup>Kaka, Balikis Omolade

Lagos State University of Education, Oto/Ijanikin

<sup>1</sup>boisomariaowodiong@yahoo.com, <sup>2</sup>checktiti@yahoo.com, &  
kakabalikis3940@gmail.com

### Abstract

*The study investigates how the African oil palm tree can be utilized in rural tourism for sustainable development in Lagos state, Nigeria. 140 respondents from the department of Home Economics Education Lagos State University of Education, Oto/Ijanikin, were involved. Two hypotheses were formulated, a 34-item questionnaire was the main instrument used to collect data for the study, in which respondents were to answer yes or no. The study revealed, 135 (96.4) answered yes, African Oil Palm is an economic tree. 138 (98.6) answered yes, lots of items can be produced by rural communities to generate income for the tourism industry. 139 (99.3) answered yes, souvenirs, accommodation, cuisine and local alcohol can be gotten from the tree, prepared or supplied by locals. 124 (88.6) answered yes, this brand identity when sustained will result in sustainable rural development. 125 (89.3) answered yes, rural tourism will empower communities through technology. 98 (70) answered yes, technology is a link between social practices and interaction with locals using social media boosting local economies. In conclusion, African oil palm tree will promote rural tourism. It is recommended that catalogues to be produced showcasing crafts, cuisine from African Oil Palm Tree and their producers and placed at strategic entry points of tourists. Hotels and resorts to be furnished using products of the palm tree, there should be constant electricity and other infrastructure to boost rural tourism.*

**Keywords:** African oil palm, development, sustainable, rural tourism

### Introduction

The African Oil Palm, *Elaeis Guineensis* is native to West Africa, including Lagos state, and very important economically, a source of fund widely used in local and international industries. (Denis, Uhi and Moore 2024, Denis, Kirsten and Russell, 2021, Jose and Luis, 2018). The fruits are used in culinary, cosmetics and medicine, the sap is for wine and alcohol, the heart (palm cabbage) which is the stem is used for furniture, fronds for local tray, sieves and roofing, the palm kernel press cake and oil mill are used to make animal feed (bio fuels) as semi-wild food resource in traditional societies (Uhi and Moore, 2024, Denis, et al, 2021, Jose and Luis, 2018, Gabriel and Adedapo 2016, Donald, 2009). The palm oil obtained from

the fruit are used in making deodorants, lipstick, and to smoothen makeup, making candles, lubricating grease, processing tin plates, and coating iron plates (Britannica, 2025, Silvawell, 2024)the palm kernel oil from the seeds is used to manufacture such edible products as margarine, ice creams, chocolates confections, cookies, pizza, doughnuts, also to stop chocolates from melting and makes fried food crispier and bread as well. African palm oil is used as ornamentals in outdoor gardens. (Britannica, 2025, Walter, 2022). The tourism industry in Lagos State will need African Oil Palm for accommodation, cuisines and attractions (Sydney, 2025, Meiners and Hendricks 2023, Walter, 2022).

The statement of the problem is that traditional crafts, houses, huts, cuisine, wine, cosmetics and medicine are giving way to modernization. The craze for foreign goods even in hotels, resort center, airports, theatres, restaurants, wineries, café, night clubs in Lagos State, Nigeria is making rural artisans vulnerable to poverty, unemployment, lack of education, infrastructure, health services, equal development and access to technology, market that could improve their productivity and income, resulting in rural depopulation and degradation. Therefore, to reverse this trend, traditional crafts and modern ones can co-exist hence the pathway to rural sustainable development is through rural tourism using African Oil Palm. Apart from many things that can be produced with it, it is biodegradable.

### **Objective of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to investigate how the African Oil Palm Tree (*Elaeis Guineensis*) can be utilized in rural tourism for sustainable development in Lagos State, Nigeria. Therefore, the following objectives were formulated:

1. examine the possibilities of utilizing African Oil Palm Tree for rural tourism in Lagos State, Nigeria.
2. assess how the utilization of African Oil Palm Tree in rural tourism can result in sustainable rural development in Lagos State, Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

1. What are the possibilities of utilizing African Oil Palm Tree for rural tourism in Lagos State, Nigeria?
2. Can the utilization of African Oil Palm Tree in rural tourism result in sustainable rural development in Lagos State, Nigeria?

### **Hypotheses**

**H<sub>0</sub>1:** There is no significant possibility of utilizing African oil palm tree for rural tourism in Lagos State, Nigeria.

**H<sub>0</sub>2:** Rural tourism will not significantly result in sustainable rural development using African oil palm tree in Lagos State.

### **Literature Review**

Tourism is traveling for leisure, pleasure or business purposes and visiting various destinations such as cities, countries, natural attractions, historical sites, and cultural event to experience new cultures, activities and environment. Tourism can be domestic or traveling within the country and international or visiting foreign countries for sights seeing, (adventure tourism) eco- tourism, medical and business. Tourism contributes hugely to global economy generating jobs and income. It involves many businesses such as airline, sea travel, land travel, hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, tour operators and transportation agencies (Martine, 2024, Yusrini, Arzyana, Yaya and Eva, 2024, Ebiyefa , 2021, Hossein, 2020). Tourist tour for various reasons, one of the best ways to make new friends and build network is through touring which is a way of finding new friends in every country visited. Traveling to a destination where a different language is spoken give the opportunity of learning the new language and expanding one's horizon to new possibility and a whole new world view of life. It allows the traveler to explore and try out different delicacies and foods which is the best way of connecting with people's culture on a deeper level (Sydney, 2025, Conscious Wonder, 2024, Travelwaka, 2023, Anthony, 2023, Jessica, 2022, Foster, 2021). Also, it is an adventure to travel to places read in books. Traveling creates amazing memories, it is like an icing on the cake, a souvenir to take home and cherish. The traveler has a rare privilege to see the wonders of nature and experience the world in an awesome way, open ones mind to new ideas, business, startup, new opportunities and a new culture. It improves one's health and mental wellbeing by allowing one to reinvent herself. Exploring different places makes one a global citizen and helps increase creativity. Studies have shown that people that travel more are known

to be more creative and productive than people who do not go on vacation (Pritchard leisure, 2025, Sydney, 2025, Travelwaka, 2023, and Jessica, 2022).

Tourism has become the world's third largest export industry with its advantages of creating employment, bringing in foreign exchange to the rural communities and government revenue. (Barten, 2024, Rasool, Maqbool and Tarique, 2021). When tourists visit, they look for uniqueness, originality, good workmanship, aesthetic, color, design, function, use, cultural and historical integrity, genuineness or truth in advertising the local products. (Britannica, 2025, Yung-Lun, Jui-Te and Pena, 2023, Richards, Underwater, and Stam, 2020). The rural communities in Lagos state should take opportunities using African Palm Tree to generate income for themselves in rural tourism. (Sydney, 2025, Ebiyefa, 2021, Florin – Constantin and Corneliu, 2020). Raffia can be used by milliners, crafters and florists for a variety of projects and gifts incorporating embroidery, crochet, patchwork, altering dyed-raffia into squares for fashionable items and interior decoration, robes, brooms, brushes, as well as Hawaiian skirts. (hula skirts) which is a cultural dance costume can be made from raffia (Matthys, 2024, Smith, 2023, Suhasini 2018, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). The resin in its leaves makes it strong, pliable and strong. The large midribs of the leaves and leaf stalk is used to construct the frame work of houses and huts as poles, furniture, ladders and beds. They can be split to make screens for thatched huts, walls and fences, including the wood and stem for the construction of houses and huts. The outer splints for heavy mat screens, hut partitioning and ceilings. (Kaminskii, 2022, Suhasini, 2018, Gabriel and Adedapo 2016). The split raffia palm bamboo is used to make purlins (Yusrini, Arzyana, Yaya, and Eva, 2024, Walter, 2022, Tamaraukuro and Japo, 2016). The sap for dessert or drizzled over prepared food or the local gin (ogogoro). (Ekeocha, Ihemeje and Ubbaonu, 2022, Suzanna, Grischa, Ariane, Abdon, Susanne, Anders, Fogoh, Philippe,

Bonaventure and Thomas 2020, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). The larva (*Rynchophorus Phoenics*) is used as delicacies. (Britannica, 2025, Silvawell, 2024, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). The edible ripe fruits, oil from mesocarp are used for cooking and preparing local delicacies, cosmetics and medicine. (Britannica, 2025, Ekeocha et al, 2022).

Using African Palm tree in rural tourism will likely make tourists to return leaving with experience, meaningful and memorable stay and will likely recommend the tourist centers, resorts or hotels to others. (Barten 2024, Tamaraukara and Japo, 2016). These products can also be used in restaurants, shops, cafes, airports, museums, theatres, wineries and catalogues to tell the artisans story and products to tourists and also a link to businesses wanting to celebrate and sell local crafts. (Sydney, 2025, Neil, 2023, Richards, Underwater and Stam, 2020). Besides, products from African Palm trees are biodegradable and insulating. This brand identity when sustained will result in the maintenance of active local communities to avoid depopulation and degradation of rural areas which has suffered poverty, access to essential assets like basic infrastructure, health service, technologies, job opportunities and a host of other benefits. (Sydney, 2025, Barten, 2024, Walter, 2022)

The pathway to overcoming rural sustainable development is through innovation and entrepreneurship using palm trees products for rural tourism (Yusrini, Arzyana, Yaya, and Eva, 2024, Carolina, German and Eduyn, 2023, Ebiyefa, 2021). African oil palm has contributed to the generation of employment for rural inhabitants, from field workers and plantation managers to processing plank, staff and transporters contributing to house hold income and enhancing the overall vitality of the community. These has led to infrastructural development as a result of oil palm cultivation, roads, bridges and storage facilities are built to facilitates transportation of goods and improves accessibility to remotes areas. Moreover, investment in social infrastructure like schools, health care

facilities and community centers contribute to the overall wellbeing and development of the residents (Barten, 2024, Silvawell, 2024, Walter, 2022). It has also given rise to training programs offered by plantation companies or agricultural extension services by equipping farmers and workers with the knowledge and techniques related to palm oil cultivation, sustainable farming practices and Agric-business management, enhancing productivity and empowering individuals to pursue entrepreneurial ventures and diversify their sources of income (Carolina, German, Eduyn, 2023, Walter, 2022, Ebiyefa, 2021).

The rural communities participating in oil palm value chain opens new market opportunities for small holder farmers and cooperative societies because, they can sell their products to processing meals or traders thereby accessing formal market and increasing their bargaining power which encourages economic diversification by creating opportunities for downstream industries such as soap making, furniture making, interior decoration, souvenir, cosmetics, building materials and bio-fuels production, stimulating local economic growth and innovation (Britannica, 2025, Barten, 2024, Silvawell, 2024, Walter, 2022). Palm oil cultivation practices, such as Agroforestry techniques and bio-diversity conservation measures, play a role in sustainability by helping mitigate the environmental impact of palm oil production and preserve the eco- system integrity.

Sustainable development is about responding to the needs of the poor in such a way that, they will be self-sufficient and be able to participate and contribute to fuel the economic, political and social development of their communities. This will bridge the gap between these communities and their urban counterparts, making the rural economy self-sustaining and retentive of its population, improving their living standards, increasing their income and transforming the rural communities from predominantly subsistence to market oriented (Silvawell, 2024, Walter, 2022, Kayode, 2017). Rural areas are

classified as “spaces in crisis”, as such rural tourism has been advocated as one of the strategies for sustainable development (Ana and Jose, 2021, Hossein, 2020). Rural tourism will empower communities through technologies because travelers are becoming more empowered through the use of technologies during their travels, they themselves can now become the main actor in co-creating richer experiences and additional value. They want to be inspired by places and their encounters with locals. Technology acceleration is almost inevitable linked to a wide range of change in social practices and communication structure. The internet for instance has not only speeded up communication processes but also triggered new economic and communication structures, establishing new patterns of social interaction and thus driving social change ((Barten, 2024, Neil ,2023, Carolina, German and Eduyn, 2023, Walter 2022, Kerstin, 2015).

Travelers look for suggestions, recommendation and insights from online and social networks, when planning their trips. Thus, social media is becoming important for the tourism industry. People influence people and noting influences more than recommendation from a trusted friend. (Barten, 2024, Tiago, Benedita and Carlos, 2020). Therefore, government stakeholders must balance equality of access of resources and opportunities needed by these territories. By harnessing all these it is an engine or social economic development in rural areas, job creation, income generation, infrastructural development and capacity building. (Barten, 2024, Neil,2023, Carolina, et al, 2023, Walter, 2022)

### **Methodology**

The study adopted the descriptive survey design. The area of the study was Lagos state University of Education, Oto/Ijanikin, Lagos, Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of 140 respondents from the Home Economics Education department, Lagos state University of Education. 50 respondents from the hospitality and tourism management,

90 respondents from the Home Economics students. A structured questionnaire was the main instrument used in the collection of data for the research titled utilizing African oil palm tree in rural tourism for sustainable development in Lagos state, Nigeria, in which respondents were to answer yes or no. The questionnaire was divided into two sections, section A and B. Section A was on the bio-data of the respondents, while section B had

34 items, 18, were on utilizing African oil palm tree for rural tourism, 16 were on rural tourism for sustainable development, totaling 34 items. The questionnaire was given contact and face validity by 2 experts in the department. All the responses were collected using Google form and analyzed using Chi-square and Friedman’s test. The results are presented below.

**Table 1: Utilizing African oil palm tree for rural tourism**

S/N	Statement (N=140)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Mean Rank	$\chi^2$ (p-value)
1	African oil palm is an economic tree for Lagos state to be utilized for tourism	135 (96.4)	5 (3.6)	9.32	194.163 (<0.001)
2	Lots of items can be produced by families to generate income for the tourism industry	138 (98.6)	2 (1.4)	9.13	
3	Tourist buys souvenirs when they visit a place	139 (99.3)	1 (0.7)	9.07	
4	These souvenirs are unique to tell a story about Lagos state	140 (100)	0 (0)	9.00	
5	Travelers also have opportunity to try new foods and flavors in Lagos state	134 (95.7)	6 (4.3)	9.39	
6	Also treated to a taste of the local wine	133 (95)	7 (5)	9.45	
7	Have a feel of the local culture through the accommodation provided	138 (98.6)	2 (1.4)	9.13	
8	So African oil palm has all these benefits for Lagos state tourism industry	139 (99.3)	1 (0.7)	9.07	
9	The raffia can be used to produce fashion items as souvenirs for tourists to Lagos state	140 (100)	0 (0)	9.00	
10	It can also be used for interior decoration	130 (92.9)	10 (7.1)	9.65	
11	The wood and stem for the construction of accommodation and the interior at the resort.	125 (89.3)	15 (10.7)	9.97	
12	Materials for housing from African oil palm are insulating and suitable for the weather of Lagos state	120 (85.7)	20 (14.3)	10.29	
13	The palm sap (local beverage – palm wine) can be used for dessert for tourists	139 (99.3)	1 (0.7)	9.07	
14	It can also be distilled as alcohol (local gin)	116 (82.9)	24 (17.1)	10.55	
15	The edible ripe fruits are used for cooking and preparing delicacies	109 (77.9)	31 (22.1)	11.00	
16	Edible insects from African oil palm serve as delicacies for tourists	140 (100)	0 (0)	9.00	
17	The fruits used for cosmetics and medicine for the tourist resort are from palm tree	135 (96.4)	5 (3.6)	9.32	
18	Rural communities can generate income for themselves from rural tourism using African oil palm	131 (93.6)	9 (6.4)	9.58	

The Chi-square value from the Friedman’s test reveals that there are significant possibilities of utilizing African oil palm tree for rural tourism in Lagos State, Nigeria ( $p < 0.05$ ). These

possibilities include sales of souvenirs, insulating materials, palm wine, edible ripe fruits, and edible insect.

**Hypothesis 2:** Rural tourism will not significantly result in sustainable rural development using African oil palm tree in Lagos State.

**Table 1: Results of rural tourism for sustainable development**

S/N	Statement (N=140)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Mean Rank	$\chi^2$ (p-value)
1	These products when used as souvenirs generate income for the rural communities in Lagos state	115 (82.1)	25 (17.9)	8.76	110.253 (<0.001)
2	Rural communities can generate income through supplying building materials for the construction of resort centers.	98 (70)	42 (30)	9.73	
3	They are employed as artisans during the construction of the resort	117 (83.6)	23 (16.4)	8.65	
4	Catalogues can be printed to be a sale link to the artisans in Lagos state tourism industry	126 (90)	14 (10)	8.13	
5	Rural community members are employed to prepare cultural dishes and delicacies	130 (92.9)	10 (7.1)	7.90	
6	They are engaged in supplying the local wine to tourists	118 (84.3)	22 (15.7)	8.59	
7	These brand identity when sustained will result in sustainable rural development	124 (88.6)	16 (11.4)	8.25	
8	Rural tourism will prevent depopulation of the rural community in Lagos state	133 (95)	7 (5)	7.73	
9	Tourists will recommend the center to others when tourist has memorable experience	103 (73.6)	37 (26.4)	9.45	
10	The items produced can be used to furnish the tourist point of contacts in Lagos state	119 (85)	21 (15)	8.53	
11	Rural tourism will empower communities through technology, in Lagos state	125 (89.3)	15 (10.7)	8.19	
12	Technology is a link between social practices, and interaction with local using social media	98 (70)	42 (30)	9.73	
13	Social media can be used by tourist to recommend a good tourist resort to others with the local community in Lagos state	119 (85)	21 (15)	8.53	
14	The internet will help to establish new communities' pattern of social interaction in local communities	131 (93.6)	9 (6.4)	7.85	
15	Rural tourism will boast local economies in Lagos state	126 (90)	14 (10)	8.13	
16	It will also ensure sustainable rural tourism in Lagos state	131 (93.6)	9 (6.4)	7.85	

The Chi-square value from the Friedman's test shows that generation of income by families from the tourism industry will significantly result in sustainable rural development using African oil palm tree

( $p < 0.05$ ) through income generation, job creation, rural depopulation, and technological empowerment.

### Discussion of Findings

Table I was on the utilizing African oil palm tree for rural tourism. The table revealed that, out of 140 respondents, 135 (96.4) answered yes, that African Oil Palm is an economic tree for Lagos state to be utilized for tourism, 5 (3.6) answered no. (Britannica, 2025, Silvawell, 2024, Uhi and Moore, 2024, Denis, Kirstie and Russell, 2021). 138 (98.6) and yes. Lots of items can be produced by families to generate income for the tourism industry, 2 (1.4) answered no. (Britannica, 2025, Sydney, 2025, Meiners and Hendricks, 2023, Walter, 2022). 139 (99.3) answered yes, tourist buys souvenirs when they visit a place, 1 (0.7) answered no (Barten, 2024, Rasool and Terique, 2021, Richards, Underwater and Stam 2020.) 140 (100) answered yes, these souvenirs are unique to tell a story about Lagos State (Britannica, 2025, Yung-Lun, Juie-Te and Pena, 2023, Richards, Underwater, and Stam, 2020. 134 (95.7) answered yes, travelers also have opportunity to try new foods and flavours, in Lagos 6 (4.3) answered no. (Sydney, 2025, Conscious Wander, 2024, travelwaka, 20203, Anthony 2023, Jessica, 2022, Foster, 2021). 133 (95) answered yes, travelers are treated to a taste of the local wine, 7 (5) answered no (Ekeocha, Ihemeje and Ubbaonu, 2022, Suzanna, et al, 2020, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). 138 (98.6) answered yes, travelers have a feel of the local culture through accommodation provided, 2 (1.4) answered no. (Matthys, 2024, Smith, 20203, Kaminskii, 2023, Meiners and Hendricks 2023, Walter, 2022). 138 (99.3) answered yes, African oil palm has all these benefits, for Lagos State tourism indutsy.1 (0.7) answered no. (Matthys, 2024, Yusrini et al, 2024, Walter 2022, Ekeocha et al, 2022). 140 (100) answered yes, the raffia can be used to produce fashion items as souvenirs for tourists to Lagos state (Matthys, 2024, Smith, 2023, Suhasini, 2018, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). 130 (92.9) answered yes, it can also be used for interior decoration, 10 (7.1) answered no. (Yusrini et al, 2024, Neil, 2023, Kaminskii, 2024, Eva, 2024, Walter, 2022). 125 (89.3) answered, the wood and stem for construction of accommodation and the

interior of the resort, 15 (10.7) answered no (Matthys, 2024, Smith, 2023, Kaminiski, 2022, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). 120 (85.7) answered yes materials for housing from African Oil Palm Tree are insulating and suitable for the weather of Lagos State, 20 (14.3) answered no (Sydney 2025, Uhi and Moore, 2024, Barten, 2024, Walter, 2022). 139 (99.3) answered yes, the palm sap can be used for dessert, for tourists, 1 (0.7) answered no (Ekeocha, et al, 2022, Suzanna, et al, 2020, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). 116 (82.9) answered yes the palm sap can also be distilled as alcohol (Ogogoro). 24 (17.1) answered no. (Ekeocha, et al, 2022, Denis, et al, 2021, Suzanna, et al, 2020, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). 109 (77.9) answered yes, the edible ripe fruits are used for cooking and preparing delicacies, 31 (22.1) answered no. (Britannica, 2025, Sydney, 2025, Silvawell, 2024, Jessica, 2022, Ekeocha et al, 2022, Suzzanna, et al, 2020, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). 140 (100) answered yes, edible insects from African Palm serves as delicacies for the tourist (Britannica, 2025, Silvawell, 2024, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). 135 (96.5) answered yes, the fruits are used for cosmetics and medicine, for the tourist resort are from palm tree 5 (3.6) answered no. (Uhi and Moore, 2024, Denis, et al, Kirstie and Russell, 2021, Jose, and Luis, 2018, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). 131 (93.6) answered yes, rural communities can generate income for themselves from rural tourism, using African Oil palm, 9 (6.4) answered no (Britannica, 2025, Sydney, 2025, Meiners and Hendricks, 2023, Walter, 2022)

**Table II** was on rural tourism for sustainable development from African oil palm tree, the table revealed that, out of 140 respondents, 115 (82.1) answered yes, these products when used as souvenirs, generate income for rural communities in Lagos State, 25 (17.9) answered no. (Pritchard leisure, 2025, Travelwaka, 2023, Nell 2023, Jessica, 2022, Richards, et al, 2020). 98 (70) answered yes, rural communities can generate income through supplying building materials for the construction of resort centres, 42 (30)

answered no. (Sydney, 2025, Kaminskii, 2022, Ebiyefa, 2021, Florin-Constantine, and Corneliu, 2020). 117 (83.6) answered yes, they are employed as artisans during the construction of the resort. 23 (16.4) answered no. (Barten, 2024, Silvawell, 2024, Young-Lun, et al, 2023, Walter, 2022, Rasool, et al, 2021). 126 (90) answered yes, catalogues can be printed to be a sale link to the artisans in Lagos State tourism industry, 14 (10) answered no (Sydney, 2024, Nell, 2023, Richards, Underwater and Stam, 2020). 130 (92.9) answered yes, rural community members are employed to prepare cultural dishes and delicacies, 10 (7.1) answered no (Britannica, 2025, Silvawell, 2024, Ekeocha, 2022, Suzanna et al, 2020, Gabriel and Adedapo, 2016). 118 (84.3) answered yes, they are engaged in supplying the local wine, 22 (15.7) answered no. (Ekeocha, et al, 2022, Suzanna et al, 2020, Gabriel and Adedapo 2016). 124 (88.6) answered yes, this brand identity when sustained will result in sustainable rural development. 16 (11.4) answered no. (Sydney, 2025, Barten, 2024, Yung Lun, et al, 2023, Walter, 2022, Kayode, 2017) 133 (95) answered yes, rural tourism will prevent depopulation of the rural communities in Lagos State, 7 (5) answered no (Sydney, 2025, Barten, 2024, Carolina, et al, 2023, Ana and Jose, 2021). 103 (73.6) answered yes, tourist will recommend the center to others when tourist have a memorable experience. (Barten, 2024, Carolina, et al, 2023, Neil, 2023, Tiago, et al, 2020). 119 (85) answered yes. The items produced can be used to furnish the tourists point of contact in Lagos, 21 (15) answered no. (Sydney, 2025, Neil, 2023 Richards, et al, 2020). 125 (89.3) answered yes, rural tourism will empower communities through technology in Lagos State, 15 (10.7) answered no (Barten, 2024, Neil, 2023, Carolina, et al, 2023, Kerstin, 2015). 98 (70) answered yes, technology is a link between social practices and interactions with locals using social media, 42 (30) answered no (Silvawell, 2024, Walter, 2022, Kayode, 2017, Kerstin, 2015). 119 (85) answered yes. Social media can be used by tourist to

recommend a good tourist resort to others with the local community in Lagos state, 21 (15) answered no. (Barten, 2024, Tiago, et al 2020). 131 (93.6) answered yes, the internet will help to establish new community's pattern of social interaction in local community. 9 (6.4) answered no (Bertan, 2024, Neil, 2023, Carolina, et al, 2023, Walter, 2022, Kerstin, 2015). 126 (90) answered yes rural tourism will boost local economies in Lagos state, 14 (10) answered no. (Yusrini, et al, 2024, Carolina et al, 2023, Rasool, et al, 2021, Yung-Lun, et al, 2023, Ebiyefa, 2021). 131 (93.6) answered yes, rural tourism will ensure sustainable rural tourism in Lagos state, 9 (6.4) answered no (Britannica, 2025, Silvawell, 2024, Barten, 2024, Carolina, et al, 2023, Ana and Jose, 2021, Ebiyefa, 2021, Hossein, 2020, Kayode 2017).

### **Conclusion**

African Oil palm is a very important economic tree and a source of fund for local and international industries which will also aid in rural tourism by creating employment and preventing rural migration to urban centres. The raffia can be used for fashionable items and accessories as souvenirs, the bamboo, to construct houses and huts, beds, screens at the tourist resorts. The palm sap is used for desert or distilled into alcohol, a local gin (Ogogoro). The edible ripe fruits for cooking and preparing delicacies while the oil for soap and cosmetics. The larva is used for delicacies. The locals can be employed by the resorts for the preparation of their needs or suppliers of these items to boost tourism. Thereby establishing new patterns of social interaction and thus driving social change. Besides, the tree is biodegradable.

### **Recommendations**

In view of the forgoing to boost rural tourism in Lagos State, the following recommendations were made:

1. Fashionable items to be produced and placed at the tourists entering points using products from African Oil Palm.

2. Lagos hotels should have a sit out in their hotels well furnished with bamboo tables and chairs.
3. Tourists should have a feel of the local cuisines from African Oil Palm
4. Catalogues to be prepared showcasing crafts from oil palm and their producers.
5. There should be constant electricity for the internet to work to boost rural tourism.
6. Lagos hotels to be encouraged to patronize local artisans working with African oil palm to boost income generation, rural tourism, and social change.

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