

# Analysis of the impact of Pest infestation and its correlates among kola marketers in Ogun State, Nigeria

Taiwo O, Mokwunye I.U, Mokwunye F.C, adebowale L.A

Kola Research Programme, Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, PMB 5244, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

**Abstract**— Kola nuts are economic crops that play important roles in socio-economic and trado-religious life of the Nigerian people. Kola nut marketing is constrained by several factors. As a result, the study was conducted to understand the correlation among the variables affecting kola nut marketing in Ogun State, Nigeria. It was observed that majority (97.2%) of the marketers were females; they were mostly between 40-59 years. This reflects that kola nut trading is done by older generations. The result showed that 57% of the respondents were secondary school leavers while 16% had primary education indicating that most of the respondents are literate and can adopt new technologies easily. Majority of the respondents indicated that weevils-*Balanogastrius* and *Soprorhinus* constitute major storage pests. 98.1% respondents observed annual losses between 1-20% while 1.9% said they observed about 60% losses due to weevil infestation. In order to forestall pest damage, 71.4% apply insecticides containing cypermethrin which is erroneously referred to as 'gammalin 20'. It was observed that the flow of information was predominantly between kola nut marketers with no interaction with extension agents. The correlation analysis showed an inverse relationship between the percentage level of infestation and the marketers experience at 5% level of probability. This implies that years of experience improve knowledge of weevil management. The use of insecticides for kola nut preservation should be discouraged as it is hazardous to health particularly since kola nut does not undergo secondary processing before consumption. It is apparent from the foregoing, that the marketers are dire need of extension services for dissemination of safe kola preservation practices.

**Keywords**— kola nut marketers, weevils, kola nut preservation, insecticides, pest infestation.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The kola tree, belonging to the family sterculiaceae is native to the tropical rainforest of Africa. About 40 *Cola* species have been described so far. The *Cola* species of economic

importance in Nigeria are *Cola acuminata* (P. Beauv) Schott and Endl. and *Cola nitida* (Vent) Schott and Endl. [1]. These species are also cultivated as economic crops in the forest areas of West and Central Africa, Carribean Islands, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia [2]. It is widely agreed that kola nut was first noted in 1902 in Egba division of Ogun State, Nigeria [3]. The cultivation of *C. nitida* which replaced *C. acuminata* started in Agege and spread to the forest area following first the course of the railway line in Abeokuta, Ibadan and Offa. Eventually its cultivation extended to the present day south-south and south eastern states of Nigeria [4]. Nigeria produces about 70% of world's kola nut with an annual estimated production of 200,000 metric tonnes of fresh nuts, mostly from south west Nigeria [5]. The south west accounts for about 88% of the produce. On the other hand, only about 10% of the produce is exported, while the rest are consumed locally [6,7,8,9,10].

Kola nut, which is primarily chewed because of its stimulants contains about 1% protein, 1.35% fats and 45% starch [6]. Its principal constituents are caffeine, theobromine, tannins, phenolics, kolatin, and kolanin. The presence of alkaloids and other phytochemicals makes kola nut suitable for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products and beverages. The tannin content is also a good source of dyes in textiles and thread [11]. It also has industrial usage for the production of drugs, soft drinks, wines, candies, beverages, animal feed formulation, liquid soap and dyes. [12,13]. Some Africans chew the nut for stamina, to ease hunger, aid digestion and as an aphrodisiac. It is also believed to dispel sleep, thirst and hunger and act as an anti-depressant. [14] observed that beverage could be made by boiling powdered seed in water. The nut plays an important part in the cultural, social, trado-religious life of the Nigerian people. Consequently, it is valued in Nigerian culture as a sign of friendship and peace and is consumed ("broken") at reunions, during meetings, ceremonies and festivals. Predominantly grown in the south western states of Nigeria, the nut is celebrated with awe by the Igbo tribe

of the south-east Nigeria. They regard it in high esteem and as such often offered as a gift to traditional leaders and visitors. And in northern Nigeria, where the bulk of kola nut is chewed, it is greatly relished as a stimulant in substitute for alcoholic drinks. As a result, there is a heavy trade of kola from the humid southern regions to the northern arid parts of West Africa. The stem of the trees are used in the building industry, for making furniture, canoe and carvings. In Africa, the pods are used to ease labour pain.

#### **Production Constraint-Insect Pests**

While the demand is rising, the production remains low due to several limiting factors amongst which are the insect pests. The insect pests of economic importance are the weevils- *Balanogastrikskolae* and *Sophrorhinus* spp. They are field-to-store pests which can cause up to 100% loss if left uncontrolled in storage [15]. The weevil infestation also predisposes the nuts to secondary invasion by other microorganisms, especially fungi which further lower the market value and eventually results in total destruction of the nuts. Consequently, kola nuts storage is usually laborious because the freshness of the nuts needs to be maintained for several months. [16] noted that the major problem encountered in kola nut trading business was basically that of storage with insect pest causing 53.33% kola nut losses which reduces the value and invariably the price of stored nuts.

#### **Kola nut marketing**

Kola nut has been an important trade commodity for over eight centuries in Nigeria and other parts of Africa [17, 18]. The marketing of kola nut in Nigeria dates back to ancient times especially in the eras of the Ghana, the Shanghai, the Benin and the Kanem-Borno Empires [19]. Utilization of kola nut and its by-products for several industrial and domestic purposes contributes immensely to local and foreign exchange earnings of the country [20]. More recently, kola nuts and kola nut extracts have become increasingly popular in Europe and North America as a natural or alternative medicine. The nuts are also exported to the Middle East where they are fed to horses for strength during horse racing. This affirms that kola is an important cash crop supporting an increasing number of Nigerians who earn their living along the kola nut value chain as producers, transporters, traders, middle men and exporters. It was estimated that the internal kola nut market in Nigeria worth about Thirty Million naira (N30, 000,000.00), while in 1970, kola nut export fetched USD \$157,500 to Nigerian government [21]. There is dearth of information on the current volume of kola nut production in Nigeria. It was reported that Ekiti State in Nigeria generated over fourteen million naira (N14, 000,000.00) as revenue from kola nut production in 2010 [22]. The white and bright coloured nuts

attract more premium than the red and dull colored nuts. In kola producing regions there are markets which specialize in the bulk trade of kola nuts and which target long distance wholesale traders. The long distance traders of kola nuts earn the highest profits, but this is usually controlled by merchants from the North who have access to transport and capital resources. However, most kola nut sellers in the producing areas are involved in small-scale trade. Most of the retailers/farmers sell their products in smaller units such as cups and bowls or baskets. There is no standard local price or grading for kola nut in Nigeria. Price determination and quality of nuts or grade of nuts are based on experience and mutual understanding of the buyers and sellers [23]. Kola nut marketing is done by the producers who sell at the farm gate or village site to either the wholesalers in rural and urban areas or directly to the retailers who are mostly women [24]. The farmers process the kola nuts from the pods before selling to the retailers/consumers [25]. It was noted by [26] that small holder farmers are located in remote areas with poor marketing information and market infrastructure. The marketing information required by these marketers include policies which influence prices, good storage techniques, recommended insecticides during storage, marketing outlets, post-harvest handling of kola nut, etc. [27] in his study noted that availability and effectiveness of marketing infrastructures like storage facilities, transportation facilities and communication networks determine the ability of marketing system to effectively and efficiently perform its developmental function. He also noted that adequate transportation network must exist for effective distribution of kola nut to take place. The existing transportation network, market information, storage, training among other factors remains unsatisfactory and does not facilitate effective distribution to the wholesalers, retailers and consumers in the major areas especially at harvesting peak periods. Information on these factors and how they correlate with each other will help in the understanding of the relationship among the variables affecting kola nut marketing in the study area.

## **II. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

This study was designed to find out the correlation among the variables affecting the marketing for kola nut in Ogun State Nigeria. Particularly with the storage pest problem, type of pest, level of infestation, information source on pesticides, mode of application, marketer's years of experience, level of education among others.

## **III. METHODOLOGY**

Study Area

The study is based on Kola-nut marketers in Ogun State, Nigeria. Ogun state is in the South Western part of Nigeria. Climatically, the state falls within the rainforest belt of the country with vast agricultural potential. The state enjoys luxuriant vegetation with vast rainforest found in the south while the Northern fringe is mostly sub – savannah forest. The people are peasant farmers who engage in production of cash crops such as cocoa, kola nut, oil palm and cashew. Farming practices in the study area involve the use of hand tools and other simple implements.

#### Data Collection and Sampling Techniques:

Primary data derived from the administration of structured questionnaire using a multistage sampling technique was adopted. Three Local Government Areas namely: Ijebu North, Odogbolu and Sagamu were purposively selected. This constituted the first stage. The second stage was the simple random selection of a major kola market from each of the LGAs. In each market, twenty kola nut traders were randomly selected. The random selection of the respondents was done on a market day in the communities selected. The data collected included socio – economic variables such as age, marital status, level of education, marketing experience, and type of occupation. Other data collected were knowledge of weevil, type of control option applied and quantity applied sources of information, percentage losses due to pest infestation among others.

#### Data analysis

Descriptive Statistics (simple frequency tables and percentages), was used in the analysis of the socio-economic variable while spearman rho correlation analysis is used to determine the correlation between the variables affecting kola marketing in the study area.

#### Analytical framework

The spearman rho correlation coefficient is given as follows

$$R_k = 1 - \frac{6\sum D^2}{n(n^2-1)}$$

Where  $r_s$  = coefficient of correlation and it ranges from -1 to +1,  $d$  = difference between the variables under consideration,  $N$  = number of observations

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Economic characteristics of kola marketers Table 1 shows the age distribution of the kola nut marketers in the study area. The age of the respondents is important as it is an indication of how productive and vibrant the marketers can be. The result shows that majority were between 40-59 years representing 44.6 percent while 13.3% of the respondents were between 20-39 years. This suggests that kola nut trading is largely in the hands of the older generation who are in the later stage of life. The study also revealed that majority were females (97.2%) while only 3.3

percent of the marketers were males. The married marketers constituted 91.2 percent while 1.8 percent was unmarried hence an indication that most of them are socially responsible. Furthermore, the result analysis shows that 57% of the respondents were secondary school leavers while 16% had primary education. This shows that most of the respondents were literate and hence have ability to comprehend and adopt innovative technologies that could enhance their livelihoods. The descriptive statistics reveals that most of the respondents (47.1%) were engaged in farming while 23.5 percent were involved in other forms of trading to supplement their means of livelihood.

#### Processing of Kola Pods

The traders informed that they usually purchased kola pods and unskinned nuts from farmers. Then the seeds are removed from the pods and soaked in water for 24h to enhance peeling off of the testa. The skinned nuts are washed and drained in basket for a few days. This is the curing process which is done to reduce the moisture content of the nuts.

#### Storage and Preservation of nuts

Most of the marketers observed that *Balanogastriskolae* commonly known as weevils constitute the major pest attacking stored kola nuts as shown in Table 2. They indicated that other insect's pests (9.8%) also attack stored kola nut. This corroborates the findings of [16]Adedokun*et al.*, (2013) that weevil constitute a major loss of kola during storage. All the marketers indicated that they could identify the kola weevil and its symptoms of infestation. Locally in this community, the kola nut weevil is referred to as 'kokoro obi'. 98.1 percent of the respondents observed annual losses between 1-20% of kola nut to pest infestation while only 1.9 percent indicated that above 60 percent of their kola is usually lost to pest infestation. This corroborates the findings of [28] who also observed that the kola nut weevil is capable of causing 30-70% losses in storage. From the foregoing, it is obvious that most of the marketers are knowledgeable about weevil infestation and take preventive measures to curtail losses in order to maximize profits.

[29]Reported that weevils are important pests in kola nut production in Cameroon and as such some farmers used locally available plant materials such as dried vertiver grass roots used as repellent, dried *Eucalyptus* leaves or dried tobacco leaves spread in layers over kola nut in storage baskets. Some also bury the unskinned nuts in anthills while others apply chemical insecticide such as Actellic 50EC. On the contrary, in order to avert weevil attack during storage, the traders indicated that they would soak the kola nuts in water mixed with insecticides containing cypermethrin

(active ingredient) for some minutes. The amount of insecticide to be used depends on the quantity of nuts to be treated. Normally, they rely on experience to determine the quantity of insecticide to use. The insecticides are measured using the cap of the refilled bottles. Thereafter, the nuts will be placed in baskets to allow draining and aeration before they are finally bagged and stored. Some traders indicated that they use Aluminium phosphide pellets by wrapping between a quarter pellets and one pellets in polythene or old unused piece of cloth. This is usually placed at the bottom of the basket before it is lined with banana leaves. Some of the marketers claimed that they put the wrapped Aluminium phosphide pellets in the middle of the kola nut for a week only. The method does not allow any physical contact of the chemical with the stored kola nut. After the different treatment options, the nuts are stored in black polythene bags, which are kept in baskets lined with plantain or banana leaves. In addition, the kola nuts are sorted and observed regularly for weevil attack. In case of re-infestation, the procedure is repeated until the nuts are finally sold.

#### Types of insecticides used

The result analysis on table 2 further shows that 71.4% of the respondents use insecticides containing Cypermethrin, while 25% use Aluminium phosphide pellets to control weevil during kola nut processing. However, insecticides in liquid formulations are generally referred to as 'gammalin' by the respondents. This might be misleading as most of these marketers grew up during the gammalin revolution period and have had limited interactions with extension agents. These insecticides are repackaged in refilled bottles and sold at an affordable rate. Most of the respondents (95.7%) revealed that they apply the insecticides more than once in the course of preserving kola nut. The result indicated that 55% of the respondents preferred to treat kola nut with 'gammalin' as they assumed that it was more effective than Aluminium phosphide pellets. On the other hand, 33.3% of respondents preferred to apply the pellets. The Aluminium phosphide pellet was generally referred to as 'trebor' by the marketers. With regards to quantity of pellets used, 61.7% of respondents alleged that they wrap a quarter of Aluminium phosphide pellets in polythene bag or/and in a piece of wrapper. The pellets are placed at the base of the basket containing kola nuts and this they claim can preserve the kola nut for several months.

As shown in Table 3, the sources of information on kola nut preservation available to the marketers. The result analysis shows that 51.8% receive their information on kola preservation and marketing from fellow marketers while 46.4% receive information from local pesticide vendors

thus indicating that most kola marketers source their information from their colleagues. This further shows that information gotten among the marketers are more convincing and reliable to them. The local pesticide vendors would buy various brands of insecticides in retail quantities. And subsequently repackage them in small-sized refill bottles. These were sold for as low as twenty naira (N20) only which is about 0.13USD. During the study, it was observed that women are mainly involved in this pesticide retail trade which they hawk about during market days. Consequently, the marketers receive advice and information from these local pesticide vendors. This suggests that the flow of information is predominantly between and within the kola marketers than from extension agents. There was apparently no indication that the marketers have had any contact with extension agents.

#### 1. inter-correlation among socioeconomic characteristics and pest management in kola nut marketing

Table 4 shows the analysis of the spearman rho correlation coefficient. The result shows the impact of pest infestation and its correlates of the socioeconomic characteristics of kola marketers in the study area. Analysis as shown on table 4 reveals that the percentage level of pest infestation has a positive correlation with the major insect pest and use of pesticide at 1% and 5% level of significance respectively. This indicates that infestation increases with high population of the weevil and in addition, the frequency of insecticide application increases with increasing level of weevil infestation. However, there is an inverse relationship between the percentage level of pest infestation and the kola marketer's experience at 5% level of significance. This is expected because as the marketers' years of experience on kola nut business increases, the more experience they acquire on weevil management during kola nut storage, hence the lower the level of pest infestation. The spearman rho correlation coefficient also revealed a positive correlation at 1% level of significance between the source of information on weevil management and the amount of pesticide applied in controlling kola pest but an inverse relationship with the marketers experience at 5% level of significance. This indicates that information is critical in decision-making with regards to the type and amount of pesticide to be applied. Nevertheless as the marketers experience increases, the source of information becomes less important to them since it is expected that they must have gathered requisite knowledge and experience over the years on management of weevil on stored kola nut.

The correlation analysis also shows that educational level of the marketers has a direct correlation to the kola marketers'

experience thus indicating that the more their level of education, the more experience and knowledge they gather on kola marketing and storage preservation against kola nut weevil infestation. The study also revealed a positive correlation at 5% level of significance between frequency of pesticide application and the major pest (weevil). This further substantiates the correlation between the source of information and the quantity of pesticide applied which must have been as a result of the information given to the kola marketers by their co-traders and or chemical sellers.

## V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

From the study, it was found that majority of the kola marketers are young and vibrant between the ages of 40- 59 years and are mainly female and married with most being literate. All the respondents acknowledge that kola nut weevil is a major pest infesting their kola nut of which most of the respondent's lose between 1-20 percent of their kola nut to weevil pest infestation. Information is mostly gotten from co-traders while few source their information from the chemical sellers thus making formation gotten from co-traders more convincing and reliable. Gammalin was found to be the major pesticide used for kola preservation and it is been applied more than once during kola processing.

However, the respondents erroneously referred to any insecticides in liquid formulations as 'Gammalin'. The major insecticides used by the traders contained active ingredients such as cypermethrin and Aluminium phosphide which are applied during kola processing. Correlation analysis carried out showed that the percentage level of pest infestation is positively correlated and significant to major pest (weevil) and use of pesticide but negatively correlated to the marketer's experience. The quantity of pesticide applied to kola nut was also positively correlated and significant to the source of information received by the kola marketers. Education was also found to have positive correlation with the marketers experience on kola marketing.

Most of the marketers are young and vibrant and are literate hence there is the need for extension agents to educate the marketers on the proper way of kola nut storage and marketing. The kola marketers' source of information is mainly from their co-traders hence the wide spread of the use of pesticide in kola preservation hence there is need for extension education to be intensified particularly, on the natural method of preserving kola so as to avoid the health hazards that can be incurred from the use of gemelin and phostoxin currently in use for kola storage in the study area.

Table.1: Demographic information of kola nut marketers in Ogun State

s/n	variables	Frequency	valid percentage
<b>1.</b>	<b>AGE</b>		
	20-39 years	8	14.3
	40-59 years	25	44.6
	60-79 years	22	39.3
	Above 79 years	1	1.8
	Total	56	100
<b>2.</b>	<b>SEX</b>		
	Male	2	3.3
	Female	58	96.7
	Total	60	100
<b>3.</b>	<b>Marital Status</b>		
	Married	52	91.2
	Single	1	1.8
	Divorced	2	3.5
	Widow	2	3.5
	Total	57	100
<b>4.</b>	<b>Occupation</b>		
	Farming	24	47.1
	Trading	12	23.5
	Civil service	9	17.6
	Private	2	3.9
	Retiree	4	7.9
	Total	51	100

**5. Educational Status**

Primary Education	9	16.1
Secondary education	32	53.3
None	15	26.8

Source: Field survey 2015

Table.2: Application of insecticides on stored kola nut by the marketers in Ogun State

Frequency		valid percentage
<b>1. Type of pest</b>		
Weevil	33	80.5
Other insect pest	8	19.5
Total	41	100
<b>2. Level of infestation</b>		
1-20%	52	98.1
Above 20%	1	1.9
Total	53	100
<b>3. Type of insecticides used</b>		
Cypermethrin	40	71.4
Aluminium phosphide pellets	14	25.0
Others	2	3.6
Total	56	100
<b>4. Frequency of insecticide application</b>		
Once	1	4.3
More than once	22	95.7
Total	23	100
<b>5. Most effective insecticides</b>		
Cypermethrin	33	55.0
Aluminium phosphide pellets	20	33.0
Both	7	11.7
Total	57	100

Source: Field survey 2015

Table.3: Sources of information on kola nut preservation in Ogun State

Variable	Frequency	Valid percentage
Kola traders	29	51.8
Chemical retailers	26	46.4
Parents/friends/relatives	1	1.8
Total	56	100

Source: Field survey 2015

Table.4: Result on the inter-correlation among socioeconomic characteristics and pest management in kola nut marketing

			percenthi ghlevelin fest	majorpest	marketexp erience	infosource ofchem	Typeused	educstatus	wivilaweren es
Spearm an's rho	Percenthi ghlevelin fest	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.594(**)	-.258(*)	-.079	-.118	-.071	-.044
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.045	.494	.219	.747	.632

	N	124	124	61	77	111	23	121
majorpest	Correlation Coefficient	.594(**)	1.000	-.132	-.154	-.178(*)	-.074	.163
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.306	.140	.048	.718	.054
	N	124	144	62	93	124	26	141
Marketex perience	Correlation Coefficient	-.258(*)	-.132	1.000	-.319(*)	-.344(**)	.484(*)	-.133
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.045	.306	.	.033	.009	.031	.300
	N	61	62	63	45	57	20	63
Infosourc eofchem	Correlation Coefficient	-.079	-.154	-.319(*)	1.000	.523(**)	-.309	-.122
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.494	.140	.033	.	.000	.133	.245
	N	77	93	45	94	81	25	93
typeused	Correlation Coefficient	-.118	-.178(*)	-.344(**)	.523(**)	1.000	.	.135
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.219	.048	.009	.000	.	.	.139
	N	111	124	57	81	125	25	122
educstatu s	Correlation Coefficient	-.071	-.074	.484(*)	-.309	.	1.000	.
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.747	.718	.031	.133	.	.	.
	N	23	26	20	25	25	26	26
wivilawer enes	Correlation Coefficient	-.044	.163	-.133	-.122	.135	.	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.632	.054	.300	.245	.139	.	.
	N	121	141	63	93	122	26	142

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field survey 2015

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