Determinants of Gender Roles and Decision Making in Small-Holder Palm Oil Production in Post Covid-19 Pandemic in Delta State

**Quantity to Sell**

Thirty seven percent (36.9%) of the respondents interviewed indicated that the male were the ones that decides on the quantity of palm oil to sell, 40.6% said it is the female while 22.5% indicated that this decision is taken together. This however showed that, the female slightly have upper hand in this decision-making process as shown from the result.

**Price of Palm oil**

The result in Figure 4 showed that 22.5% of the total respondents indicated that males were the ones that decided on how much to sell the palm oil, 43.1% said it is the female while 34.4% indicated that both male and female takes the decision jointly. This implied that oftentimes the female decides on this issue. However, the male still plays slight role in the decision making as household head.

**Figure 4: How much (price) to sell.**

**What to do with Income**

The result showed that 45% of the total respondents indicated that it was the males that decided on what to do with the proceeds from the palm oil sold. Twenty percent (20%) said is the female while 35% indicated that both male and female takes the decision jointly. This implied that most times the male takes decision about what to do with the income accrued from the sale of the palm oil. However, to an extent the female plays some role in deciding on this very crucial issue.

**Table 3: Distribution of decision-making roles by gender in palm oil production.**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>S/No</th>
<th>DECISION MAKING ISSUES</th>
<th>ROLE PERFORMANCE</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male (%)</td>
<td>Female (%)</td>
<td>Both (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Type &amp; Cost of Farm Labour</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>26.9</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Harvesting Time</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>14.4</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Processing Methods</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>59.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Where to sell</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>15.6</td>
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<td>Quantity to Sell</td>
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<td>40.6</td>
<td>22.5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>How much to Sell</td>
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<td>34.4</td>
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<td>What to do with Income</td>
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<td>35</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


**Conclusion and Recommendation**

Differences exist between male and female in decision making and the specific gender activity profile, distinguishing the areas where male or female dominated in palm oil production. However, the socioeconomic characteristics that influences roles and decision making in palm oil production does not significantly have gender differentials irrespective of the shocks of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is imperative therefore to mainstream gender in capacity building programme for palm oil production across the various production/activity stages, to ensure equal opportunities, better integration, efficient decision making and role/service delivery.
References


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