

Pattern and Determinants of Farm and non-Farm Employment Dynamics Among Nigerian Youth

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Background

- Understanding the dynamics of youth employment and its determining factors in developing countries has continued to attract the interest of researchers in recent times, due to the long unabated unemployment crises in the continent tipped to be home to 50% of the world's young population.
- Africa's workforce is growing much faster than any other region in the world, at about 3% per year (Yeboah and Jayne, 2016), a situation which presents both opportunities and challenges.
- Between 2017 and 2030, labour supply (for all ages) will increase by another 198 million in the region with the youth contributing significantly to this growth (ILO, 2018).
- According to a World Bank and IFAD (2017) study, 23 percent of household income generated from agricultural activities is accounted for by rural nonfarm activities in African countries.

Youth Employment Pattern

- Between 2010-2015 about 7 out of every 10 youths in Nigeria stayed in their respective sectors of employment - farm and non-farm, while 3 out of every 10 engage in farm employment, implying that more youth engage in non-farm employment than in farm employment.
- There was increased transitions from farm to non-farm occupation among youth within that period, as about 3 out of every 10 that moved between both sectors moved from farm to non-farm.
- More youths are employed in trading, manufacturing and services sub-sector which account for 88.83% according to the study.
- There are more youths in trading than other economic activities. With only about 2% engaging in crop and animal production activities, which include fishing and aquaculture.
- More female youth are staying on farm than their male counterpart.



- Geographical location variation; there was an increased movement in the southern part to farm than in the northern part.
- Youths with no formal education, primary school leaving certificate and secondary education on average left the farm more in that period.

Factors for transition

- Youths moving from farm to non-farm employment
- - Gender, age, education (primary and secondary) access to mobile phone, farm size, asset size, access to electricity, death shock and land access are important determinants of the likelihood of youth transiting from farm to non-farm employment
- Why more youths are staying in non-farm employment than they stay in farm employment.
- - Gender, household size, age, access to internet and mobile phones, asset size, distance to road and market, access to electricity, land access, and exposure to shock such as death are important
- Youths moving from non-farm to farm employment.
- - Household size, farm size, access to internet, distance to road, access to electricity, and exposure

to shocks especially those related to land loss and death are key determinants of youths' transition decisions from non-farm to farm employment.

Recommendations

- There is need to address insecurity in the North West and North Eastern Region, if a shift in pattern (from non-farm to farm) is to be achieved as the study found more movement from farm to non-farm in the two Regions;
- Promotion of inclusive policies that will encourage engagement of female youth in the production value chain is critical
- Introduce Policies towards democratizing access to credit, land and encourage rural digital revolution that will hugely supports the aspiration of many young farmers to stay on the farm.
- Institute systems and mechanisms for managing shocks having potentials to drain the income of the youth.
- Increase investment in public infrastructure, such as power, telecommunications, road networks particularly in the rural areas to step urban migration and retain youths in the farm sector.

