

DETERMINANT ANALYSIS OF GENDER IN THE ADOPTION OF SWEET POTATO VALUE ADDITION TECHNOLOGIES AMONG POSTHARVEST PROCESSORS IN ABIA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in Abia State to investigate those factors influencing gender in the adoption of sweet potato value addition technologies among post-harvest processors in Abia state, Nigeria. It was guided by specific objectives: to determine the level of involvement of sweet potato processing activities done by male and female processors, to identify those determinants influencing gender in the adoption of sweet potato value addition technologies by the processors and to identify the constraints encountered by both processors. A sample size of 96 processors comprising of 48 male and 48 female processors were involved in the study. Data were collected with the aid of structured questionnaire. From the result, both processors were energetic and still in their productive age, and hence adopted sweet potato chips, flour, starch, and meat pie. The determinants of value addition to sweet potato by both processors were age, educational level, annual income, processing equipment, processing experience, extension contact, access to credit, membership of cooperative societies and household size. Inadequate finance, high cost of processing equipment, and inadequate extension services were the major constraints encountered by both processors. The adoption of sweet potato value addition technologies had a significant impact on the livelihood and income level of both processors. Therefore, policies aimed at subsidizing the rate of processing equipment should be made available to encourage more processors in the business. Training and retraining of farmers should also be encouraged in the study area.

Keywords: Determinants, Gender, sweet potato, value addition, and processors

INTRODUCTION

Sweet potatoes are cheap but nutritionally rich staple foods that contribute protein, vitamin C, vitamin A, zinc, and iron towards the dietary demands. (Buckland.L (2003),CIP, 2003). The high nutritive value and performance under resource poor condition make sweet potato attractive to farmers and households (Njoku, 2007). Hence, it is both desirable and necessary to process sweet potato into storable product forms to add value to the crop and contribute significantly to food security, nutrition, income generation and enhanced livelihoods for the farmers (Ndunguru *et al.*, 2008). However, the limited range of ways and availability of adapted processing technologies in which sweet potato is utilized in Nigeria seriously undermine the potential benefits of the crop to farmers, consumers and other chain actors (Mmasa *et al.*, 2013). In spite of the excellent qualities and potential of sweet potato in achieving house hold food security, level of production, processing and consumption of sweet potato and sweet potato based products in Abia State still remains very low. Due to low shelf-life and perishability of sweet potato, farmers usually sell the root cheap at harvest thereby depriving themselves more income they would have gotten if

the crop is being processed. Initially, utilization of sweet potato in western and eastern Nigeria was limited to boiling, roasting and chewing raw roots but currently, there are some value addition technologies of processing the roots into different products (Nungo *et al.*, 2007). Understanding some of these value addition technologies by women in agriculture of National Root Crop Research Institute, Umudike (NRCRI) and transferring them to our rural farmers has helped to highlight the missing gap and improved the shelf-life of this very important crop, increase farmers' income as well as food security in Abia State (NRCRI, 2009). All these were achieved through promotion of on-farm processing of sweet potato in Nigeria which has been going on since 2005 till date through organized field days, agricultural shows, individual or group training of neighboring schools during sports days or at the local markets (NRCRI 2009, Aniedu *et al.*, 2012). Gender factors are issues related to gender roles. Gender roles are culture specific, such that in the middle belt region of Nigeria women make ridges and mounds while in the eastern part of the country making of mounds is certainly a job for men (Walabai, 2005). Value addition to sweet potato at the farm level in the

context of this study is defined as undertaking one or more of the following activities; washing, sorting, packing, weighing, storage, and transportation..The decision to add value is influenced by market, institutional arrangements as well as farmer and farm circumstances. (Mmasa,2013) defined value addition as the process of changing or transforming a product from its original state to a more valuable state through creating value, innovation or industrial innovation at an advanced stage. Value addition is therefore highly instituted by some factors on the context of this study. Farmers who access credit for example can enhance their ability to practice value addition since they will be able to purchase the value addition equipment. Group participation helps in the choice and ability to practice value addition since group involvement ensures accessibility to credit, equipment and collective marketing which is more effective than individual marketing thus fostering value addition. According to studies done by Lemaga (2005) and Westby *et al.*, (2003), farmers who are organized into groups have better access to markets since they have higher bargaining power thereby increasing their marketing efficiency and institutions providing support in post harvest innovations than those who are not. On the other hand, farmers who have neither knowledge and skills nor access to information regarding value addition options resort to distress sale thus receiving very low prices due to perishability nature of their produce (Sadangi, 2005). Access to extension services also influences technology adoption. Extension agents supply farmers with important information and skills on production, management and marketing. The gender of household head may influence the ability of the household to adopt new technologies. Hence, it is both desirable and necessary to process sweet potato into storable products forms to add value to the crop and contribute significantly to food security, nutrition, income generation and enhanced livelihoods of the farmers (Ndunguru, 2003).

METHODOLOGY

This study was carried out in Abia State, Nigeria. Abia State has a population density of 580 persons per square kilometer and a population of 2,833,999 persons (NPC, 2006). Administratively, it has 17 Local Government Areas (L.G.As), 3 Agricultural zones (Umuahia, Aba and Ohafia agricultural zones), 38 extension blocks and 274 circles. Agriculture is the major occupation of the people and subsistent agriculture is prevalent and about 70 percent of the population engage in it (ABIADep, 2012). They produce crops like cassava, yam, cocoyam, sweet potato, ginger, rice and maize, while the cash crops grown include; oil palm, rubber, cocoa, banana, and various types of fruits. The multi- stage sampling technique was used to select Umuahia and Ohafia

based on the intensity of sweet potato farmers in the area. The second stage involved random selection of (2) blocks from each of the selected zones which gave a total of four blocks. Third stage also, involved a random sampling of (2) circles from each of the selected blocks which gave a total of (8) circles. The fourth stage involved a random of sub- circles from each of the selected circles which gave a total of 16 sub-circles. Finally, from the selected sub- circles (6) sweet potato processors were randomly selected, which gave a total of 96 sweet potato processors with the aid of structural questionnaire. The data collected were analyzed with the use of descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution tables, percentage, mean and multiple regression analysis.

MODEL SPECIFICATION

Mean Score

Mean score was used to realize (processing activities by male and female post harvest processors in Imo states Nigeria) using a 3-point Likert scale graded thus: often involved = 3, occasionally involved = 2, not involved = 1. The values of the responses were added and further divided by 3 to obtain a mean score of 2.0, which was regarded as mean level of involvement in sweet potato processing activities. Sweet potato processing activities with mean score of 2.0 and above were regarded as being involved by the respondents (males and females), while Sweet potato processing activities with mean scores of below 2.0 were regarded as not being involved by the respondents.

Thus, mean involvement in sweet potato post-harvest processing activities = \bar{X}

$\bar{X} = \sum fx/N$, (the mean score).

Mean (\bar{X}) of each item was computed by multiplying the frequency of positive response to each question with its appropriate Likert nominal value and the sum was divided by the sum of the number of the respondents to the items. This is summarized with the equation below:

$$\bar{X} = \sum fn/N.$$

Where

\bar{X} = mean score;

\sum = summation sign;

F = frequency or number of respondents who responded positively;

n = Likert nominal value;

N = Number of respondents.

Multiple Regression Analysis

Multiple regression analysis was used to identify the factors influencing level of adoption of sweet potato value addition

practices among post-harvest male and female processors as used by Alene *et al.* (2009).

in agricultural and non-agricultural business enterprises.

Two Separate Multiple Regression analyses were carried out one for male and the other for female with the model expressed implicitly as follows:

$$Y = F(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, \dots, X_n) \quad (2)$$

Y = Level of Adoption of sweet potato value addition of Male/Female respondents.

X₁ = Age (years)

X₂ = Marital status (married = 1 otherwise = 0)

X₃ = Level of Education (years)

X₄ = Annual income (naira)

X₅ = Cost of processing (naira)

X₆ = Processing equipment (available = 1 otherwise = 0)

X₇ = processing experience (years)

X₈ = Extension contact (contact = 1 otherwise = 0)

X₉ = credit access (access = 1 otherwise = 0)

X₁₀ = Group membership (1=yes, 0=otherwise)

X₁₁ = Quantity produced (tones)

X₁₂ = Household size (Number of people living and feeding from the same pot)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT IN SWEET POTATO PROCESSING ACTIVITIES BY MALE AND FEMALE SWEET POTATO POST-HARVEST PROCESSORS IN ABIA STATE, NIGERIA

Table 1: shows the distribution of male and female postharvest sweet potato processors according to level of involvement in processing activities in Abia State. The Table shows that male and female post-harvest processors were involved in processing activities like washing with mean scores of (\bar{X} 2.71 and \bar{X} 2.85), slicing (\bar{X} 2.58 and \bar{X} 2.46) and drying (\bar{X} 2.50 and \bar{X} 2.44). The Table further reviewed that the female were involved in cleaning (2.63), and picking (\bar{X} 2.42) while the males were involved in milling (\bar{X} 2.67). These processing activities are intended to improve shelf life of sweet potato thereby, increase incomes and improve food security of the processors (Nungo *et al.* (2007). The grand mean for the male post-harvest processors was 2.16 while that of the female was \bar{X} 2.41. The posture of this result showed that in sweet potato processing activities, female processors were more involved than their male counterpart. The result gave credence to Olagunju (2008) who reported that compared to men, women especially those from small and marginal farming families perform over 60% of on-farm activities in sub-Saharan Africa and comprise a major driving force in the economic and social fabric of rural areas with major responsibilities

Table 1: LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT IN SWEETPOTATO PROCESSING ACTIVITIES BY MALE AND FEMALE SWEETPOTATO POST-HARVEST PROCESSORS IN ABIA STATES, NIGERIA

Level of involvement in Processing activities	Male					Female				
	Often Involved	Occasionally Involved	Not Involved	Total	Mean score	Often Involved	Occasionally Involved	Not Involved	Total	Mean score
Cleaning and trimming	0(0.00)	26(27.08)	35(72.92)	61	1.27	99(68.75)	24(25.00)	3(6.25)	126	2.63
Washing	108(75.00)	20(20.83)	2(4.17)	130	2.71	123(85.42)	14(14.58)	0(0.00)	137	2.85
Slicing	96(66.67)	24(25.00)	4(8.33)	124	2.58	90(62.50)	20(20.83)	8(16.67)	118	2.46
Drying	90(62.50)	24(25.00)	6(12.50)	120	2.50	84(58.33)	26(27.08)	7(14.58)	117	2.44
Milling	84(58.33)	44(45.83)	0(0.00)	128	2.67	30(20.83)	20(20.83)	28(58.33)	78	1.63
Packing	9(6.25)	18(18.75)	36(75.00)	63	1.31	81(56.25)	28(29.12)	7(14.58)	116	2.42
Grand mean					2.16					2.41

Source: Field Survey 2019

Decision rule $\bar{X} \geq 2.0$ and above = Involved

Decision rule $\bar{X} < 2.0$ = not involved, Figure in parenthesis are percentages

FACTORS INFLUENCING LEVEL OF ADOPTION OF SWEETPOTATO VALUE ADDITION BY MALE SWEETPOTATO POST-HARVEST PROCESSORS IN ABIA STATE

The result on **Table 2** explained ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression of factors influencing level of adoption of sweet potato value addition by male processors in Abia State. The table further explained the Four functional forms (linear, exponential, double log and semi-log) of the regression model which were tried out to determine the model with the best fit. The linear functional form provided the best fit model. The F-value (673.090) was significant at 1.0% level implying that the model was a good fit and that the joint effects of all the included variables were significant. The R^2 and adjusted R^2 value were 0.824 and 0.725 which implies that the variables in the model were able to explain 82.40% of the total variations of the level of adoption of sweet potato value addition by male postharvest processors in Abia state. Specifically, the coefficient (-0.037) of age was negative and statistically significant at 10.0% probability level. This implied that the older the male processors, the less likely they will adopt sweet potato value addition technologies. This is logical, as older individuals are likely to be less energetic and may therefore find it hard to engage in value addition activities which require quite some energy (Falola *et al.*, 2013). Meanwhile, the result negate Udoh and Folake (2006) that old age comes with experience and that old processors are better able to assess the characteristics of modern technology than younger processors which might explain their engagement and adoption of sweet potato value addition as a menial job thus look for white collar jobs.

The coefficient (0.580) of education was positive and statistically significant at 10.0% alpha level. This implied that as the education status of the male postharvest processors increases, the probability of their decision to adopt sweet potato value addition increases. Tokula *et al.* (2017) found that postharvest sweet potato processors with higher education have better access to information and knowledge that are beneficial to the adoption of value addition operations and implement new technology and realize expected results. Hence, higher education allows male processors to make efficient adoption decision and be the early adopters who can take advantage of new technology and profit most from it. The coefficient (6.140E-7) of income was also positive and significant at 5.0 confidence level. This indicated that as the annual income of male postharvest processors increases, their likelihood to adopt sweet potato value addition also increases. The economic status of any postharvest processors often times plays a significant role in sweet potato value addition adoption processes. This is especially true

when it involves the purchase of new implements which will usually be dictated by individual financial capability (Onyemauwa, 2012; Ben-Chendo, 2014).

The coefficient (-0.000) of processing cost is negatively related to the practice of value addition by the respondents. This indicated that as the cost of processing sweet potato increases, adoption rate by the male processors decreases because high cost of processing could be the reasons some processors did not reach adoption stage of value addition to sweet potato. (Chinaka and Udemezue (2015)

The coefficient (0.272) of processing experience is positive and significant at 1.0% alpha level. This indicated that male sweet potato post-harvest processors stood better position to adopt new innovations in sweet potato value addition and were established and knowledgeable about value addition, because the number of years spent in processing may give an indication of the practical knowledge acquired on how to overcome certain inherent problems in sweet potato value addition (Omoare *et al.*, 2014).

The coefficient (0.187) of extension contact was positive and significant at 5.0% probability level. This implied that those who had access to extension services are more likely to adopt sweet potato value addition than those who do not. Access to extension has been widely reported to positively influence adoption and continued use of innovation such as sweet potato value addition (Knowler and Bradshaw, 2007).

The coefficient (0.167) of access to credit was positive and significant at 1.0% alpha level. Credit access enables sweet potato postharvest processors to purchase value addition equipment and expand their micro enterprises thereby facilitating adoption. Adeyonu *et al.* (2016) reported that postharvest processors with better access to credit are more likely to be adopters of innovation (sweet potato value addition). Extension also provides postharvest processors with information on availability and properties of the new value addition technology and technical skills for using it

The coefficient (0.537) of membership of cooperative societies was positive and significant at 1.0% alpha level. This implied that group membership enhances level of adoption to sweet potato value addition since male processors within a group get to share ideas amongst themselves, access loan and market as a group thereby taking advantage of economies of scale as transaction costs are reduced. Orinda (2013) found that groups can be very effective especially when it comes to pooling external inputs and disseminating information. Group membership enables male postharvest processors to access loans which will enable them to purchase value addition equipment and increases their level of adoption.

Table2. ESTIMATE OF THE FACTORS INFLUENCING LEVEL OF ADOPTION OF SWEET POTATO VALUE ADDITION BY MALE SWEET POTATO POSTHARVEST PROCESSORS IN ABIA STATE.

Variables	Linear ⁺	Exponential	Double log	Sem-log
Constant	44.386* (1.863)	13.907 (1.219)	103.744* (1.942)	0.013 (0.648)
Age	-0.037* (-1.857)	-0.008* (-1.696)	0.231 (1.395)	1.167* (1.561)
Marital status	0.118 (0.295)	0.025 (0.278)	0.076 (0.345)	0.328 (0.329)
Educational level	0.580* (1.517)	0.137* (1.509)	0.281* (1.549)	1.166 (1.422)
Annual income	6.140E-7*** (3.365)	2.005E-7** (2.538)	0.381* (1.846)	1.515* (1.811)
Cost of processing	-0.000*** (3.874)	-0.002* (-1.719)	-0.849* (-1.976)	0.392* (1.683)
Processing Equipments	-0.049 (0.578)	-0.011* (-1.655)	-0.153* (1.678)	0.089 (1.318)
Processing experience	0.272*** (3.462)	0.055*** (3.127)	0.192** (2.121)	0.696* (1.682)
Extension contact	0.187** (2.470)	-0.019** (2.216)	-0.056** (2.438)	0.962* (1.932)
Credit access	0.167* (1.524)	0.035 (1.185)	0.392* (1.809)	0.390 (0.672)
Membership of cooperative	0.537*** (3.456)	-0.170** (2.573)	-1.752* (1.631)	1.841 (1.359)
Quantity produced	0.191 (1.264)	0.049 (1.458)	0.172 (1.070)	0.151 (1.227)
Household size	0.386 (1.221)	0.907 (1.195)	0.744 (1.231)	0.659 (0.903)
R ²	0.824	0.787	0.740	0.751
Adjusted R ²	0.725	0.751	0.726	0.629
F-ratio	673.090***	413.306***	581.116***	299.214***

Source: Field Survey, 2019

+ indicates lead equation

***= Significant at 1% alpha level

**= Significant at 5% alpha level

*= Significant at 10% alpha level

FACTORS INFLUENCING LEVEL OF ADOPTION OF SWEETPOTATO VALUE ADDITION BY FEMALE SWEETPOTATO POST-HARVEST PROCESSORS IN ABIA STATE

The result on **Table 3** explained Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression of factors influencing level of adoption of sweet potato value addition by female processors. Out of the Four functional forms (linear, exponential, double log and semi-log) of the regression model that were tried out to determine the model with the best fit. The exponential functional form gave the best fit with F-value of 268.271 which was significant at 1.0% level implying that the model was a good fit and that the joint effects of all the included variables were able to explain the variations in the dependent variable. The R^2 and adjusted R^2 values were 0.727 and 0.719 which implies that the variables in the model were able to explain that 72.70% of the total variations of the level of adoption of sweet potato value addition by female processors in Abia state. From the Table, nine variables were significant out of twelve variables. The variables were age, education, income, availability processing equipment, processing experience, extension contact, access to credit, membership of cooperative societies and household size.

Specifically, the coefficient (0.006) of age was positive and statistically significant at 10.0% probability level. This implied that the older the female postharvest sweet potato processors are the more likely to adopt value addition. This disagreed with *priori* expectation but lend credence to the findings Udo and Falake (2006) who opined that old age comes with experience and that old processors are better able to assess the characteristics of modern technology than the younger ones

The coefficient (0.070) of education was positive and statistically significant at 1.0% alpha level. This implied that as the education status of the female processors increase, the probability of their decision to adopt sweet potato value addition also increase. Education level can positively influence adoption of value addition in terms of training and skills required to grasp and undertake sweet potato value addition practices (BIRTHAL et al, 2005).

The coefficient (2.430e-8) of income was also positive and significant at 95.0% confidence level. This indicated that as the annual income of female processors increases their level of adoption to sweet potato value addition increases. This is especially true when it involves the purchase of new equipments which will be dictated by individual financial capability (Onyemauwa, 2012, Ben-Chendo,2014).

The coefficient (0.014) of availability of processing equipment is positively related to the practice of value addition by the female processors and

statistically significant at 5.0% level. This indicates that female sweet potato processors who have processing equipment are more likely to participate in value addition than those who have no equipment at all.

The coefficient (0.044) of processing experience is positive and significant at 5.0% alpha level. This indicated that female processors stood better position to adopt new innovations in sweet potato value addition and were established and knowledgeable about value addition, because the number of years spent in processing may give an indication of the practical knowledge acquired on how to overcome certain inherent problems in sweet potato value addition (Omoare *et al.*, 2014).

The coefficient (1.027) of extension contact was positive and statistically significant at 1.0% probability level. This implied that those who had access to extension services are more likely to adopt value addition than those who do not. This might result from the fact that access to extension services can provide processors with crucial information, such as how to transfer their raw output into consumer-ready products. Access to extension has been widely reported to positively influence adoption and continued use of innovation such as sweet potato value addition (Knowler and Bradshaw, 2007).

The coefficient (0.046) of access to credit was positive and statistically significant at 1.0% alpha level. Access to credit enables processors to purchase value addition equipment and expand their micro enterprises thereby facilitating adoption of sweet potato value addition. Awotide *et al.* (2013) and Orinda, (2013) reported that postharvest processors with better access to credit are more likely to be adopters of innovation.

The coefficient (0.037) of membership of cooperative societies was positive and statistically significant at 1.0% alpha level. Group membership ensures collective production, marketing and training and ensuring pooling of resources together and reduction of information asymmetry thus reducing transaction costs and ensuring economies of scale. Group membership enables female processors to access loans which will enable them to purchase value addition equipment and increase their level of adoption.

The coefficient (2.208) of household size was positively related to sweet potato value addition and statistically significant at 10.0% probability level. This indicates that a unit increase in the size of household increases the probability of adopting sweet potato value addition. The result is in line with Amasalu and Jan de (2007) that household size had significant and positive effect on determinants of level of adoption and continued use of new technology.

Table 3: ESTIMATES OF THE FACTORS INFLUENCING LEVEL OF ADOPTION OF SELECTED SWEET POTATO VALUE ADDITION BY FEMALE SWEET POTATO POSTHARVEST PROCESSORS IN ABIA STATE

Variables	Linear	Exponential ⁺	Double log	Sem-log
Constant	-4.577 (-1.094)	2.208 (1.208)	7.398 (1.072)	-9.309 (1.147)
Age	0.034* (1.897)	0.006* (1.647)	0.194 (1.324)	1.074* (1.598)
Marital status	-0.049 (-1.134)	-0.016 (-1.202)	-0.034 (-1.167)	-0.120 (-1.129)
Educational level	0.308* (1.864)	0.070*** (2.899)	0.148* (1.900)	0.635*** (2.840)
Annual income	-2.100E-7 (-1.115)	2.430E-8** (2.061)	-0.215* (-1.688)	0.755* (1.527)
Cost of processing	0.000** (2.167)	-9.132E-5 (1.171)	-0.974** (2.094)	0.834** (2.123)
Processing Equipments	0.060** (2.057)	0.014** (2.113)	0.179** (2.112)	0.834** (2.151)
Processing experience	0.220* (1.543)	0.044** (2.417)	0.153 (1.122)	0.766 (1.224)
Extension contact	-0.220* (-1.609)	-1.027*** (-3.342)	-0.087* (-1.746)	-0.525** (-1.983)
Credit access	0.219 (1.481)	0.046*** (3.431)	0.471 (1.416)	0.247* (1.783)
Membership of cooperative	0.046 (1.034)	0.037*** (3.126)	-0.972 (-0.127)	0.091 (1.476)
Quantity produced	0.201 (1.343)	0.048 (1.074)	0.220 (1.390)	0.931* (1.570)
Household size	-4.577 (1.377)	2.208* (1.563)	7.398 (1.343)	-1.309 (1.187)
R ²	0.638	0.727	0.657	0.711
Adjusted R ²	0.617	0.719	0.639	0.685
F-ratio	117.332***	268.271***	137.125***	214.383***

Source: *Field Survey*, 2019

+ indicates lead equation

***= Significant at 1% alpha level

**= Significant at 5% alpha level

*= Significant at 10% alpha level

CONSTRAINTS MILITATING AGAINST SWEET POTATO VALUE ADDITION BY MALE AND FEMALE SWEET POTATO PROCESSORS IN ABIA STATE

The result on **Table 4** shows that both processors were constrained by high cost of sweet potato processing equipment which has a very high percentage of (91.67), followed by inadequate

finance (87.50%), low farmers' knowledge on sweet potato value addition (72.92%), then inadequate credit access (68.75%) and inadequate extension service (62.50%). All these were the major constraints encountered by the processors, because farmers without access and knowledge of all these will not be able to participate and adopt sweet potato value addition technologies not only in Abia State but in Nigeria in general.

Table 4: CONSTRAINTS MILITATING AGAINST SWEET POTATO VALUE ADDITION BY MALE AND FEMALE SWEET POTATO PROCESSORS IN ABIA STATE, NIGERIA.

ABIA STATE				
Variables	Male		Female	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate finance	33	68.67	42	87.50
Low farmers knowledge on sweet potato value addition	35	72.92	33	72.92
High cost of sweet potato processing equipment	44	91.67	44	91.67
Inadequate extension service support	35	72.92	30	62.50
Low consumer preference for sweet potato	25	52.08	28	58.33
Inadequate credit access	30	62.50	33	68.75

Source: field survey, 2019

Multiple responses recorded

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study concluded that both processors participated in sweet potato processing activities, but female processors were more involved and accepted the technologies than their male counterpart. More so Age, educational level, annual income, processing experience, extension contact, access to credit, membership of cooperative societies and household size were the determinants of sweet potato value addition by both farmers in the study area. Training and retraining of farmers and extension workers should be encouraged in the study area. All sweet potato value addition technologies and equipments should be made available by researchers and government at a subsidized rate and transferred to processors so as to encourage more processors in the business.

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