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"Global food security and food safety:
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Adoption of Innovative Post-Harvest Technology for Cassava Processing in Nigeria

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Abstract

Out of the many factors that affect food security, one that is repeatedly unheeded is the need to avoid spoilage of food between the time it is harvested and the time it is consumed. Financial constraints and technical limitation in harvesting, storage and processing techniques are some of the main causes of food losses in developing countries. Food crop losses could occur at all levels of the post-harvest system, during pre-processing, transportation, storage, processing and packaging as well as marketing. Cassava crop, though riddled with high post-harvest losses has been adjourned as an important crop that is capable of improving food security of rural dwellers in Africa as it generates cash income for the largest number of households in comparison with other staples. Thus, utilisation of appropriate technologies would minimise waste, improve welfare and food security. In this vein, this study look at factors affecting the choice of post-harvest technologies in Nigeria, particularly among small-scale cassava starch processors. The study mostly used cross-sectional data collected through a survey conducted in the forest and guinea savannah zones of Nigeria. Analysis of data was done using descriptive statistics and multinomial logit model. Smallholder cassava starch processing in Nigeria is mostly a female enterprise. The average age of the processors was 48 years, with an average household size of six. Sex of the processor, processing experience, income, and cost of post-harvest technologies, capacity of post-harvest technologies and access to credit amongst others significantly influence the choice of post-harvest technologies. This study concludes that development of easy to use and low cost technologies would greatly increase the use of state-of-the-art post-harvest technologies for cassava processing.

Keywords: post-harvest losses, cassava processing, multinomial logit, Nigeria, welfare

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