GENDER DIFFERENTIAL IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OIL PALM PROCESSORS IN SOUTH WEST, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the gender differential in the performance of oil palm processors in Southwest, Nigeria. Primary data were collected from two hundred and seventy-five (275) oil palm processors with the aid of structured validated questionnaire through a multi-stage sampling procedure. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Budgeting Technique, Ordinary Least Square Multiple Regression, Gini Coefficient, Regression-Based Inequality Decomposition Index, Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE), Stochastic Frontier Production Function (SFPF), Endogenous Switching Regression (ESR), Double Hurdle model and Independent t-test. The result showed that in terms of the profitability efficiency, the performance of the female is better than the male. Factors that significantly affect the performance of the female respondents were education, marital status, experience, age, depreciation, labor and cost of transportation while for the male respondents were age, family size, experience, household size, depreciation and transportation cost. There was more income disparity within the male processors (0.72%) than within their female (0.67) counterpart. It was also revealed in the study that age, education, extension contact, years of experience, access to credit and adoption of technology determined the annual income of female respondents while age, extension contact and years of experience determined the annual income of male respondents. Result of the Stochastic Frontier Model showed that the technical efficiency of the male was 0.77 while the female was 0.58. In the case of allocative efficiency, the male respondent has 0.63 while female has 0.54, the cost efficiency of the male was 0.80 while for the female was 0.71, this indicated that male respondent is technically, allocatively and cost efficient than the female in oil palm processing. The result of the impact of adoption of technology on output of the processors revealed that technology adoption significantly increases outputs of the female and male respondents. The expected output from female processors adopters was 414.97kg compared with the non-adopters (238.58kg), while the
male processors adopters had 363.29kg compared to 261.82kg by the non-adopter respondents. The Double Hurdle Model revealed that factors affecting adoption of the oil palm processing technology are education, access to credit, extension contact, association, experience of the female respondents while for the male respondents it includes education, extension contact and experience. The outcome of the second hurdle model showed that factors influencing the intensity or rate of adoption of technology among the female were extension contact, level of education, access to credit and experience while for male respondents were level of education, extension contact and memberships of association. There were different constraints facing oil palm processors in the study area, the most serious and similar constraints among the male and female processors were poor road, inadequate capital for investment and high cost of processing technology. The study therefore recommends NGOs, Stakeholders and government should provide improved modern oil palm processing technology at subsidized rate. Adequate Access to extension services should be provided by the government to improve productivity and efficiency in oil palm processing. Processors should be educated on the use of the processing technology, the press.
CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

Agriculture in a developing country is a pertinent key to development because it is an indispensable essential source of livelihood to maintain economic growth. It is the dynamo that drives socio-economic development in most developing countries in the world (Sarku, 2016). According to Agwu et al. (2017), agricultural development along the value chain paves way to poverty alleviation through provision of job opportunities and comfortable lives for millions of people.

Historically, Nigeria is generally an agrarian country and agriculture was the backbone of her economy during the pre-colonial and the colonial period. As a result of her devotion to agriculture, she became the largest producer and leading exporter of major agricultural commodities such as palm kernel, palm oil, cocoa in the first decade of her independence. According to Rigobert (1990), despite its relegation by oil, agriculture remains the mainstay of livelihood of the majority in the economy. During that time, farming still collectively accounted for 90% of the food supply (Osemobuo and Gbadebo, 1992) and 70% of Nigeria’s export earnings; and a dominant share of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Olatomide and Omowumi, 2010). However, in 1956 crude oil was discovered in commercial quantities at Oloibiri in the Ogbia District of Ijaw area by Shell-BP (Raji and Abejide, 2013). This initiated the gradual neglect of agriculture by successive governments especially in the 1970s. Crude oil became the dominant source of revenue while agricultural production nose-dived considerably. From over 60% in the late 1960s, the contribution of agriculture to the GDP plummeted to 22.2% in the 1980s (Oni et al, 2009). In the third quarter of 2017, agriculture accounted for 24.44% to the country’s GDP. This value is higher than the rates
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