



**Profit Differentials Among Cassava Value Added Processors in Umuahia South
Local Government Area of Abia State, Nigeria**

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ABSTRACT

Despite numerous efforts to boost food production as a strategy to reduce hunger and poverty, the quality and quantity of staple foods like Garri and Fufu that ultimately reach consumers are often overlooked. This study profit differentials among cassava value-added processors in Umuahia South Local Government Area of Abia State. Specifically, it explores the socioeconomic characteristics of Garri and Fufu processors, estimates their costs and returns by product type, compares profit levels, and identifies key profit determinants. Using a random sampling method, 80 respondents were selected (40 each for Garri and Fufu processing) through structured questionnaire. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, gross margin analysis, and Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression. Findings show that the average ages of Garri and Fufu processors were 40.3 and 35.6 years, respectively. Most Garri (60%) and Fufu (46.5%) processors were married, with average household sizes of 5 and 6, respectively. A high proportion had formal education (87.5% for Garri, 92.5% for Fufu). A paired t-test revealed a significant difference in profitability (₦14,825.18), with Garri processors earning more than Fufu processors. Profit for Garri processors was significantly influenced by education, processing time, experience, gender, and household size, while for Fufu processors, age, education, processing time, and labor costs were significant. Inadequate processing facilities as a major constraint. The study concluded that Garri processing is more profitable than Fufu. The study recommends that governments and stakeholders invest in better infrastructure, access to technology, affordable credit, and training programs to improve profitability in cassava processing.

Keywords: Profit differentials, Cassava value-added, Processors, Umuahia South LGA

INTRODUCTION

Value chain analysis enhances the product chain, from production to end-users, with value being added at each stage (Wen-Lung *et al.*, 2018). It serves as a mechanism to align demand and supply of products and services at each step along the value chain (Eric-Boyd *et al.*, 2019). A value chain consists of the activities that a firm performs to deliver a valuable product or service to the market (De Marchi *et al.*, 2018). As value is added along the chain, the product gains a competitive advantage, both in terms of quality and the ability to command a higher market price (Gereffi, 2018). In essence, a value chain is a sequence of activities aimed at creating and adding value to a product. It also considers the opportunity costs of the new steps in the product's value, making the concept a tool for decision support and competitive strategy (Lee *et al.*, 2018). The core idea behind value addition along the chain is to gain competitive control. The competitiveness of value chain analysis is evident in its role in developing strategies that incorporate gender perspectives, such as in the case of cassava (Apata, 2019).

Cassava has recently gained strategic importance in global trade, largely due to the efforts of various research and development stakeholders working to create value-added cassava-based products, such as white and light oil Garri, for both human consumption and industrial use (Onyeka *et al.*, 2005). The growing recognition of cassava as both a food security crop and a cash crop among Nigerian small-scale farmers has prompted significant national interest, especially after the establishment of the "Presidential Initiative on Cassava" (PIC) in 2002. Studies by Nweke (2004) and Nwakor (2012) have shown that cassava products contribute about 25% of the cash income for farming households in Nigeria.

Major products derived from cassava include cassava Fufu, Garri, flour (alibo), starch, tapioca, and sliced cassava chips (abacha). For these products to be market-driven, value must be added through conversion into more stable and safer by-products, such as white and light yellow Garri, which are preferred in the market (Nwosu and Ogbonnaya, 2014). According to Odii and Obi (2000) and the FAO (2008), cassava is widely accepted as food in various forms, with demand being highly elastic due to its multiple roles. Nwosu and Ogbonnaya (2014) also observed that Nigerian farmers have been increasingly exposed to capacity-building programs on agronomic and value-addition practices, led by Extension Agents. These efforts align with the goal of enhancing the quality of cassava by-products and improving the income levels of rural farmers as part of Nigeria's agricultural transformation agenda. One of the key products in the cassava value chain is Garri, a fermented, gritty, and starchy food product made from processed cassava roots. It is produced by fermenting, peeling, grating, dewatering, sieving, and then toasting or frying the roots, as outlined by Oluleye *et al.* (2007). Garri is the most widely consumed form of cassava in Nigeria, consumed both as a main meal (eba) or as a snack when soaked in cold water, sweetened with sugar, and eaten with roasted groundnut, coconut, or sometimes dry fish. Garri is a staple food in many households, particularly in the producing regions (Komolafe and Arawande, 2010). Fufu, another important cassava product, is a fermented wet paste commonly consumed in Eastern and Southwestern Nigeria. Fufu ranks just behind Garri in terms of consumption and market importance (Umeh, 2017). Studies by Phillip *et al.* (2004) show that cassava products like Garri and Fufu have significant urban market presence and continue to be the "food of choice" despite

the availability of alternative food options (Maziya-Dixon *et al.*, 2004). This indicates that marketing strategies and business models involving Garri and Fufu are crucial in understanding consumer preferences and market trends.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

The study was conducted in Umuahia South L.G.A. of Abia State, Nigeria. The headquarters of the Local Government is at Apumiri-Ubalaka. It has an area of 140km² and a population of 138, 570 people (National Population Census, 2006). The L.G.A. is bordered in the South by Isialangwa L.G.A and in the North by Umuahia North L.G.A. It has a longitude of 5°31' and latitude 4°27' with elevation of 55 meters above sea level. The climate is tropical and humid all year round. The annual rainfall ranges from 2000mm to 2500mm while the temperature ranges from 22°C and 31°C, farming as the major occupation of the people. The soils in the

area are fertile and the major food-crops grown in the area are cassava, yams, maize, cocoyam, local beans, melon and various types of vegetables. Crops grown under plantation are raffia palm, palm tree, plantain and banana. The farm animals reared include sheep, goat, pigs, rabbits, chickens and snail. It has six notable communities which are sub-divided into villages. The communities are Olokoro, Omaegwu, Umuopara, Old Umuahia, Nsirimo and Nwoachara.

The Area is noted for boosting formidable value-chain processes in cassava production. Both men and women show a dominant role in cassava production in the area, influencing the whole agricultural labour. Men and women are invested in cassava value chain in all operations from land preparation, weeding, harvesting, storing, processing, transportation, marketing and household tasks. Although women are practically more involved in processing and marketing of cassava produce in the area.



Figure 1: Map of Umuahia South L.G.A of Abia State

Source: Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation. (2023).

Sampling Techniques

The study population is made up of all cassava farmers in Umuahia South L.G.A. A three stage multi-stage and random sampling techniques was used in choosing the sample size. In the first stage, four (4) communities in Umuahia South LGA were randomly selected, given the intensity of cassava production and value chain process in these areas. The second stage involves a random selection of 2 villages from each community given a total of 8 villages. In the third stage ten (10) cassava processor (5 Garri and 5 Fufu) from each of the villages was selected. This gives a total of eighty (80) respondents for the study.

Data Collection and Analysis

The study will use primary data. These were collected with the use of structured questionnaire administered to the cassava processor in the study areas. Different analytical tools were used to analyse various objectives of the study. The socioeconomic characteristics and problem faced by the respondent were analyzed using descriptive statistical tools like mean, percentage and chart. The costs and returns based on product categories were analysed using gross margin analysis. Gross margin is a financial metric that shows the difference between revenue and the cost of goods sold. Specify as follows:

Gross margin analysis specify as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{GM} &= \text{TR} - \text{TVC} & 1 \\ \text{TR} &= \text{Q} \times \text{P} & 2 \\ \text{NR} &= \text{TR} - \text{TC} & 3 \\ \text{TC} &= \text{TVC} + \text{TFC} & 4 \end{aligned}$$

Where GM = Gross Margin,

NR = Net return

TR = Total Revenue,

TVC = Total Variable Cost,

TFC = Total Fixed Cost,

TC = Total Cost,

Q = Quantity of cassava product sold,

P = Prevailing market price for given cassava by product.

The Z-test was used for comparison of level of profit of cassava value added processor.

$$Z_{\text{cal}} = \frac{\bar{Y}_1 - \bar{Y}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{S_2^2}{n_2}}} \quad 5$$

Where:

$\bar{Y}_1$ = Mean level of profit for Garri processor

$\bar{Y}_2$ = Mean level of profit for Fufu processor

S_1^2 = Variance of profit for Garri processor

S_2^2 = Variance of profit for Fufu processor

n_1 = number of selected Garri processor

n_2 = number of selected Fufu processor

$n_1 + n_2 - 2$ degrees of freedom.

The determinants of profit were analyzed using Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression model. The model is implicitly specified as follows;

$$Y_i = f(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, X_{11}) \quad 6$$

Y_1 = profit of Garri processor (₦)

Y_2 = profit of Fufu processor (₦)

X_1 = Education (years)

X_2 = Age (years)

X_3 = Cost of processing (₦)

X_4 = Processing period (days)

X_5 = Farming experience (year)

X_6 = Labour cost (man-day)

X_7 = Gender (1= male, 0= female)

X_8 = Household size (number)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Distribution of Respondents based Age

The result indicates that the mean ages were 40.3 and 35.6 years for both Garri and Fufu respectively which is closely related to the 47.5 years reported by Duku et al. (2011). The low mean age gives an indication of the presence of the youth in cassava value addition to carry out the drudgery activities involved in cassava value addition. This implies that majority of the respondents were adults, matured and energetic and should be reasonable

enterprising, this represents an active stage in life. Obasi (2015) however recorded a mean age of 50.4 years and reported that individuals in this age bracket were still energetic, and this has a

positive implication for their production. This shows that the farmers are young, energetic and better positioned to contribute more to the value chain (Henri-Ukoha 2015)

Table 1. Distribution of Respondents based Age

Age (years)	Garri		Fufu	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
19-28	7	17.5	16	40.0
29-38	10	25.0	9	25.5
39-48	15	37.7	5	12.5
49-58	5	12.5	8	20.0
59-68	3	7.5	2	5.0
Mean	40.3		35.6	
Total	40	100.0	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Distribution of the Respondents According to Gender

The Sex distribution of the respondent as derived from fields survey data as presented in table 2 shows that female farmers dominate in Garri value addition. The result shows that 25 persons representing a percentage of 62.5% of the population were female for Garri while 29 persons representing a total of 72.5% of the population were female for Fufu. The dominance of female could be due to the

fact that female is more focused and organized when it comes to agricultural business. This finding is supported by other studies that have noted that cassava production and marketing are mostly dominated by female than male (Anyagbunam, 2012). This is in accordance to the findings of Barker *et al* (2007) whose study revealed that women are dominant participant in many types of urban agricultural system.

Table 2. Distribution of the Respondents According to Gender

Age (years)	Garri		Fufu	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Male	15	37.5	11	27.5
Female	25	62.5	29	72.5
Total	40	100.00	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Distribution of Respondents based on Marital Status

From Table 3 shows the distribution of respondents based on marital status. It can be observed that majority of the respondents were married for both Garri processor (60.0%) and Fufu processor (46.5%). This result according to Faizal (2015) implies that farmers have extra family members (i.e., spouses and children) to contribute to household cassava value addition management practices. The dominance of

the married people in cassava value addition in the area may be attributed to the fact that married people are more settled as it relates to giving appropriate attention to cassava value addition operation. This implies that a greater percentage of the population had family members. According to Nwaru (2004) marriage creates a conducive environment for good citizen training, development of personal integrity and entrepreneurship, which are very important for efficient uses of resources.

Table 3. Distribution of Respondents based on Marital Status

Marital status	Garri		Fufu	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	8	20.0	7	17.5
Married	24	60.0	19	47.5
Widowed	5	12.5	10	25.0
Separated	3	7.5	4	10.0
Total	40	100.00	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Distribution of Respondents Based on Household Size

Table 4 shows distribution of respondents based on household size. The mean was five (5) and six (6) persons for Garri and Fufu processor respectively. The high proportion of family size is relevant for smallholder agriculture given that such an agricultural system requires family labour to carry out

farming activities. A relatively large household size may likely enhance family labour supply on farm, this is so if members are not made up of the aged and very young people, otherwise scarce capital resources that should have been employed for farm production would be channeled for upkeep of these dependent members. (Aigbokie *et al.*, 2024)

Table 4 Distribution of Respondents Based on Household Size

Household size	Garri		Fufu	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1-4	23	57.5	10	25.0
5-8	15	37.5	24	60.0
9-12	2	5.0	6	15.0
Mean	5		6	
Total	40	100.00	30.0	100.00

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Distribution of Respondents Based on Level of Education

Table 5 shows distribution of respondents based on level of education. Majority (87.5%) and (92.5%) of the respondents have one form of education for both Garri and Fufu processors. Education is relevant if farmers are to access and apply technology appropriately (Marinda *et al.*, 2006). However, the data suggests a high literacy rate among cassava value addition farmers. The implication of this result is that farmers'

ability to understand and apply technology was not hindered by the educational background of the respondents. Improved education level brings about positive changes in the knowledge, attitude and skills through research and extension. The implication is that these respondents are better positioned to take advantage of new techniques and innovations that could improve agricultural productivity and boost food security

Table 5 Distribution of Respondents Based on Level of Education

Level of Education	Garri		Fufu	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
No formal education	5	12.5	3	7.5
Vocational/technical school	3	7.5	5	12.5
Primary Education	24	60.0	4	10.0
Secondary Education	7	17.5	21	52.5
Tertiary Education	1	2.5	7	17.5
Total	40	100.00	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Distribution of Respondents Based on Farming Experience

Table 7 shows distribution of respondents based on farming experience. On average the farming household have spent about 18 and 16 years in farming by both Garri and Fufu respectively. Basically, the number of years a farmer has spent in farming business may give an indication of the practical knowledge he has acquired on how he can overcome certain inherent farm production problems. Farmers would count more on

their farming experiences for improved output rather than educational attainment. This justifies that the farmers can draw on past production experience to suit their enterprise condition and the technical know-how obtained through experience increases efficiency and thus increase output of the cassava value addition. This finding is consistent with the findings of Taiwo et al., (2009) and Benjamin et al., (2016).

Table 6 Distribution of Respondents Based on Farming Experience

Experience	Garri		Fufu	
	Frequency	Percentages	Frequency	Percentages
1-10	11	27.5	12	30.00
11-20	15	37.5	17	42.50
21-30	9	22.5	7	17.50
31 – 40	5	12.5	4	0.10
Mean	18		16	
Total	40	100.00	40	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2024).

Costs and Returns of Selected Cassava Value Added Product Per Month

The costs and returns to selected cassava value product in the study area are presented in Table 7. It shows that cassava product processing is a high-income generating business as the present net farm income for Garri and Fufu were ₦ 73318.08 and ₦ 58492.9 respectively per month. Overall, the total return from Garri and Fufu were ₦ 145040 and ₦ 124550 per month. The total cost incurred in processing Garri and Fufu were ₦71721.92 and ₦66057.1

respectively. On the average a cassava value chain actors made a net income of ₦ 73318.08 and ₦ 58492.9. This is an indication that participation in cassava processing is very much profitable and viable than unprocessed cassava sales. This finding is in consonant with studies which inferred that a bag of cassava purchased and processed into Garri or Fufu has the capacity to create cash value addition through improved processing technology (Ezike, 2011; FAO, 2017).

Table 7 Estimated Costs and Returns of Selected Cassava Value Added Product Per Month

Variables	Garri	Fufu
Total Revenue (TR)	145040	124550
Variable cost		
Labour	11544	8738
Package	2280	11301.6
Cost of cassava tubers	30716	12697
Market charges	2500	13980.5
Total Variable cost (TVC)	47040	46717.1
Fixed costs		
Depreciated implements	13409.92	11780
Rent on land	11272	7560
Total fixed cost	24681.92	19340
Total cost (TVC+TFC)	71721.92	66057.1
Net farm income (TR – TC)	73318.08	58492.9

Source: Field Survey (2024).

Z-test for comparison

The result in Table 8 that the mean difference in profit, standard deviation and standard error mean of the Garri and Fufu processor ₦14,825.18, 25393.4177 and 8453.987. The paired 't' result showed that this is statistically significant difference at

1.0% level because the calculated 't' = 4.251 > the tabulated "t"_{0.025} = 2.58. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. The implication of this results is that the Garri cassava value chain actors make more profit than Fufu as shown by positive sign of the coefficient.

Table 8: Results of the Paired Z-test for Comparison

	Mean	Std. Deviation	Paired Differences Std. Error Mean	t
Garr – Fufu	14,825.18	25393.4177	8453.987	4.251***

Source: Field Survey (2024).

Factors Influencing the Profit of Garri Processors

Table 9 shows the multiple regression result on factors influencing the profit of Garri processors. The double functional double functional form was chosen as the lead equation. The choice of the lead equation was based on the number of significant variables, the magnitude of the coefficient of multiple determination (R^2), the conformity of signs borne by the variables to with *a priori* expectation as well as the significance F-ratio. The coefficient of multiple determination was 0.905 which implies that 90.5% of the variation in the farmers' profit was explained by the explanatory variables included in the model.

Level of education, processing period, experience, gender and household size were significant variable at 1% 5%, and 10% level that influence the profit of the Garri, and positively related to the profit of the Cassava value chain farmers in the study area. This implies that the higher the level of education, the higher the profit of an actor along the Cassava Value chain. Education is an investment in human capacity which can raise the skills and qualities of man, increase his allocative ability thereby leading to more productive performances, Orebiyi (1981).

Processing period gave a positive coefficient and was significant at 10.0% alpha level, indicating the number of days a farmer spent processing cassava; increase the value of the

end product processing and vice versa. Experience was statistically significant at 10% and positively related to profit, this means that as the experience of the intermediaries involve in cassava value chain increases the profit also increase. This indicate that the level of the cassava producer/processor experience increases as profit, because increase experience raises human knowledge and skill to adopt to new marketing techniques which increase their efficiency in production thus increasing their net income. This corroborates with the findings of Udoh (2005).

Gender was significantly 5% and negatively elated to profitability of the farmers. This implies that gender significantly affects the profit of the respondent. The implication is that profit increase in favour of the female processor. Gender refers to social identities attributed to women and men. Gender is rooted in social institutions and results in the patterns within society that structure the relationships between women and men and that give them differing positions of advantages and disadvantages within institution (Anderson, 2001).

Household size's coefficient is positive and statistically significant at the 5% level. This suggests large household size increases the profit level of the famers. This is desirable, consistence and of great importance in farm production as rural household may rely more on their members than hired workers for

labour on their farms, this is so if members are not made up of the aged and very young people, otherwise scare capital resources

that should have been employed for farm production would be channeled for upkeep of these dependent members (Nwaru, 2004).

Table 9: Multiple Regression Results on Factors Influencing the Profit of Garri Processor

Variables	Linear	Exponential	Double log+	Semi log
Intercept	14542.776 (0.162)	12.033 (55.184)***	4.260 (6.383)***	-2880758.276 (-7.099)***
Education	1995.607 (2.008)**	0.003 (1.097)	0.039 (0.651)	64119.902 (1.778)*
Age	3703.234 (1.386)	0.008 (1.290)	0.022 (0.691)	23874.246 (1.214)
processing Cost	7.085 (8.765)***	1.665E-005 (8.473)***	0.813 (15.227)***	273065.097 (8.415)***
Processing period	24211.546 (2.644)***	0.042 (1.876)*	0.161 (2.325)**	121416.052 (2.892)***
Experience	-3334.447 (-1.511)*	-0.004 (-0.736)	0.050 (1.917)*	-36479.681 (-2.305)**
Labour cost	-2.091 (-0.928)	-2.273E-005 (-4.148)***	-0.028 (-1.169)	17389.753 (1.183)
Gender	-40189.91 (2.175)**	0.107 (0.388)	-0.078 (-2.714)**	23348.816 (1.328)
Household size	3382.243 (1.015)	-0.018 (-2.256)**	0.060 (2.249)**	-5510.676 (-0.339)
R ²	0.793	0.778	0.905	0.807
R ⁻²	0.761	0.744	0.891	0.777
F-ratio	24.442***	22.406***	61.065***	26.675***

Source: Field Survey (2024).

Key: + = lead equation, *** = significant at 1%, ** = significant at 5% and * = significant at 10%.

Factors Influencing the Profit of Fufu Processors

Table 10 shows the determinants of net returns from Fufu processing marketing were summarized and presented. The exponential functional form was chosen as the lead equation. The choice of the lead equation was based on the number of significant variables, the magnitude of the coefficient of multiple determination (R^2), the conformity of signs borne by the variable to with *a priori* expectation as well as the significance F-ratio. The coefficient of multiple determination was 0.9306 which implies that 93.06% of the variation in the marketer's returns was explained by the explanatory variables included in the model. Age, education, processing period and labour cost were significant variables that influence the profit of Fufu processor. The age of the respondents was significant at

10% and positively related to the profit, meaning that as the age advances, profit increases which may be as a result of the increase in energy and capabilities to carry out Fufu processing in the area. Age may provide an indication, all things being equal, of the experience or knowledge of respondents may have gained over the years on Fufu processing marketing and how to overcome inherent challenges and problems so as to maximize return.

The coefficient of level of education was significant at 1% level of significance and positively related to the return of the respondent in the study area. This is in line with a prior expectation. This implies that the higher the level of education, the higher the net return from Fufu processing marketing, this is true because education is an investment in human capacity which is able to raise the skills and qualities. This is in line with recommendation of FAO (2006)

that higher educational level is synonymous with higher level of business attainment and higher income. Better education has the effect of enabling marketer's access and conceptualizes information on improved marketing methods and other related issues capable of enhancing their welfare (Apata *et al.*, 2010). Processing period was significant at 1% and positively related to the return of

Fufu processor. An increase in the volume of sale by one bag of cassava will leads to an increase in profit from Fufu processing. Coefficient of labour cost and experience were statistically significant at 1% and 5% respectively, this implies that increase in the cost of any of these variables will lead to decrease in profit and vice versa.

Table 10: Regression Estimated of Factors Affecting the Profitability of Marketing

Variables	Linear	Semi log	Exponential+	Double log
Intercept	1759.666 (2.06)**	29630.97 (2.71)***	7.299 (30.70)***	9.689 (8.16)***
Year of education (X_1)	22.739 (0.55)	-405.948 (-3.10)***	0.0319 (2.80)***	-0.001 (-0.05)
Age (X_2)	4.180 (1.13)	-29.675 (-0.16)	0.002 (1.97)*	0.027 (1.37)
Cost of processing(X_3)	-0.089 (-1.65)	-3613.997 (-3.32)***	0.000 (0.88)	-0.265 (-2.24)**
Processing period (X_4)	906.840 (50.19)***	4727.855 (33.85)***	0.176 (35.14)***	0.967 (63.73)***
Experience(X_5)	-1.84 (-3.07)***	383.845 (3.57)***	-0.000 (-4.59)***	-0.009 (-0.80)
Labour cost (X_6)	0.051 (0.84)	432.665 (4.04)***	-0.000 (-2.07)**	0.015 (1.29)
Gender (X_7)	-0.103 (-2.51)**	-234.444 (-1.67)*	1.19E-06 (0.10)	-0.029 (-1.91)*
Household size (X_8)	-0.063 (-0.28)	-95.113 (-0.90)	1.19E-06 (0.02)	-0.019 (-1.65)*
R^2	0.965	0.930	0.931	0.9785
R^{-2}	0.962	0.9234	0.925	0.977
F-ratio	39.34***	61.61***	63.94***	56.56***

Source: Field Survey (2024).

Key: *** = significant at 1%, ** = significant at 5%, * = significant at 10%.

Distribution of Respondents According to Problem

Table 11 shows the distribution of respondents according to problem encounter. Majority of the respondent reported lack of processing facilities in value chain as the most serious constraint affecting participation in cassava value chain by Garri and Fufu. According to Simeon *et al.*, (2017) lack of processing and Poor coordination among actors in the value chain is strongly influenced by market participation decision of cassava farmers which is likely lead to poor production,

processing and marketing of cassava products.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the finding on profit differentials among cassava value added processors in Umuahia South Local Government Area of Abia State, the study therefore concludes that Garri processing is more profitable than Fufu. This therefore implies that Garri is the most credible value-added product in area, also Level of education, processing period, experience, gender and household size were

significant variable that influence the profit of the Garri processor while age, education, processing period and labour cost were significant variable that influence the profit of Fufu processor.

Therefore, is recommended that local government and relevant stakeholders are

ought to in improving processing infrastructure and access to modern technologies. Additionally, there should be targeted support programs that focus on increasing access to affordable credit and providing training on efficient production techniques.

Table 11: Distribution of Respondents According to Problem

Problem	Garri	Fufu
Lack of processing facilities	2.20	2.7
Lack of proper Education	2.33	2.83
Lack of Storage Facilities	3.01	3.12
Inaccessibility to extension staff	3.00	2.5
Shortage of labour	2.65	2.15
Lack of land ownership right	2.15	2.65
Inaccessibility to credit	2.52	3.00
Inadequate Finance	2.50	3.00
Shortage of Farm Inputs	2.83	2.33
Low Level of Infrastructure	2.30	2.8
Low Government Participation In cassava value chain product	2.70	2.7
Scarcity/shortage of cassava harvested	2.33	2.83
Limited capacity to expand your cassava enterprise affects your participation	2.32	2.66
Lack of access to improved technologies	3.72	3.60
Poor access to extension service	3.85	4.05
Farming systems you adopted has influenced your participation	2.60	3.65
Source of labour supply affects your participation	3.77	3.58
Lack of processing facilities	4.15	4.28

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Lastly by addressing these challenges, cassava value-added processors can increase their productivity, reduce operational costs, and ultimately improve their profit margins.

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