

Lucy Apiyo Adundo¹ and Christine Alum²

¹Justus-Liebig University, Germany, Institute for Agricultural and Food Market Analysis, ²Independent Consultant

Background

- Income generated from agricultural activities plays an important role in household food security in most developing countries.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, agricultural entrepreneurship focusing on commercial and subsistence food enterprises contributes to Gross Domestic Product.
- Income is likely to increase through program capacity building and training in business planning and accounting, marketing of products, including technical training.
- The study evaluated the influence of the youth employment promotion program (Business Loop) on the income of agricultural entrepreneurs in three districts of Sierra Leone.

Methods

- Study area:** Sierra Leone
- Sampling:**
 - Total sample size = 134
 - 91 treatment & 43 non-treatment

Data collection method

- Semi-structured questionnaire

Research design

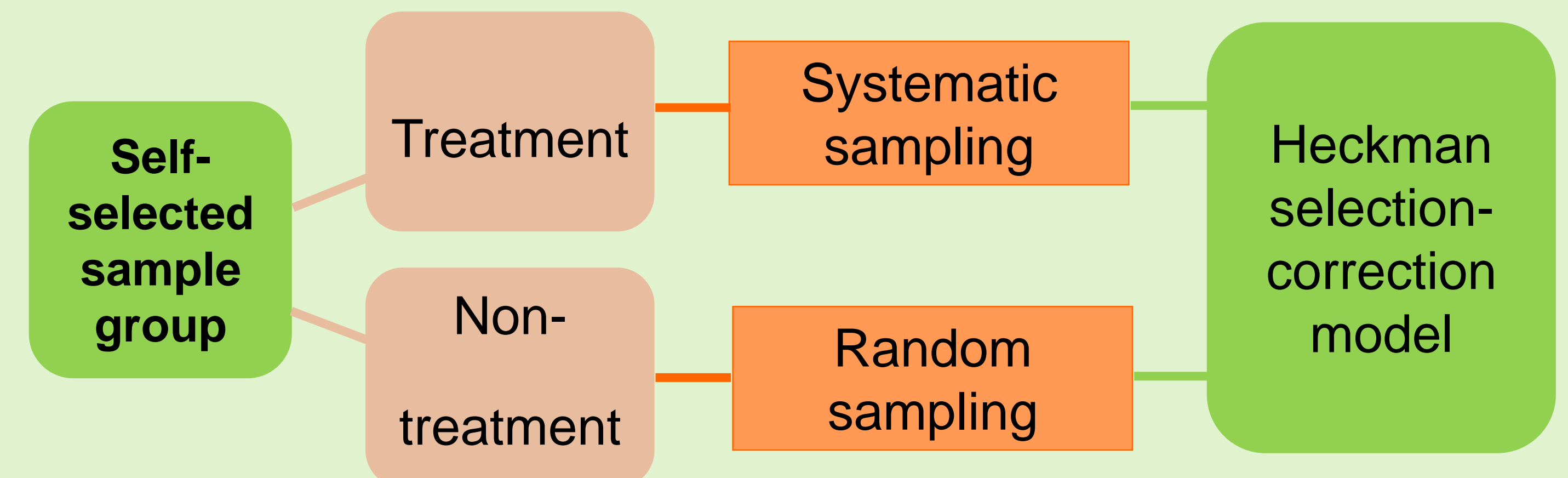


Figure 1 Research Design

Results

Number of entrepreneurs

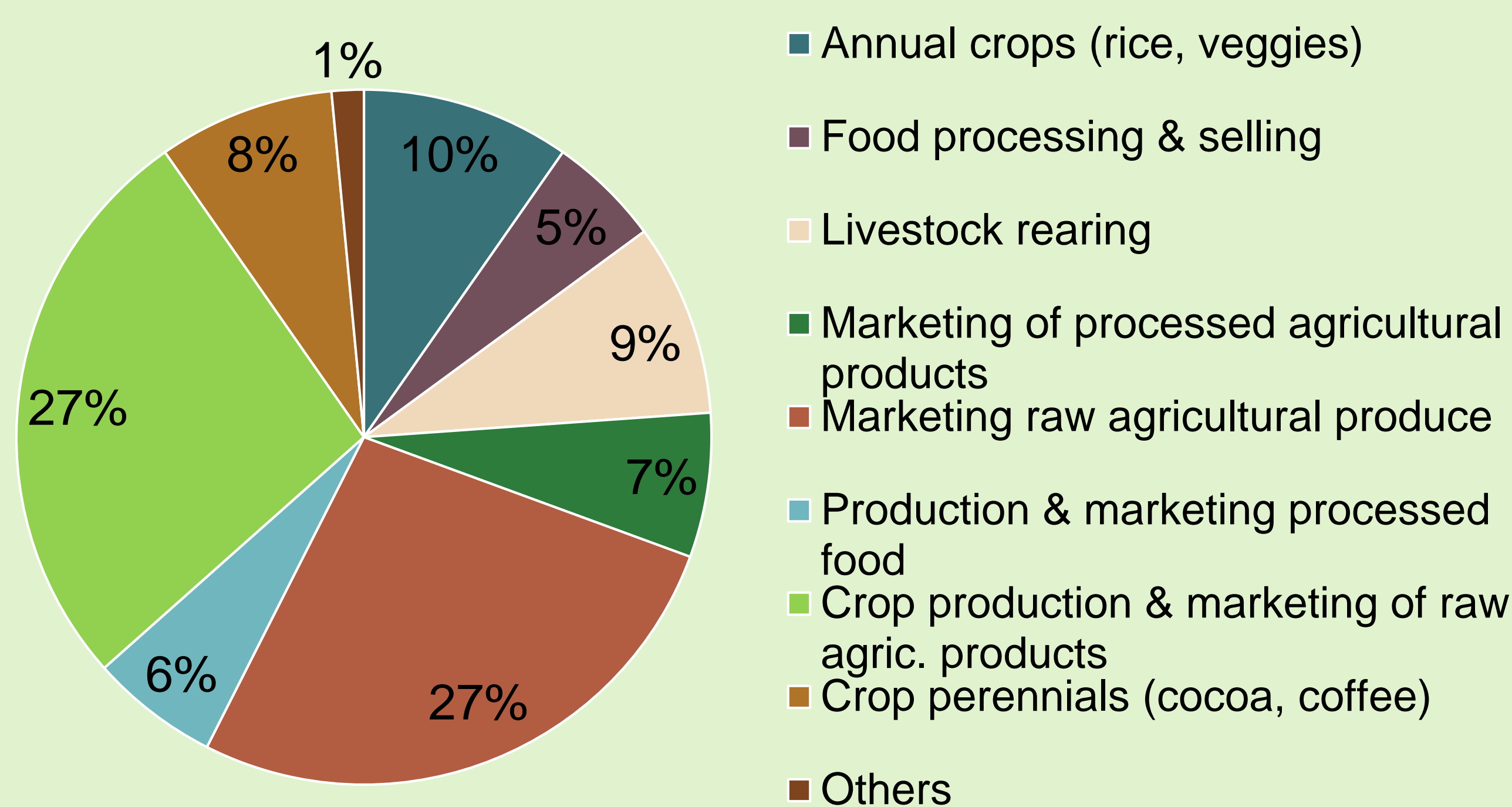


Figure 2 Income sources from different enterprises

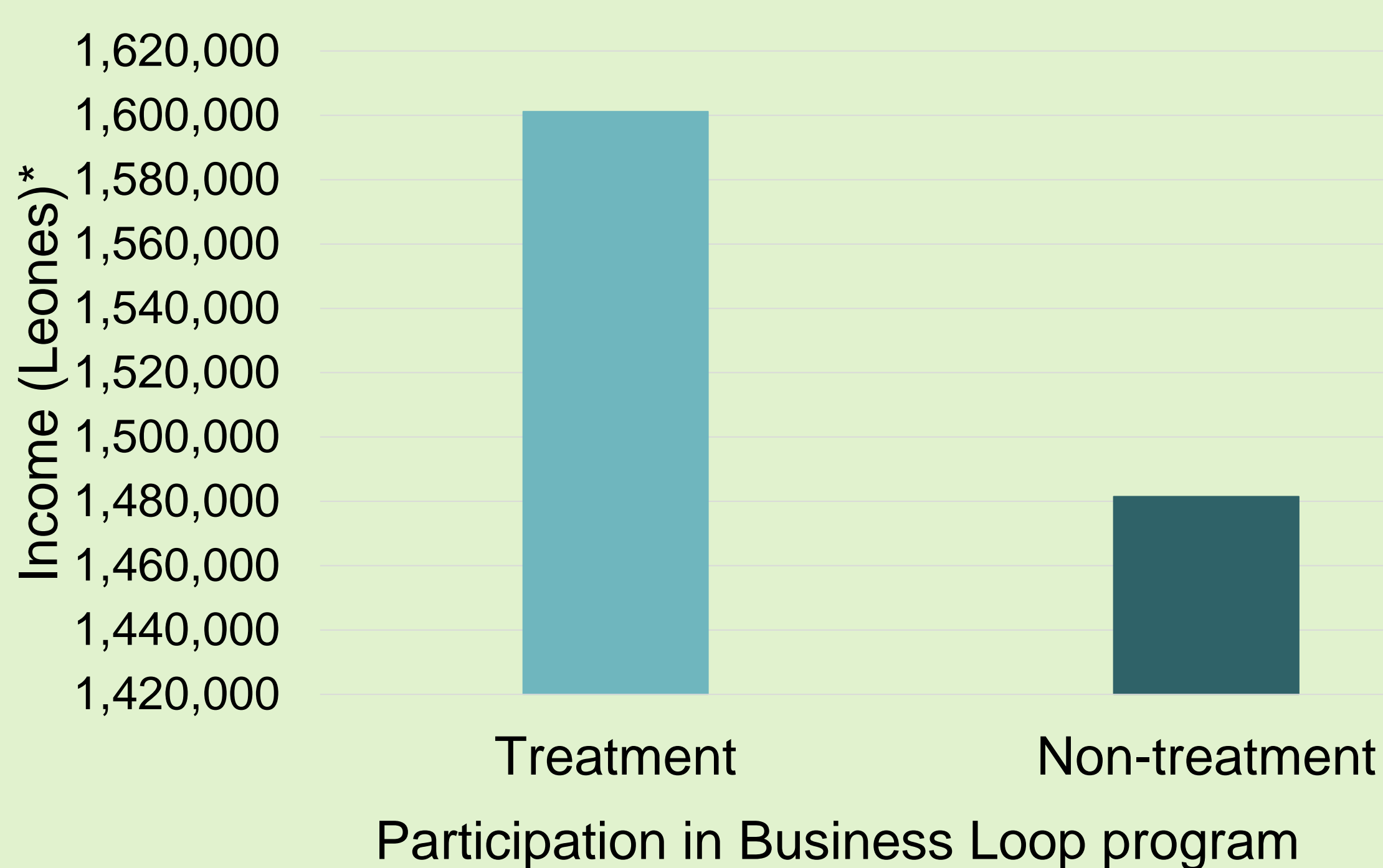


Figure 3 Income between treatment and non-treatment

*10000 Leones = 1 Euro



Photo 1 Female entrepreneur selling legumes in Kono district of Sierra Leone



Photo 2 Interview with an agricultural entrepreneur in Koinadugu district of Sierra Leone

Table 1. Heckman selection-correction model of income and participation

Outcome equation: Log of monthly income					
	Units	Coefficient	St. Error	P-value	Sig.
Respondent characteristics					
Gender of respondent	Female=1	0.928	0.455	0.042	**
Age of respondent	Continuous	0.071	0.033	0.03	**
Household dependents	Continuous	0.057	0.061	0.345	
Land size	Acres	-0.031	0.035	0.378	
Participation in program	Yes=1	1.084	0.423	0.01	**
VSLA* membership	Yes=1	-1.017	0.451	0.024	**
Types of business enterprise					
Livestock ownership	Yes=1	1.709	0.713	0.017	**
Location dummies					
Koinadugu	Yes=1	0.478	0.488	0.327	
Constant		10.986	1.549	0.000	***
Selection equation: Participation					
Respondent characteristics					
Gender of respondent	Female=1	0.175	0.216	0.42	
Age of respondent	Continuous	0.087	0.017	0.000	***
Household dependents	Continuous	0.069	0.029	0.018	**
Land size	Acres	-0.061	0.017	0.000	***
VSLA* membership	Yes=1	-0.981	0.227	0.000	***
Types of business enterprise					
Livestock ownership	Yes=1	-0.175	0.337	0.605	
Nutritional status					
Minimum Dietary Diversity Score	Continuous score	0.263	0.07	0.000	***
Location dummies					
Koinadugu	Yes=1	1.475	0.253	0.000	***
Constant		-2.338	0.763	0.002	***
athrho		15.526	109.687	0.887	
Insigma		0.749	0.06	0.000	***
Number of observations					134
Prob > chi2					0.010
Chi-square					24.794
Akaike crit. (AIC)					616.560

*VSLA = Village Savings Loan Association

Discussion

- Most entrepreneurs were involved in crop production and marketing of raw agricultural produce.
- Participation in the program, gender, age, membership in VSLA and livestock ownership significantly influenced income.
- While controlling for demographic and socio-economic factors such as gender, age, household dependents, education and location, participation significantly increased income.
- Dietary diversity was significant implying a nexus of program participation, income and nutrition.

Conclusion & Recommendation

- Participation in the employment promotion program had a positive effect on income.
- Enhancement and strengthening of agricultural extension programs is recommended in future programs.

References

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