

Impact of Agricultural Training on Youth Agripreneurship Performance in Nigeria

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Background

- The high rate of youth unemployment has become a global challenge, despite the controversial debates as to whether youth bulge is a time-ticking bomb waiting to explode or a blessing in disguise to Africa.
- Countries like Nigeria, with close to 200million people cannot create enough job opportunities for young people in the non-agricultural sector.
- This has invariably led to high incidence of crime and international migration in the country.
- As a strategy to reduce youth unemployment, agripreneurship is being increasingly adopted as a means to create jobs and improve the economic independence of young people.
- Studies have shown that the agricultural sector has the capacity to employ more than 70% of the entire population which implies that there are lots of unexplored opportunities in the sector.
- Government as well as non-governmental organizations organise youth-specific training

programs particularly, in the field of agriculture to address the unemployment rate in the country.

- Fadama GUYS
- N-Power, etc.
- In as much as there is a remarkable number of existing agricultural training programs designed for youths across the country, there is little or no empirical evidence on the impact such programs have on youth agripreneurship performance.

Impact of Agricultural Training Programs on Youth Agripreneurship performance

- Agricultural training program has a significant and positive impact on youth agripreneurship performance.
- Abia, Ekiti and Kebbi covering South-western, Southern-eastern and North-western regions were selected.



- The study showed after training, the agripreneurship performance of participants improved by 27%.
- 56% indicated their preference for agribusiness as compared to other forms of employment.
- Impediments in agribusiness engagement
- Lack of access to finance. One of the commonly stated barriers to business start-up is lack of capital and difficulties in getting funds from relevant agencies.
- Lack of mentorship and follow-up after the training program. About 11% of the youths explained that they will engage in agribusiness if there are professionals to mentor them.
- Lack of information was also mentioned as a challenge. Access to information is key to any successful business venture. This may actually give innovative insights to youths regarding agribusiness development.

Recommendations

- There is need to facilitate youths' access to commercial credit through borrowers group formation among those willing to engage in agribusiness.
- Relevant mentorship may help to fill this gap. This can be done by incorporating post-training mentorship programs into the training program designs.
- Information can be disseminated either monthly or bi-monthly through the internet. While the use of social media has been abused, it can still serve as a useful means of getting information to a large number of intended audience. Information can also be disseminated through relevant government service centre and youth social network

