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Annals of Child

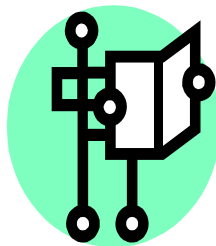
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BRIEF HISTORY OF THE JOURNAL

At the 7th Annual General Meeting of the International Research and Development Network of Children and Youth in Agriculture Programme (CYIAP-Network: visit our website www.cyiap_network.org for more information) held at Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ijebu-Ode, Nigeria on the 28th November, 2006, it was resolved that a journal named *Annals of Child and Youth Studies* (ACYS) of the Network be established. Dr. Dixon OlutadeTorimiro, an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, ObafemiAwolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria was unanimously appointed as the Editor-in-Chief and the Department was chosen as the Editorial Office of the Journal.

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From the Editorial Desk

The framing and formation of this Volume is quite fascinating. The authors, although working separately, converge around issues of living and giving meaning to living in our ever-changing world. All the articles in this Volume have accent of structuralism. The Volume begins with menstrual blood, an idiom of dignity, dirt, danger and death in many contexts. Menarche is a marker of rite of passage. It is celebrated with great fanfare in many cultures. Blood, in structuralists' paradigm, is meant to circulate inside and give life to the body (structure). Menstrual blood, however, flows out of the body, and weakens it. The blood is out of its place. It is a form of disorder/out of order, hence, constitutes a danger. Menstrual blood symbolizes a failed reproduction cycle and the preparation for another. It indicates impediment and hope with respect to building and elongating the super-organic structure (society). Blood is life. The loss of it is a symbol of dying and death that depletes the society(structure). These ideas perhaps explain why some religious groups tend to limit activities of menstruators. Olajide *et al's* article, in this Volume, conceptualizes menstrual blood as a decaying dirt that has influence on menstruators' agency. The authors indicate that the blood requires a certain degree of bodily hygiene to ameliorate its negative influences among girls in secondary

schools. They insist that this category of menstruators, due to limited resources and experiences, are prone to problems of inadequate menstrual hygiene such as infections and repugnant odor capable of staining, straining and severing social relationship. Stigmatization, stress, low self-esteem, amongst others, arising from limited bodily hygiene may cause self-rejection, depression, suicide ideation among menstruators. The authors suggest that adequate hygiene education is important for preventing problems associated with menstrual blood, including suicide ideations as implied in Durkheim's *Suicide*.

Suicide and stress are multifactorial phenomena. Associated factors of stress and suicidal ideation among undergraduate students is the focus of Anuodo *et.al's* article in this Volume. These authors offer insights into various ways of reducing suicide ideation and thus deaths among young people.

Death, although a natural process, is anti-structural. The longevity of any structure is predicated on both natural and social processes. Okorie and Torimiro explore ethnocultural relations, as a social process, to indicate how the process might be engineered to engender, elongate and enliven egalitarian structure with respect to nomadic Fulani in Yoruba land. The authors show that inter-marriages,

religious harmony, and coproduction of infrastructure are precursors of inclusive structures even in this era of persistent nomadism and unabating migration

Migration may weaken or strengthen a structure. To this end, Onuekwusi *et al* (in this Volume), highlight the causes and effects of seasonal migration in south eastern Nigeria, paying attention to issues of rural livelihoods. Opportunities in exploiting agrarian-based livelihoods are highly important to the sustenance of any society or structure that has an agrarian economy, like Nigeria. Therefore, issues of agrarian-based livelihood should be a source of concern to every stratum of an agrarian society. Oyegbami *et al* and Kayode *et al* all in this Volume share this view. These authors separately interrogate perceived conditions that might enhance and/or inhibit students' continual eking of a living from the agricultural sector in various geographies in Nigeria. Oyegbami *et al* identify infrastructure as a crucial condition for students in Ibadan whereas Kayode *et al*, discuss crop farmers and herdsmen's conflict as a great inhibitor to in-school youth participation in agripreneurship in Ilorin. Ojo and Akinyemi explore the effectiveness of some communication methods in increasing the participation of youth in Nigerian government agricultural program. They identify social media as one the effective outlets for the

program. Ohiagu underscores the importance of social media in human communication and discusses how malleability of identity fuels cybercrime reduces its usefulness in the society. The author, however, shows how a model of communication might be used to reduce the frauds.



Youth perception of agribusiness as a career and its implication for agricultural development among students in Ibadan metropolis, Oyo state.

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to assess youth perception towards agribusiness among students in higher institutions in Ibadan. Three tertiary institutions were selected for the study and a multistage sampling technique was used to select a sample of 120 students for the study. Descriptive and inferential statistics were respectively used to summarise and make inferences from the data. Findings of the study showed that the mean age of the students was 22.9 ± 3.4 , more than half (53.3%) of the respondents were female while majority (83.3%) were single. Concerning youths' perception towards agribusiness, 90.8 percent of the respondents agreed that knowledge in agriculture would make one a successful agricultural entrepreneur, 88.3 percent also agreed that agribusiness is lucrative, 88.7 percent agreed that engaging in agribusiness would bring reliable income, 83.3 percent also agreed that inadequate farming equipment will limit youth engagement in agribusiness. The youths identified erratic power supply ($\bar{x}=1.93$), lack of loan and credit facilities ($\bar{x}=93.3\%$), lack of storage facilities ($\bar{x}=1.92$) bad road to transport agricultural produce ($\bar{x}=1.90$), and change in policies and politics ($\bar{x}=1.82$) as main constraints affecting agribusiness. The study therefore recommends that government should make agriculture and agribusiness interesting so as to attract youths into taking up agriculture as a business venture.

Keywords: Youths, agribusiness, perception, development.

INTRODUCTION

Agribusiness has been defined as all business oriented entities involved with production, input supply, agro-processing, marketing and distribution of agricultural commodities. More recently the definition was expanded to move beyond the farm to include food and fiber (Detre *et al.*, 2011). Agribusiness came to refer to agriculturally related businesses including warehouses, wholesalers, processors, retailers and more (Chait, 2014). This led to another definition with a broader set of activities that focus on markets and include natural resources. Agribusiness is a dynamic and systemic endeavor that serves consumers globally and locally through innovation and management of multiple value chains that deliver valued goods and services derived from the sustainable orchestration of food, fiber, and natural resources as well as produce alternatives for the engagement of youth to reduce crime and other social problems (Ministry of agriculture, 2013). But along the way, definitions began to focus on size, excluding small businesses such as family farms (Chait, 2014). This was a period when mergers and acquisitions as agricultural organizations strove to achieve economies of scale.

Agribusiness is arguable the largest source of employment among rural populace in many developing countries (Food and Agricultural

Organisation, FAO, 2010). The role of agribusiness in industrial growth and development of most industrialised countries of the world cannot be overemphasized (Adeyemi and Adekunmi, 2005). In spite of the fact that Nigeria is now a crude oil exporting country, the nation's economy still depends on the agricultural sector as a major source of employment, providing direct and indirect jobs to the nation's workforce (Izuchuku, 2011). As such in the national development agencies, agriculture is expected to lead the growth and structural transformation of the economy; providing jobs, ensuring food security and producing the needed raw materials to propel the country's industrialization agenda (George, 2008). Significant improvement in the productivity of the agriculture sector are required to raise the average real income of Nigerian's thereby reducing poverty and providing job security and sustainable livelihood.

Commercial farming in Nigeria agribusiness is still carried out using tools and cutlasses with minimum use of mechanized farming. This has therefore been observed as one the main constraints to youth participation in commercial farming (Fatunla, 1998). Though, Youth have desirable qualities that can promote agriculture, most of them have strong apathy towards it and has resulted into mass unemployment and lack of unsustainable livelihood among others. This has further led most youth into cultism, prostitution and street begging.

Youth in agribusiness programme has been described as a very important structure for land and

agrarian reforms, which will go a long way towards promoting interest of young people in the agricultural sector of the economy (Gwanya, 2008). Since agricultural development is the tool for economic development, there is need for more emphasis to be placed on the role in which youth can play. However, with fewer youth in commercial farming, the long term future of agricultural sector is in question. The development or increase in productivity of agricultural sector of Nigeria's economy therefore depends on the young people.

Efforts to drive youth involvement in agriculture as a business has become a dire necessity requiring strategically formulated, implemented and evaluated measures geared towards ensuring sustainability. Given the current economic situation bearing down heavily on the citizens, especially the ever increasing youth population who largely seem disoriented on how to eke out a living for themselves without access to 'the almost non-existent well paid jobs', effective action needs to be taken. The situation is further compounded by the recent devaluation of the Naira and drop in oil prices, which has led to a drag on the economy.

Over the years the Nigerian government has attempted to stimulate youth interest in agriculture, as part of efforts to reduce 'youth unemployment' – accounting for over 70 percent of the current 23.9 percent rate of national unemployment according to the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (2010) by providing special incentives such as credit facilities for youth involved in agricultural production and processing. Equally, some states as well as private agencies have also provided internship and training opportunities for youths to create and sustain agricultural enterprises.

In Nigeria, agribusiness is said to play a key role in the economy by turning agriculture into business as a passion and a way of developing rural dwellers with little or no access to job opportunity (Tersoo, 2013). Awareness has been made by the government towards the improvement of agriculture by initiating youth into commercial farming and empowering Universities and Federal institutions of agriculture (FAO, 2008), however, there is little empirical evidence established through research regarding how youth perceived agribusiness as a future self-employment option and factors that influences their intention to take up such enterprises. Youth are the future leaders and the future farmers of the nation (Effah, 1998), the issue of youth engaging in agribusiness to increase the standard of living and further

sustaining the agricultural sector has become a burden on every concerned Nigerian. Youth can use their strength and energy to farm and establish agribusiness to provide food for the increasing population of the nation; thereby solving or reducing cases of unemployment and food insecurity in Nigeria. The unemployment rate of the youth is alarming and it is in the light of the forgoing that the study tries to:

- i. examine the personal characteristics of youth in the study area,
- ii. determine the perception of youth towards agribusiness as a career and find out why they want to be engaged in agribusiness, and
- iii. investigate the perceived constraints associated with agribusiness

Hypothesis of the study

There is no significant relationship between personal characteristics of the youth and their perception towards agribusiness.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Ibadan, a city located 120km east of the border with the republic of Benin in the forest and savanna. Ibadan city have a total land area of 3,080km² with a population over 3 million and an estimate of 3,500,000 according to 2006 census (Mcadiroh, 2018). The principal inhabitants of the city are the Yoruba's. Ibadan city has eleven local government areas and have many higher institutions which compromise of the universities, polytechnics and mono-technics. In the case of this study, three (3) higher institutions were used; these are Federal College of Agriculture, Federal college of Animal Health and Production Technology and the Federal College of Forestry which are located in Ibadan. The study population consists of all youth in the higher diploma classes that take agricultural related courses in higher (tertiary) institutions in Ibadan. This study used a multistage sampling procedure; at first stage, purposive sampling technique was used to select three different tertiary institutions that offer agricultural science as main course and 10% of the population was randomly selected from each of the three institutions used for the study. This gave a total of 132 students, of the questionnaires distributed, only 120 were properly completed and this was used for analysis. The sample is shown in table 1

Data for the study was collected through the use of structured questionnaire and this was analysed using frequency counts, mean and percentages. Chi-square analysis was used to test the relationship between personal characteristics of youth and perception towards agri-business. The dependent variable of the study is student's perception of agribusiness as a career, they were therefore asked to answer to a set of 10 perception

statements. Using a 3-point scale, students perception was either positive (scores ≥ 2.0) or negative (scores ≤ 1.99) as the overall mean perception score was used as the benchmark. Constraints to agribusiness were categorized and ranked as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th from the highest to the lowest in descending order after they have been asked to answer questions on this.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Personal characteristics of youth

Table 2 shows the percentage distribution of the youth according to their personal characteristics. Result show that the students sampled have a mean age of 22.9 ± 3.4 years. This may have a positive implication if these age groups are involved in agribusiness because the more they remain in the business the more knowledgeable and experienced they become. According to the United Nations (2014) involvement of youth in agribusiness is key to agricultural growth. Youth can play a very important role in agribusiness in trying to influence policy, coming up with a good idea particularly as it relates to accessibility to information on current trends since they are educated and have the basic knowledge of agricultural production. More than half (57.5%) were female while 42.5 percent were male. This implies that female is becoming more interested in agriculture as against the fact that agriculture is male dominated. Also, the females are the one that are found in the agricultural value chain especially in processing and packaging of agricultural produce and this may be another reason why the females are more interested in agribusiness. Marital status shows that 83.3% of the youth were single and majority (76.7%) were Christians.

Youth perception towards agribusiness as a career

The result in Table 3 shows the percentage distribution of youth according to their perception towards agribusiness as a career. It reveals that majority (90.8%) of the respondent agreed that agribusiness is lucrative, that knowledge of agriculture will make one a successful agricultural entrepreneur (90.8%), engaging in agribusiness brings reliable income (87.5%), does not require large amount of capital and the result also show that more than half (87.5%) of the respondents agreed that engaging in agribusiness brings reliable income. The result further revealed that half (50.0%) of the respondents agreed that government policy favour agribusiness enterprises creation. More so, 74.9 percent of the respondent agreed that lack of government intervention will have a negative

effect on agribusiness. Also 82.5 percent of the respondents agreed that inadequate farming equipment will limit youth from engaging in agribusiness.

Above all, the result shows a positive perception of youth towards agribusiness. This is expected because the youths interviewed are agricultural students who really have the background information on agricultural production, processing and utilization but this does not mean that they will automatically be involved in agribusiness though majority (90.8%) of the youths agreed that they have technical knowledge to be a successful agriculture entrepreneur.

Though, agriculture suffers from entrenched negative perceptions amongst African youths, in the minds of many young Africans, farming is poor man's work that involves backbreaking labor and insufficient financial gains. A positive perception will give youth the initiative to establish agricultural enterprises and improve their agribusiness skills. It will also help create a conducive business environment by advancing youth-led policies and provides a communication network that delivers much needed agricultural information to others involved in agribusiness.

Reasons why youth will want to be involved in Agribusiness

Table 4 shows the result of the reason why youth will want to be involved in agribusiness. Majority (78.3%) of the student submitted that it is to support food production in Nigeria, 63.3 percent of the respondent said for self-employment, 60 percent will want to be involved in agribusiness, according to them, it will serve as a source of income and 43.4% for social and economic development. This shows the students different views on the reasons why they want to be involved in agribusiness. The different programmes undertaken by the government has stimulated the interest of the youth in agricultural production and processing. Programmes like Youth in agricultural programmes, N-power and the likes have opened the eye and the minds of youth to agriculture. The increased involvement of youth in agricultural activities will help reduce the problem of ageing farm population and also increase youth employment.

Perceived constraints associated with agribusiness

Table 5 showed the perceived constraints associated with agribusiness according to youth submission. This is presented using rank order of

the weighted mean score of the constraints. The result show that erratic power supply (1.93), lack of loan and credit facility (1.92), bad road network (1.90), change in policies and politics (1.82) were some of the constraints identified by the youth as this ranked 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively. Others were inadequate market for agricultural produce (1.76), inadequate agricultural implement (1.63), lack of agricultural insurance (1.57) and lack of storage facilities (1.20). All these constrain will definitely limit youth involvement in agribusiness. Indications from the interview conducted observed that the youth are interested in taking agribusiness as a career but will be constrained by the above mentioned factors which can mare agricultural production thus increasing the chance of food insecurity, scarcity of food, and increase in prices of food items and poverty in the long run. This corroborates the submission of Francis (2016); Doughlas, Singh and Zvenyika (2017) that several factors account for the dwindling interest of youth in agriculture, this they say may include poor access to funds, technical know-how in the areas of produce handling and storage to ensure quality production, below-par up-scaling of agricultural techniques and agribusiness practices to meet up modern standards, as well as poor regulation and inconsistent policy making. Working together, these and more factors have made the sector less attractive to youth. The youth are expected to replace the aging agricultural population, therefore agriculture should be made interesting and fascinating by the government.

Relationship between personal characteristics and perception of youth towards agribusiness

Result in table 6 show the relationship between personal characteristics and perception of youth towards agribusiness. The result shows that there is no significant relationship between age, sex and marital status. This implies that age, sex and marital status have no effect on perception of youth towards agribusiness. However, their interest in agribusiness is likely to be positively influenced by their perceptions among other challenges faced.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the empirical evidence from the study, it could be concluded that youth have positive perception towards agribusiness and this may be due to the background they have in agriculture. The study also revealed that youth want to be involved in agribusiness for different reasons. Major constraints perceived by the youth that affects agribusiness are bad road network, lack of loan and credit facilities, inadequate market for

agricultural produce, and lack of storage facilities among others.

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that government and other stakeholders formulate strategies that will attract and sustain youth participation in agriculture and agribusiness. One of such strategies is the extensive use of modern technologies which may includes mechanization, use of modern processing, packaging and storage facilities. Youth needs to be encouraged to form schemes or clubs to ease access to loans, and banks and other financial institutions can avail youth funds or loans which are easily accessible with minimum conditions. Current technologies which guarantees higher production and productivity can also be used as a tool to improve youth participation in farming and its business.

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Table 1: Sampled institutions and sample size.

Name of institution	No of students	10% of students	of students
College of Agriculture	450	45	
College of animal health and production technology	464	46	
College of forestry	415	41	
TOTAL	1329	132.9	

Source: College of Agriculture, College of Animal Health and Production Technology, College of Forestry, 2017

Table 2: Personal characteristics of respondents (n=120)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Std. Dev
Age (years)				
18-20	42	35.0	22.9	3.4

21-23	24	20.0	years
24-26	39	32.5	
> 26	15	10.5	
Sex			
Male	51	42.5	
Female	69	57.5	
Marital status			
Single	21	17.5	
Married			
Religion			
Christianity	92	76.7	
Islam	26	21.7	
Traditional	2	1.6	

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 3: Percentage distribution of Respondents according to their perception of Agribusiness (n=120)

S/N	Perception statement	Disagr
1	Technical knowledge will make one a successful Agriculture entrepreneur	2(1.7)
2	Agribusiness is very lucrative	2 (1.7)
3	Engaging in agribusiness bring reliable income	8 (6.7)
4	Inadequate farming equipment will limit youth from engaging in agribusiness	6 (5.0)
5	Unavailability of land to carryout farming activities will have a negative effect on agribusiness	8(6.7)
6	Lack of constant power supply for processing agricultural products will discourage youths from engaging in agribusiness	13(10.8)
7	Lack of government intervention will have a negative effect on agribusiness	22(18.3)
8	Unstable government policy will affect attitude of youths towards agribusiness	16(13.3)
9	Agribusiness does not require large amount of capital to start.	26 (21.7)
10	Government policies supports agribusiness enterprise creation	18(15.0)

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 4: Percentage distribution of the respondent according to reasons for wanting to be involved in agribusiness (n=120).

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
For food production	90	78.3	1st
For self employment	73	63.3	2nd
For source of income	69	60.0	3rd
For social	50	43.5	4th

and economic development			
It requires little capital to start	29	24.2	5th
For research purpose	12	10.0	6th

Source: field survey, 2017.

Multiple responses given

Table 5: Percentage distribution of youth according to perceived constraints in agribusiness (n=120)

Constraints	Mean	Rank
Erratic power supply	1.93	1st
Lack of loan and credit facility	1.92	2nd
Bad road network	1.90	3rd
Change in policies and politics	1.82	4th
No ready market for agric. Produce	1.76	5th
Lack of modern agric. Implements	1.63	6th
Lack of agricultural insurance	1.57	7th
Lack of storage facilities	1.20	8th

Source: Field survey, 2017.

Table 6: Test of significance between personal characteristics and perception towards agribusiness as a career

Variables	Chi-square value	df	P-value	Decision
Age	7.317	6	0.292	Not significant
Sex	0.050	2	0.976	Not significant
Marital status	2.088	2	0.352	Not significant

Source: field survey, 2017

Significant at $p > 0.05$