Context matters
Oil palm production and women dietary diversity in the tropical forest of Cameroon
Martin Paul Jr. Tabe-Ojong and Geogette Fuh Lumnwi

INTRODUCTION

- Oil palm is one of the most rapidly expanding food and cash crops in many tropical regions with significant environmental implications, but also economic gains.
- Oil palm expansion is associated with changing gender roles and time allocation for women.
- Time allocation is an important determinant of maternal and child nutrition as well as wellbeing.
- We leverage a farm household survey of 582 farmers to investigate the relationship between oil palm production and women dietary diversity.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- We examine both the minimum dietary diversity for women and the minimum adequacy diversity diet.
- We also consider the various food groups consumed by women.

WHAT DO WE FIND?

- Oil palm production is associated with:
  - reductions in women dietary diversity
  - reductions in the minimum adequacy diversity diet
  - reduced consumption of mainly pulses, fruits and vegetables

PATHWAYS

- Oil palm production is negatively associated with farm production diversity.
- Oil palm production is positively associated with the cultivation of other cash crops.
- Oil palm is positively associated with income increases.

METHODS

- We employed various econometric models: Ordinary least squares regression, Poisson regression model, Two stage least squares regression and Kinky least squares regression, Coefficient stability and Oster bounds.

RESULTS

- Context matters – invest in oil palm processing.
- Boost the adoption of labour-saving technologies.
- Institutional support to oil palm farmers