

**Extended Abstract**  
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<b>Paper/Poster Title</b>	<b>Paper/Poster Title</b>
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**27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>200 words max</b>
<p>This study investigated the structure and use pattern of farm labour in the study area. The study was carried out in Ondo state, Nigeria. Multistage sampling technique was used to collect data from 160 farmers and 144 cocoa farmers’ data were used for analysis in this study. Seventy five percent of the farmers were above 50 years of age and about 25.01% were 50 years and below. Majority (79.17%) of the farmers were men. In the study contract type of labour is majorly used for most activities in cocoa farming while cooperative labour was seldom used. Activities such as land clearing (75.0%), planting (83.32%), weeding (95.83%), application of chemicals (91.67%), removal of mistletoes (87.50%), harvesting of cocoa pods (87.50%), among others were majorly carried out by contract labour. Male labour was mostly utilized for all the activities as indicated by most farmers. Female labour were sparingly utilized for some activities such as land clearing (8.33%), planting (0%), application of chemicals (8.33%) and spraying of chemicals (4.17%),. The study recommended that funds should be made available to farmers to engage in contract labour and also there should be the need to use equipments and machineries to reduce drudgery.</p>	
<b>Keywords</b>	Cocoa farmers, Ondo state, labour structure, labour pattern.
<b>JEL Code</b>	Demographic Economics J1 see: <a href="http://www.aeaweb.org/jel/guide/jel.php?class=Q">www.aeaweb.org/jel/guide/jel.php?class=Q</a> )
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>100 – 250 words</b>
<p>Human labour is about the only main source of labour available to smallholder farmers in Nigeria. Smallholder farmers contribute over 85% of domestic agricultural output in Nigeria, hence, human labour accounts for domestic food supply in Nigeria. Therefore, the need to continue supplying food for the ever-growing Nigerian population anchors on human labour productivity. In Nigerian agriculture, hired labour is predominantly used. In fact, it carries 88% of the total labour used on farms (Okuneye, 2000; Emmanuel and Oba, 2019). Apart from hired labour, the other types of labour that could be employed are family labour and cooperative labour. The availability of labour has been found to have impact on planting precision, better weed control, timely harvesting and crop processing (Oluyole <i>et al.</i> 2007). Therefore, labour is a major constraint in peasant production especially during planting,</p>	

weeding and harvesting (Gocowski and Oduwole, 2003; Idiake-Ochei, 2019). Lele and Stone (1989) and Adipala and Egeru (2018) affirmed that rapid growth in population which increases farm labour supply exerts so much pressure on land and reduces farm size per hectare. Empirical evidence has shown that available labour force comprised mostly of old people to the exclusion of young men and women within the active working age thus having a negative impact on agricultural productivity. This is because the role of youths in agricultural production cannot be over-emphasized. In view of the importance of labour in agricultural production, this study was designed to investigate the structure and use pattern of farm labour in the study area.

### **Methodology**

**100 – 250 words**

The study was carried out among cocoa farmers in Ondo State. Ondo State is one of the Southwestern States in Nigeria. The State is the highest cocoa producing State in Nigeria. Out of the Local Governments Areas (LGAs) in Ondo State, Ondo East is one of the major cocoa producing LGAs in the State. Multistage random sampling was used to select cocoa farmers. Ondo East Local Government Area was purposively selected from the State and from the LGA, Laagba community was also purposively selected because cocoa farmers are mostly concentrated in the community. Simple random sampling technique was used to collect data from a total of 144 farmers randomly selected from the community. Data were collected from the respondents with the aid of structured questionnaire and the data obtained from the questionnaire were analysed using Descriptive analysis. Descriptive Statistics was used to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers as well as the structure and use of labour pattern in the study area. Descriptive Statistics was used to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers as well as the structure and use of labour pattern in the study area.

<b>Results</b>	<b>100 – 250 words</b>
<p>The result of the socio economic characteristics revealed that 74.99% of the total respondents are above 50 years and 79.17% of the respondents were males. The result of the analysis shows that 75.07% of the respondents were having formal education. Sixty seven percent of the respondents had farm size of 5 hectares and below which shows that most of the farmers are small scale farmers. Family labour is utilized for all activities but at different magnitude. Activities such as land clearing, planting, weeding, application of chemicals, removal of mistletoes, harvesting of cocoa pods, conveyance of cocoa pods to the pod breaking point, breaking of cocoa pods and conveyance of cocoa beans to the point of fermentation were majorly carried out by contract labour. This is because 75.0%, 83.32%, 95.83%, 91.67%, 87.50%, 87.50%, 95.83%, 100.0% and 88.33% of the farmers respectively indicated that they utilized contract labour for such activities. However, activities such as drying of cocoa beans, parking of dried cocoa beans and preservation of cocoa beans were majorly carried out with family labour. Female labour were sparingly utilized for some activities such as land clearing, planting, application of chemicals (spraying of chemicals), removal of mistletoes and harvesting of cocoa pods as only 8.33%, 0%, 8.33%, 4.17%, 0% and 12.5% of the farmers respectively indicated that they use female labour for the respective farm activities.</p>	
<b>Discussion and Conclusion</b>	<b>100 – 250 words</b>
<p>The study was carried out on the structure and use pattern of labour among cocoa farmers. The study found out that labour could be structured according to the types of labour (family labour, contract/hired labour and cooperative labour) and according to the gender of the labour. The study further revealed that contract labour is mostly used for activities such as land clearing, planting, weeding, application of chemicals, removal of mistletoes, harvesting of cocoa pods, conveyance of cocoa pods to the pod breaking point, breaking of cocoa pods and conveyance of cocoa beans to the point of fermentation while family labour is mostly used for drying of cocoa beans, parking of dried cocoa beans and preservation of cocoa beans. However, cooperative labour is no more used as a form of labour in the study area.</p>	

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