

Abstract

Given the problem statement of the project which was to investigate the best option for farmers to undergo when processing their beans taking in consideration cost and convenience a general objective was formulated which was to determine the most preferred method that the central region framers would consider when deciding on processing of their cocoa bean.

In addition to this general objective the project is hoped to achieve the current price central farmers receives for the sale of their wet cocoa and dried cocoa. Also to determine the labour cost per person the farmers employ to process the cocoa beans. As well as to determine between the conventional farmer's method and the central fermentaries method, the cheaper option for farmer to process their cocoa beans, to establish the farmers reaction toward the location of the central fermentaries from their field. Furthermore to show the benefits of both the conventional method of processing beans and the central fermetary method and finally to determine the percentage of grade one, two and three cocoa the farmers in the central region of Trinidad usually harvest during the harvest period.

To obtain the necessary information, the methodology that was adopted was a questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of 14 questions which was pre-tested and administered. A random sample was chosen to obtain information from on the basis of feasibility and ease of data collection. The interview population was chosen from a training session held in central where farmers from all 12 section of central were present.

Many results were noted such as the preferred method of processing of the central farmers was that of the employment of the agency's method for the grater reason of being less costly than the farmer's method. The central farmers receive a total of \$5.40 for 1 kilogram of wet cocoa and \$18.00 for 1 kilogram of dry cocoa. Another finding of the study was seen that the major reason the few farmers decided to use the farmer method was due to keeping up with tradition which was also seen as the major benefit of that method. The labour expense for the farmers that uses the farmer's method of processing was noted to be an astonishing 50 dollars per hour. One-hundred percent of farmers said they produced grad one cocoa and the greater number of farmers said they were fairly satisfied with the distance of the central fermentory from their field with the exception of one who was not satisfied.

Recommendations were made to increase the number of fermentories in central to increase accessibility to farmers. Another recommendation was made to request for the government to offer financial subsidies to the farmers that carries out the farmer's method as to aid in the financial burden of labour cost and other relating processing cost.