



Microfinance Access and Development Among Female Agricultural Entrepreneurs in West African Countries: A Three-Year Impact Study in Ghana 2003

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Development Among Female

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Abstract

Microfinance initiatives have emerged as a critical tool for economic empowerment in developing countries, particularly among female agricultural entrepreneurs. In West Africa, where agriculture is a primary livelihood and women often play pivotal roles in rural economies, microfinance can significantly impact poverty alleviation and sustainable development. This study employed a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative survey data with qualitative interviews to gather insights from female agricultural entrepreneurs across various regions of Ghana. The sample was stratified by region, income level, and years in the industry to ensure comprehensive coverage. Within the three-year period, microfinance access led to significant increases in business expansion rates (from 45% pre-programme to 70% post-programme) among female agricultural entrepreneurs. Financial stability improved markedly with a proportion of respondents reporting reduced reliance on informal sources of finance from 60% to 20%. These findings highlight the positive impact of microfinance on empowering women in agriculture. The study underscores the importance of continued support and expansion of microfinance programmes for female agricultural entrepreneurs, contributing to both individual success and broader economic development in Ghana and beyond. Policy recommendations include increased funding for microfinance initiatives targeting rural areas, integration of financial education within microfinance services, and fostering a supportive regulatory environment that encourages sustainable business growth among female farmers.

Keywords: *African Geography, Female Entrepreneurship, Microfinance Access, Economic Empowerment, Development Impact Studies, Case Study Methodology, Gendered Economics*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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