



SOCIAL CAPITAL AND EFFICIENCY IN RESOURCE UTILIZATION AMONG CASSAVA-BASED FARMERS IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA



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1. Introduction

- Cassava plays a vital role in securing food security especially in rural Nigeria (Nweke et al, 2014).
- In Nigeria, increase in cassava production is attributed to increase in land area cultivated rather than in yield (FAO, 2015).
- Cassava yield deficit is about 10Mton/ha over the years (Nweke et al, 2014).
- Efficiency in resource use is key to increasing productivity.
- However, the level and understanding of resource use efficiency by small scale farmer is still crude.
- Past findings concluded that the major determinants of resource use efficiency are socioeconomics, neglecting the role of social capital.

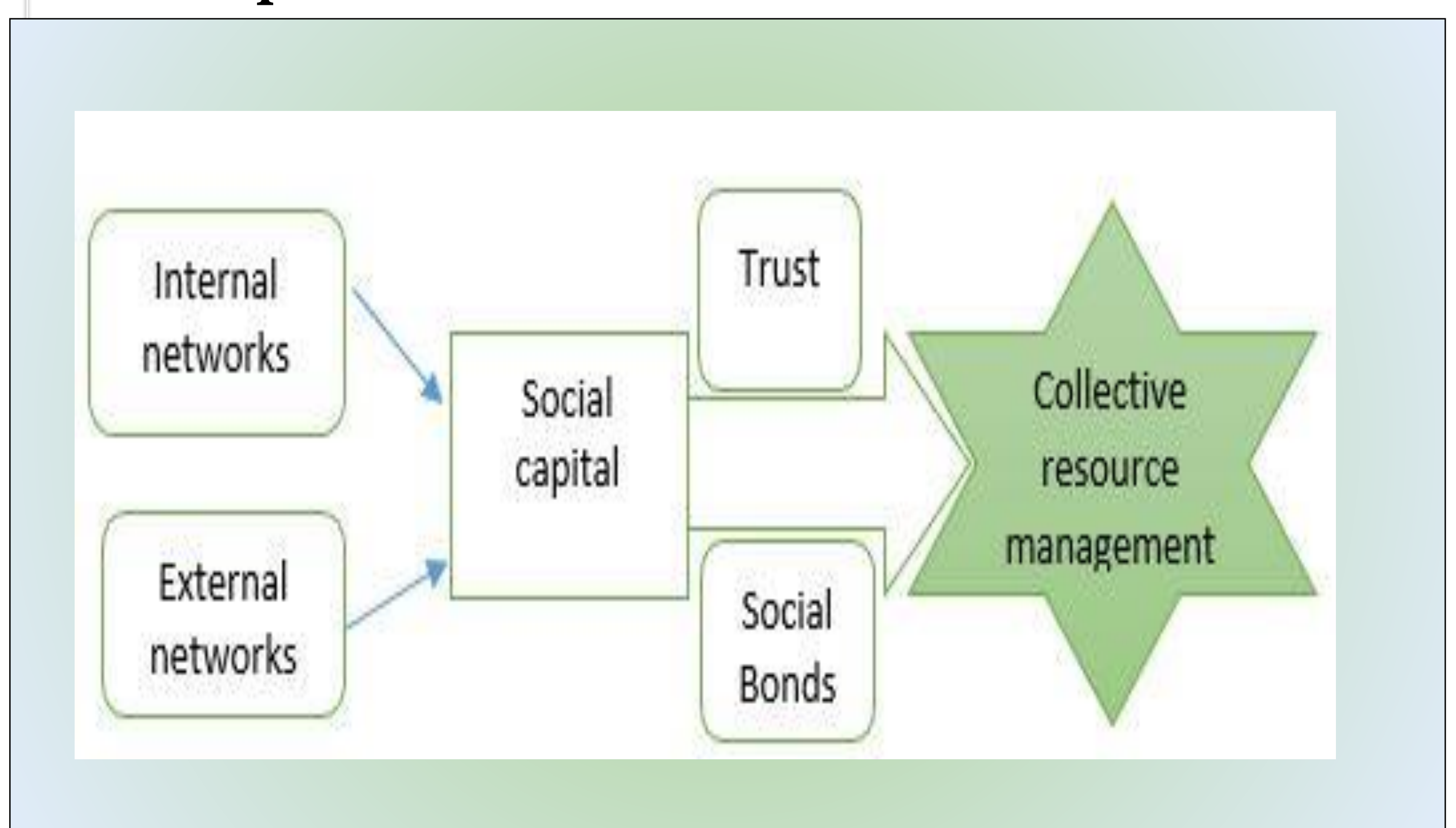
2. Objectives

- Assess the level of social capital among cassava farmers..
- Analyse the effects of social capital(SC) on resource use efficiency.

3. Data and Methodology

- Survey of 390 households in 8 local government areas (LGAs) in Ogun state, Nigeria.
- A binary probit was used to analyse the effect of social capital on resource use efficiency.

4. Conceptual Framework



5. Results

5a. Dimensions of social capital

Social Capital	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
Decision Making Index	7.30	25.0	100.0
Heterogeneity Index	58.40	20.0	70.5
Meeting Attendance Index	65.42	20.0	80.0
Cash Contribution Index	13.45	0	100.0
Labour Contribution Index	10.21	20.0	100.0
Social Capital Score	23.76	2.9	42.8

- The mean social capital is 23.76, less than 50, implies low social capital.

5b. Effect of social capital on resource use efficiency

Explanatory variables	Marginal effect(dy/dx) (Social capital multiplicative)	Marginal effect(dy/dx) (Social capital additives)
Age(years)	0.124	0.376
Gender(1=male)	0.201	0.111
Household size(number)	-0.393	0.472
Social capital	0.630***	
Decision making Index (%)		0.006*
Heterogeneity index (%)		-0.0055**
Meeting attendance index (%)		0.890*
Cash contribution index (%)		-0.056*
Labour contribution index (%)		0.062**

6. Conclusion

- Overall social capital of cassava farmers in study area was poor which greatly influenced their level of yield.
- Policy options for improvement of agricultural resource utilization should be focused towards empowerment and support of social capital needs.

References

- Nweke FI, Spender DSC, Lynam J (2014). The Cassava Transformation: Africa's Best Kept Secret. Michigan State University Press, East Lansing, Michigan, USA.
- Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). (2015). Trends in cassava production. www.fao.org..