

Topic: Comparative Analysis of Gender Involvement in Cassava Production in Ondo State, Nigeria

***^{a1}Jeff-Agboola Y.A., ^bAdekoya I. O, ^cJeff-Agboola E.O. and ^{a2}Adoh P. O.**

^{a1} Department of Biological Sciences, University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City, Ondo State, Nigeria.

^{a2} Office of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City, Ondo State, Nigeria.

^b Dept. of Biotech. and Food Tech., University of Johannesburg, South Africa

^c Department of Biological Sciences, Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji Arakeji, Osun State, Nigeria

***^a Corresponding author=+2348036674706 yieffagboola@yahoo.com**

Cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) is grown in tropical and sub-tropical areas worldwide for the edible starchy roots (tubers) which are major food source in the developing world. This paper examines gender involvement in cassava production in Ondo State, Nigeria as a means towards increased food sufficiency and consequently curbing food crisis. It critically identified the specific gender involvement in cassava production and gender inequality is noticed and this constitutes a bottleneck to development, calling for a review of government policies on agriculture to all the elements that place women farmers at a disadvantage. Primary data were collected through structured interview to 80 women farmers randomly selected from list of women farmers provided by the Voice of Women in the Development of Agriculture, Nigeria. Descriptive statistics was used to analyses the data. The study revealed that the involvement of women farmers was very high (75%) while that of men was low (20%) with the involvement of the youth (5%). It was suggested that to curb food crisis and increase the participation of gender in cassava value chain production, there is the need for advocacy for equitable integration of both men and women in cassava production in Nigeria.

KEY WORDS: Cassava production, Gender role, smallholder's farmers, women,