

Impact Evaluation of N-Power Agro Program on Youth Employment and Income Generation in Nigeria

Adewale Ogunmodede

Background

- Youths are a formidable force in the agricultural production process especially with the ageing of our farmers, constituting a sizeable proportion of future progressive farmers and better citizens, especially in the rural areas.
- Mobilization of youth for national development is a common phenomenon amongst the western and developing countries but the inability of governments to integrate youths in agricultural activities has been the major problem for Nigeria's agricultural development.
- Nigerian government had attempted in the past to improve rural livelihood, provide employment and ensure food security through agricultural development initiatives and currently doing so with the N-power Agro Programme.
- However, the impact has been minimal because of the inconsistency in government policies; top-down approach used in implementing these programmes among other several reasons.

The Issues

- The average Nigerian farmer is ageing with the average age pegged at 50-60 years.
- The problem with this is that the younger generation is not interested in farming.
- High rate of corruption.

- The poor state of youth participation in agribusiness activities.
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Agribusiness in Nigeria: Review

- The Agricultural Initiatives of the government emphasizes on the development of agricultural value chains, and increased youth involvement in them, has increased job opportunities.



- Nigeria's agricultural value chain system is evolving slowly, and limited diversification and a poor agribusiness environment undermines the progress made thus far.
- The benefit that Nigeria stands to gain from employing its youth in the agricultural sector will depend on how agricultural innovations are supported by government policies and utilized to boost agricultural productivity.
- N-Power is a National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) designed to provide young Nigerians with the skills, tools and experience necessary to advance from unemployment to employment, entrepreneurship and innovation at the grassroots.

Recommendations

- It is crucial for the policy makers to know that youth agricultural development programmes should be for the benefit of youth as partners and decision makers.
- The central target of government policy should be to develop youth as leaders in development, with youth having the capacity to showcase their skills, capabilities and ability to change their own lives and those of others.
- The implementers of youth programmes should ensure that youths are the target group. The

- government should ensure that they integrate youths into the mainstream of future agricultural development programmes - it should be a collaborative intervention where young people are fully consulted and integrated into the decision-making process that will affect them
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