

**PROFITABILITY AND GENDER DIFFERENTIALS OF CASSAVA VALUE-CHAIN
AMONG SMALLHOLDERS IN SELECTED
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AREAS OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria as the leading and largest producer of cassava in the world has a comparative advantage which if put into practice, the provision of high-quality cassava flour (HQCF) would have made cassava a potential source of foreign exchange earnings, thus lessening Nigerian overdependence on crude petroleum. The study attempted to examine the profitability and gender differentials of cassava value-chain among smallholders. In the study area, however, males had the bulk of the total income mainly because the total cost and the total variable cost for females were higher but their Total Fixed Cost was lower thus giving the females an edge in terms of higher Gross Margin and Farm Net Income. The cassava sector of the economy in the Sub-Saharan Africa provides women the opportunity to ensure food security for their families and also the provision of cash. On factors affecting the magnitude of Farm Net Income, sources of land acquisition were significant at 10% level and the coefficient was negative indicating a negative impact on Farm Net Income which might be indicative of discrimination females face when acquiring more land in the familial system of land tenure.

KEYWORDS: *High-Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF), Comparative Advantage, Farm Net Income and Foreign Exchange Earnings*