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Gender factor in the structure and conduct of the cocoa industry in Nigeria

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The study examined gender differentiation of tasks and responsibilities and evaluated the level of success and/ or failure among men and women in cocoa marketing in the study area using primary and secondary data collection.

The study revealed that there was gender discrimination against women in access to credit due to their inability to provide collateral security. It was also found that the major marketing problems faced by cocoa marketers included those of pricing, finance, transportation, activities of fraudsters and high cost of marketing. The study also revealed that the structure of the industry did not seem to have contributed to the observed barriers to entry features. The problems preventing new entrants into the industry within the past few years included those of transportation, unstable price (unforeseen fall in Cocoa prices), access to loan or problems created by banks by charging what was considered to be too high bank interest rates on loan. These are without prejudice to their volume of trading.

The study concluded that female cocoa marketers in Ondo State possessed tremendous ability to succeed in the business if only their opportunities to credit facilities and capital could be enhanced.

Introduction

Women are found to contribute significantly to economic production in almost all societies; their contribution to agricultural production is even greater than that of men (FOS, 1997). In retail trading, cottage industries and service occupations, women have continued to play significant roles. The contribution that women make to the http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/wid/activities/womens_economicgrowth_rc.htm economic, social, and political lives of their nations, communities, families and the next generations make them key actors in effective development. More than 800 million women are economically active worldwide -- in agriculture, small and micro enterprise, and, increasingly, in the export processing industries that drive globalization (Natsios, 2004). There is hardly any society in which women enjoy the same opportunities as men (FOS, 1997).

Gender Inequality

There are differences between women and men that are biological and social. Sex refers to the biological differences that are universal and unchanging. Gender refers to the social differences that are learned, changeable over time, and have wide variations within and between cultures. Gender is a socio-economic variable to analyze roles, responsibilities, constraints and opportunities of the people involved: it considers both women and men. Gender roles are learned behaviours in a given society; conditioning which activities, tasks and responsibilities are considered feminine and masculine. Gender roles are affected by age, class religion, ethnicity, regional origin and history. They

can change because of several reasons, of which economic crisis is an important reason. They can also change because of fertility decline, increasing educational levels, introduction of new technology or development efforts. The gender roles of men and women are closely interrelated and may be similar, different, complementary or conflicting (Schoemaker, 1996). Women and men's responsibilities differ according to the specific situations in which they live; environment, economic conditions, occupations, class, culture and history, legal structures and religion shaped these circumstances (Thomas-Slayer, 1993).

Gender differences in agricultural productivity

The role of rural women in agriculture and in rural development has received increased attention in recent decades. This is exemplified in their contributions to food production and family earnings *vis-à-vis* skilled labour and entrepreneurship; and through female work groups rather than as family members (Udry *et al.*, 1995; Kandiyoti, 1990). A number of studies addressed the specialized roles of women in terms of marketing of crops and products made from crops (Kanbur & Haddad, 1994; Jones, 1986). Also, women provide a significant share of the labour (both family and hired) for farm activities and are important as primary producers of food crops (FAO, 1985; Weekes-Vagliani, 1985).

Studies have shown that women also play major roles in farm-level decision making, either as farm managers managing their own fields (Moock, 1976) or as 'effective decision makers' even in households in which the household head is a male, either because of their specific skills or when

the husbands are absent for longer periods because they are employed in urban areas (Quisumbing, 1994). Several studies have addressed the question of differential farm productivity on plots managed by women and men (Udry *et al.*, 1995; Ramaswamy, 1991; Saito, Mekonnen & Spurling, 1994; Quisumbing, 1994). Haddad, Hoddinot and Alderman (1994) have utilized 'household' models in examining the role of women in agriculture and concluded that the participation of women in farm production and in labour markets varies greatly across societies and is clearly affected by culture and religion.

Nigerian women represent about 50.0 percent of the agricultural labour force and produce much of the country's food; farmwomen undertake most farm operations themselves; and rural women spent between 15-20 work hours on the average per day on agricultural and household subsistence work while men spent fifteen (Adebogun, 1994). If this is reflected in the production of cash crop like cocoa, this would have improved the economic status of women considerably well, which in turn would affect Nigeria's economic development.

Unfortunately, instead of gaining ownership and/or control over factors of production and productive assets, women face more constraints than men. Such constraints facing women, according to Adedoyin (1999) are: limited access to farmland; much of their time and labour controlled by their husbands and by their compound elders; difficulties in obtaining credit from institutional sources, which aggravate their limited ability to earn and control income of their own; and limited ability of women to own capital assets.

Women perform most of rural commodity transport work involving most commonly carrying of water, fuel, wood, harvested farm produce and goods to or from market. Other farm activities of women include crop production, livestock production, fishing and fish farming, forest resources management, agricultural products technology, storage and utilization, agro-processing, agricultural business management, community and rural development activities (through Co-operative, self-help, employment generation, education, health, social development programmes) (Adedoyin, 1999).

Women's access to credit

Rural women are constrained by lack of collateral as well as knowledge about any existing credit schemes. A study of such schemes in Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe in 1990 revealed that women only took 10 percent of credit earmarked for small holders and only one percent of total credit to agriculture (FAO, 1997).

A lot of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also sprung up in the last few years providing micro-credit services to supplement the traditional methods of operating informal borrowing/ lending schemes. Unfortunately, these efforts are still scattered and have not reached desirable levels nor been effective in improving women's access to credit. Even where efforts are made to extend facilities to rural women, other factors such as intimidating procedures and inadequate information present formidable obstacles.

For example, the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) in Nigeria, which was planned to provide credit services and support services to strengthen income generation capacity, was abandoned by most women groups due to the long procedures which are rather cumbersome. The requirement for the loan did not consider the profile of rural populace who are mainly illiterates.

It is also well known that the improvement of living standards and general economic development in many areas of the world are characterized by a shift from subsistence agriculture to the cultivation of cash crops. Cocoa (*theobroma cacao*) is one of the most important commodities traded internationally and it is a crop that plays a strategic role in the economies of many developing countries. Olatunbosun and Olayide (1972) showed statistically that cocoa exports have been and will continue to be a significant factor in the economic growth of Nigeria. The contribution of cocoa among all agricultural exports from Nigeria showed that, the percentage of cocoa in the value of exports had been fluctuating but in a decreasing trend over the years. Two decades later, this position was reaffirmed as indicated by the Central Bank report. Between 1985 and 1993 cocoa commanded about 70 percent of the value of agricultural export (CBN, 1995).

However, cocoa, as economically significant as it may be, for instance, being a major raw material for many beverage industries, home and abroad, is facing the problem of acute neglect. This has resulted in a consistent decline in production in most of the world's cocoa producing countries including Nigeria. This may not be unconnected with the global economic recession, which consequently often precipitated price stagnation of this valued commodity (Kolawole, 2000). Many people have sensed that the oil wealth could not last forever and hence there is a dire need for a re-emphasis in favour of rebuilding Nigeria's export structure. Successive governments in Nigeria have failed to respond adequately to this challenge.

Statement of the problem

Agricultural tasks are partly or wholly gender specific. In a given culture, they are defined as appropriate to one or the other sex. However, because societies are constantly evolving and adapting to new pressures, the allocation of tasks between sexes within a community also undergoes change. For instance, some people are of the opinion that, in some cases, work that has traditionally been done by women is taken over by men once it has been mechanized (Akanji, 2002).

The cocoa economy of Nigeria has attracted a lot of writers because of its unique achievements for peasant agriculture. Numerous journals, articles, theses and books have highlighted these achievements and problems as well as solutions to them, (Adedayo, 1995; Awoyele, 1997; Aloba, 1999; Owofemi, 1999; Oyinloye, 1999). However, there are some unsettled questions, which need to be examined as further contributions to tentative solutions to some problems. One of the foremost questions concerns the gender factor in the structure and conduct in the industry and how this can be improved for increased benefits to all

sectors of the cocoa economy. As the level of cocoa production and marketing in Nigeria keeps falling below expectation (Kolawole, 2000:11), this study examined the gender factor in all sides of the structure and conduct in the cocoa industry in Ondo State. In a bid to do this, the following critical questions were addressed:

- Is there gender segregation that serves as barrier to entry into cocoa business?
- What can be done to remove these barriers if any?
- Is there any difference between male and female cocoa marketers in terms of sales volume and access to critical resources such as capital, and labour and entrepreneurial capabilities?
- What are the key success and failure factors by gender?

The answers to these questions provided insight into the gender factor in the structure and conduct of Cocoa in Ondo State.

Objectives of the study

The general objective of this study is to examine the gender factor in the structure and conduct of cocoa industry in Ondo State with special reference to Idanre. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- (a) examine gender differentiation of tasks and responsibilities in cocoa marketing.
- (b) evaluate the level of success and failure among men and women in the structure of cocoa industry.
- (c) Identify contributing factors to the level of success and failure among men and women in the structure and conduct of cocoa marketing activities and proffer solutions.

Methodology

The selection of the firms

The primary data for the study were obtained from Idanre town and villages of Ondo State, Nigeria between April 2000 and April 2001 by means of pre-tested questionnaires drawn in English and Yoruba languages.

Justification for the selection of the firms in the area

This area (henceforth called *Idanre*) has the largest volume of cocoa marketed from Ondo state yearly. As at Year 2000, 38.26 percent of the state's total cocoa output came from Idanre, while 16.25 percent of the country's total cocoa production came from Ondo State out of 36 states of the federation (OSMARD, 2001).

Population and sample

The study population was categorized into three, depending on the method used in sourcing the marketed cocoa beans.

Category A: Marketers who bought their marketed beans only. In this category 273 in all with 82 marketers drawn from the group.

Category B: Marketers who planted their marketed beans only. In this category, of the thirty-four marketers, only ten were drawn.

Category C: Marketers who got their beans by planting some and complementing those planted by other purchases. There were one hundred and ninety four marketers in this category; fifty-eight marketers were drawn from this category.

Stratified random sampling technique

The research focused on cocoa marketers from the farm to the last set of marketers who transport the collected beans out of Idanre. The marketers were randomly selected from registered marketers so obtained and a list of unregistered marketers, obtained from interactions with marketers in '*Alade*', a market in Idanre, using the following variables with a sampling fraction of 30 percent:

- a) Political/ Administrative zones: the marketers were divided into three existing political/administrative zones in the area based on their addresses.
- b) Gender classification: Marketers were divided into two parts depending on whether they are male or female. A sampling fraction of 30 percent, reflective of the gender distribution in the parent population, was utilized: ninety-three out of three hundred and eleven male marketers and fifty seven out of one hundred and ninety female marketers were drawn which made the sample size to be 150 out of a population of 501.

Out of the 150 questionnaires given out, 138 questionnaires were retrieved. The numbers in each class were randomly chosen. The data presented in this study were based on the 138 completed questionnaires received out of which 85 were males while 53 were females, with a mean age of 45 years. This stratified random sampling procedure helped to increase the statistical precision and reduce standard error, which are desirable rules of field experimentation.

Techniques of data collection

The primary data collection involved the use of structured and unstructured pre-tested sets of questionnaires, personal interviews, focus group discussions and direct observations. The questionnaires drawn in English and Yoruba solicited information from different institutions in the marketing channels. Additional data were also collected from secondary sources such as files available at the Ondo State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Akure and Produce Office, Idanre.

Procedure for data analysis

The data gathered were used to estimate the total expenses incurred by each cocoa marketer in marketing 1 tonne of dry cocoa beans. Other estimations included the gross revenue

from cocoa, which was obtained by multiplying volume sold (in tonnes) by the actual producer price, which varied, from one seller to the other. The difference between the total revenue and the total amount spent, (excluding management cost) was the returns to management or profit (as used in this research work) for that period. All the above calculations were done for each cocoa marketer. The sales for female cocoa marketers were statistically compared with those of their male counterparts using the t – test.

The various cost elements in the study were identified as wages, transportation, labour, equipment, association fee, grading fee, and other miscellaneous items. They are called cost tracing variables. Lack of adequate record keeping by the marketers affected the collection of accurate data on these. The only items of cost for which adequate records were available for some of the marketers were wages, transportation, association fee, and grading fee. The others were based on the respondents' recall. That was why the marketers were asked for the total amount spent in marketing their products (that is Total Marketing Cost) to take care of some inadequacies in record keeping of some cost tracing variables.

From this exercise each firm's unit marketing cost (UMC) was estimated, which was calculated by dividing the total marketing cost by the volume of output handled. The Unit Marketing Margin (UMM) for each firm was obtained by subtracting the selling price of the commodity from its purchasing price. Multiplying this value by the quantity marketed resulted in the Total Marketing Margin. The total profit for each firm was determined by subtracting the Total Marketing Cost (TMC) from the Total Marketing Margin (TMM).

Measures of market structure

Structural indicators calculated for males, females and the industry were: Concentration Ratio (CR) - CR_4 , Herfindahl Index (HI) and Gini Coefficient.

The **concentration ratio** of an industry is used as an indicator of the relative size of firms in relation to the industry as a whole. The concentration ratio used in this

study is the *four-firm concentration ratio*, which consists of the market share, as a percentage, of the four largest firms in the industry (QuickMBA, 2004).

The **Herfindahl index** is a measure of the size of firms in relationship to the industry and an indicator of the amount of competition among them. It is defined as the sum of the squares of the market shares of each individual firm in the industry (QuickMBA, 2004).

The **Gini coefficient** is a measure of income inequality developed by the Italian statistician Corrado Gini. The Gini coefficient is a number between 0 and 1, where 0 corresponds with perfect equality (where everyone has the same income) and 1 corresponds with perfect inequality (where one person has all the income, and everyone else has zero income). To compute the Gini Coefficient, the area between the Lorenz Curve and the 45-degree equality line was first measured; the entire area below the 45-degree line (which is always exactly one half) was used to divide this measured area. The quotient is the Gini coefficient, a measure of inequality (Wikipedia, 2004).

Measure of conduct

Pricing is the only aspect of conduct used for this study.

Data analyses and other processes involved the use of both descriptive and inferential statistics using the computer Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Results and discussion

Cocoa marketers and age

The age of marketers ranged from 24 to 67 with an arithmetic mean of 45 in the pooled Idanre sample. The mean age for males and females were not statistically significantly different at the 10 percent level; and the modal ages for males, females and pooled samples were 43, 39 and 43 years respectively (Table 1).

Table 1: Age distribution and statistics of cocoa marketers by gender, Idanre sample: Ondo State of Nigeria, 2000/2001 season

Age (years)	Male	Female	Total	% of Total
Under 26	0	3	3	2,17
26-35	9	11	20	14,49
36-45	35	24	59	42,75
46-55	20	9	29	21,01
56 and above	19	6	25	18,12
No response	2	-	02	1,45
Total	85	53	138	100,00
Statistics:				
Minimum Age	28	24	24	
Maximum Age	67	63	67	
Arith. mean Age	47,19	42,49	45,35	
Median Age	45	42	43,5	
Modal Age	43*	39*	43	

*Multiple modal ages: The smallest is shown.

Source: Akinola, 2003

The study revealed that some 40 percent of marketers in the pooled sample were above 45 years; meaning that by the time the marketers grow too old for the business, the younger ones, constituting 60 percent of the sample would have become matured and can replace them. There is therefore no sign of shortage of cocoa marketers warranted by old age in the future.

Years in business as cocoa marketers

Table 2 summarizes findings on the number of years in business by the respondents, which revealed that there are wide variations in business experience by gender and location. The overall arithmetic mean number of years in cocoa marketing was 17 years. The findings further showed that male marketers are more experienced than female marketers and that all the marketers having more than 40 years of cocoa marketing experience were from Odoode.

About 41 percent of the marketers entered the industry within the last ten years (Table 2) but about 30 percent of them entered between 1980 and 1990. This could suggest that there had been a consistent increase in the net percentage of marketers entering the industry within the last sixty years. This phenomenon could also suggest that the real profit of cocoa marketing business over time had been relatively favourable, compared with other crops. However, for such an inference to be totally valid, one would need a measurement of exits (by reason) from the cocoa marketing industry as well as the features of these elements with respect to other crops in the area.

Gender distribution in study's sample marketers

Cocoa marketers in the study area were mostly men (62%: Table 3). The highest percentage of respondents recorded in Atoshin were males (86%); and the least, 51% of respondents existing in Alade were males (Table 3). The reasons for this, according to the respondents include the following:

- Cocoa business is tedious and risky; men have greater capacity to endure and bear the risks than women. Besides, men are physically stronger and possess the ability to stay away from home, which is one of the conditions for success in cocoa business. Men are more mobile and have better access to loans because of collateral securities that are to their advantage.
- Men dominate grading activity because they are more experienced in it. Grading is labour intensive and energy consuming and men are more energetic. This places men in an advantageous position in terms of buying and storing in large quantities and in exporting.
- Men dominate the spraying of cocoa in stores with chemicals because of their financial ability to purchase spraying equipment and bear the hazardous effects of the chemicals.
- Men have greater potential to bear risks when it comes to advancing and sourcing for money.
- Men also dominate in the collection and gathering of cocoa from farmers because of their physical strength to bear the hardship involved in those activities.
- The few marketers that are females (38% of the marketers) dominate in:
 - i. pan buying commonly referred to as 'see and buy'. This is buying in bits and it is less cumbersome. However, it brings higher returns on invested capital. It does not require heavy capital and serious loans, nor large storage and it enhances good human relations in the community.
 - ii. There are more women in secretarial aspects of cocoa marketing because women are more meticulous than men.

Business volume by gender and location

Table 4 illustrates the marketers' distribution of Naira business volume by location and gender. There was no female marketer in Alade and Atoshin whose sales volume in the year 2001 exceeded eight hundred and four thousand Naira (N804, 000.00). In Odoode however, the maximum sales volume among females was some N6.2million, which in itself was lower than the overall arithmetic mean sales volume (N10.12million); and males overall arithmetic mean of N16.12million.

Females' overall arithmetic mean sales volume being N491, 812 conveys that male marketers were much better in terms of sales volume. The arithmetic mean value for men was 33 times the sales volume of female marketers. Moreover, the arithmetic mean sales volume was highest in Odoode (N25.7 million) followed by Atoshin (N3.9 million), trailed by Alade (N2.2 million). There were definitely statistically significant differences in the arithmetic mean sales volume by location and by gender for Alade and Odoode; but there was no statistically significant difference in the arithmetic mean sales volume by location and by gender for Atoshin at the ten percent level of significance.

Volume of cocoa marketed per year

Table 5 summarizes the findings on the volume of dried Cocoa beans marketed during the 2000/2001 season. It was found that only 17 percent of the marketers marketed over 100 metric tonnes of Cocoa beans during the season and they were all males.

The minimum volume marketed (0,5 MT) was handled by each of three females located at Alade and the maximum volume marketed (1000 MT) was handled by each of three male marketers in Odoode. The pooled sample mean of the volume of Cocoa marketed in the industry was 91 MT; the mean volume of cocoa marketed among males (145 MT) was statistically significantly higher than those of females (4 MT) at the 10 percent level; that is, male cocoa marketers performed better in terms of total quantity marketed than their female counterparts.

Table 2: Distribution and statistic of respondents' year in business as cocoa marketers by gender and location Ondo State of Nigeria 2000/2001 season.

Row/Col	LOCATION OF MARKETERS EXPERIENCE (YEARS)	ALADE			ATOSHIN			ODOODE			OVERALL TOTAL		
		GENDER GROUP			GENDER GROUP			GENDER GROUP			GENDER GROUP		
		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	(1-9): Count	17	17	34	8	3	11	4	7	11	29	27	56
2	%Within experience	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%(60.7)	72.7%	27.3%	100%(19.6)	36.4%	63.6%	100%(19.6)	51.8%	48.2%	100%
3	% Within GENDER GROUP	45.9%	48.6%	47.2%	44.4%	100.0%	52.4%	13.3%	46.7%	24.4%	34.1%	50.9%	40.6%
4	(10-19): Count	18	13	31	5	0	5	2	4	6	25	17	42
5	%Within experience	58.1%	41.9%	100%(73.8)	100. %	0%	100%(11.9)	33.3%	66.7%	100%(14.3)	59.5%	40.5%	100. %
6	%Within GENDER GROUP	48.6%	37.1%	43.1%	27.8%	0%	23.8%	6.7%	26.7%	13.3%	29.4%	32.1%	30.4%
7	(20-29): Count	1	5	6	4	0	4	2	2	4	7	7	14
8	%Within experience	16.7%	83.3%	100%(42.9)	100.0%	0%	100%(2)	50.0%	50. %	100%(28.6)	50. %	50. %	100.0%
9	%Within GENDER GROUP	2.7%	14.3%	8.3%	22.2%	0%	19.0%	6.7%	13.3%	8.9%	8.2%	13.2%	10.1%
10	(30-39): Count	1	0	1	1	0	1	7	0	7	9	0	9
11	%Within experience	100%	0%	100%(11.1)	100.00%	0%	100%(11.1)	100.0%	0%	100%(77.8)	100 %	0%	100%
12	% Within GENDER GROUP	2.7%	0%	1.4%	5.6%	0%	4.8%	23.3%	0%	15.6%	10.6%	0%	6.5%
13	(40-49): Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	0	10
14	% Within experience	0%	0%	0%(0.0)	0%	0%	0%(0.0)	100%	0%	100%(100)	100.0%	0%	100%
15	%Within GENDER GROUP	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33.3%	0%	22.2%	11.8%	0%	7.2%
16	(50-59): Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	7	5	2	7
17	%Within experience	0%	0%	0%(0.0)	0%	0%	0%(0.0)	71.4%	28.6%	100%(100)	71.4%	28.6%	100%
18	%Within GENDER GROUP	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	16.7%	13.3%	15.6%	5.9%	3.8%	5.1%
19	Total: Count	37	35	72	18	3	21	30	15	45	85	53	138
20	% Within experience	51.4%	48.6%	100.0%	85.7%	14.3%	100.00%	66.7%	33.3%	100%	61.6%	38.4%	100
21	% Within GENDER GROUP	51.4%	48.6%	100.0%	85.7%	14.3%	100.00%	66.7%	33.3%	100%	61.6%	38.4%	100%
22	Statistics: Minimum	1.50	1.00	1.00	6.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	5.00	2.0	1.5	1.00	1.00
23	Maximum	31.00	26.00	31.00	38.00	6.00	38.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
24	Arithmetic mean	10.12	10.93	10.51	14.17	3.33	12.62	33.77	16.27	27.93	19.32	12.01	16.50
25	Median	10.00	10.00	10.00	13.00	2.00	8.00	38.50	12.00	35.00	12.00	8.00	12.00
26	Mode	12.00	5.00	5.00*	8.00	2.00	8.00	50.00	5.00	50.00	8.00	5.00	8.00

*Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown. The values in parentheses are the count of each total expressed as a percentage of overall total.

Source: Akinola, 2003

Table 3: Respondent marketers by gender and location, Idanre, Ondo State, Nigeria: 2000/2001 season

Row/ Col	LOCATION	GENDER GROUP		TOTAL
		Male	Female	
1	1	2	3	4
1	Alade: Count	37	35	72
2	No of Respondents to No in sample (%)	97,4	97,22	97,3
3	%Within location	51,4	48,8	100,0
4	% Within Gender in sample space	43,5	66,0	52,2
5	% of Total in Sample space	26,8	25,4	52,2
6	Atoshin: Count	18	3	21
7	No of Respondents to No in sample (%)	75,0	50,0	70,0
8	% Within LOCATION	85,7	14,3	100,0
9	% Within GENDER in sample space	21,2	5,7	15,2
10	% of Total in Sample space	13,0	2,2	15,2
11	Odoode : Count	30	15	45
12	No of Respondents to No in sample (%)	96,8	100,0	97,8
13	% Within LOCATION	66,7	33,3	100,0
14	% Within GENDER in sample space	35,3	28,3	32,6
15	% of Total in sample space	21,7	10,9	32,6
16	Total: Count	85	53	138
17	No of Respondents to No in sample (%)	91,4	93,0	92,0
18	% Within LOCATION	61,6	38,4	100,0
19	% Within GENDER in sample space	100,00	100,0	100,0
20	% of Total in sample space	61,6	38,4	100,0

Source: Akinola, 2003

Table 4: Statistics of volume of business (N) by location and gender: Cocoa marketers in Idanre , Ondo State Nigeria. 2000/2001

LOCATION OF MARKETERS AND VOLUME OF BUSINESS (N)												
Statistics	ALADE			ATOSHIN			ODOODE			OVERALL		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Minimum (N)	103,500	55,775	55,775	112,000	105,000	105,000	157,500	76,400	76,400	103,500	55,775	55,775
Maximum(N)	17,400,000	804,000	17,400,000	12,288,000	120,000	12,288,000	118,500,000	6,162,000	118,500,000	118,500,000	6,162,000	118,500,000
Mean (N)	4,017,492	313,802	2,217,087	4,541,393	114,333	3,908,956	38,000,748	982,666	25,661,388	16,122,526	491,812	10,119,426
S D (N)	5,049,368	252,550	4,053,756	4,935,114	8,144.5	4818,911	40,619,618	2,074,541	37,420,304	29,149,886	1,139,925	24,077,040
Median (N)	1,960,000	194,650	580,000	2,334,465	118,000	352,500	11,791,250	170,000	7,700,000	4,800,000	170,000	729,625
Mode (N)	*180,000	120,000	120,000	300,000	0.00	300,000	0.00	240,000	240,000	*180,000	120,000	240,000

- Multiple Modes exist The smallest is shown
- Source: Akinola, 2003

When all males in the three locations were considered, there was no statistical significant difference in the means of males' quantity marketed in Alade (39 MT) and Atoshin (43 MT), while the means of males' quantity marketed in Odoode (338 MT) was statistically significantly higher than those of the other two locations at the ten percent level. Also, the performance of all females in the three locations was compared: Alade (3 MT average), Atoshin (1 MT average) and Odoode (8 MT average). It was found that there was no statistically significant difference in the mean quantity of cocoa marketed by female marketers in the three locations.

It was also found that the arithmetic mean quantity of cocoa marketed by male marketers was statistically significantly higher than those of female marketers in Alade and Odoode but there was no statistical significant difference in the arithmetic mean quantity marketed between male and female marketers in Atoshin.

Structural indicators

Table 6 summarizes the estimates of the concentration indicators. The figures obtained from the indicators show varying degrees of concentration by gender and location, with Odoode exhibiting the highest concentration of females (88.89%, CR₄) and Atoshin exhibiting the highest concentration (56.48%, CR₄) of males, and as well as in the pooled sample. The implication of these estimates is that where the concentration indices are high (belonging to as much as 50-74%, CR₄), there is a tendency for such a structure to influence some elements of performance especially profitability and operational efficiency (to the industry's advantage), if benefits are not shared between marketers and ultimate (at production farm end) purchasers.

Though the concentration was found not to be even, there was not too much difference in the degree of concentration by location and gender (see Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4). This suggests that, if there are any inter-location and inter-gender differences in performance, it is not due to the structure. The structure indicators obtained in this case are not such that it could lead to some conduct that would affect performance.

Barriers to entry of new firms

In this research work, investigation revealed that the structure of the industry did not seem to have contributed to the observed barriers to entry features. The major problems preventing new entrants into the industry within the past few years included transportation, instability of Cocoa prices (unforeseen fall in Cocoa prices), poor access to loan facilities and high bank interest rates on loans.

Manner of sourcing the cocoa beans marketed.

The seventh table summaries how the cocoa beans marketed were sourced. The table conveys that the majority of the marketers (54%) obtained their marketed cocoa beans by buying only from either farmers, brokers or local buying agents. With respect to female marketers about 77% of them obtained their marketed cocoa beans from this type of source. About 52% of male marketers got their beans by planting some and complementing that by other purchases.

Sources of capital

Table 8 summarizes the findings on the sources of capital used by marketers in carrying out their business operations. The study revealed that about 53 percent of the marketers benefited from one form of loan or the other during the 2000/2001 season. The largest percentage of these loan beneficiaries (63 %) obtained some of their loans from Banks (commercial and / or agricultural) and (52%) of them obtained loans from cooperative societies.

The majority (about 82%) of those that obtained some money from licensed buying agents were males. Male marketers also dominate among those who obtained their capital through loans from friends and relations (57%), Agricultural Development Corporations (ADCs) (100%), and exporters (80%). It is only in loans from cooperative societies that female marketers have the majority (58%). No female marketer had access to loans from ADCs.

It can be concluded here that the majority of cocoa marketers (67.4 %) relied too much on capital from savings and loans from friends and relations. This appears rather inadequate and unreliable to generate enough capital to run their business successfully; more so that little capital has been identified as one of the major causes of business failure in the industry.

Table 5: Distribution of statistics of volume of cocoa marketed by gender and location: Ondo State of Nigeria, 2000/2001 Season

Row/ Col	LOCATION OF MARKETERS VOLUME OF COCOA MARKETED (TONNES) → ↓	ALADE			ATOSHIN			ODOODE			OVERALL TOTAL		
		GENDER GROUP			GENDER GROUP			GENDER GROUP			GENDER GROUP		
		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	(0.5-1): Count	2	15	17	3	3	6	0	6	6	5	24	29
2	% within Total Quantity Marketed	11,3%	88,2	100%(58,6)	50%	50%	100%(20,7)	0%	100%	100(20,7)	17,2%	82,8%	100%
3	% Within GENDER GROUP	5,4%	42,9%	23,6%	16,7%	100%	28,6	0%	40%	13,3%	5,9	45,3%	21,0%
4	(2-4): Count	7	11	18	6	0	6	3	6	9	16	17	33
5	%Within Total Quantity Marketed	38,9%	61,1%	100%(54,5)	100, %	0,0%	100%(18,2)	33,3%	66,7%	100(27,3))	48,5%	51,5%	100 %
6	% Within GENDER GROUP	18,9%	31,4%	25	33,3%	0,0%	28,6%	10,0	40,0%	20%	18,8%	32,1%	23,9%
7	(5-.20): Count	13	9	22	0	0	0	0	1	1	13	10	23
8	%Within Total Quantity Marketed	59,1	40,9%	100(95,7)	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100%	100(4,3)	66,5 %	43,5%	100,0%
9	%with GENDER GROUP	35,1	25,7	30,6	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0 %	6,7%	2,2%	15,3%	18,9%	16,7%
10	(21-100): c Count	9	0	9	7	0	7	12	2	14	28	2	30
11	%within Total Quantity Marketed	100%	0,0%	100(30)	100%	0,0%	100(23,3)	85,7%	14,3%	100(46,7)	93,3%	6,7%	100%
12	% within GENDER GROUP	24,3	0,0%	12,5%	38,9%	0,0%	33,3	40,0%	13,3%	31,1%	32,9%	3,8%	21,7%
13	(101-500): Count	6	0	6	2	0	2	9	0	9	17	0	17
14	% within Total Quantity Marketed	100%	0	100(35,3)	100%	0%	100(11,8)	100%	0,0%	100(52,9)	100%	0,0%	100%
15	%within GENDER GROUP	16,2%	0%	8,3%	11,1%	0%	9,5%	30,3%	0%	20,0%	20,0%	0,0%	12,3%
16	(501-1000): Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	6	0	6
17	%within Total Quantity Marketed	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100%	0%	100(100)	100%	0,0%	100%
18	%within GENDER GROUP	0,0%	0,0%	0,0(0,0)	0,0%	0,0%	0,0(0,0)	20%	0%	13,3%	7,1%	0,0%	4,3%
19	Total: Count	37	35	72	18	3	21	30	15	45	85	53	138
20	% within Total Quantity Marketed	51,4%	48,6%	100(52,2)	85,7%	14,3%	100(15,2)	66,7%	33,3%	100(32,6)	61,6%	38,4%	100
21	% within GENDER GROUP	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	33,3%	100%	100%	38,4%	100%
22	Statistics : Smallest Vol. (Tonnes)	0,90	0,50	0,50	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,70	0,80	0,80	0,80	0,50	0,50
23	Largest ..	150	6,70	150	128,0	1,00	128,00	1000	52,00	1000	1000	52,00	1000
24	Arithmetic mean ..	38,5	3	21	43	1	37	338	8	228	145	4	91
25	Median ..	18	2	5	23	1	3	107	2	70	46	2	6
26	Mode ..	3	1	1	3	1	1	100	2	2	3	1	1

Note: The values in parentheses are the count of each total expressed as a percentage of overall total.

Source: Akinola, 2003.

The female marketers attributed their inability to benefit from the various loans to their lack of their collateral security. Even some of those who had securities lamented that most of the awarders of these loans were afraid of giving out loans to women because they felt they may not be competent enough to manage them resourcefully. This implied the existence of gender discrimination against women in access to credit.

Sources of cocoa beans for market

Table 9 summarises the findings on the sources of marketed cocoa beans by gender. The study revealed that the majority of the cocoa marketers (91%; out of which 63% were males) bought some or all of their cocoa beans from farmers. No female marketer obtained her cocoa beans either from land inherited or land hired on which a certain pledge is paid. This constituted 19% of those that obtained from land purchased. This could be linked with the problems identified by Berar-Awad (1989:6-11) in respect of women's access to

land ownership. Women constitute about 70,5% of those who used the 'See and buy' purchase method, the reasons for this feature being that the method does not require big capital coupled with the fact that women's acumen for bargaining power and measuring potential is higher than that of men.

Methods of sourcing marketable cocoa beans

The majority of all cocoa marketers (51 percent; 57% of which were females) sourced their cocoa beans by granting loans to farmers during the planting season and collecting dried cocoa beans in return (Table 10). The next prominent method of sourcing, utilized by 46,4 percent of the marketers, was through supplying farmers some inputs. The other methods as shown in Table 10 are the use of LBAs, the 'see and buy' method and the method of augmenting transportation of farmers' products.

Table 6: Structural indicators, unit marketing cost and profit in the cocoa marketing industry

Ondo State of Nigeria, 2000/2001 Season

LOCATION OF MARKETERS STRUCTURAL INDICATORS	ALADE			ATOSHIN			ODOODE			OVERALL TOTAL		
	GENDER GROUP		Total	GENDER GROUP		Total	GENDER GROUP		Total	GENDER GROUP		Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female	
Concentration Ratio (CR ₄)	CR ₄ =10.8% =42.33	CR ₄ =14% =27.62	CR ₄ =5.6% =39.42	CR ₄ =22.2% =56.48	-	CR ₄ =19.0% =56.24	CR ₄ =13.3% =40.25	CR ₄ =26.7% =88.98	CR ₄ =8.9% =39.73	CR ₄ =4.7% =33.48	CR ₄ =7.5% =52.7	CR ₄ =2.9% =32.6
(CR ₄)/1%	3.9	2.4	7.0	2.5	-	3.0	3.0	3.3	4.5	7.1	7.0	11.3
GINI COEFFICIENTS	0.5962	0.4320	0.7244	0.5688	0.0344	0.6226	0.5622	0.7480	0.6800	0.7196	0.6328	0.8224
HERFINDAHL IND EX	0.0684	0.0464	0.0594	0.1174	0.3345	0.1163	0.0699	0.3439	0.0683	0.0500	0.1178	0.0479
TOTAL PROFIT (MEAN) (N)	266427.57	59859.071	166012.33	125587.78	27000	111503.81	3874285	243999	2664189.7	1509964.1	110114.2	972340.6
UNIT MARKETING COST (N)	7453.79	7375.94	7415.95	9055.50	4000	8333.29	8501.97	8824.83	8609.59	8162.92	7594.92	7944.78
MEAN UNIT PROFIT (PROFIT/MT)	8730.80	25916.91	17085.16	9655.61	27000	12133.38	6031.36	16815.17	9625.96	7973.90	23402.25	13899.28

Source: Akinola, 2003.

Table 7: Manner of sourcing Cocoa Beans marketed by gender, Ondo State of Nigeria, 2000/2001 season.

	Manner of sourcing	GENDER GROUP		
		Male	Female	Total
Row/ Col	1	2	3	4
1	Buy only: Number	34	41	75
2	%Within manner of sourcing	45,3	54,7	100,0
3	%Within GENDER GROUP	40,0	77,4	54,3
4	% Within Total Respondents	24,6	29,7	54,3
5	Plant only: Number	07	02	09
6	%Within manner of sourcing	77,8	22,2	100,0
7	%Within GENDER GROUP	8,2	3,8	6,5
8	% Within Total Respondents	5,1	1,4	6,5
9	Plant and Buy only: Number	44	10	54
10	%Within manner of sourcing	81,5	18,5	100,0
11	%Within GENDER GROUP	51,8	18,9	39,1
12	% Within Total Respondents	31,9	7,2	39,1
13	Total: Number	85	53	138
14	%Within manner of sourcing	61,6	38,4	100,0
15	%Within GENDER GROUP	100,0	100,0	100,0
16	% Within Total Respondents	61,6	38,4	100,0

Source: Akinola, 2003

Table 8: Sources of capital by gender: Cocoa marketers in Idanre, Ondo State; 2000/2001 Season

	SOURCE OF CAPITAL	GENDER GROUP		
		Male	Female	Total
Row/Col	1	2	3	4
1	Personal Savings: Number	35	30	65
2	%within CAPITAL SOURCE	53,8	46,2	100,0
3	%within GENDER GROUP	41,1	56,6	47,1
4	% within Total Respondents	25,4	21,7	47,1
5	Loans from Friends and Relatives: Number	16	12	28
6	%Within CAPITAL SOURCE	57,1	42,9	100,0
7	%Within GENDER GROUP	18,8	22,6	20,3
8	% Within Total Respondents	11,6	8,7	20,3
9	Loans from Licensed Buying Agents: Number	22	05	27
10	%Within CAPITAL SOURCE	81,5	18,5	100,0
11	%Within GENDER GROUP	25,9	9,4	19,6
12	% Within Total Respondents	15,9	3,6	19,6
13	Loans from Banks (Commercial and/Agricultural: Number	32	14	46
14	%Within CAPITAL SOURCE	69,6	30,4	100,0
15	%Within GENDER GROUP	37,6	26,4	33,3
16	% Within Total Respondents	23,2	10,1	33,3
17	Loans from Cooperative Societies: Number	16	22	38
18	%Within CAPITAL SOURCE	42,1	57,9	100,0
19	%Within GENDER GROUP	18,8	41,5	27,5
20	% Within Total Respondents	11,6	15,9	27,5
21	Loans from Agric Development Corporations: Number	02	0,0	02
22	%Within CAPITAL SOURCE	100,0	0,0	100,0
23	%Within GENDER GROUP	2,4	0,0	1,4
24	% Within Total Respondents	1,4	0,0	1,4
25	Loans from Exporters: Number	16	04	20
26	%Within CAPITAL SOURCE	80	20	100,0
27	%Within GENDER GROUP	18,8	7,5	14,5
28	% Within Total Respondents	11,6	2,9	14,5

Source: Akinola, 2003

Table 9: Sources of marketed cocoa beans by marketers and by gender; Idanre, Ondo State of Nigeria. 2000/2001 Season.

Row/ Col	Source of cocoa beans	GENDER GROUP		Total
		Male	Female	
1	1	2	3	4
1	From land inherited: Number	24	00	24
2	% Within COCOA SOURCE	100,0	0,0	100,0
3	% Within GENDER GROUP	28,2	0,0	17,4
4	% Within Total Respondents	17,4	0,0	17,4
5	From land purchased: Number	35	08	43
6	% Within COCOA SOURCE	81,4	18,6	100,0
7	% Within GENDER GROUP	41,2	15,1	31,2
8	% Within Total Respondents	25,4	5,8	31,2
9	From land hired on which certain pledge is paid: Number	05	00	05
10	% Within COCOA SOURCE	100,0	0,0	100,0
11	% Within GENDER GROUP	5,9	0,0	3,6
12	% Within Total Respondents	3,6	0,0	3,6
13	Bought from farmers: Number	79	45	125
14	% Within COCOA SOURCE	63,2	36,8	100,0
15	% Within GENDER GROUP	92,9	86,8	90,6
16	% Within Total Respondents	57,2	33,3	90,6
17	From Brokers/ See and Buy: Number	14	31	45
18	% Within COCOA SOURCE	31,8	70,5	100,0
19	% Within GENDER GROUP	16,5	66,0	32,6
20	% Within Total Respondents	10,1	22,5	32,6

Source: Akinola, 2003

Conclusion and recommendations

The study showed that there was no gender segregation that served as barriers to entry into cocoa business. Although female cocoa marketers performed better in terms of unit profit than their male counterparts and male marketers performed better in terms of sales volume and had more access to capital, there was gender discrimination against women in access to credit, which made their mean gross profit to be lower than their male counterparts. Based on the findings from this study, the following recommendations were made to improve the performance of the cocoa marketing industry in Ondo State:

- (i) Female cocoa marketers in Ondo State possess tremendous ability to succeed in the business if only their opportunities to credit facilities and capital could be enhanced.
- (ii) Marketers are advised to avail themselves of opportunity of loans from banks or Credit Cooperative Societies.
- (iii) Awareness must be created for cocoa marketers on the available sources of funds to them both locally and internationally. In addition, relevant organizations should enunciate procedures for obtaining funds from these various sources.
- (iv) Both formal and informal financial institutions in the country should be encouraged by the government to provide financial assistance to the cocoa marketers (most especially female marketers) so that they can expand and improve their existing business volume.
- (v) The Federal Government should set up a government parastatal called Cocoa Business Administration (CBA), to assist cocoa marketers through:
 - Direct Loans – loans made directly to selected cocoa marketers who have difficulty securing conventional loans;
 - Guaranteed Loans – loans made by financial institutions that the government will repay if the borrower stops making payments;
 - Participation loans – Combination of direct and guaranteed loans. The CBA will guarantee part of the loan and will loan the balance directly; and
 - Loans from the Women's Financing Section – guaranteed loans to qualified women to be created by the Women's Cocoa Business Ownership Act, when formulated and passed.
- (vi) If and when enough capital is subsequently generated for the cocoa business, it must be emphasized to marketers through a well-organised seminar, that poor financial management can destroy any business; even when the basic idea behind the business is good and the products are accepted in the marketplace.
- (vii) There should be construction of good roads linking farms to cities by the government.
- (viii) Government should subsidize the price of chemicals and ensure that the chemicals are distributed to the right people.

- (ix) In order to solve the problems of fraudsters, Government should enforce the laws on those found guilty and be brought to book.
- (x) Marketers should closely monitor farmers to whom money had been advanced and they should request for guarantors or written agreement from whosoever they want to advance money to.
- (xi) Male marketers should make more use of a “see and buy” method to prevent them from falling victim of fraudsters.

Table 10: Sources of marketed cocoa beans by marketers and by gender; Idanre, Ondo State of Nigeria. 2000/2001 Season.

Row/ Col	Method 1	GENDER GROUP		Total 4
		Male 2	Female 3	
1	Buyers residing in the farm (LBAs): Number:	43	04	47
2	% Within Method	91,5	8,5	100,0
3	% Within GENDER GROUP	50,6	7,5	34,1
4	% Within Total Respondents	31,2	2,9	34,1
5	By supplying farmers some input: Number:	24	40	64
6	% Within Method	37,5	62,5	100,0
7	% Within GENDER GROUP	28,2	75,5	46,4
8	% Within Total Respondents	17,4	29,0	46,4
9	By granting farmers loans during planting season and collecting dried cocoa beans in return: Number:	30	40	70
10	% Within Method	42,9	57,1	100,0
11	% Within GENDER GROUP	35,3	75,5	50,7
12	% Within Total Respondents	21,7	29,0	50,7
13	See and Buy: Number:	12	31	43
14	% Within Method	27,9	72,1	100,0
15	% Within GENDER GROUP	14,1	58,5	31,2
16	% Within Total Respondents	8,7	22,5	31,2
17	Augmenting transportation of producer's products: Number:	10	00	10
18	% Within Method	100,0	0,0	100,0
19	% Within GENDER GROUP	11,8	0,0	7,2
20	% Within Total Respondents	7,2	0,0	7,2
21	No Response: Number:	05	00	05
22	% Within Method	100,0	0,0	100,0
23	% Within GENDER GROUP	5,9	0,0	3,6
24	% Within Total Respondents	3,6	0,0	3,6

Source: Akinola, 2003

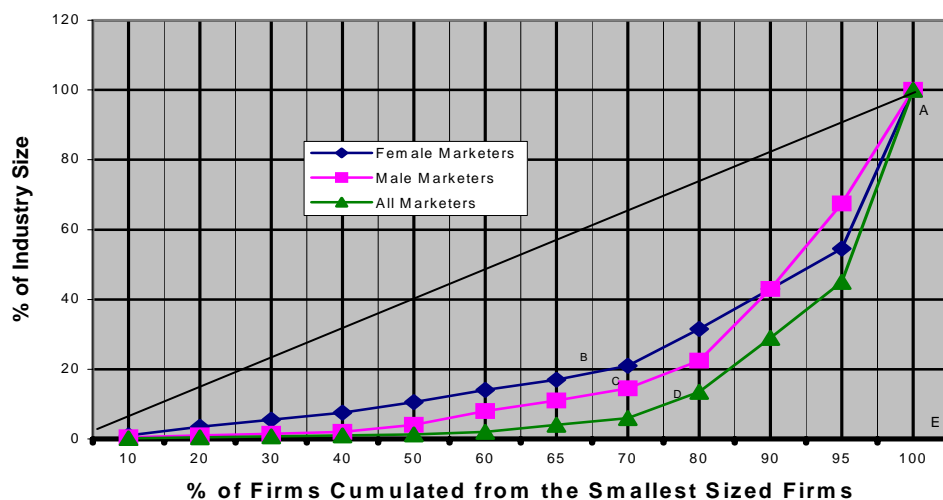


Figure 1: Lorenz curves for marketers in cocoa industry in Idanre, Ondo State, Nigeria. 2000/2001 Season
Source: Akinola, 2003.

Gini Coefficient For:	Female Marketers	=	$\frac{OAB}{OAE} = \frac{3164}{5000} = 0,6328$
	Male Marketers	=	$\frac{OAC}{OAE} = \frac{3598}{5000} = 0,7196$
	All Marketers	=	$\frac{OAD}{OAE} = \frac{4112}{5000} = 0,8224$

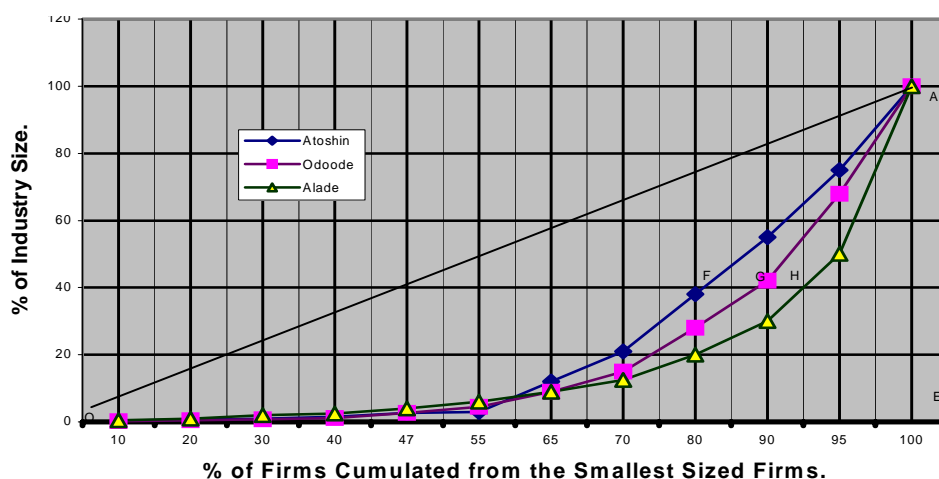


Figure 2: Lorenz curves for marketers in cocoa industry in Alade, Atoshin, and Odoode in Idanre, Ondo State, Nigeria. 2000/2001 Season
Source: Akinola, 2003.

Gini Coefficient For Marketers in:	Alade	=	$\frac{OAH}{OAE} = \frac{3622}{5000} = 0,7244$
	Atoshin	=	$\frac{OAF}{OAE} = \frac{3113}{5000} = 0,6226$
	Odoode	=	$\frac{OAG}{OAE} = \frac{3400}{5000} = 0,6800$

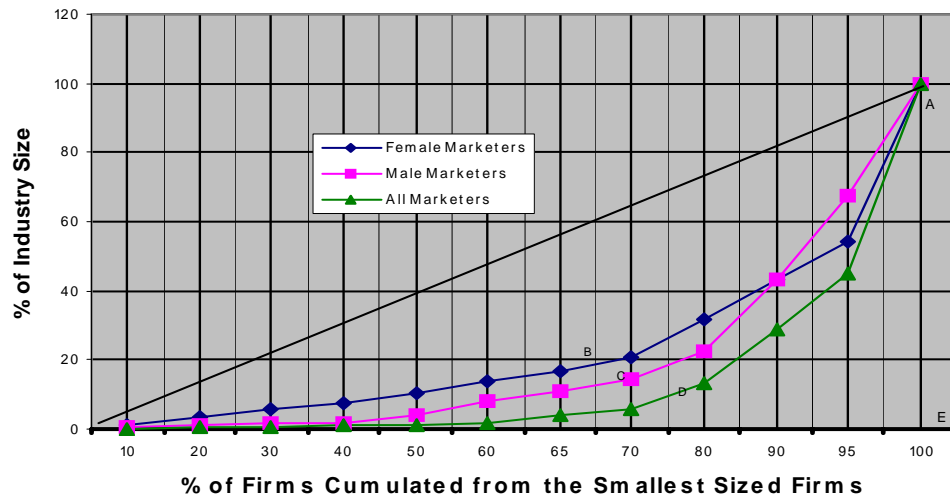


Figure 3: Lorenz curves for female marketers in cocoa industry in Alade, Atoshin, and Odoode in Idanre, Ondo State, Nigeria. 2000/2001 Season

Source: Akinola, 2003.

Gini Coefficient For Female Marketers in: Alade	=	$\frac{OAK}{OAE} = \frac{2160}{5000} = 0,4320$
Atoshin	=	$\frac{OAJ}{OAE} = \frac{172}{5000} = 0,0344$
Odoode	=	$\frac{OAL}{OAE} = \frac{3740}{5000} = 0,7480$

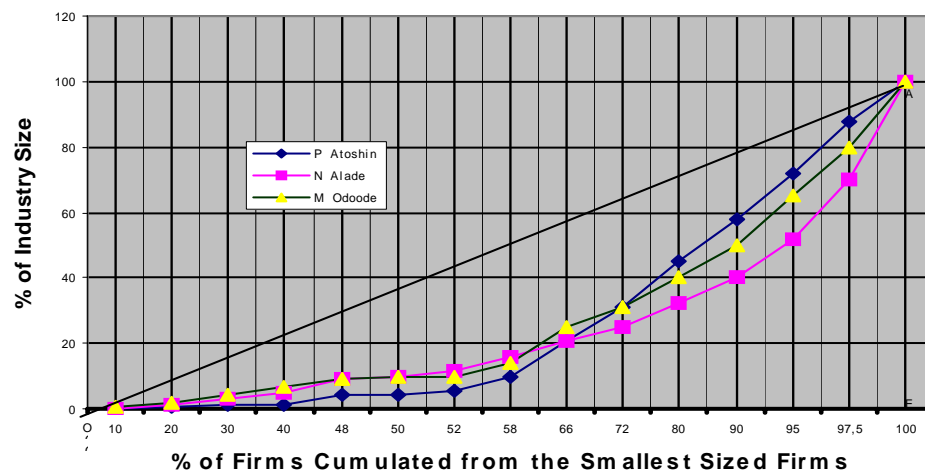


Figure 4: Lorenz curves for male marketers in cocoa industry in Alade, Atoshin, and Odoode in Idanre, Ondo State, Nigeria. 2000/2001 Season

Source: Akinola, 2003.

Gini Coefficient For Male Marketers in: Alade	=	$\frac{OAM}{OAE} = \frac{2981}{5000} = 0,5962$
Atoshin	=	$\frac{OAP}{OAE} = \frac{2844}{5000} = 0,5688$
Odoode	=	$\frac{OAN}{OAE} = \frac{2811}{5000} = 0,5622$

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