SOCIAL CAPITAL AND MARKET OUTLET CONSIDERATION ON FEMALE AGRIPRENEURSHIP IN CAMEROON

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Abstract

This paper attempts to explore the effect of social capital and market outlet on female agripreneurship in Cameroon, while controlling for other correlates. This paper specifically seeks to verify if social and market outlet have any significant effect on female agripreneurship in Cameroon. This paper used the Cameroon household consumption survey 2014 and found that social capital (SC) has a positive effect on female agripreneurship. Also, the findings indicated that market outlet has a positive effect on female agripreneurship. We found that primary education is positively related to female agripreneurship while secondary education and tertiary education were significant but negatively associated with female agripreneurship. Lastly, access to land is a positive and a significant predictor of female agripreneurship while access to credit is negatively associated with female agripreneurship. As policy implication, access to market outlet should be reinforced since it will go a long way to increase sales hence agripreneurship. Female agripreneurs should be encouraged to acquire more social capital by way of membership in associations and employment promotion.

Keywords: Female Agripreneurship, Market Outlet, Social Capital

JEL Classification: G32

1. INTRODUCTION

Globally, agriculture is going through a transformation, this transformation is not only enabled by innovative minds and technologies, but the fact that countries are recognising that agriculture is taking a new dimension and expanding its scope beyond mere cultivation of crops and rearing of animals for the livelihood of rural

population. Nagalakshmi and Sudhakar, (2013) stress that issues of diversification, value addition, high technology agriculture, agrienpreneurship, global marketing are gradually getting due attention in redefining agriculture. Farmers who are unaware of scientific agriculture and effective agric-management system will not cope especially with the recent climate change experienced across the globe. Agriprenurship therefore, is an employment strategy that can lead to self-reliance. Agriprenurship development through education and training is a key to making transition from employment to self-employment particularly for the first generation of agriprenuers (Nagalakshmi & Sudhakar, 2013; Bairwa, 2014).

Agricultural development is considered an important, if not necessary, condition for alleviating poverty around the world (Duflo & Kremer 2005; World Bank, 2007; De Janvry 2010; Diao et al., 2010; Christiaensen *et al.,*2011). An estimated 75% of the world's population live in rural areas and depend on agricultural or related activities for their livelihoods (World Bank, 2007). Moreover, the agricultural sector is the backbone of many developing economies. In 2012, agriculture provided 30% of GDP in low-income countries (World Bank 2012).

Increasing market participation and linking smallholder farmers to local, national, and transnational agricultural markets is one pragmatic way of achieving the United Nations 2030 agenda towards sustainable development goals (SDGs) of zero hunger and no poverty. To some extent, the SDGs are rapidly becoming a common goal among many African countries seeking to achieve food security through smallholder farming systems. Market participation of smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa contributes significantly to agricultural production and growth, as well as to food security by reducing poverty (Otekunrin *et al.,* 2019).

The role of social capital in development is as important as other types of capital such as natural, physical, and human capital. Development has traditionally focused on natural resources, physical capital, and human capital as the main determinants of agripreneurs main source of supports (Iyer *et al.,* 2005). However, Field (2008) contends that social capital probably has a similar or even higher contribution to development to the agricultural sectors compared to other types of capital. Furthermore, the contribution of capital to development of agribusiness sector, show that the types of traditional capital (natural, human, and physical resources) only partially determine the overall process of agribusiness growth and the remaining growth depends on social capital. Social capital includes the role of economic actors who interact and organize themselves to produce better females' agripreneurs in the economy (Iyer *et al.,* 2005).

Nahapiet and Ghoshal, (1998) described three different dimensions of social capital, namely structural, relational and cognitive dimensions. The structural element refers to the networks' general construction and identifies patterns of connections between actors. Moving on, the relational, and most relevant dimension of social capital for this paper refers to the characteristics of the relationship that evolves between specific individuals. Lastly, the cognitive dimension of social capital concerns the common representations, understandings and interpretations as

well as systems of associations and meaning among actors (Nahapiet and Ghoshal, 1998).

Social capital in the form of trust, networks, and norms that could govern the group is a strong determinant of agripreneurship. By working in groups, famers could use social capital networks to find partners (investors) with whom they can cooperate. The strong ties due to trust, network, and norms in the way people live is also characterized by what is called social capital bonding (the social capital inherent in individuals and in community groups). Strong relationships are an economic activity that is socially and economically situated and embedded in personal and group social networks (Saha and Banerjee, 2015)

Agripreneurs play an important role in promoting employment creation, food security and poverty alleviation in rural areas of Cameroon. However, these agripreneurs are faced with several risk factors such as animal diseases, unstable milk prices, inadequate capital, high input prices, poor harvest in the crops sector and unskilled human capital. These risk factors limit the agripreneurs from optimally benefiting from their agrienterprises. In addition, these agripreneurs exhibit different orientations, which influence their business success. Access to agribusiness support services could enhance the performance and resilience of agripreneurs. However, there is an association between social capital, market outlets and female agripreneurship in Cameroon, whereby these social capitals increase the profitability of micro-small medium enterprises (MSMEs) of female agripreneurs. However, empirical knowledge on the nexus between social capital and agripreneurs in Cameroon is yet to emerge.

In this light, Goheer (2003), argued that adequately accessing microcredit and harnessing social capital that are suitable for women, as well as the provision of nonfinancial services, would help women grow and professionalise their businesses into more competitive ventures. In the case of a developing country like Cameroon, this is especially important not only for women's empowerment in general, but also for increasing female employment in the formal private sector, where participation within this specific socio-economic group is less than 3%, on average, and more acute in rural than urban areas (NIS, 2008). Consequently, poverty may decrease and pro-poor growth consolidated if female agripreneurship is encouraged. Likewise, encouraging female agripreneurship may help increase the middleclass firms (SMEs) in Cameroon by developing female enterprises and helping some migrate from informal settings to settings that are more formal.

Agripreneurs usually face some challenges, one of the challenges faced by agripreneurs while handling unprocessed agricultural produce is failure to access appropriate marketing outlets quickly to earn relatively better prices. There is need to improve marketing strategies amongst agripreneurs for better performance in terms of higher sales turn over and profits. However, there is limited information about marketing strategies for the commonly traded agripreneurs product lines in Cameroon. Marketing is one of the key activities of any enterprising entity; thus, every enterprise requires good knowledge in marketing. Hence, this paper sought to

bridge this knowledge gap by determining the impact of social capital and market outlet on female agripreneurship in Cameroon

2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT

As Putnam (2000) points out, the first use of the notion 'social capital' to capture dimensions of sociability and bonds belongs to Lydia Judson Hanifan, a state supervisor of rural schools. Putnam's argument presents social capital essentially as the 'amount' of 'trust' available, as the main stock characterizing the political culture of modern societies. For Putnam, voluntary associations that enable a horizontal linking of people produce *trust*, the norm that causes interpersonal bonding. In Putnam's formulation, social capital is elevated from a feature of individual*s* and small groups in local communities to a feature of large population aggregates. Social capital becomes a collective trait functioning at the aggregate level. As such, it can become a diagnostic tool for societal political and economic health.

Empirical research has showed that the funding of new firms is more common when people have access to financial capital (Blanchflower et al, 2001; Evans & Jovanovic, 1989; and Holtz-Eakin et al, 1994). By implication, the financial capital/liquidity theory suggests that people with financial capital are more able to acquire resources to effectively exploit entrepreneurial opportunities, and set up a firm to do so (Clausen, 2007). However, other studies contest this theory as it is demonstrated that most founders start new ventures without much capital, and that financial capital is not significantly related to the probability of being nascent entrepreneurs (Aldrich,1999; Kim, Aldrich &Keister, 2003; Hurst &Lusardi, 2004; Davidson & Honing, 2003).

Underlying the human capital entrepreneurship theory are two factors, education and experience (Becker, 1975). The knowledge gained from education and experience represents a resource that is heterogeneously distributed across individuals and in effect central to understanding differences in opportunity identification and exploitation (Anderson & Miller, 2003; Chandler & Hanks, 1998; Gartner et al, 2006; Shane &Venkataraman, 2000). Empirical studies show that human capital factors are positively related to becoming a nascent entrepreneur (Kim, Aldrich & Keister, 2003; Davidson & Honing, 2003; Korunka et al, 2003), increase opportunity recognition and even entrepreneurial success (Anderson & Miller, 2003; Davidson & Honing,2003).

Meri (2016) investigates the factors that drive female agripreneurship in Armenia using a logistic regression econometric method to measure the relationship between female agripreneurship and several factors such as the location, size, legal status, market and obstacles faced by Armenian firms. The paper concludes that women agripreneurs in Armenia share many common features and obstacles with their male counterparts.

Lesibana and Boris (2018) carried out a study to empirically investigate the extent to which agro-processing participation is determined by human and social

capital factors, while accounting for the moderating effects of transaction costs. Based on the survey results, both human and social capital factors showed a positive and significant influence on agro-processing participation. The findings further highlight the importance of market access and transaction costs to small-scale agripreneurs.

Francisco and Francisco (2007) investigated the influence of social capital on entrepreneurial intentions using Partial Least Squares (PLS) technique with data from a sample of young undergraduate students in the last year of their degree. The result confirmed the existence of indirect influence of social capital on entrepreneurial intentions.

Bat Batjargal and Mannie (2002) carried out a study on the topic, Entrepreneurs Access to Private Equity in China: The role of social capital. They made use of 158 venture capital investment decisions in Beijing and Shanghai. The main finding is that social capital is supplementary and additive to other investment determining factors. The main practical implication for entrepreneurs is that social capital is probably necessary but insufficient for raising venture capital successfully.

Mutambuka et al., (2016) in his study on women agripreneurs and family social economic development aimed at assessing whether there was a positive correlation between women in agripreneurship and their family socioeconomic development. This research targeted women members of a handcraft making cooperative in Muhanga District and Women's Opportunity Center in Eastern province (Rwanda) with a connection to Gahaya Links Company. This research concluded that there was a positive and strong relationship between women agripreneurship and family socio-economic development.

Feki (2019) examined the relationship between social capital, entrepreneurship and economic growth. The empirical analysis was performed via the panel data approach to a sample of 40 developed and developing countries from 1990 to 2004. The results showed that social capital and economic growth are significantly and positively correlated. The study show that social capital can also have indirect effects on economic growth through other variables, specifically, entrepreneurial activity

Going through the available literature on success in female agripreneurship, this paper found very little information on the effect of social capital and market outlet on female agripreneurship. Most works focus on factors influencing the entrepreneurship, environmental and demographic factors influencing the entrepreneurial process etc. But, little or not enough research has been conducted on the drivers of female agripreneurship in relation to social capital and market outlet in the less developed world such as Cameroon.

During the last decade, a number of methods have been developed for measuring social capital. Jan Van Deth (2003) has summarized some of the main aspects to consider. He indicates two aspects to social capital: structural (connections or networks) and cultural (obligations or social norms and values, and particularly trust). These aspects need to be addressed differently. The model shows networks

and trust as dominant approaches to measuring social capital, emphasizing that most indicators and most attempts to operationalize concentrate on these two sources. Thus, when measuring aspects like norms and values, methods such as interviews are relevant and useful. Nevertheless, for connections and networks, it is usually difficult to observe actual relationships, and other methods need to be considered (Jan Van Deth, 2003). Other researchers and scholars have tried to find more quantitative ways to measure social capital. Among them, Grootaert *et al.* (2004) have developed an Integrated Questionnaire for the Measurement of Social Capital (SC-IQ).

Moreover, the other drawback is being conducted with few independent variables. Unlike these studies, this paper will use the previous studies as a benchmark. Since the studies were not free of flaws, the researchers of this study attempts to include facts and theories, which eliminate the above-mentioned flaws. This paper, therefore, seeks to add to the existing store of literature on the drivers of success of female agripreneurship in Cameroon. Briefly, this research work intends to fill the literature gap on the implications of social capital and market outlet on female agripreneurship in Cameroon. Thus, from the above literature we formulated the following research hypothesis;

H$_{01}$: Social capital does not significantly affect female agripreneurship in Cameroon
H$_{02}$: Market outlet does not significantly affect female agripreneurship in Cameroon.

3. METHODOLOGY

This paper adopts expost- factor research design because the data used is secondary data. This design seeks to establish the relationship among independent variables. The expost- factor research design was preferred since this paper intends to explore the effect of social capital and market outlet on female agripreneurship in Cameroon with control variables such as level of education, access to credit, access to land, age, marital status. The expost research design therefore helps the researcher establish causal link between a set of independent variables and female agripreneurship.

The paper used the fourth Cameroon household Consumption survey data (ECAM 4) collected by National Institute of Statistics in Cameroon in 2014. The Fourth Cameroon Household Survey (ECAM 4) was collected to monitor progress in living and housing standards of Cameroon households.

These objectives seek to assess the effect social capital and market outlet on female agripreneurship in Cameroon. Social capital and market outlet are important determinants of agripreneurship. In order to achieve the above objectives and to test our hypotheses a female agripreneurship model was specified as follows:

$$FA = F(SC, female, fpedu, fsedu, ftedu, AC, M, aGE, Al,)\qquad(1)$$

FA is female agripreneurship. The variable was constructed in two stages. In the first stage, we generate an index for agripreneur using three indicators.

Agricultural exploitation, access to agricultural equipment and access to agricultural finance. The econometric model is given by equation two below.

$$FA = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 SCfemale_i + \alpha_3 MO_i + \alpha_4 female_i + \alpha_5 fpedu_i + \alpha_6 fsedu_i + \alpha_7 ftedu_i + \alpha_8 AC_i + \alpha_9 M_i + \alpha_{10} Age_i + \alpha_{11} AL_i + \varepsilon_i \qquad (2)$$

Where:
FA is female agripreneurship
Female is female
SC is Social Capital,
MO is market outlet
AL is access to land
Fpedu is Female primary education
Fsedu is Female secondary education
Ftedu is female tertiary education
AC is access to credit
MS is the Marital status of the woman
Age is the age of the woman
AC is access to credit and ε_i is the error term.
α_1 Is the constant term while $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_{11}$ are the coefficient of the explanatory variables to be estimated.

4. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

4.1. PRESENTATION OF DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

Descriptive statistics of the variables used for the female household heads is presented on Table 1 below

Table 1. *Summary of Descriptive Statistics*

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Agripreneurship	23785	.021	1.705	-2.018	1.488
Primary education	23785	.403	.491	0	1
Secondary education	23785	.268	.443	0	1
Tertiary education	23785	.037	.189	0	1
Access to credit	23785	.022	.146	0	1
Married	23785	.266	.442	0	1
Age	23785	23.174	19.225	0	99
Access land	23785	.246	.431	0	1
Social capital	23785	1.638	2.502	0	40
Market outlet	23785	.886	.317	0	1

Source: Author's Computation, ECAM4 2022

The summary of descriptive statistics in table 4.1 above shows that, all the variables are having 23785 observations each which correspond to the female sample. Also, from the table above, the mean of female agripreneurship is .021 and the minimum and maximum value is -2.018 and 1.488 respectively. Its standard deviation is 1.705 indicating a high deviation from the mean.

As concerns level of education on average, 40.3% of the females had primary education, 26.8% had secondary education, 3.7% had tertiary education while 29.2% had no education. Only 2.2% of the women had access to credit while 97.8% of the females had no access to credit on average. The results also reveal that 26.6% of the females were married while 73.4% were not married averagely. The average age of females was 23 years. On average, 24.6% of the females had access to land while 75.4% never had access to land. The mean for social capital is 1.638 points. With respect to market outlet, 88.6% of the females had market outlet while only 11.4% never had market outlet on average.

4.2. PRESENTATION OF THE PAIRWISE CORRELATION MATRIX

The correlation results presented in Table 4.2 below show that, primary education, marital status, age, access to land (AL), social capital (SC), market outlet (MO) are significant and positively associated with female agripreneurship. Meanwhile secondary education and tertiary education were significant but negatively associated with female agripreneurship in Cameroon. Access to Credit (AC) was not significant but negatively associated to female agripreneurship

Table 2. The Pairwise correlation matrix

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
(1) Agripreneurship	1.000									
(2)Primary education	0.084	1.000								
	(0.000)									
(3)Secondary education	-0.137	-0.498	1.000							
	(0.000)	(0.000)								
(4)Tertiary education	-0.124	-0.161	-0.119	1.000						
	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)							
(5) Access to credit	-0.001	-0.007	0.034	0.043	1.000					
	(0.830)	(0.261)	(0.000)	(0.000)						
(6) Married	0.040	-0.056	0.017	0.021	0.000	1.000				
	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.008)	(0.001)	(0.960)					
(7) Age	0.025	-0.117	0.079	0.059	-0.004	0.397	1.000			
	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.563)	(0.000)				
(8) Access	0.135	0.020	-	-	0.035	0.031	0.009	1.000		

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
land			0.011	0.018						
	(0.000)	(0.002)	(0.084)	(0.005)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.162)			
(9) Social capital	0.492	0.034	-0.092	-0.073	0.017	0.031	-0.015	0.120	1.000	
	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.009)	(0.000)	(0.024)	(0.000)		
(10) Market outlet	0.077	0.012	-0.044	-0.009	-0.004	0.013	0.005	0.032	0.030	1.000
	(0.000)	(0.054)	(0.000)	(0.155)	(0.550)	(0.049)	(0.440)	(0.000)	(0.000)	

P-Values in parentheses
Source*: Author's Computation*

It equally shows that there exist both weak positive and negative relationships between the variables involve in the model. This result also shows that the correlation between one variable and itself is 1(Perfectly collinear). The correlation results could also be used as a prelude to investigate the presence of multicollinearity. From the table above, there exist weak and average correlations between the variables indicated by their values which are less than 0.70 in all cases. A weak and average correlation shows the absence of multicollinearity as observed above. However, to further verify and support the results of the pairwise correlation, the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) test for multicollinearity was performed and presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3. *Variance Inflation Factor (VIF)*

	VIF	**1/VIF**
Pedu	1.434	.697
Sedu	1.429	.7
Age	1.205	.83
Married	1.191	.84
Tedu	1.1	.909
social cap	1.034	.967
access land	1.018	.982
access to credit	1.006	.994
market outlet	1.004	.996
Mean VIF	1.158	.

Source: Author's Computation

To further test for multicollinearity, the Variance Inflating Factor (VIF), its inverse and the tolerance level were used. The result from table 4.3 shows that the values of VIF are decreasing and approaching 1 as we go down the table. The highest value is 1.434, while the average is 1.158, indicating that there is no multicollinearity among the independent variables being used in the analysis. Hence, the proposed model can be estimated using Ordinary Least Square.

4.3 PRESENTATION OF REGRESSION RESULTS

This paper which was set out to explore the implications of social capital and market outlet on female agripreneurship in Cameroon used ECAM 4 data set and applied the ordinary least square (OLS) technique of estimation. The robust regression results are presented on table 4 below.

Table 4. Regression Results (Robust)

VARIABLES	(1) Agripreneurship
Social capital	0.317***
	(0.00703)
Market outlet	0.297***
	(0.0302)
Primary education	0.00981
	(0.0228)
Secondary education	-0.405***
	(0.0255)
Tertiary education	-0.924***
	(0.0491)
Access to credit	-0.0409
	(0.0706)
Married	0.0390*
	(0.0231)
Age	0.00369***
	(0.000537)
Access to land	0.292***
	(0.0220)
Constant	-0.789***
	(0.0352)
Observations	23,785
R-squared	0.272

Robust standard errors in parentheses; *** $p<0.01$, ** $p<0.05$, * $p<0.1$
Source: Author's Computation, using stata 2022

The results show that social capital (SC) has a positive effect with female agripreneurship as indicated by its coefficient 0.317, this implies that a marginal improvement in social capital is expected to increase female agripreneurship by 0.317 points, other variables held constant. This result is statistically significant at 1% level. This can be explained by the fact that, as social capital is made available to women, many women will be involved in female agripreneurship. Thus, we reject the null hypothesis (H_{01}) which states that social capital (SC) does not significantly affect female agripreneurship in Cameroon and accept (H_1) which states that social capital (SC) significantly affect female agripreneurship in Cameroon. In line with these findings, is the study by Lesibana and Boris (2018) who revealed that both human and social capital factors showed a positive and significant influence on agro-

processing participation in their study. In a similar way, Francisco and Francisco (2007) concluded in their study that, there exists an indirect influence of social capital on entrepreneurial intentions.

Furthermore, market outlet has a positive effect on female agripreneurship as shown by its coefficient 0.297. This means that a one-point increase in market outlet will increase female agripreneurship by 0.297 points, this is statistically significant at 1% level. This is because if women are having opportunities of marketing their farm produce easily, there will be an increase in female agripreneurship. Hence the null (H_{02}) hypothesis is rejected which states that market outlet does not significantly affect female agripreneurship in Cameroon and we accept the alternate (H_1) hypothesis which states that market outlet statistically and significantly affects female agripreneurship in Cameroon. Our results are in line with the findings of Meri (2016) whose findings revealed that main market type is a significant determinant of agripreneurship.

As concerns education, results show that female involved in primary education will increase female agripreneurship by 0.00981 as compare to uneducated female though insignificant. While female involved in secondary education will significantly reduce female agripreneurship by 0.520 as compare to uneducated female. This is because agripreneurship is considered as an activity of the uneducated people. This result is statistically significant at 1% level. On the other hand, a female involved in tertiary education will also decrease female agripreneurship (FA) by 0.924 as compared to a female who is uneducated. This effect is statistically significant at 1% level. This is explained by the fact that the more educated women are, the lesser their probability of being involved in agripreneurship activities. This disagrees with the findings of Mutambuka (2016) who found that there is a positive and a strong relationship between women entrepreneurship and family socio-economic development. This disagreement of findings is because, within the context of Cameroon as the level of education increases, the probability of participating in the public sector increases. Also, most graduates in Cameroon are more on public sector employment oriented through direct recruitment into the public sector or competitive examinations than in agripreneurship. This is due to the fact that, the higher the level of education, the more likely will be the individual to engage into the activities of higher skills and knowledge example teaching, medical doctor, research scientists and engineering.

Access to credit (AC) is statistically insignificant but negatively associated with female agripreneurship. This indicates that a female who had access to credit will reduce agripreneurship by 0.0409 points compared to a female with no access to credit.

Being married will significantly affect female agripreneurship (FA) positively. Being married will increase female agriprenuership (FA) by 0.0390 points as compared to those who are not married. This result is statistically significant at 10% level. This is explained by the fact that, married women are likely to be engaged in agripreneurship and less likely to participate in the service sector.

These findings are in line with the findings of Tamvada et al. (2007) whose study revealed that it is more likely for married women to become entrepreneurs.

Age has a significant positive effect on female agripreneurship (FA). An additional year of age will increase female agripreneurship (FA) by 0.00369. This indicates that the older a female becomes, the greater her chances of being engaged in agripreneurship. This result is statistically significant at 1% level.

From the results on table 4.4, access to land (AL) is seen to have a positive effect on female agripreneurship (FA) as indicated by the coefficient 0.292. This implies that a one point increase in Access to Land (AL) will increase female agripreneurship (FA) by 0.292 points. This result is statistically significant at 1% level. This result implies that when a female has access to land, it is easy for her to use this land for agripreneurship. Access to Land (AL) therefore, is an important variable to be included in the model.

The coefficient of the constant is -0.789 indicates the intercept which implies that if all the independent variables under study were considered to be zero or not to have any effect on the dependent variable female agripreneurship, female agripreneurship will fall by 0.789 in the model. This is statistically significant at 1% level.

5. POLICY IMPLICATION

Based on the findings of this work, some policy implications could include:

Setting up domestic policies that will encourage more women into agripreneurship like encouraging female employment in the country in order to equip women with enough social capital that will permit them to engage in agripreneurship activities. This will help to reduce poverty, increase farm input/output, increase female farmer's incomes and ameliorate their standard of living.

Another policy implication of this study is that the state could set up a law that that will help in securing the market for agricultural products and also reduce the level of volatility in the market for agricultural products. Also, proper communication should be enhanced so that the market for these products can be secured both home and abroad.

The government should open more schools and training centers for women at all levels without entering restrictions which will enable more women to acquire more knowledge and skills on agripreneurship and also encourage women with high school certificates and university degrees to engage in agripreneurship in order to neutralize the idea that agriculture is for the uneducated.

6. CONCLUSION

This study was carried out mainly to explore the effect of social capital and market outlet on female agripreneurship in Cameroon. Specifically, the study sought to find out if there exist a relationship between social capital, market outlet and female agripreneurship in Cameroon, while controlling for other variables. The

national institute for statistics (NIS) ECAM4 data of 2014 was used. The data was slotted into stata 14 and Ordinary Least Square method was used to verify the hypothesis. As seen from the discussion of the study, social capital and market outlet are very important variables as far as female agripreneurship is concerned. Being in possession of social capital and having a good market outlet for goods will lead to an increase in the possibility for a womn becoming an agripreneur in Cameroon.

Researchable themes that could further augment this study could be in the following areas; more study could be carried out to better understand the effect on social capital, market outlet on female agripreneurship using a more resent data set since this study made use of the 2014 National Institutes for statistics data set ECAM4.

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