Influence of Socio-economic Characteristics on Use of Modern Cassava Processing Technologies among Women Processors in Ogun State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The study examined the socio-economic characteristic, of women cassava processors as they affect their cassava processing methods. A multi-stage random sampling technique was used to select 546 women cassava processors in Ogun State. Data were collected through a structured interview schedule and analysed using frequency counts, percentages, Chi-square and correlation(r). Among the respondents, 91.8% are married, 51.8% have a household size of 1-5 members, and 73.4% are between 30 and 40 years. Also 45.2% had no formal education while 71.4% of the processors used MPTs. Significant relationships exist ($p < 0.05$) between the level of use of MPT and educational level ($c^2 = 51.44$), cosmopoliteness ($c^2 = 28.57$), age ($r = -0.155$) and income from processing ($r = 0.19$). The relative high percentage of processors with no formal education (45.2%) has implication for technology adoption in cassava processing. The women cassava processors still used more of traditional processing techniques than the modern ones. Technology developers should put into consideration the financial capacities of the intended users of the techniques in order to produce ones that are within their reach. The government should address the problem of illiteracy among the rural women with emphasis on adult literacy programme in order to encourage them to use improved technologies.