NIGERIA JOURNAL OF COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES IN CASSAVA FLOUR PROCESSING AND THEIR EFFECT ON COOPERATIVES PERFORMANCE IN OYI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

[1]Egor, Hikarofem Ise (PhD), [2*]Chilokwu, Chioma Glory, [3]Attah, Chinyere Cecilia

[1]Department of Cooperative Economics and Management, Federal Cooperative College, Oji River, Enugu State, Nigeria
[2]Department of Entrepreneurship Studies, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, Anambra State, Nigeria
[3]Department of Cooperative Economics and Management, Anambra State Polytechnic, Mgbakwu
[*]Corresponding Author: chiomaglory91@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examines entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour process among agricultural cooperative members in Oyi Local Government Area, Anambra State. It assesses the benefits of entrepreneurial activities of cooperative members on business environment, to examine the influence of entrepreneurial activities of cooperative members on the profitability of members business in Oyi Local Government Area, Anambra State. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaire from respondents using simple random sampling. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used in the study. The hypotheses formulated were tested using Chi-Square statistical test. The Probability value = $P < 0.024$ shows that the result of the chi-square statistics is significant. We therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate by concluding that entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour processing have significant effect on the cooperative members business environment in Oyi local government area, Anambra state. Cooperative business managers should develop a blueprint that will sensitize and drive membership, diversify their product mix and consequent expansion of their business volume to compete favourably with investor oriented-firms for economic sustainability and Cooperative businesses should uphold the cultural norms of their location of business and engage in activities that promote concern for their host community to avoid effects of restiveness which has the capacity of closing down cooperative shops.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial activities, cassava flour, cooperatives, Oyi, Anambra State, Nigeria.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Cooperatives have long been recognized as a vital component of entrepreneurial activities, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. By pooling resources and working together, cooperative members can access markets, share knowledge, and engage in entrepreneurial activities. However, the entrepreneurial activities of cooperative members have received relatively little attention in research, despite their potential to drive innovation, job creation, and economic growth in Nigeria. Entrepreneurship is a vehicle through which a strong economy can be created and is a facet of industrial growth. The worldwide attention given to entrepreneurship is not surprising as many nations are facing serious economic downturn in terms of low entrepreneurial activities and this has greatly affected economic activities. Countless theorists, scholars, economists have compiled significant contributions in the understanding of co-operative entrepreneurship and its relations to economic growth. Kyazze L.M 2023 .Co-operative entrepreneurship has a number of advantages such as ability of the participating entrepreneurs to combine different skills and competencies.

Entrepreneurs (and subsequently, shareholders) who establish investor-owned companies generally bear all the risk and appropriate all the reward usually in the form of profit.

Cooperative societies have been instrumental in promoting economic development and social welfare among their members. However, the rapidly changing economic landscape and increasing competition require cooperatives to adopt innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to remain sustainable. Cooperative society has been at the forefront of entrepreneurial activities, diversifying its operations and exploring new markets.

There are a variety of constraints on cooperative organization and the ability of its members to undertake entrepreneurial activities and their production continuously. These include financial challenges, poor access to market information, technology, poor linkages with support services and an unfavorable policy and regulatory environment. These constraints are further compounded by the need to compete in an aggressive business environment with rapid technological changes and the globalization of production, trade and financial flows (UNIDO, 2024).

The objectives of this study are to assess the benefits of entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour processing of cooperative members on business environment in Oyi Local Government Area, Anambra State and to examine the influence of entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour producing of cooperative members on the profitability of members business in Oyi Local Government Area, Anambra State.

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested in the study

Ho: Entrepreneurial activities of cooperative have no significant relationship on business environment in Oyi Local Government Area.

Ho: Entrepreneurial activities of cooperative members have no significant relationship on the profitability of members business in Oyi Local Government Area.

2.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Concept of Entrepreneur/Entrepreneurship

Inang (2023), quoted in Jimngang, (2023) defined an entrepreneur as someone who shifts economic resources out of an area of lower and into an area of higher productivity and greater yield. This definition has two aspects that deserve to be underlined. First, there are resources that undergo manipulation; second, the activity seeks to attain ―higher productivity‖ and ―greater yield‖.

Makangoso M.O (2024) defined an entrepreneur as a person who makes money by starting or running businesses, especially when this involves taking financial risks. UNDP, defined entrepreneurship as the process of using private initiative to transform a business concept into a new venture or to grow and diversify an existing venture or enterprise with high growth potential. Entrepreneurs identify an innovation to seize an opportunity, mobilize money and management skills, and take calculated risks to open markets for new products, processes and services. You will observe that entrepreneurship is a derivative word from entrepreneur, entrepreneurship is the act of being an entrepreneur, which can be defined as "one who undertakes innovations, finances and displays business acumen in an effort to transform innovations into economic goods". This may result in new organizations or may be part of revitalizing mature organizations in response to a perceived opportunity.

The concept of entrepreneurship has a wide range of meanings. It was first used in the early 18th century by an Irish man by name Rechard Cantillon who was then living in France. On the extreme, it is a term used broadly in connection within the innovation of modern industrial business leader, which describe an originator of a profitable business. The most obvious form of entrepreneurship is that of starting new businesses (referred to as Startup Company). However, in recent years, the term has been extended to include social and political forms of entrepreneurial activity. When entrepreneurship is describing activities within a firm or large organization, it is referred to as intra-preneurship and may include corporate venturing, when large entities spin-off organizations.

Co-operative Entrepreneurship: A co-operative society is a voluntary association of persons who work together to promote their economic interest. It works on the principle of self-help, as well as mutual help. The main objective is to provide support to the members. Nobody joins a cooperative society to earn profit. People come forward as a group, pool their individual resources, utilize them in the possible manner, and derive some common benefit out of it. Hence, cooperative entrepreneur is one who undertakes and assumes the responsibility to discover innovate cooperative opportunity, on the basis of collective effort, which has the cooperative effect for the socio-economic development of the member entrepreneurs simultaneously with the cooperative values

Cooperatives Member's Activities and Entrepreneurial Development

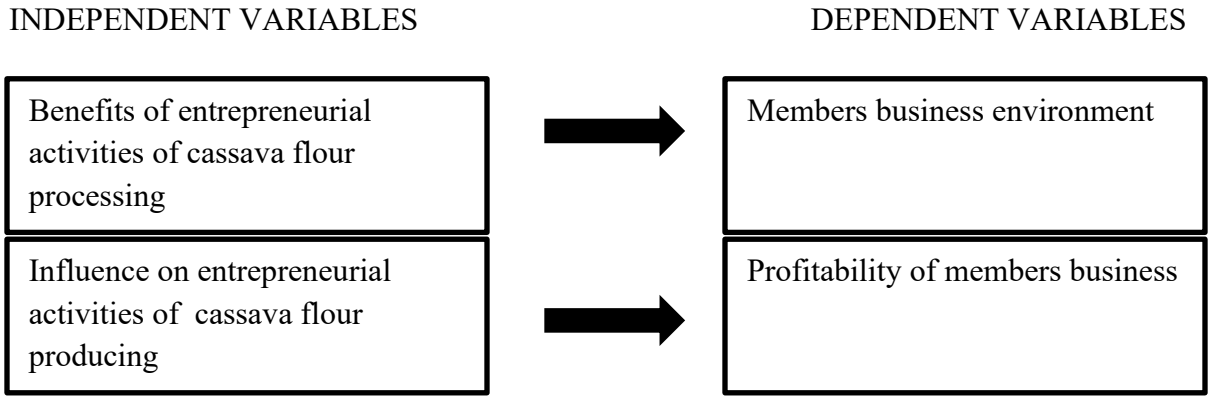
Cooperatives are playing an increasingly important role worldwide in facilitating job creation economic growth and social development. Ranging from small-scale to multi-million dollar businesses across the globe, cooperatives are estimated to employ more than 100 million women and men, and have more than 800 million individual members. Cooperatives mainly operate in agricultural marketing and supply, finance, wholesale and retailing, health care, housing and insurance and very recently, information and communication technology, tourism and cultural industries. Indeed, the UNO affirms that as part of its business promotion activities, the cooperative provides the means for entrepreneurial start-up, particularly by disadvantaged individuals and communities, assuring group of individuals an effective means to combine their resources, however small and permitting a larger resource mobilization than is within the capacity of most individuals and small enterprises.

Cooperatives are community-based, rooted in democracy, flexible, and have participatory involvement, which makes them well suited for economic development. The process of developing and sustaining a cooperative involves the processes of developing and promoting community spirit, identity and social organisation as cooperatives play an increasingly important role worldwide in poverty reduction, facilitating job creation, economic growth and social development.

Cooperatives are viewed as important tools for improving the living and working conditions of both women and men. Since the users of the services they provide owned them, cooperatives make decisions that balance the need for profitability with the welfare of their members and the community, which they serve. As cooperatives foster economies of scope and scale, they increase the bargaining power of their members providing them, among others benefits, higher income and social protection. Hence, cooperatives accord members opportunity, protection and empowerment - essential elements in uplifting them from degradation and poverty. As governments around the world cut services and withdraw from regulating markets, cooperatives are being considered useful mechanisms to manage risk for members and keep markets efficient . In a number of ways, cooperatives play important role in global and national economic and social development. With regard to economic and social development, cooperatives promote the "fullest participation of all people" and facilitate a more equitable distribution of the benefits of globalization. They contribute to sustainable human development and have an important role to play in combating social exclusion. Thus the promotion of cooperatives should be considered as one of the pillars of national and international economic and social development. In addition to the direct benefits they provide to members, cooperatives strengthen the communities in which they operate, cooperatives are specifically seen as significant tools for the creation of decent jobs and for the mobilization of resources for income generation. Many cooperatives provide jobs and pay local taxes because they operate in specific geographical regions. According to Wikipedia (2024) it is estimated that cooperatives employ more than 100 million men and women worldwide.

In Nigeria, cooperatives can provide locally needed services, employment, circulate money locally and contribute to a sense of community or social cohesion. They can provide their employees with the opportunities to upgrade their skills through workshops and courses and offer youth in their base communities short and long-term employment positions. Students could also be employed on casual-appointment basis during long vacations. Through these, cooperatives will contribute to economic development. Business

Conceptual Framework: Members of agricultural cooperative societies (members business environment and profitability of members business) are influenced by entrepreneurial activities (cassava flour processing and producing) .Therefore, this study, tries to analyze the influence of independent variables on the dependent variable. The following diagram shows the relationship between independent variables (cassava flour processing and producing) and dependent variable (members business environment and profitability of members business).



Source: Author's conceptualization, 2026

2.2 Theoretical Framework

In this study the researcher makes use of Innovation Theory and Group Theory

Innovation Theory: This theory was propounded by J.A. Schumpeter in 1962. According to Schumpeter, entrepreneur is basically an innovator and innovator is one who introduces new combinations. According to this theory, the entrepreneurs emerges because of individuals having certain psychological elements i.e., will power, self-intuitions, tolerance capacity. The entrepreneur is a person who has creative nature. He regarded the entrepreneurship as a catalyst who checks the static conditions of the economy, there by initiates and thrusts a process of economic development i.e., innovation. He carries economy to new height of development.

In Schumpeterian theory, the main theme is the innovation. He makes a distinction between an innovator and an inventor. According to him, an inventor discovers new methods and new materials. But, an innovator is one who applies inventions and discoveries in order to make now combinations. With the help of these new combinations, he produces newer and better goods which yield satisfaction as well as profits.

In economic development process, entrepreneurs have been assigned a crucial role so that tempo of growth is maintained effectively. Development requires basic changes and entrepreneurs carry out the required changes. Thus, entrepreneurial development brings economic development. Schumpeter's concept of entrepreneurship is quite broad based. Entrepreneurship includes not only the independent business men but also executives and managers who actually undertake innovative functions.

Application of the Theory

In the context of this study, innovation theory and entrepreneurship activities go hand in hand. Innovation plays a crucial role in keeping the entrepreneurship activities relevant in the market. An innovative entrepreneur is someone that brings a change in the market and challenges the prevalently established truth and makes a yield out of it. If you are planning to run cooperative business, you first need to be a bit innovative in your ways and that means that you are supposed to have different perspectives, ideas, and opinions to bring a distinct concept in the market that helps you bring a change in the industry. Innovation allows businesses to thrive as it brings in creative solutions to problems and allows the business owners to apply their creativity to the max to make their presence valuable in the market. Innovation allows companies to make continuous improvements and helps in enhancing the creativity of the business.

Group Theory: According to the renowned social psychologist, Sherif (1984) who advanced the group theory, a social group exhibits some degree of social cohesion and is more than a simple collection or aggregate of individuals, such as people waiting at a bus stop, or people waiting in a line. Characteristics shared by members of a group may include interests, values, representations, ethnic or social background, and kinship ties. He further explained that a social group consists of two or more individuals with similar identities who interact with one another over an appreciable period of time. Social identity is key to the formation of groups in that how people think in relation to their participation in these groups affects behaviours and operations of both established and future social systems. Characteristics of social groups may include interests, values, ethnic or social background, or kinship ties. Social interaction is arguably the defining characteristic. In other words, the elements (members) of the group are in constant and continuous interaction/relationship with each other.

The relevance of the group theory in explaining the establishment of cooperative members is phenomenal. Edem (2024) identified cooperative members as a social group. Cooperative members are groups made up of individuals whose inter-related tasks and specialities enable the total aggregate to achieve set goals, perform complementary and reciprocal functions and satisfy complementary needs. They are social groups, distinguished from other forms of gathering or aggregation of people by consciousness of membership and interaction as they accomplish set tasks and goals. In such groups, tasks are allocated according to interests and natural disposition, and this motivates members to participate in group activities and to perform well.

Application of the Theory

In the context of this study, in Oyi Local Government Area, producers of goods and services who generally fall within the business enterprise purview could organize themselves into cooperatives such that they assign tasks and set goals of building the managerial competences of their members, take advantage of group resources which singly or individually they cannot attain, and by so doing better the lot of their members, households and communities.

Social influence comes into play when people operate as a group (Edem, 2024). This phenomenon of building ties or bonds is explained by the group theory, and is facilitated by man's speech endowment, his communicative behavior and superior intellectual capacity. Usually, higher productivity results from group work. This is as a consequence of several interactive acts and psychological means of influence (infection, imitation and suggestion) which operates within the group, as well as facilitative effect of the presence of other people on the performance within the group. In the business sector, cooperative members can pull together resources to generate benefits which are shared among members. This social relationship often results in the mobilization of economic resources in other to actualize identified goals, one of which is profit maximization. Cooperative members are therefore social and economic groupings which potentially could promote socioeconomic development in the Oyi Local Government Area.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a descriptive survey research design that involves asking questions, collecting and analyzing data from a supposedly representative members of the population at a single point in time with a view to determine the current situation of that population with respect to one or more variable under investigation (Okeke, Olise & Eze, 2018).

This study was carried out in Oyi Local Government Area of Anambra state of Nigeria. Oyi is a Local Government Area in Anambra State, Nigeria. It is home to the Oyi people. The towns that make up the local government are Nkwelle-Ezunaka, Awkuzu, Ogbunike, Umunya and Nteje. The origin of Oyi people is the same for all the "OLU" sub group of the Eri-Awka Igbo. The Olus are the distinct river-side Igbo people of the lower Anambra plain (Anambra River Basin), encompassing the entire old Anambra Division of the 1920s to the 80s, parts of today's Awka North LGA of Anambra State and the excision of the former Uzo-Uwani LGA of now Enugu State. The population of Oyi Local Government Area, Anambra State as of 2006, is estimated to be 168,029 according to the Nigeria Census 2006.

Population of the Study: The population of the study is made up of all the management committees' members of agricultural cooperatives in Oyi local government area, Anambra state. Anambra state has a total of ninety five (95) registered and active agricultural cooperative societies with a membership strength of two thousand seven hundred and eight three (2783). (Cooperative Department Ministry of Industry, Anambra State).

Sample Size: The sample size for the study is comprised of two hundred and eight five (234) members of farmers management committee of the ninety five (95) agricultural cooperative societies in Oyi local government area of Anambra State, Nigeria.

Source of Data: The researcher explored the primary and secondary sources. The primary data was obtained from management committees of agricultural cooperative societies in Oyi local government area, Anambra state using a structured questionnaire instrument. Secondary sources of literature for the study were obtained from existing literature in the field of study which were available to the researcher; they are: journals, internet materials, text books etc.

Validation of Instrument

In order to validate the instrument, the objectives of the study, the research questions, the research hypotheses of the study and the questionnaire was given to two experts in the Department of Cooperative Economics and Management for face and content validation. They validated the instrument with reference to the appropriateness of the items, their wordings and construct. The experts also examined the items in respect of their relevance, clarity, content coverage and their appropriateness in addressing the objectives of the study. The inputs of these authorities were incorporated by the researcher in modifying the instrument as directed before the final copies of the instrument were produced.

3.8 Reliability of the Instrument

Before the final questionnaire was administered to the respondents, it was pilot tested on 20 members of agricultural cooperative Oyi local government area, Anambra state. Using their responses, the instrument was subject to reliability test using the Cronbachs Alpha. The Cronbachs Alpha reliability statistics is 0.876 which is considered sufficiently high and above the cutoff point.

Data Collection Instrument: The instrument that was used for the data collection is the questionnaire which was designed and administered to management committees of agricultural cooperative local government area, Anambra state. The questionnaire has two sections. Section A and Section B. Section A sought information on demographic profile of the respondents. Section B is made up of items designed to elicit information relating to the effect of entrepreneurial activities on the profitability of members of agricultural cooperative societies in Oyi local government area, Anambra State. Using a close ended question and a five (5) point like summative scale question of Very Great Extent (VGE) 5 points; Great Extent (GE) 4 points; Undecided (U) 3 points; Some Extent (SE) 2 points; and No Extent (NE) 1 point.

Method of Data Analysis: Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, mean, and standard deviation) and the inferential statistics such as chi-square statistics. The demographic profiles were processed using descriptive statistics. Thereafter, the objectives were processed using descriptive statistics (like percentages, mean and standard

deviation) and the two hypotheses; Ho1 and Ho2, set for the study were analyzed through independent chi-square statistics. Stated below are the formular for Chi-square test of hypothesis.

4.0 PRESENTATION OF DATA AND RESULT

234 questionnaires distributed were completed and returned. This shows that only 82.11% of the questionnaires were duly completed and returned for the study.

4.2. Demographic Profile of the Respondents (Management Committee members of selected Cooperative Societies)

Table 4.2: Distribution of Respondents According to Gender

Variable	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative (%)
Gender			
Male	153	65.38	65.38
Female	81	34.62	100
Total	234	100	
Age			
18-32	35	15	15
31-40	40	17.1	32.1
41-50	36	15.4	47.5
51-60	97	41.5	89
61-70	26	11	100.0
Total	234	100.0	
Educational Qualification			
Primary	11	12.0	12.0
Secondary	57	62.0	74.0
Tertiary	24	26.0	100.0
Total	92	100.0	
Marital Status			
Married	147	63.0	63.0
Single	59	25.0	88.0
Widow/Widower	28	12.0	100.0
Total	234	100.0	
Farm Size			
1-5plots	28	12.0	12.0
6-10plots	102	43.5	55.5
11-15plots	71	30.4	85.9
15-30plots	33	14.1	100.0
Total	234	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 4.2 shows that 65.38% respondents are males while 34.62% of the respondents are females. As shown in table 4.2, 15% of the respondents are between the ages of 18-32. 17.1% of the respondents, are between the ages of 31-40. 15.4% of the respondents, are between the ages of 41-50. 41.5% of the respondents, between the ages of 51-60, while 11% of the respondents, are between the ages of 61-70. From table 4.2, all the respondents had formal education. 12.0% of the respondents had primary education. 62.0% had secondary education while 26.0% had tertiary education. From table 4.2, 63.0% of the respondents are married. 25.0% of the respondents are single, while 12.0% of the respondents are widow/widower. With respect to farm size, table 4.2 revealed that 12.0% of the respondents farm on 1-5plots of land. 43.5% of the respondents farm on 6-10plots of land. 30.4% of the respondents farm on 11-15plots of land, while 14.1% of the respondents farm on 15-30plots of land.

4.3 Analysis and Presentation of Data Based on the Questionnaire

Table 4.3: Benefits of entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour processing of cooperative members on business environment in Oyi Local Government Area Anambra State.

Items	N	$\overline{X}$	Std. Dev.	Decision
Increased volumes of production	234	3.2	0.5855	Agree
Higher incomes and employment effects	234	3.8	0.8644	Agree
Improved business size	234	3.1	0.1730	Agree
Better access to and mobilization of local resources	234	3.2	0.0299	Agree
Diffusion of innovation	234	3.4	0.7668	Agree
Increase knowledge-transfer	234	3.5	0.3443	Agree
Improving the living and working of members	234	3.6	0.2343	Agree
Accord members opportunity, and empowerment	234	2.6	0.7819	Disagree
Grand Mean		**3.3**		

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

Table 4.3 above shows the descriptive statistics of effect of benefits of entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour processing of cooperatives members on business environment in Oyi Local Government Area, Anambra State. The table revealed that the various mean scores and standard deviation for each item. Item 1 ($\overline{X}$= 3.2, SD = 0.5855), Item 2 ($\overline{X}$= 3.8, SD = 0.8644), item 3 ($\overline{X}$= 3.1, SD = 0.1730), item 4 ($\overline{X}$= 3.2, SD = 0.0299), item 5 ($\overline{X}$= 3.4, SD = 0.7668), item 6 ($\overline{X}$= 3.5, SD =0.3443), item 7 ($\overline{X}$= 3.6, SD = 0.2343) and 8 ($\overline{X}$= 2.6, SD = 0.7819). All items except item 8

under this section were accepted because they had mean scores above the average benchmark of 3.0. The grand mean is 3.3 which statistically imply that entrepreneurial activites of cassava flour processing has influence on the membership business environment in Oyi local government area, Anambra state.

Table 4.4: Influence of entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour producing of cooperative members on the profitability of members business in Oyi Local Government Area, Anambra State.

Items	N	$\bar{X}$	Std. Dev.	Decision
Raises standard of living	234	3.5	0.4828	Agree
Encourages economic independence	234	2.4	0.7668	Disagree
Benefits of new businesses	234	3.4	0.7668	Agree
Job creation	234	3.6	0.7819	Agree
Encourages capital formation	234	3.4	0.1632	Agree
Facilitating social development	234	2.0	0.3128	Disagree
Provides the means for entrepreneurial start-up	234	3.6	0.7819	Agree
Elimination of poverty	234	3.0	0.5010	Agree
Facilitating job creation and economic development	234	3.0	0.3128	Agree
Grand Mean		**3.5**		

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 4.4 above shows the descriptive statistics of influence of entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour producing of cooperative members in Oyi local government area, Anambra state. The table revealed that the various mean scores and standard deviation for each item. Item 1 ($\bar{X}$= 3.5, SD = 0.4828), Item 2 ($\bar{X}$= 2.4, SD = 0.7668), item 3 ($\bar{X}$= 3.4, SD = 0.7668), item 4 ($\bar{X}$= 3.6, SD = 0.7819), item 5 ($\bar{X}$= 3.4, SD = 0.1632), item 6 ($\bar{X}$= 2.0, SD = 0.3128), 7 ($\bar{X}$= 3.6, SD = 0.7819), item 8 ($\bar{X}$= 3.0, SD = 0.5010) and item 9 ($\bar{X}$= 3.0, SD = 0.3128). With the exception of items 2, 6 all the other item were accepted because they had mean scores above the average benchmark of 3.0. The grand mean is 3.5 which shows that entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour processing has effect on profitability of members business Community in Oyi local government area, Anambra state.

4.5 Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One

Table 4.5: Benefits of entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour processing of cooperatives members on business environment in Oyi local government area, Anambra state

	Value	d.f	Ssymptotic (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	**11.194[a]**	**4**	0.024

Likelihood Ratio	**11.276**	**4**	0.024
Linear-by-Linear Association	**7.435**	**1**	0.006
No of valid Cases	234		

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

Hypothesis one was tested using Chi-Square Tests. From the result of the chi-square results,
Chi-Square = $X^2 = 11.194^a$
No of samples = N= 285
Degree of Freedom = df = 4
Probability Value = P < 0.024
The Probability value = P < 0.024 shows that the result of the chi-square statistics is significant. We therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate by concluding that entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour processing has significant effect on the cooperative members business environment in Oyi local government area, Anambra state.

Hypothesis Two

Ho_2: The entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour producing has significant influence on the profitability of members business Oyi local government area, Anambra state.

Table 4.6 Influence of entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour producing of cooperative members on the profitability of members business in Oyi local government area, Anambra state.

	Value	**d.f**	**Ssymptotic (2-sided)**
Pearson Chi-Square	**14.534[a]**	**4**	0.240
Likelihood Ratio	**42.733**	**4**	0.120
Linear-by-Linear Association	**4.082**	**1**	0.043
No of valid Cases	234		

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

Hypothesis two was tested using Chi-Square Tests. From the result of the chi-square results,
Chi-Square = $X^2 = 14.534^a$
No of samples = N= 285
Degree of Freedom = df = 4
Probability Value = P < 0.001
The result shows that our test statistics is significant at 0.240 as indicated by the probability value. We therefore reject the null hypothesis and conclude that entrepreneurial activities have significant influence on the profitability of members business in Oyi local government area, Anambra State

5.0 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study sought the evaluation of entrepreneurial activities of agricultural cooperatives members in Oyi local government area, Anambra state.

The findings of research question one revealed the benefit of entrepreneurial activities of cooperative members on business environment in Oyi Local Government Area. It show that; it increased volumes of production, higher incomes and employment effects; improved company sizes; better access to and mobilization of local resources; diffusion of innovation and increasing knowledge-transfer. In line with Abell (2024), the following are some of the benefit of cooperative members on business environment: Diversification of production of increased volumes of production, followed by improved labour and capital productivity; Higher incomes and employment effects Improved company sizes in the informal and formal MSME sector; Better access to and mobilization of local resources; Diffusion of innovation; Increased knowledge-transfer, resulting in human resource development and contract supervision are reduced); Increased efficiency and savings on transaction costs can credit worthiness, and therefore introduce new investment possibilities etc.

The findings of research questions three revealed the role played by entrepreneurial activities of cooperative members on the profitability of members business was encouragement of economic independence. It includes; raises standard of living, encourage economic independence; benefits of new firms and businesses, creation of jobs, encourages capital formation and elimination of poverty. This finding was in line with the finding of Anderson et al. (2019) who shed more light on the effect of price changes of factor inputs in purchasing cooperatives. According to them, factor input is a normal good and its price increases, the cost of production will increase, and membership will have to increase so that the larger quantity being produced will maintain price at the minimum of long-run average cost. In accordance with Inang and Ukpong, (2020), finding, the importance of the cooperative members on management efficiency of business cannot be overemphasized. The sub-sector contributes significantly in achieving various socio-economic objectives, which include employment generation, contribution to national output and exports, fostering new entrepreneurships and providing a foundation for the industrial base of the economy.

6.0 FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results from the above analysis are summarized as follows:

i. The entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour processing has significant effect on the cooperative members on business environment in Oyi local government area Anambra state.

ii. The entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour producing has significant effect on the profitability of members business

Conclusions

This study examined the evaluation of entrepreneurial activities of agriculturial cooperative members in Oyi local government area, Anambra state.

Specifically, determined the effect of entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour processing on the members business environment Oyi local government area, Anambra state and the influence of

entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour producing in the profitability of members business in Oyi local government area, Anambra state.

The study concludes that of entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour processing has significant effect on the members business environment Oyi local government area, Anambra state and the influence of entrepreneurial activities of cassava flour producing has significant on the profitability of members business in Oyi local government area, Anambra state.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following are recommended;

i. Cooperative business managers should develop a blueprint that will sensitize and drive membership, diversify their product mix and consequent expansion of their business volume to compete favourably with investor oriented-firms for economic sustainability.
ii. Cooperative businesses should uphold the cultural norms of their location of business and engage in activities that promote concern for their host community to avoid effects of restiveness which has the capacity of closing down cooperative shops.

References

Abell, P. (2024). Cooperative movement. *Encyclopedia Encarta.* New York: Microsoft Word Corporation.

Anderson, R. K., Maurice, S. C. and Porter, P. K. (2023). Factor-usage by consumer-managed firms, Southern Economic Journal, 47, 5.

Edem, E. (2024) Cooperative Societies And Capital Formation Among Small-Scale Business In Odukpani Cross River State Of Nigeria. African Journal of Social Sciences, Volume 6 Number 1 pp. 91-97.

Inang, T. & Ukpong, D. (2023). Leading issues in macro-economic management and development. Ibadan: Daily Graphic

Kyazze, L. M., Nkote, I. N., Wakaisuka-Isingoma, J. & Ntim, C. G. (2023) "Cooperative Governance and Social Performance of Cooperative Societies, *Cogent Business & Managemen*

Makongoso, M.O (2024) the Effect of Governance on the Growth of Collective Entrepreneurship in the Coffee Sector in Kenya. A Doctor of Philosophy (Entrepreneurship) Dissertation to Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture And Technology 2016

Umeh, O. J., Agu-Aguiyi, F. N. and Ekumankama, O. O. (2024), Effect of Women Co-operative Activities on Entrepreneurship Development of Members