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Background

- Nigeria has a huge youth population.
- This demography is facing high rates of unemployment or underemployment, and poverty.
- Employing more youths as agripreneurs, into the agriculture sector, would improve the rural economy.
- It would increase domestic food security as well as engender national economic growth.
- There are concerns around Nigerian youths' lack of interest in farming anymore.
- In contrast, this new study has found that undergraduate students are quite willing to engage in agripreneurship, especially given a favourable business environment and outcome.

What Motivates Students to become Agripreneurs?

- **Attitude:** Students who have strong positive attitudes towards agribusiness are more likely to have intentions to become agripreneurs.
- **Competence:** Youths trained in faculties and schools of agriculture in higher institutions acquire the competence to become agripreneurs.
- **Facilitating Conditions:** Youths are likely to become agripreneurs under favourable conditions such as; land tenure conditions, resources, support from the government, and the private sector.
- **Aspiration:** This study found that young agripreneurs

had high aspirations growing up. The quantitative aspect of the study recognized a positive relationship between high aspirations, and the intent to engage in agripreneurship.

Recommendations

- **Promote:** Increase national efforts to promote positive perceptions and attitudes around agriculture, using mass and social media, and mentoring programs.
- **Equip:** Agricultural curricula should emphasize hands-on training that equips graduates with the relevant skills. Also, increase the emphasis on practical agribusiness skills in educational curriculum.
- **Inspire:** Engage civil society organisations, and youth groups in enlightenment campaigns to encourage youths to become agripreneurs.
- **Invest:** Government should invest in conditions that facilitate agribusiness. Existing tenure systems could be revisited to increase access to land for emerging young agripreneurs.
- **Financial grants:** Soft loans should be made more available to young agripreneurs.
- **Enfranchise:** Youths are critical stakeholders in employment policies. They know what barriers exclude them and what conditions motivate them. They have innovative ideas and reasonable suggestions. Their voices should be heard.

