



FROM LIVING WAGE TO LIVING INCOME: ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE COCOA VALUE CHAIN IN GHANA

Abstract

What is the impact of living income concept implementation in Ghana on small-scale farmer's livelihood? How does productivity of farmers increase related to technic of farming improvement? And much more, what is the difference between farmers involved in this concept and those who are not? To answer these questions, we addressed a semi-structured questionnaire to 120 farmers in Kumasi region in Ghana. The data collection took place inside communities in Kumasi between October and November 2020. The analysis with R-studio helps to demonstrate 3 main categories of results. The first category, which is descriptive, is based on the socio-economic analysis of the group of people interviewed. It shown that there is no big difference between owners of farm. Most of the person living in each household depend on the income from cocoa production and other activities as trading and commerce. Against all expectations, women have a larger plot of land at their disposal and their production is therefore higher. This is followed by the statistical analysis of the data on annual yield, income, certification and all the activities in which the producers are involved and that punctuate their lifestyle. To increase productivity, farmers use pesticides, followed by fertilizers, but also practice agroforestry. They are not benefiting from financial institution loans, but 50% of them are certified through Cocoa life institution and assumed that they are not meeting living income expectations however there is a positive change of income. Finally, the third part is based on a comparative analysis of living standards over a period of time and the level of influence of financial institutions and cooperatives on production and recreation activities. Food, school fees and transportation are the most costing services to farmers. However, they are involved in majority in cooperative, they find credit from the cooperative and have a basic recreative activity. We assume that the proximity of schools in most of the case, could be one of reason of resilience of children in schools. The question on women leadership is nevertheless, mitigated. Women are strongly involved in the production activities but their encountering or segregation inside the community is mainly doubted. In spite of belonging to certification structures, farmers are entirely part of cooperatives and it would seem that they have a great preference and faith in cooperatives.