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Socio-economic Analysis of Shea Butter Processing to the Income Generation of Rural Dwellers in Kwara State,nigeria

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Abstract

This study was designed to assess the contribution of Shea butter processing to the income generation of rural dwellers in Kwara State, Nigeria. The study described the socioeconomic characteristics of Shea butter processors, determined the profitability of Shea butter processing, examined the various factors affecting the income from Shea butter and identified the challenges Shea butter processors faced. A multi stage sampling technique was used to select Ifelodun and Kaiama local governments areas of Kwara state, Nigeria. Ninety (90) Shea butter processors were selected using snowballing sampling technique. Primary data was collected from the respondents with the aids of well-structured questionnaire and the data were presented using descriptive statistics, chi-square, Linear regression and Gross margin ratio were used to analyse the data collected. The mean age of the respondents was 61 years. Majority of the respondents 48.9 percent were married. The mean household size was 7 persons and the mean of processing experience was 42 years. About 54.4 percent of the respondents were literate. The study also revealed that the average household income of the respondents was 32,500 naira. All the respondents got their finance from personal savings. Gross margin ratio result of profitability of Shea butter processing was N56.68; this indicated that Shea butter processing was profitable in the study area. The chi-square analysis showed that there was a significant relationship between the age of the respondents and the processing method employed (ᵡ2=0.053, p=0.37). The result revealed that the major challenges faced by the respondents were lack of extension services and poor training of the Shea butter processors in the study area. The study recommended that extension services such as technological inputs and adequate training should be organised in dissemination of innovation required for processing of Shea butter in other to increase their total output, household income which will enhance their standard of living and reduces drudgery of the traditional processing system. This study also recommended that the government effort should be channeled towards the health care facilities of the Shea butter processor because of the health issues attributed to the processing of Shea butter.

Keywords: Contribution, income generation, processing, rural dwellers, shea butter