

POST-HARVEST LOSS EFFECTS ON INCOME INEQUALITY ALONG THE ORANGE SUPPLY CHAIN IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

One third of citrus fruits produced in Nigeria is wasted due to post-harvest losses with an attendant increased demand-supply gap of citrus. A reduction in post-harvest loss of orange will not only affect the income of both farmers and marketers but also reduce the income inequality in its supply chain. This study investigated the post-harvest loss effects on income inequality along the orange supply chain. Specifically, a multistage sampling technique was used to select sixty orange farmers, from Oyo and Ogbomoso Agricultural Development zones and 40 wholesalers and 80 retailers from four major fruit markets. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, gross margin analysis, Gini coefficient and Lorenz curve. Retailers had the lowest revenue (\$15.47/month) from orange, while producers had the highest revenue (\$318.44/month). Specifically, income inequality was higher among wholesalers (0.82) than among producers (0.05) and retailers (0.56). Inequality was highest among wholesalers with 6-10 percent post-harvest losses (0.8180) but lowest among farmers with post-harvest losses of ≤ 5 percent.

Keywords: Gross margin, Inequality, Nigeria, Orange marketers, Post-harvest loss

INTRODUCTION

Fruits production and marketing are veritable sources of income for rural and urban dwellers in Nigeria (Dimelu and Odo 2013;). Generally, fruits and vegetables constitute a group of horticultural crops. Horticultural crop production creates more jobs per hectare of production compared to cereal crop production based on the labour requirements (Ali and Porciuncula 2001). Over the past decade, the global demand for orange has grown rapidly with a global increase in imports of orange from 5 758,400 tonnes in 2008 to an estimated 7 011,600 tonnes in 2016 (FAO 2017). However, the proportion of total harvest that finally gets to the final consumer is reflective of the level of agricultural development in developing countries (Idah *et al.* 2007). An estimated 30% of Nigeria's agricultural products cannot be accessed due to post-harvest losses (Atanda *et al.* 2011). Again, about 30% of citrus fruit produced is wasted due to post-harvest losses while 45% are consumed fresh and 25% are processed (NIHORT 2000).

Post-harvest losses in tropical fruits vary widely from 10 percent to 80 percent in both developed and developing countries (FAO 2006; Kitinoja *et al.* 2018). The losses occur across the supply chain from the point of harvesting, packing, storage, transportation, retailing to consumption (WFLO 2010). In most developing countries, a combination of poor infrastructures and logistics, poor farm practices, lack of post-harvest handling knowledge and a convoluted marketing system has been linked to high post-harvest losses (FAO 2006;). Kitinoja (2002), Ray and Ravi (2005) and WFLO (2010) observed that between 40% and 50% of horticultural crops including fruits and vegetables are lost before they reach consumers. The main reason for the loss is due to high rates of bruising, water loss and subsequent decay during post-harvest handling (Kaminski and Christiaensen 2014;). Further, the quality of fresh produce is affected by post-harvest handling and storage conditions (Sablani *et al.* 2006). Losses occur along the supply chain as a result of limited resources such as post-harvest technology

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infrastructure and knowledge gaps (Parfitt *et al.* 2010). Post-harvest losses of orange can therefore be attributed to poor post-harvest management at peak production periods. Oranges are perishable and therefore tend to mature almost at once causing seasonal gluts coupled with inadequate storage facilities resulting in post-harvest management challenges when in season (Tschirley *et al.* 2011). Previous studies had focused on rice, maize and vegetable value chains (Muhammad *et al.* 2012; Oguntade *et al.* 2014) while a few analysed post-harvest losses in the citrus value chain (Busari *et al.* 2015; Olife *et al.* 2015). However, post-harvest losses and the ripple effect on income and income inequality among players in the Nigerian orange supply chain has not received sufficient attention in the literature. Hence, this study attempts to fill this identified gap.

All the aforementioned problems reduce the life span of fruits and consequently reduced the quality and quantity of fruits that get to the market, thereby forcing farmers and marketers to sell fruits at low prices. Post-harvest losses lower the gains of the farmers causing inequality in the supply chain (Babalola *et al.* 2010). Since the production and marketing of oranges are sources of income for rural and urban dwellers any reduction due to post-harvest loss will not only affect the income of both farmers and marketers but also the income inequality among them. This implies that a significant reduction in post-harvest losses is thus one of the ways of improving the income and reducing income inequality. Income inequality has been defined as a measure of the distribution of income across. It is a relative comparison of the gap in income within and between groups (Deininger and Squire 1996). This study therefore, analyzed the effect of post-harvest losses on income inequality among orange supply actors in Oyo State .

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select the sample from the orange farmers for

the study in 2018. Four Local Government Areas (Afijo, Ona Ara, Ogooluwa and Egbeda) of Oyo State were purposively selected based on the predominance of orange production and marketing. A simple random sampling technique was used to select 15 farmers from each of the local governments i.e. a total of 60 farmers were sampled. The orange farmers either had their farms in homestead, boundary, or orchard forms (Oyedele and Yahaya 2010). Similarly, a two-stage sampling technique was used to select orange wholesalers and retailers for the study. A major fruit market was purposively selected in each of the four production areas, where oranges from the farmers are sold in commercial quantities (Elekara, Oje, Odo-Oba and Egbeda) in Oyo state. A simple random sampling was used to select 10 orange wholesalers from each of these markets, making a total of 40 wholesalers. A simple random sampling was also used to select 20 orange retailers who came to buy oranges from each of the markets, totaling 80 retailers.

Analytical techniques

Descriptive statistical tools were used to profile the actors while the Gini coefficient was used to assess the income inequality among the actors. Following FAO (2018), PHL was estimated using following equations.

$$PHL_{\text{producer}} = \frac{\text{Quantity produced} - \text{Quantity sold}}{\text{Quantity produced}}$$

$$PHL_{\text{wholesaler/retailer}} = \frac{\text{Quantity bought} - \text{Quantity sold}}{\text{Quantity bought}}$$

Income from orange was the gross margin from sales and was estimated as the difference between the total revenue and total variable costs incurred.

$$\text{Gross Margin}_{\text{producer/marketers}} =$$

$$\text{Total Revenue} - \text{Total Variable Cost}$$

Gini coefficient is a numerical representation of the degree of income inequality in the population. The Gini coefficient ranges between 0 and 1 used in determining the level of concen-

tration in the market structure. A Gini coefficient of 0 is indicative of perfect equality in concentration while a coefficient of 1 means perfect inequality, the higher the concentration, the higher the level of income inequality in the supply chain (Morduch and Sicular 2002). Mathematically expressed as:

$$GC = 1 - \sum_{k=0}^n [(X_k - X_{k-1})(Y_k + Y_{k-1})]$$

Where GC=Gini coefficient; X_k is the cumulated proportion of the population variable, for $k = 0 \dots n$, with $X_0 = 0$ and $X_n = 1$; and Y_k = the cumulated proportion of the income variable, for $k = 0 \dots n$, with $Y_0 = 0$ and $Y_n = 1$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socioeconomic profile of respondents

Results showed that the surveyed producers, wholesalers and retailers were within the economically active period of their lives and can improve on the current level at which they operate (Table 1). However, the producers were the oldest (52 ± 10.72 years) while the retailers were the youngest (44 ± 12.20 years). This corroborates the earlier findings of Busari *et al.* (2015) that a majority of fruit marketers in Lagos metropolis were between the ages of 30 and 49 years. Similarly, a typical producer had seven household members while wholesalers and retailers had six and

five household members, respectively. Large farming household size is typical of farming households as they provide family labour for productions of oranges. The respondents were experienced in their chosen economic activities with producers having an average of 24 years of experience, while wholesalers and retailers had 19 and 20 years, respectively. The farm size cultivated by the producers was low (2ha on average), which is characteristic of the smallholder farmers who constitute the majority of the Nigerian agricultural production landscape (Anderson *et al.* 2017). All the categories of respondents (producers, wholesalers and retailers) barely had post-secondary education. Furthermore, the mean percentage post-harvest loss was highest among wholesalers at 10% compared to 9% and 4% among farmers and retailers respectively. This can be linked to the high volume that the wholesaler has to transport and the risk of accidents and spoilage, which is consistent with the findings of James *et al.* (2017)

Gross margin for orange supply chain

The gross margin after the post-harvest loss was highest for the producer (\$287.40) but least for retailers (\$14.71). Wholesalers accrued the highest variable cost (\$158.23), while the retailers had the least (\$0.76). The retailers had the lowest gross margin, revenue

Table 1: Mean of continuous variables of producers, wholesalers and retailers (N=180)

| Variables | Producers | Wholesalers | Retailers |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Producers | | | |
| Age (years) | 52.16 (10.72) | 45.69 (12.28) | 43.60 (12.20) |
| Household size | 7.11 (2.15) | 6.00 (2.73) | 5.19 (0.66) |
| Farming/Marketing experience (years) | 23.91 (11.37) | 19.46 (6.71) | 20.16 (10.49) |
| Farm size (Hectares) | 2.26 (2.18) | - | - |
| Distance from farm to market (km) | 2.99 (3.15) | - | - |
| Years of education (years) | 12.42 (5.54) | 11.54 (5.07) | 13.48 (4.33) |
| Per capita income (Naira) | 6658.87 (4120.14) | 2546.82 (5218.22) | 21203.89 (92092.16) |
| Post-harvest loss (%) | 8.65 (2.81) | 9.69 (2.31) | 4.22 (0.94) |

Figures in parenthesis are standard deviation

Table 2: Average gross margin per month for the actors in the orange supply chain

| Variables | Producers | Wholesalers | Retailers |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Total Variable costs (\$) | 31.04 | 158.23 | 0.76 |
| Total Revenue (\$) | 318.44 | 263.78 | 15.47 |
| Gross Margin (\$) | 287.40 | 105.55 | 14.71 |

Income inequality along the supply chain

Wholesalers had the highest income inequality of 0.82 compared to 0.56 and 0.23 among producers and retailers, respectively (Table 3). Differences in the income distribution of wholesalers and producers can be linked to the high post-harvest losses obtainable within these groups. Again, an innovative post-harvest losses reduction strategy can account for differences in economic outcomes of the different agents due to consequent cost reduction. Meanwhile, the reduced cost may result in lower prices and higher demand due to the signaling functions of price. Therefore, it is

Table 3: Gini Coefficient Results for income inequality

| | Farmers | Wholesalers | Retailers |
|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Quartile | % Total income | % Total income | % Total income |
| First | 0.0495 | 0.0515 | 0.1354 |
| Second | 0.1287 | 0.1031 | 0.1829 |
| Third | 0.3501 | 0.1649 | 0.2708 |
| Fourth | 0.4717 | 0.6804 | 0.4109 |
| Gini | 0.0495 | 0.8207 | 0.5617 |

Table 4: Gini decomposition of farmers' income by demographic characteristics

| Group | Gini index | Absolute contribution | Relative contribution | Between | Within | Overlap |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Gender | | | | 0.0687 | 0.4587 | 0.140 |
| Male | 0.1435 | 0.0687 | 0.4587 | | | |
| Female | 0.1587 | 0.0151 | 0.1007 | | | |
| Age | | | | 0.0586 | 0.0172 | 0.0739 |
| ≤30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 31-40 | 0.1628 | 0.0023 | 0.0157 | | | |
| 41-50 | 0.1158 | 0.0184 | 0.1226 | | | |
| >50 | 0.1633 | 0.0379 | 0.2532 | | | |
| Household size | | | | 0.0932 | 0.0251 | 0.0315 |
| ≤5 | 0.1464 | 0.0054 | 0.0359 | | | |
| 6-10 | 0.1460 | 0.0878 | 0.5865 | | | |
| >10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Educational level | | | | 0.0460 | 0.1422 | 0.0385 |
| None | 0.1716 | 0.0216 | 0.1445 | | | |
| Primary | 0.1530 | 0.0086 | 0.0578 | | | |
| Secondary | 0.1270 | 0.0157 | 0.1048 | | | |
| Tertiary | 0.0114 | 0 | 0.0001 | | | |
| Farming Experience | | | | 0.0545 | 0.0164 | 0.0788 |
| ≤5 | 0.1612 | 0.0018 | 0.0120 | | | |
| 6-10 | 0.1141 | 0.0050 | 0.0333 | | | |
| 11-15 | 0.0858 | 0.0013 | 0.0086 | | | |
| 16-20 | 0.1645 | 0.0464 | 0.3100 | | | |
| >20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

likely that innovative economic agents will control the largest percentage of the market share.

Gini Decomposition of Income/Gross margin

Income inequality was higher among female farmers (0.1587), farmers above 50 years of age (0.1633) and farmers with household size less than and equal to 5 (0.1464) (Table 4). Farmers with no education level (0.1716), farmers with years of experience 16- 20 (0.1645) and farmers with post-harvest loss that falls between 6-10% (0.1741) also had higher income inequality. This can be linked to the gender considerations in the allocation of productive inputs in Nigeria and low per capita income associated with large households (Omonona and Okunmadewa, 2009; Awotide *et al.* 2012).

Income inequality was higher among female wholesalers (0.8889), wholesalers between the age 31 to 40 years (0.8352) and wholesalers with a household size of 5 and below (0.7644) (Table 5). Wholesalers with tertiary education (0.8325) and 16 – 20 years of trading experience also had higher income inequality. The high-income inequality can be attributed to the challenges women face in accessing productive inputs and markets which affects their income (Palacios-Lopez and Lopez 2014).

Income inequality was higher among male retailers (0.551), retailers below 30 years of age (0.6189) and retailers with a household size less than and equal to 5 (0.6739) (Table 6). Retailers with primary education (0.7034) and 11 to 15 years of orange retailing experience 11 - 15 (0.6638) had higher income ine-

Table 5: Gini decomposition of wholesalers' income by demographic characteristics

| Group | Gini index | Absolute contribution | Relative contribution | Between | Within | Overlap |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Wholesalers | | | | | | |
| Gender | | | | 0.2684 | 0.4860 | 0.0695 |
| Male | 0.7122 | 0.2158 | 0.2618 | | | |
| Female | 0.8889 | 0.0527 | 0.0639 | | | |
| Age | | | | 0.2597 | 0.2529 | 0.3114 |
| ≤30 | 0.6667 | 0.0026 | 0.0032 | | | |
| 31-40 | 0.8352 | 0.1001 | 0.1215 | | | |
| 41-50 | 0.7500 | 0.0079 | 0.0096 | | | |
| >50 | 0.7146 | 0.1491 | 0.1809 | | | |
| Educational level | | | | 0.2345 | 0.2998 | 0.2898 |
| None | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Primary | 0.5238 | 0.0290 | 0.0352 | | | |
| Secondary | 0.8325 | 0.0917 | 0.1113 | | | |
| Tertiary | 0.7912 | 0.1138 | 0.1381 | | | |
| Marketing Experience | | | | 0.1728 | 0.5827 | 0.0685 |
| ≤5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 6-10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 11-15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 16-20 | 0.8750 | 0.0295 | 0.0358 | | | |
| >20 | 0.6476 | 0.1433 | 0.1739 | | | |
| Household size | | | | 0.3646 | 0.3330 | 0.1264 |
| ≤5 | 0.7644 | 0.2803 | 0.3402 | | | |
| 6-10 | 0.7619 | 0.0843 | 0.1023 | | | |
| >10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

Table 6: Gini decomposition of retailers' income by demographic characteristics

| Group | Gini index | Absolute contribution | Relative contribution | Between | Within | Overlap |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Gender | | | | 0.175 | 0.298 | 0.042 |
| Male | 0.551 | 0.278 | 0.541 | | | |
| Female | 0.266 | 0.019 | 0.038 | | | |
| Age | | | | 0.0793 | 0.4728 | 0.0483 |
| ≤30 | 0.6189 | 0.0633 | 0.1055 | | | |
| 31-40 | 0.2078 | 0.0056 | 0.0093 | | | |
| 41-50 | 0.1382 | 0.0037 | 0.0062 | | | |
| >50 | 0.1220 | 0.0067 | 0.0111 | | | |
| Household size | | | | 0.2884 | 0.1190 | 0.1930 |
| ≤5 | 0.6739 | 0.1934 | 0.3221 | | | |
| 6-10 | 0.4546 | 0.0950 | 0.1583 | | | |
| Educational level | | | | 0.2055 | 0.0777 | 0.3172 |
| None | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Primary | 0.7034 | 0.0244 | 0.0406 | | | |
| Secondary | 0.5329 | 0.0992 | 0.1653 | | | |
| Tertiary | 0.5680 | 0.0819 | 0.1363 | | | |
| Marketing Experience | | | | 0.0656 | 0.4209 | 0.1138 |
| ≤5 | 0.3542 | 0.0050 | 0.0084 | | | |
| 6-10 | 0.5002 | 0.0207 | 0.0345 | | | |
| 11-15 | 0.6638 | 0.0273 | 0.0456 | | | |
| >20 | 0.1094 | 0.0123 | 0.0204 | | | |

quality. This implies that post-harvest losses affect retailers differently and as such some retailers are better positioned to mitigate the risk of post-harvest losses than others. The within-group inequality in years of marketing experience was higher than between-group.

The level of post-harvest losses could account for differences in economic outcomes among farmers. Inequality was highest among wholesalers with 6-10 percent post-harvest losses (0.8180) but lowest among farmers with post-harvest losses of ≤5 percent (Table 7). This might be due to the fact that farmers do not keep oranges for long before sales to the wholesalers, who have to store for some time in their stalls. Similarly, between- post-harvest losses group inequality was highest among wholesalers (0.4631) but lowest among the producers/farmers (0.0519). Conversely, within- post-harvest losses group ine-

quality was highest among producers (0.1973) but lowest among wholesalers (0.0722). Between inequality was higher than within-group inequality for all the supply actors, suggesting that income is unequally distributed among orange supply actors in the study area. post-harvest losses peculiarities within the groups were less important than between-group constraints

Lorenz curve of income inequality along the supply chain

The Lorenz curve shows the level of income inequality among producers, wholesalers and retailers in Oyo State. All the curves fall below the line of equality (45⁰ line) (Tura and Gashaw, 2017). The graph shows that income inequality was highest among wholesalers and lowest among the producers (Figure 1), which is consistent with the findings of Solumbe *et al.*, (2014).

Table 7: Gini decomposition by post-harvest loss

| Group | Gini index | Absolute contribution | Relative contribution | Between | Within | Overlap |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| FARMERS | | | | | | |
| Post-harvest loss (%) | | | | 0.0519 | 0.1973 | -0.0995 |
| ≤5 | 0.0958 | 0.0421 | 0.2816 | | | |
| 6-10 | 0.1741 | 0.0098 | 0.0654 | | | |
| WHOLESALEERS | | | | | | |
| Post-harvest loss (%) | | | | 0.4631 | 0.0722 | 0.2887 |
| ≤5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 6-10 | 0.8180 | 0.3883 | 0.4712 | | | |
| 11-15 | 0.7889 | 0.0748 | 0.0908 | | | |
| RETAILERS | | | | | | |
| Post-harvest loss (%) | | | | 0.3352 | 0.0905 | 0.1747 |
| ≤5 | 0.6308 | 0.0475 | 0.0791 | | | |
| 6-10 | 0.5543 | 0.2877 | 0.4793 | | | |

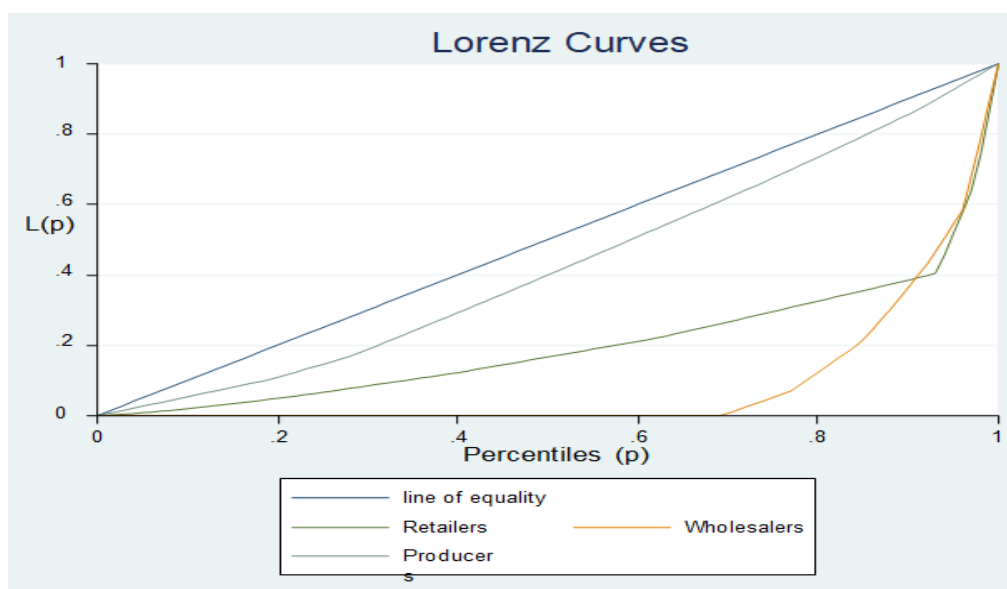


Figure 1: Lorenz curve showing the income inequality among producers, wholesalers and retailers in the population

CONCLUSION

This study found that post-harvest losses within the orange supply chain varied by category of the agent. Specifically, gross margin analysis revealed that wholesalers had the highest total variable cost, while the retailers had the lowest average cost. This might be linked to the level of post-harvest losses which drives production costs up thereby compromising the profitability of the wholesalers. Furthermore, post-harvest losses were

about 10 percent among wholesalers compared to nine percent and four percent among producers and retailers respectively, implying that wholesalers and producers were more affected by post-harvest losses than retailers. The high cost of marketing and post-harvest loss might be a result of the high volume of oranges sold by the wholesalers. However, income inequality was also highest among wholesalers but least among the producers. To reduce income inequality, there is a need to

focus on PHL constraints among of the supply actors especially concerning PHL skill acquisition in their respective enterprise. This should include appropriate training for all actors within the orange supply chain on post-harvest reduction and management, especially among aging female farmers than among youthful, male wholesalers.

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