

# **GENDER PREFERRED TRIATS AS IT AFFECT CASSAVA PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING VALUE CHAIN IN IMO STATE NIGERIA**

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# Introduction

- Cassava is one of our major staple foods in Nigeria
- “Cassava is the main source of food for us and our children. It is what we eat every day and is very important for us in this village. One cannot stay in a day without eating fufu or gari, the person will feel very empty“
- “Cassava is our cash crop; we depend on it and make a lot of money from cassava farming”(FGD women Logara)

# Objectives of Gender Preferred Traits as it affect Cassava production and Processing value chain

Collect information on:

- Gender roles and responsibilities and household decision-making
- Varietal preferences
- Production practices
- Seed sourcing

# Methodology



## Summary of data collected and tools used

- Information for the study was obtained through group interviews with male and female cassava farmers(FGD) using qualitative and quantitative structured questionnaire and interviews with farmer informants.
- The team designed a check list which include; varieties, traits (agronomic and processing) and seed sourcing.

- The team also interviewed processors and marketers in the villages on preferences for cassava varieties and traits.
- Data was analysed by the use of descriptive statistics
- Tests of sample difference were performed to establish any significant difference between means and frequencies for important variables that explain adoption among male and female farmers.

# Study location

**Palace of the King of Nnorie**



**Symbol of Logara**



**Table 1: Cassava activity and labour calendar for men and women in Imo State**

Task	Month	Who is involved
Land preparation	J F M Ap May Jn Jy Ag S Oct N D	Men , Women ,Male children, female children, Hired male labour, hired female labour
Land clearing	J,F,M,A	M,MC,HM
Making mounds	A,M,J	W,MC,FC,HW
Obtaining cassava stems	A,M,J,J,A,S,O	W,MC,FC,
T r a n s p o r t i n g cassava stems	A,M,J,J,A,S,O	W,MC.FC
Planting	A,M,J,J,J,A,S,O	W ,MC,FC,
Weeding	June/Aug/oct/dec/jan	W,MC,FC.HW
Harvesting	All year round	W,MC.FC,HW
Selling	All year round	W,MC,FC
Processing	All year round	W,MC,FC

W=women=men; MC=male children; FC=female children; HM=hired male; HW-hired women



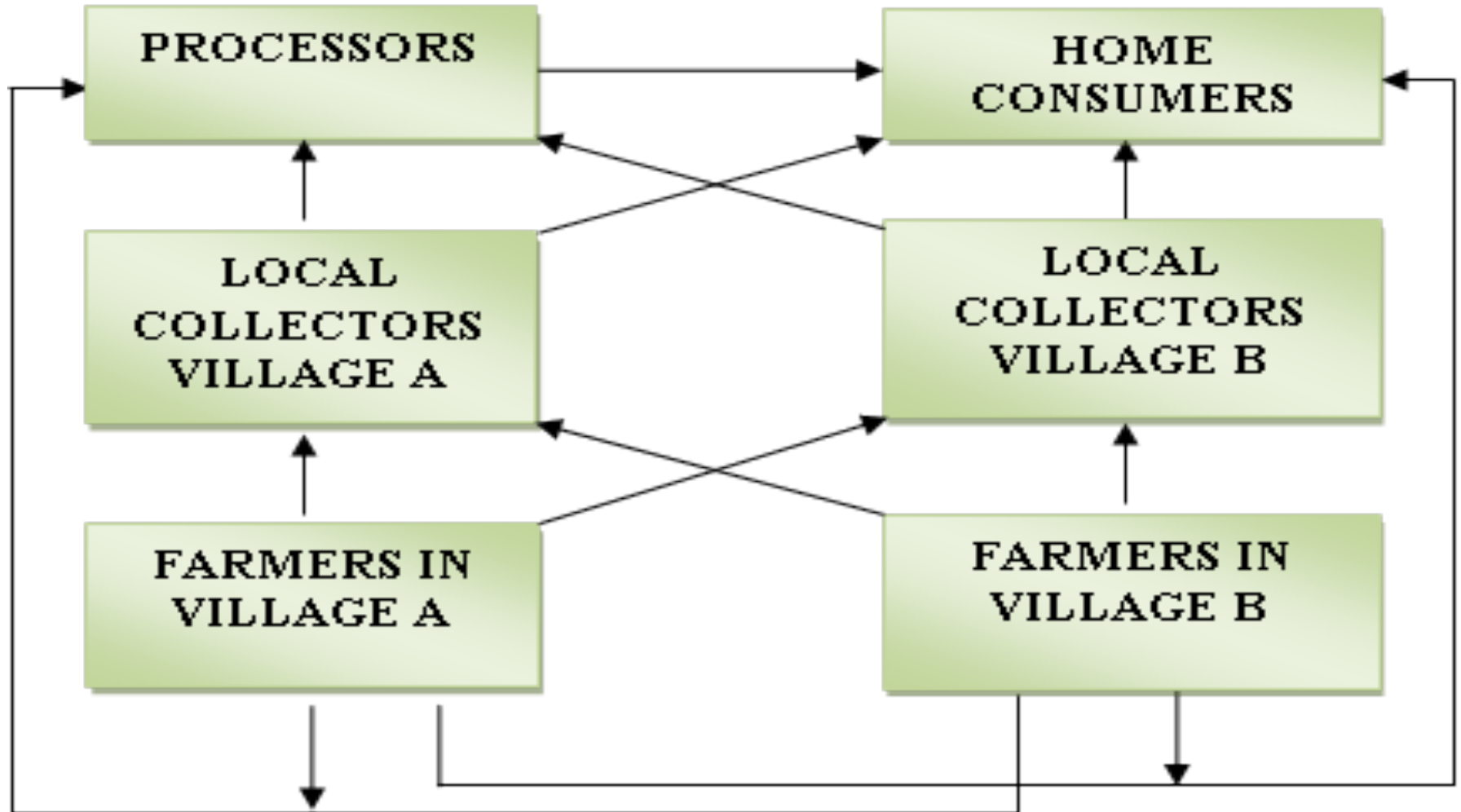
**Table 1: Average Statistics of the Respondents sampled in the study area**

Variable	Men	women	
	Mean(std.dev)	Mean(std.dev)	Z-value
Age	41.04(14.59)	35.12(10.95)	2.03*
Household Size	3.94(2.58)	4.30(0.98)	2.65*
Farming Experience	12.24(12.95)	23.65(11.94)	10.10***
Farm Size	3.85(5.70)	2.45(2.11)	5.91***
Quantity Harvested(kg)	4,273.91(4,975.89)	6,065.38(5703.14)	3.63***
Quantity Consumed(kg)	3,365.22(8,318.70)	4,065.38(5,703.14)	3.39**
Quantity Processed(kg)	2,806.52(3460.70)	6,644.17(9606.17)	6.55**
Distance to farm(km)	2.78(1.76)	3.02(1.89)	2.14*
Distance to Market(km)	2.83(1.51)	3.05(1.66)	2.35*
Distance to processing centre	0.62(0.78)	0.91(1.14)	2.08*
Road Condition is good (%)	17.39	11.54	3.81**
Ownership of means of communication (%)	78.26	88.46	3.84**
Membership of cooperatives (%)	50.00	40.00	3.00**
Extension Contact	53.17	50.00	1.30

# Who controls cassava production/Processing and Marketing



# The chain actors



# Typologies of cassava producers

Three typologies of cassava producers are identified based on production, processing and marketing.

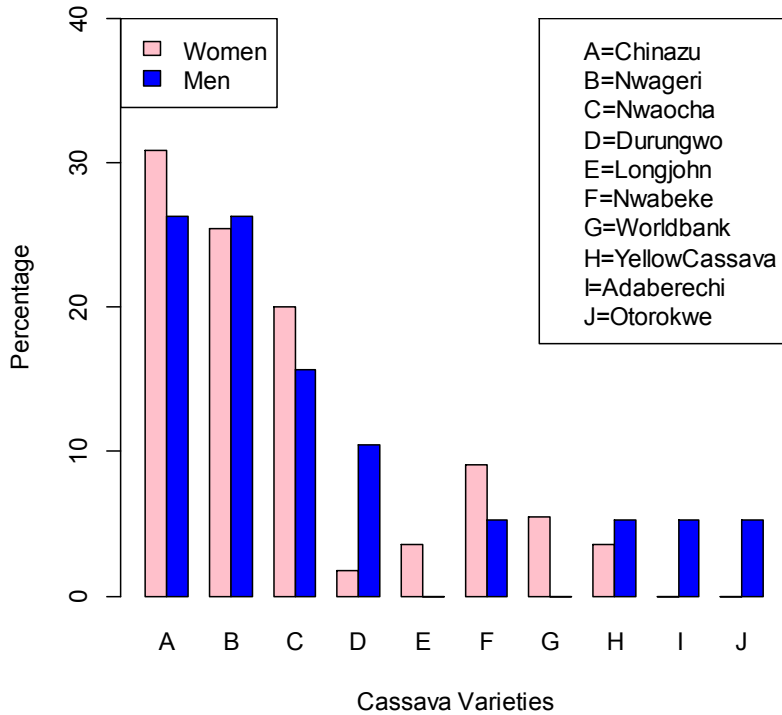
- Producers are farmers who specialised in cassava production. This category produces large quantity of roots, process and markets the roots and products
- Producers are farmers who produce cassava, process and market as one of the main cash crops
- Producers are farmers who produce cassava mainly for home consumptions, though some of

# Varieties grown

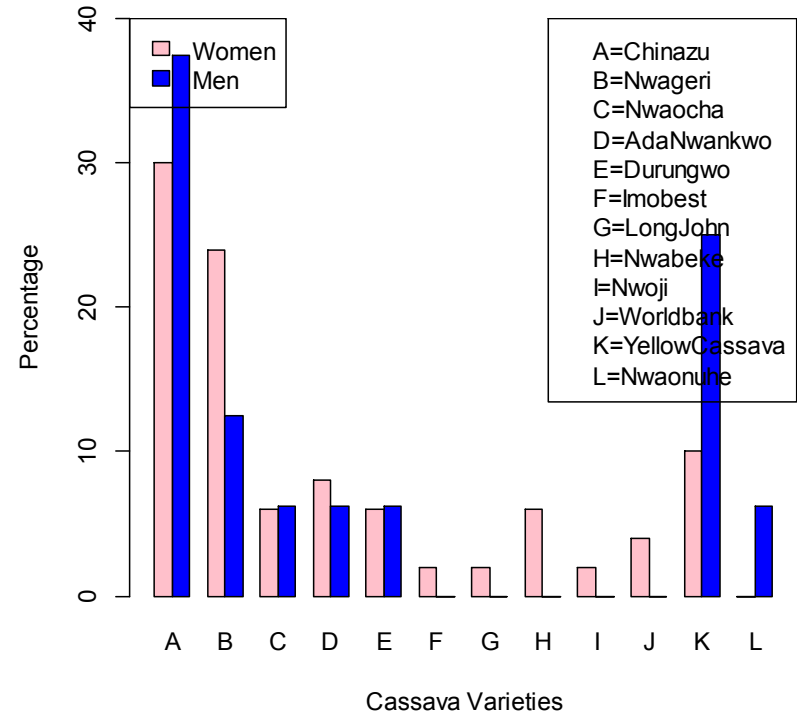
- Farmers cultivated several varieties
- 22 different named varieties
  - 64% cultivated for over 20 years
  - 6% cultivated for up to 5 years
  - Men and women averagely cultivated 3 varieties

# Cassava varieties grown

**Cassava Varieties Grown In Nnorie**



**Cassava Varieties Grown In Logara**



## Text box 1

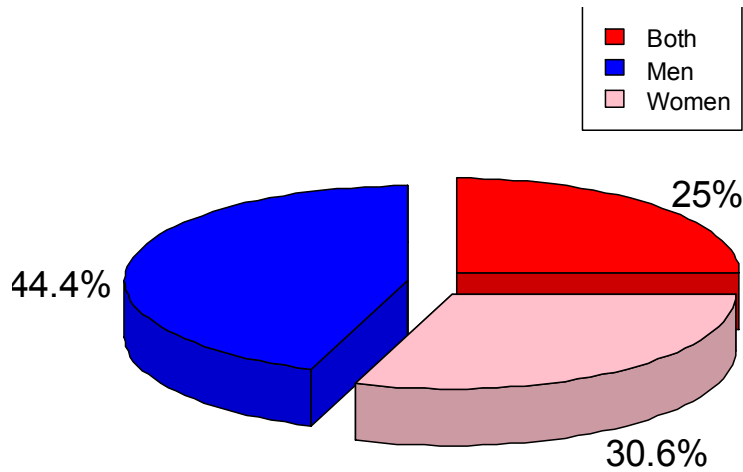
### women FGD (Nnorria)

Woman did not own a land in this community because it had been their tradition for a woman not to own land. A woman managed or looked after the farm for the man. The woman decided on the cassava variety to plant. However, they had to tell their husbands before they made use of the money realized from the sales of produce. This was because they did not own their separate farms, they farmed together. The family head, the father, made the decision on who uses which plot for cassava production. If a woman wanted to plant a new cassava variety, she would not consult anyone expressed in a quote from the discussions.

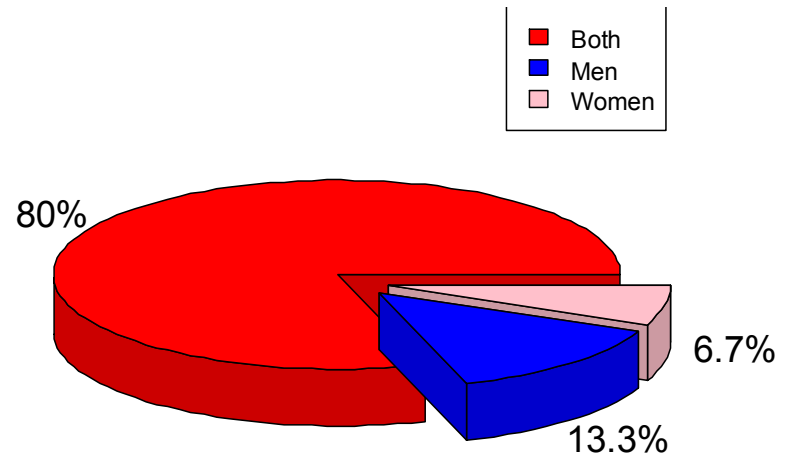
**“We do our thing ourselves. We know it very well, that is why we do not consult anybody. Men have no cassava farms”.**

# Renting of land for cassava cultivation

### Renting Land For Planting Cassava: Women's Response



### Renting Land For Planting Cassava: Men's Response



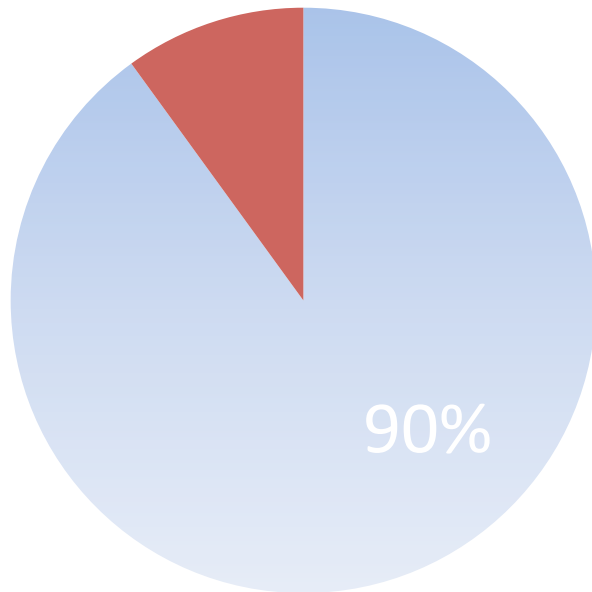


## Varieties and their Local Translations Indicating Preferred Traits

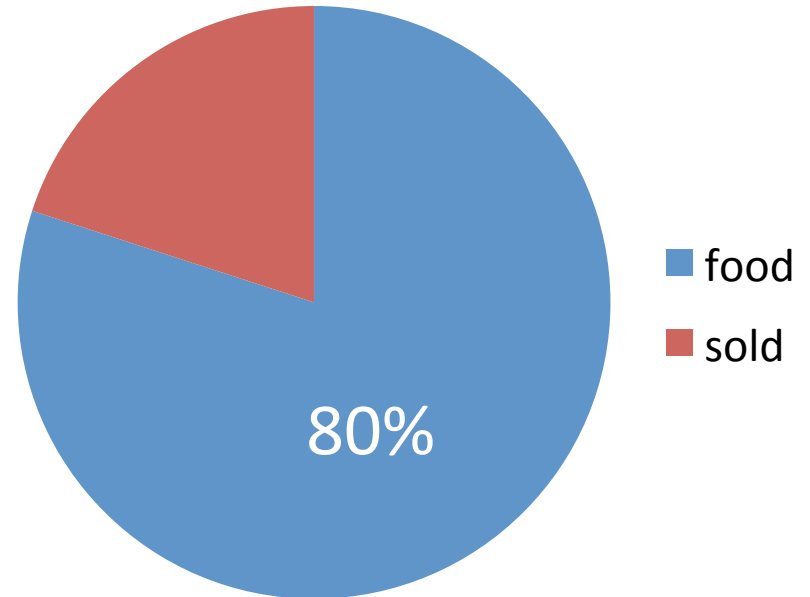
Nnorie Variety	Direct English Translation	Logara Variety	Direct English Translation.
chigazu	God will sustain me	Chigazu	God will sustain me
Nwageri	My child must eat	Nwageri	My child must feed
Nwaocha	Light skinned child	Ada Nwankwo	Girl Child born on nkwo market day
Durungwo	Tall raffia palm	Imo best	Best variety from Imo state
longjohn	Tall stem	Nwaocha	Light skinned child
Nwabeke	Light skinned child	Nwaonuhie	Child with red lips
World bank	Distributed by world bank project	Durungwo	Tall raffia palm
Yellow cassava	Cassava roots has yellow colour	Longjohn	Tall stem
Adaberechi	Depend on God	Nwoji	Dark skinned child
Otorokwem	Stand erect	Yellow roots	

# Allocation of cassava roots harvested

Female focus group



Male focus group



# Top traits for cassava preferences

- High yielding
- Produces many roots
- Early maturing
- Branching ability to smother weeds
- Long shelf life in-situ (“*We do not have banks here, our bank is in the soil*”)
- Marketable (high price)
- High starch content (“solid like yam”)
- Draws when prepared into gari and fufu
- Increases in quantity when prepared into gari and fufu
- Good colour appearance
- Poundability (wet cassava mash cooked and prepared into fufu)
- Swelling ability
- Ratooning ability
- Ease of peeling ( could be dependent on season)

Men and women could have similar preferred traits

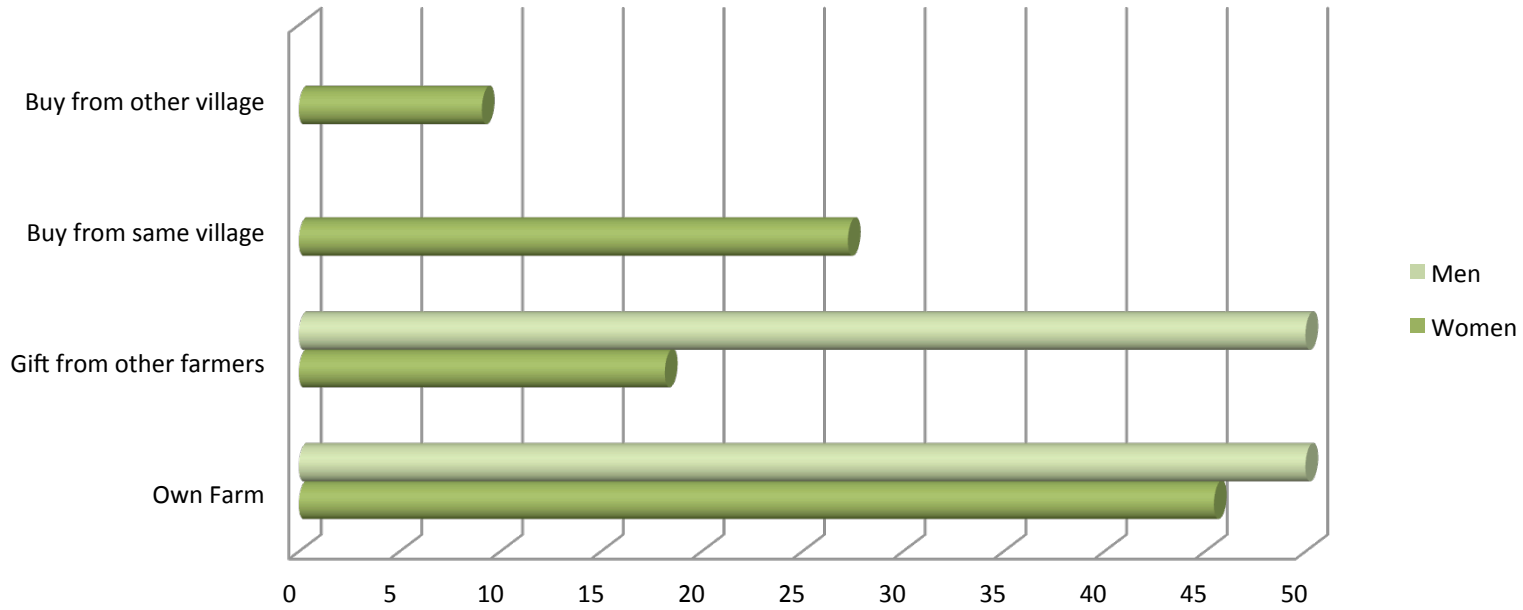
Women had additional preferred traits (food quality, ease of peeling and weed control)

Men had additional preferred traits ( early maturing, marketable)

# Cassava varieties

- The varieties play important social function not only food to be grown through the names given eg. **Nwaocha “light skinned child”, Adanwankwo “girl child born on nkwo market day” Durugwo “as tall as rafia palm”**
- Some of the names portray the desired trait in the variety eg. **Chigazu “my God will provide for me” Adaberechi “Depend on God” both varieties indicting high root yield.**
- Women preferred in ground storage trait of Nwageri (food security and ready cash)

## Source of Cuttings in Imo State Nigeria FGD



# Conclusion

- The results showed dominance of four local cassava varieties grown by the farmers with farmer responses showing no strong or clear gender differences in varietal preferences.
- There is need to encourage younger farmers to increased adoption of improved cassava varieties.
- There is also need for land re-form policies by granting more access to land especially to the women farmers to enhance the adoption and preference for improved varieties.
- Provision of institutional and infrastructural facilities especially increased extension contacts, formation of cooperatives and good rural road networks to enhance increased yield and reduce the transaction costs on moving cassava from the farmgate to the market.
- Provision and access to processing inputs to drive the adoption of improved cassava varieties by farmers in the study area.

# Acknowledgements





**Thank You for Listening**