

Gender Disparities in Intra-Households Roles and Decision Making Among Cocoa Producing Households in, Nigeria

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Problem Statement

Most smallholder cocoa farmers are men. But they engage household members in production and primary processing activities. Hence women work behind the scenes in cocoa producing households but to what extent do they participate in in decision making and what factors drive their involvement? The information obtained will support policy formulation for a better performing and inclusive value chain.

Research Methodology

The farming and rural systems approach was used. The study was carried out at Ayedire Local Government Area. A total of 100 households were selected using a multi stage random sampling technique. The data were collected through oral interviews using structured questionnaires; and were analyzed using descriptive statistics and the probit regression model.

Table 2: Decision Making In Cocoa Economy

	Production	Processing	Market
	100	100	100
H/ Head	89.58	92.22	96.51
Spouse	1.04	3.33	0.00
Jointly	9.38	3.33	3.49

Table 3: Decision Making In Cocoa Economy

	Coefficient	p-value	Marginal effect
Age	-0.056*	0.003	0.27
Education	0.517**	0.021	0.45
Marital status	0.644***	0.059	0.53
Organization/ Extension	0.966***	0.099	0.44

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Table1: Socio-Economic Profile Of Farmers

Items	Household Head Percentage	Spouse Percentage
Age group		
21-30	4.00	9.00
31-40	27.00	47.00
41-50	38.00	34.00
51-60	29.00	10.00
>61	2.000	00.00
Sex		
Male	97.00	97.00
Female	03.00	0.00
Education (years)		
1-6	27.59	61.67
7-12	49.43	35.00
13-18	22.99	3.33
Main Job		
Farming	85.00	8.00
Others	15.00	92.00
Income (₦/ Mth)		
10,000-50,000	93.00	69.79
>50,000	07.00	30.21

Results

The socio-economic profile showed that about 97 percent of the households were male headed; 49% of whom had at least 7 years of formal education and were mainly cocoa farmers (85 %). About 35 percent of the women had over 7 years of formal education; but only 8 percent were farmers. Overall income was low but men tended to have lower income. Table 2 shows that men make over 90 percent of the decisions in the cocoa economy; though women work on the farms too they have no voice. Age, education and exposure to extension agent influence the pattern of decision making.

Conclusion: Women are marginalized in the cocoa economy; a balanced growth model is required for growth.