

Review of: "Examining Sustainable Survival Tactics for Small-Scale Bakeries: A Case Study in Lagos State"

Gianluca Grazieschi¹

¹ Third University of Rome

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper analyses the situation of small enterprises of bread production in Nigeria. In the economies of developing countries, such as Nigeria, these enterprises have an important role to play in producing goods, increasing employment and quality of life, spreading technical and managerial training.

Before 1986, in an open market system, there was free importation of raw materials and machinery in Nigeria. In 1986 the government closed wheat imports. Consequently, production slowed down, costs raised, and bread became a rare commodity. A restrictive policy on granting loans added to this. Small producers tried to survive.

The focus of the study is thus on the survival strategies of small-scale bread enterprises in changeable and threatening political situations.

The data analysis revealed that after 1986 changes in the labour market happened: turns reduction, shifting from mechanical to manual work in some cases, diversification of the production, adjustments of the prices and differentiation of the distribution systems.

Before the forbidden of wheat importations, the bread producers had distributors that commercialized products in different locations using commercial vans. After the ban, they could not afford the distribution system and related commercial vehicles, and they maintained only the factory shop.

The financial resources remained personal or familiar while the investors remained fixed. A lot of producers were forced to close their activity. As regards the closures, 60% were linked to the ban and 40% to other reasons.

There was a significant change in wheat supply, often purchased from the black market.

The study provides some considerations in relation to the future possibilities: use of composite flours and increase of the production; supply standardized products and promotion of the security and values of them; do training, find new sources of financing, look for innovation.

Methodology

Some errors were found in the formula reported in page 6-9-10-12 (Test statistics). The summation symbol should be outside the fraction and not at the numerator. The multiplication symbol (x) should be substituted by a sum one (+). Which is the p-value obtained? Is it necessary to repeat the Chi-Squared formula many times in the paper? It might be more

effective to report the methodology applied in a specific section and then display only the results obtained.

Finally, a caption could be useful to understand in the Table of page 6 that the values in brackets are the expected ones.

Minor languages issues (some already fixed here):

- Abstract: Through an in-depth investigation and analysis, ...
- small-scale industries experience a high labour turnover as a result of the inability of the industry to...
- Page 4: among which hard red winter, hard red spring, Iduram, and white can be considered.
- Distribution of Bakers by Their Educational Qualification (table): the abbreviations should be defined.
- These responses indicate that substantial changes have taken place between 19 and 19 in the operational methods of bakers. (Between 19 and 19? Does it make sense?)
- 32 of them (74%) have ceased to operate shift duties; 4 (12%) have changed from a fully automated process to manual operations. 26 (76%) have made major changes in their distribution methods. (Please use the same past tense).
- Page 13: such as product diversification, reduction of distribution outlets, and increase in product prices.
- Page 13: the financing of this sector would have been taken care of. Please rephrase.