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YOUTHS' PARTICIPATION IN AGROBUSINESS IN ONDO STATE

Anifowose, Oladotun Larry [1]
Olomola, Margaret Abidemi [2]
Adeosun, A.O[3]

[1,3] The Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo state, Nigeria
[2] Osun State College of Education Ilesa, Osun State, Nigeria

*Corresponding Email: olanifowose@futa.edu.ng

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ABSTRACT

The important role small businesses and entrepreneurship play in stimulating job creation, economic growth, poverty alleviation and general uplifting of living standards has been recognized both internationally and in Nigeria. The study aimed to analyze youths participation in agribusiness; a case of cassava production in Ondo State, Nigeria. Data were collected using questionnaires which were administered to the respondents. A total of 120 youths involved in cassava production under Ondo State Wealth Creation Agency (WECA) were purposively selected and administered the questionnaires. Descriptive statistical tools such as frequency distribution, percentages and regression analysis were used for analyzing the data. The results revealed that majority (65.8%) of the respondents were within the age range of 26-35 years of age and male (65.8%). With respect to their marital status55% were single, while 45% were married. Also 0.8% of the youths had attained junior secondary school education and the rest (96.7%) had education above junior secondary school level and 2.5% others. Farm output of less 200 and between 200-400 cassava roots was found to be the average yield while the annual income was equal or greater than N35, 000. Results of the regression analysis show that only farm experience had significant relationships with the respondents' levels of cassava production. They constituted the R2 value of 0.79. It was recommended that credit facilities should be provided to the youth. Modern farm inputs and implements should also be timely provided at affordable rates. Various states of the country should develop strategies targeting improving the literacy levels of farmers through workshops, seminars and other training programmes to motivate and encourage the youth involved in cassava production.

Keywords: Youth, Nigeria, Agrobusiness, Agriculture

INTRODUCTION

The important role small businesses and entrepreneurship play in stimulating job creation, economic growth, poverty alleviation and general uplifting of living standards has been recognized both internationally and in Nigeria. Entrepreneurs drive innovation and speed up structural changes in the economy thereby making an indirect contribution to productivity (Herrington et al, 2008).

The National Youth Development Policy (2001) defines youth as people aged between 18 and 35. And they constitutes "all young males and females aged 18- 35 which are citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria" (National Youth Policy of Nigeria, 2001:4). According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2004), young people aged between 15 and 24 years account for 52.9 percent of unemployed people while those aged between 25 and 44 years accounted for 41.1 percent. Therefore, those in age bracket of 15 and 44 years account for 94 percent of the total unemployed persons in Nigeria (Osibanjo, 2006). In Nigeria, as in many countries of the world, it has been realized that government alone cannot provide for the needs of all the youths in the nation. Therefore, the involvement of youth in agriculture through which the spirit of self-help is promoted is of paramount importance.

Cassava (Manihot esculenta) is an important source of dietary carbohydrate, and provides food for over 60 million people in Nigeria (Abdulahi, 2003). According to Nweke et al. (2002), eighty percent of Nigerians in the rural areas eat a cassava meal at least once a day; hence it plays a major role in the country's food security. Apart from its use as a staple food to human beings other uses include animal feed formulation, agro-industrial uses (e.g. starch, ethanol, adhesive, fructose/glucose syrup), the peels in organo-mineral fertilizers formulation (Iyagba, 2010). Cassava is important not only as a food crop but even more as a major source of income for rural households.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section discusses the theoretical framework and empirical review related to the study

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of the study is based on occupational theory. Theory according to Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2005) is an idea or set of ideas that is intended to explain something about life or world. Beauchamp in Olaitan (2003) defined theory as a unifying statement, a universal preposition and/ or predictive statements which are arranged so as to give functional meaning to a set of series of events. Occupation according to Barnhart (1995) is the work a person does regularly to earn his living. It is a principal activity in one's life that one does

to earn money. Marchwardt (2001) similarly explained occupation as one's regular, principal or immediate business. It is what a person devotes one's self especially one's regular work, employment, trade, job pursuit or means of getting a living.

Olaitan (2003) stated the following occupational theories.

I. Occupational theory of value. According to the author, occupation must have value that attracts individual into it; some of these values may be economic, social and prestige.

II. Occupational theory of body of knowledge as a foundation for the identification of skills in which individual is to be trained

III. Occupational skill involvement: This theory states that occupation must have skill involvement in which individual could be trained for a life long employment for living. The author further identified another relevant theory of occupation which states that skill in occupation must be amendable to logical arrangement during the training process for purposes of practice and mastering and as well, occupation must have a level of proficiency in training without which a professional certificate or recognition cannot be guaranteed.

The study intends to assess youth's involvement in plantain production as an occupation in which they can make a living. Therefore, this study will be guided by occupational theory in the assessment of youth's participation for success and improvement in any plantain production.

Ndubizu (1987) in his paper on plantain production in Southern Nigeria, revealed that plantain production help to increase food production which is well accepted by people of all level and the economic return from the sale of the product is also very promising. This agrees with the occupational theory of economic value. Plantain production has skill involvement which individual could be trained for gainful employment. It also has information in which individual could gain knowledge concerning the occupation.

Approaches To the Development of Occupation In Plantain Production

There are several approaches involved in identification of work-skills needed in plantain production. According to Olaitan (2003) the approaches include the following

I. Competency based approach
II. Job analysis approach
III. Task analysis approach
IV. Modular approach

Competency Based Approach

FRN (2000) defined competency as ability to combine a number of skills for accomplishing specific tasks. Also, Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2007) defined competency as ability to perform a specific task to a satisfactory standard. Then, to be competent according to Mitshele in Olaitan (2003) means that the individual has acquired the knowledge skills, attitudes
and judgment which he requires in order to perform successfully at a specified proficiency level in any given work.

Olaitan (2003) stated that competency based model involves arranging skills, knowledge and attitudes to be learned in hierarchy of difficulty. The author further stated that competency-based approach involves the following steps

I. Identification of all tasks to be learnt.
II. Identification of the competencies required in order to carry out a particular function effectively and using the identified competencies as a basis for teaching and learning.
III. Arrangement of tasks or jobs in appropriate courses
IV. Organize knowledge and skill for each task or job into a hierarchy.
V. Determine what one needs to know for mastering of each knowledge or skill.

Moreover, Sullivan (1995) explained that in a competency-based training system, the unit of progression is mastery of specific knowledge and skill and is learner or participant-centered. Then competency-based training for plantain production is training based upon the learner's ability to demonstrate attainment or mastery of plantain production skills performed under certain
conditions to specific standards (the skills then become competencies).

Job Analysis Approach

Job analysis calls for analysis of the job and organization of instructional units around these tasks. Osuala (1999) described job analysis as detailed listing of duties, operations and skills necessary to perform a clearly defined job. Such operations and skills are organized into logical sequence which may be used for teaching, employment or classification purposes. In another opinion, Guide (2001) stated that job analysis is a process used to identify and determine in details the particular job duties and requirements and the relative importance of these duties as for a given job. He added that job analysis data may be collected from incumbents through interviews or questionnaire, the product of the analysis is a description or specifications of the job, not a description of the person. Guide further enumerated the purpose, methods of job analysis and aspects of a job that are analyzed as follows:

Purpose Of Job Analysis

The purpose of job analysis is to established and documents the "Job relatedness" of employment procedures such as training selection, compensation and performance appraisal.

i. Determining training needs: To identify or develop: training content, assessment tests to measure effectiveness of training, equipment to be used in delivering the training and methods of training (i.e small group, computer-based, video classroom)

ii. Compensation Job analysis can be used in compensation to identify or determine: skill levels. Compensable job factors, work environment (e.g. hazards, attention, physical effort) responsibilities (e.g. fiscal, supervisory), required level of education (indirectly related to salary level).

iii. Selection procedure Job analysis can be used in selection procedure to identify or develop

- Job duties that should be included in advertisement of vacant positions
- Appropriate salary level for the position to help determine what salary should be offered to a candidate
- Minimum requirement (education experience of both for screening applicants.
- Interview questions
- Selection tests/instruments e.g. written tests, oral tests; job simulations
- Applicant appraisal/evaluation forms and
- Orientation materials for applicants/new hires

iv. Performance review Job analysis can be used in performance review to identify on develop

- Goals and objectives, performance standards, evaluation criteria
- Length of probationary periods and
- Duties to be evaluated.

Task Analysis Approach

Longman dictionary of contemporary English (2005) explained that task is a piece of work that must be done to bring a job to completion. Mager in Olaitan (2003) described task analysis as listing of all the steps involved in each task in terms of what the person does when performing the steps for accomplishing the job. Task analysis is the procedure of breaking down job activities to determine the teachable content in terms

of operation, tools, processes and technical information to be organized into course of study and arranged in a sequence of difficulty (Osuala 1999). Moreover, Hackos and Redish (1998) explained that task analysis analyses what a user is required to do in terms of actions and or cognitive processes to achieve in a task. They also added that a detailed task analysis can be conducted to understand the current system and the information flows within it. These information flows are important to the maintaince of the existing system and must be incorporated or substituted in any new system. The authors explained further that task analysis makes it possible to design and allocate tasks appropriately with the new system. The functions to be included within the system and the user interface can then be accurately specified. In task analysis, tasks are decomposed or break down from high level to their constituent subtasks and operations. Hackos and Redish further presented method or steps to task decomposition as follows:

i. Identify the task to be analyzed.
ii. Break it down into 4 or 8 subtasks, these subtasks should be specified in terms of objectives and should cover the whole area of interest
iii. Draw the subtasks as a layered diagram ensuring that it is complete.

The strengths and weakness of task analysis as in Olaitan (2003) are as follows.

i. It provides bases for collecting interrelated information about work in order to allocated priorities
ii. It makes content selection process in any work valid
iii. It helps in specifying instructional objectives
iv. It is useful in designing of instructional activities
v. It helps in determine teaching strategy
vi. It is also useful in evaluating performance

Modular Approach

Sullivan (1995) explained that modular approach implies the subdivision of the total required qualification for a given occupational profile into a set of employable competencies or skills, each of which then has to be delivered by one module. In addition, Olaitan and Ali (1997) noted that modular approach to curriculum design is a unit of curriculum based on the development of entry level competencies of students. Moreover, in modularized instruction, Sullivan maintained that breaking up of curricula content is done differently where each unit is self contained that is, each unit is independent and contains all the theoretical know ledge, practical skills and attitudes required to achieve the skill targeted by the unit. This method of breaking up curricula content allows for each unit to be used in different contexts and to be changed,

modified or deleted without having to change the whole curricula. He stated that modularized instruction is competency-based instruction, that is assessment of trained is done against a clear defined task that one has to perform under certain condition and up to certain standard regardless of the time spent in training. Sullivan defined modular as an instruction unit conceived to deliver an employable skill. The modules are of equal lengths that will take approximately specified hours of instructional time to achieve with the average group of students, modules could also form the basis of a containing education programme.

Strengths of the Modular Approach According to Tasbalalova (2003), modular design is significant in several ways:

i. It is for immediate goal attainment

ii. It promotes the individualized training

iii. It strengthen the ability of the learner to work independently

iv. It promotes active participation of teachers and learners within the training processes

Out of the four different approaches discussed, task analysis approach is used to guide the involvement skills needed by youths in plantain production. The task analysis is used because according to Olaitan, Nwachukwu, Igbo Onyebuchi and Ekong (1999) task analysis is the identification of classes of learning behaviour expected to be performed by an individual. It is concerned with the process of breaking work into smaller components. Task analysis according to the authors is derived from an occupational area. The occupational area is broken down into tasks which are sub-divided into sub-tasks, for example, an occupational area may be preparation of land for plantain production; this is the main task and can be broken into sub-class like the skills involved in clearing the land, ploughing and harrowing and skills in digging holes for planting of suckers in plantain production.

Olaitan (2003) maintained that with task analysis approach, youth can be directed appropriately towards job opportunities in plantain production in future.

EMPIRICAL FRAMEWORK

According to Idachaba and Olayide (1980), rural infrastructures constituted the substance of rural welfare, which is the improvement of the socio-economic life of a community. Idachaba and Olayide (1980) observed that a realistic national development programme should be able to cater for a majority of the nation's populace, which

according to him, is formed in the rural areas in less developed countries.

However, World Bank (2002) asserted that the provision of social amenities in the rural areas could help in the achievement of an increased rural production and income. Also, Ekong (2000) explains that the spread of needed infrastructure and introduction of appropriate technology in rural areas would markedly improved rural agriculture and industrial output. There is a consensus among authors in terms of general objectives of infrastructural development in rural areas that is the improvement of the standard of living of the rural poor and their integration into the life of the nation.

Peng (2002) who pointed out that road construction could reduce the expenditure of agricultural production while Fang and Zhang (2004) revealed that the potential of agricultural production can be release through rural infrastructure investment.

A recent study by Zongang Li and iaomin Liu (2009) on the effect of rural infrastructural development on agricultural production technical efficiency using data from Second Agricultural Census of China indicated that telecommunication, road, good water supply, conducting vocational/technical education and electricity were all positively associated with agricultural production technical efficiency expect telecommunication. These studies demonstrate that investment in infrastructures is essential to increase farmers' access to input and output markets, to stimulate the rural non-farm economy and vitalize rural towns, to increase consumer demand in rural areas, and to facilitate the integration of less-favoured rural areas into national and international economies.

Empirically, it identified the types of rural development activities in which the youth's are involved and determined the factors influencing their involvement in rural development activities.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study attempted to assess the involvement of youths in agribusiness; a case of cassava production in Ondo State. The research approach that will be adopted in this study will comprises of a quantitative research designed an enquiry of level of youth participating in agribusiness, based on answering certain questions.

Study Area

The study area will be conducted in two district of the four Senatorial District of Ondo State. These include Ondo East and Ondo Southern Senatorial District. The study areas was chosen to capture the youth involved in agricultural program under the Ondo State

Wealth Creation Agency (WECA). The agency currently have four (4) Agro business city in ondo state having their headquarters in Ore Ondo Southern Senatorial District, Odigbo Local Government Area. Ondo East Local Government. Ondo East Local Government is located in the equatorial region. The Local Government occupies an area of approximately 896sq kilometers with a population of 76,096 according to the 2006 population census. Odigbo is a Local Government Area in Ondo State, Nigeria. Its headquarters are in the town of Ore. It has an area of 1,818 km² and a population of 230,351 at the 2006 census.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling techniques will be used for this project based on the purpose of the study, where two (2) local government in the region (namely, Odigbo and Ondo east) where chosen because of their proximity to Ondo state and their nature of engagement in agribusiness which suited the data requirement. This was done in consultation with the Ondo State Wealth Creation Agency (WECA).

Method Of Data Collection

For the purpose of this research work, a well-structured questionnaire will be designed and administered to respondents. This is because it is the quickest and easiest method of obtaining data from respondents, which is very large. The questionnaire which will comprise of two sections which are section A and section B and will be prepared with both opened and closed ended questions.

Study Variable and Model Specification

Given agriculture as an occupational technology, the socio-economic, technical and institutional characteristics may influence the level of participation in agricultural production (Damisa *et al.*, 2007; cited in Oladejo *et al*., 2011). The variables, their descriptions, units of measurement and the regression model used was given as: $Y=f(X_1, X_2,.....X_n)$, are shown below:

Y = the level of involvement (indicated by the level of yam output in tubers)

X_1 = educational qualification

X_2 = age

X_3 = household

X_4 = farming experience

X_5 = Annual farm income

X_6 = gender

X_7 = marital status

Methods Of Data Analysis and Presentation

Given agriculture as an occupational technology, the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of youth may influence the level of their participation in agricultural production (Damisa *et al*., 2007; cited in Oladejo *et al*., 2011). Both the Descriptive statistics and logistic (binary model) regression was analyzed using a Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) in order to ensure its completeness, consistency, accuracy and relevance. Descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution tables and percentages were used to analyze data on selected socio-economic characteristics of respondents and rate of participation by different categories of youth was estimated for objective one, two and three. Logistic (binary model) regression was used to analyse the relationship between selected socio-economic characteristics of the youth and level of their involvement in agribusiness for the hypothesis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results in form of tables based on the objectives of the study, and the discussion of the results in each table and conclusions.

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents considered in this study were gender, age, marital status, educational level/qualification, household/family size, farming experience and annual income. Table 1 present these characteristics and indicates that majority (65.8%) of the respondents were males, while 34.2% were females. In most African countries, the provision of food and shelter is the responsibility of the man being the head of the house, particularly Nigeria where this research was conducted. It follows therefore, that the high percentage of young men involved in cassava production was necessitated by their consciousness of such role. Besides, it is observed that apart from their struggle to satisfy their food needs, they needed money obtainable from cassava production in order to support their education and to get themselves busy with something since there is no preferable jobs to do. This is also the reason for which the female young farmers decided to join their male counterparts in cassava production in the study area.

The results from the table revealed that 6.7% of respondents were 25 years of age or less, 65.8% were between the ages of 26-35 years of age while 27.5% of respondents were above 36 years of age. From the table, about of 72.5% of respondents fell within the age bracket of between 15-35 years. This shows that majority of the respondent were within the agriculturally and economically productive age range of 18-50 years. This agrees with the FAO (1996) report that the age range of 15-60 is economically

productive. It is also in accordance with the finding of Ani (1999) who reported that the age of a farmer is very important in agribusiness as it entails experience. The more experience a farmer his, is as a result of the aged of the farmer since he is expected to have acquired much farming techniques.

The marital status of the respondent was also revealed a close margin in the status of respondents, 45.0% were married while 55.0% were single. This could be as a result of the productive age range to which most of them belong and is therefore, responsible for the even distribution.

Table 1: Distribution of the Respondent Based on their Socio-Economic Characteristics

Socio-economic characteristics	Frequency	percentage
Gender		
female	41	34.2
male	79	65.8
Age		
15-25	8	6.7
26-35	79	65.8
36-49	33	27.5
Marital Status		
single	66	55.0
married	54	45.0
Education Qualification		
JSSC	1	.8
WASC/NABTEB	2	1.7
OND/NCE	1	.8
HND	38	31.7
B.sc/B.A/B.tech	70	58.3
M.sc/M.A/M.tech	5	4.2
others	3	2.5
Farming Experience		
1-5	92	76.7
5-10	17	14.2
11-15	11	9.2
Household/Family Size		
1.00	6	5.0
2.00	12	10.0
3.00	18	15.0

4.00	22	18.3
5.00	21	17.5
6.00	8	6.7
7.00	6	5.0
10.00	1	.8
20.00	4	3.3
Annual Income		
20000-25000	34	28.3
26000-30000	16	13.3
31000-35000	14	11.7
>35000	56	46.7
Total	**120**	**100.0**

Source: Field Survey, MAY 2016

The distribution of the respondent according to their educational level/qualification shows that most (58.3%) of the respondents went to university of their choice and obtained their bachelors' degrees (B.sc/B.A/B.Tech), 31.7% of the respondents attained polytechnic to obtain their Higher National Diploma (HND). This followed those who have went further to get their Master Degrees (M.sc/M.A/M.Tech) (4.2%) and then primary, secondary, ordinary national diploma (OND)/national certificate of education (NCE) and those that has no formal education each of which constituted 5.8%. the result shows that all the respondent have one level of the education or the other. This may not be unconnected with the fact that education play a prominent role among farmers as supported by the finding of Amaza and Tashikalma (2003), who noted that education offers the opportunities to earn better and could impart significant variation in skills acquisition and adoption of new ideas.

Analysis of the farming experience of the respondents also reveals that a high proportion (76.7%) of them had 1-5 years of farming experience. This implies that most of the respondent have little knowledge on cassava production and most of them are been trained for quite some time under a government own organization and must have reaped benefits from agricultural production. Adams (1982) also had a similar finding in which he reported that young people constitute a vital force for societal development. To him, other areas of activities suitable for youths are: recreational health programme, home making, vocational programmes, cultural activities, excursion etc. for the youths, therefore, to be involved in cassava production is a decision brought about by felt needs for food, healthy living and other social needs.

The table presents the distribution of the respondents based on their household or

family size. 18.3% of the respondent have four (4) family members, 17.5% has five (5) household, 15.0% have three (3) household, 10% of the respondent have a family members of two (2), followed by those who have family/household size of 1, 6, 7, 10, 20 with percentage of 5.0, 6.7, 5.0, 0.8, 3.3 respectively. This shows that most of the respondent involved in the cassava production belong to low to low number of family members. This could suggest that they have plans for their future, which they know for now depends on agriculture as their means of employment.

Similarly, analysis of the income of the respondents revealed that majority (46.7%) obtained above thirty-six thousand naira (>36,000) annually. Followed by those of between twenty to twenty-five thousand naira (20,000-25,000) annually which constitute 28.3%, this may be considered as low income, which may not be unconnected with lack of proper and adequate resource/inputs such as money, land, fertilizers etc.

Table 4.2 shows the distribution of the respondents based on their level of output. A high proportion of them (33.3%) indicated that they had yields less than 200 roots of cassava. Those of them that fell within the yield range of 200-400 constituted 32.5%, while 5.00% had between 701-1000 roots in a year. The likely reasons why most of the respondents had low yield could be attributed to their inability to adopt the innovative farming practices associated with cassava production. Another possible reason might be the economic constraints that made them unable to acquire the required implements for cassava cultivation as well as the failure to apply recommended inputs which could have raised their level of output.

Table 4.2: Distribution of Respondents Based on Level of Output (number of roots)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
<200	40	33.3	33.3
200-400	39	32.5	32.5
401-700	14	11.7	11.7
701-1000	6	5.0	5.0
>1000	21	17.5	17.5
Total	120	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey, May 2016

Source of capital investment from the respondent in cassava production: result of the study presented on Table 4.3 revealed that an increase number/percentage of respondent (34.2%) get or obtained their seed/investment capital from personal savings in other to finance their business. This follow by those that get their source of capital

form government funding which take up to 32.5%, 14.2% of the respondent found to show an equal representation family members and friends, and also loan from bank as their source of getting investment capital, 5.0% of the respondent depend on loans from corporative societies as their sources of finance. This mean majority of the respondent finance their business with their personal savings and as such it will affect their level of involvement in cassava production.

Table 4.3: Respondent sources of capital investment in cassava production

	Frequency	Percent
Personal savings	41	34.2
Loan from bank	17	14.2
Loans from cooperative societies	6	5.0
Friends and family	17	14.2
Government	39	32.5

Source: Field Survey, May 2016

Table 4.4: Distribution of respondent based on reason for being engaged in cassava production

	Frequency	Percent
Parental influence	2	1.7
Source of income	44	36.7
Lack of other preferable jobs	26	21.7
Urge for self-reliance	48	40.0

Source: Field Survey, May 2016

Table 4.4 presents the distribution of the respondents based on the various reasons for involvement in cassava production. The results showed that 1.7% of the respondents got involved in cassava production because they were influenced by their parent to do so. They might not have known that there is benefit in cassava cultivation until when they are told by their parents and also farming may be occupation of their parent and this might be the source of their influence in farming. It is expected that when they enjoy the income from cassava production they will continue to practice it henceforth. The result also revealed that 36.7% of the respondent choose to engage in cassava production because they perceived it to be a good source of income and livelihood for them. This

set/group of respondents could therefore, be said to be involved in order to make better their living standards and that of the nation and also to be recognized amidst friends and family. Lack of other preferable jobs to do was the reason why 21.7% of the respondent went into cassava production. This means that they are not doing it as a matter of choice but circumstances and issues of life made them to. This issues and circumstances can be from the present state of the economy or their level of understanding or ignorance. However, it is expected that they will later continue to plant cassava because of the money realized from it and some of they might decide to leave for better offer if any. Urge for self-reliance was the reason why 40% of the respondent were involved in cassava production. This implies that most of them sees agricultural production as employment itself from which they can earn their living so as to be independent and self-reliant.

Table 4.5 Distribution of respondents according to constraints to involvement in cassava production

Constraints	Strongly disagree F (%)	Disagree F (%)	Undecided F (%)	Agree F (%)	Strongly agree F (%)	Mean
***Access credit facilities**	22 (18.3)	18 (15.0)	7 (5.8)	34 (28.3)	39 (32.5)	3.4167
***Access agricultural insurance**	15 (12.5)	21 (17.5)	8 (6.7)	43 (35.8)	33 (27.5)	3.4833
***Basic farming knowledge**	13 (10.8)	16 (13.3)	3 (2.5)	47 (39.2)	41 (34.2)	3.7250
***Agribusiness profitable**		2 (1.7)	1 (0.8)	55 (45.8)	62 (51.7)	4.4750
***Market favourable**	9 (7.5)	7 (5.8)		50 (41.7)	54 (45.0)	4.1083
***Investment favourable**	5 (4.2)	8 (6.7)	1 (0.8)	51 (42.5)	55 (45.8)	4.1917
***Agribusiness stressfull**	20 (16.7)	18 (15.0)	8 (6.7)	40 (33.3)	34 (28.3)	3.4167
***Storage facilities**	20 (16.7)	20 (16.7)	4 (3.3)	36	40 (33.3)	3.4667

favourable				(30.0)		
****Rising initial capital***	12 (10.0)	12 (10.0)	4 (3.3)	49 (40.8)	43 (35.8)	3.8250
****Access to land***	13 (10.8)	12 (10.0)	1 (0.8)	54 (45.0)	40 (33.3)	3.8000
****Access tractors other farm input***	21 (17.5)	16 (13.3)	3 (2.5)	36 (30.0)	44 (36.7)	3.5500

Source: Field Survey, May 2016

From Table 4.5 above, it can be seen that 32.5% of the respondents strongly agreed with the notion that access to credit facility to finance agribusiness is a constraint. About 23.3% of the respondents also agreed with the notion. In all, a total 55.8% of the respondents in the study area agreed to the notion that access to credit facility is a constraint.

Even though most of the respondent are trained and some still receiving training under government own organization, they still believe/accept that access to credit facilities from the government of private individual is still a constraint. This implies that majority of the respondent have negative perceptions about having access to credit facilities before joining the government own programme. This finding is in line with Akudugu (2012) which indicated that lack or inadequate access to credit is a crucial militating factor against farmers in financing their farm operations and is one of the major underlying factors of low agricultural productivity in Nigeria.

35.8% of the respondents agreed with the fact that access to agricultural insurance is a constraint. About 27.5% of the respondents also strongly agreed with the notion. In all, a total of 63.3% of the respondents in the study area agree to the notion that access to agricultural insurance is a constraint.

Respondents in the study area give responses to the notion of rising initial capital as a limitation in agribusiness. 40.8% of the respondents agreed to the notion of initial capital been a limitation in involving in cassava production in the study area, also 35.8% of the respondents strongly agreed to the notion. 76.6% of the total respondents in the study area agree to the notion that rising initial capital of any form is a constraint.

Even though every effort make by the government to ensure agricultural has it way in the country and putting every strategy in place in other to achieve this and also some private individuals and venture capitalist give way for entrepreneur's to risen fund for

the businesses, this could not still solve the problem of rising initial capital. These findings agree with Dethier and Effenberger (2011) that economic, social and environmental factors are factors that have been identified in literature to reduce youth involvement in agricultural production in Nigeria. Economic factors include inadequate credit facilities, low farming profit margins, lack of agricultural insurance, and lack of initial capital and production inputs (Akpan, 2010).

None of the respondents in the study area strongly disagree to the fact that agribusiness is profitable, with just 1.7% of the respondent disagree with the fact. The result of the findings reveal that 51.7% of the respondents in the study area strongly agree with the notion that agribusiness is a profitable business and also 45.8% of the respondents agree with the notion. A total of 97.5% of the respondents in the study area agreed to the fact that agribusiness is a profitable one.

It is also reveal in the table above that 39.2% of the respondents in the study area agree to the notion that poor basic farming knowledge is a constraint, also 34.2% of the respondents strongly agree to the notion, this making the total of 73.4% of the respondents to agree to the notion that poor basic farming knowledge is a constraint. These is in-line with the findings of Nnadi and Akwiwu (2008) who posit that youth whose parents are farmers have greater predicted probability of participation in agriculture than those whose parents are not farmers. This is because the background and orientation of the youth by virtue of parents' occupation influences their desire, interests and engagement. He found that parents' occupation positively influenced the youth participation in agricultural production.

It can be seen from the table above that 45.0% of the respondent strongly agree to the notion that market is a constraint to agricultural produce, also 41.7% of the respondents agree to the fact, this shows that majority of the respondents making the total of 86.7% agreed to the notion that market is not favourable to agricultural produce. From the

The responses provided by respondents in Table 4.5, 45.0% of respondents strongly agreed with the notion that return on agricultural investment is favourable. About 42.5% of the respondents also agreed with the notion. In all, a total of 87.5% of the respondents in the study area agree with the notion that return on agricultural investment is favourable. This implies that the majority of youth in the study area was able to get more returns on their investment in cassava production despite all other challenges faced in farming. The perception of the youths could be attributed to the training programme where the respondents were exposed to the business and profit-making aspects of their farming enterprise.

A total of 63.3% of the respondents in the study area agree with the notion that storage facilities is favourable. This is deduces from that notion as shown in the table 4.5 above that 33.3% of the respondent strongly agree to the fact that storage facilities is favourable in the study area, also 30.0% of the respondent agree to the fact. This can be to the fact that the youth trained under the ondo state wealth creation agency (WECA) received government support after that programme. The response from the respondent in the study area as regard either agribusiness or agriculture is stressful and energy-snapping or not as shown in table 4.5 above reveal that 33.3% of the respondents agree to the notion, also 28.3% of the respondents strongly agree to the notion. This makes the total of 61.6% of respondents in the study area agree to the notion that agribusiness is energy-snapping and stressful.

A majority of respondents, representing 78.3% said they had some difficulty in acquiring land for farming purposes, with the breakdown of 45% agreeing to the fact and 33.3% strongly agree to the notion, while 20.8% of respondents said they did not have difficulty in acquiring land for farming activities and 0.8% undecided. This findings was against the findings of Nnadi and Akwiwu (2008) which indicated that the high rate of youth participation in rural agriculture in the Imo State was attributed to the availability of farm lands and also the dependence on land for existence. However, agreed to that fact that most of the youth do not hold title to the land or have access to farm lands due to land tenure system, litigation, high cost of land, long distance from settlement, unfavourable share cropping systems and other related issues (MoFA, 2011b). These factors make it difficult for most farmers to get access to land for agricultural purposes in both the region and country as a whole.

The results from Table 4.5 revealed that 36.7% of respondents strongly agree that access to tractors and other farm inputs as favourable, also 30.0% of respondents agree to the notion. This making the total of 66.7% of the respondents in the study area agree to the notion that access to tractors and other farm inputs as favourable.

Table 4.6: Regression Analysis of the Relationship between the Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents and their Output Level

VARIABLE	Coefficient	Std. Error	P-Value	Decision
Education qualification	-.217	.322	.500	NS (H_0 Accepted)
Gender	-.533	.618	.389	NS (H_0 Accepted)
Age	.791	.562	.159	NS (H_0 Accepted)
Marital Status	-.062	.658	.925	NS (H_0 Accepted)
Household	-.198	.154	.198	NS (H_0 Accepted)

Farming Experience	.800	.387	.039	S (H_0 Rejected)
Annual Income	.368	.233	.114	NS (H_0 Accepted)

R^2 = 0.79

Source: Field Survey, May 2016.

Key: NS = Not Significant

S = Significant at 5% level

The result of logistic regression are presented on Table 4.6. Direct logistic regression was performed to assess the impact of a number of factors on the level of youth involvement in cassava production using their level of output as a dependent variable. The model contained seven (7) independent variable (educational qualifications, gender, age, marital status, family size/household, years of farming experience, and annual income generated). The result pseudo R square shown was 79% of the variations in the dependent variable (i.e. output level) were explained by the independent variable (i.e. the socio-economic characteristics). Out of the seven (7) socio-economic characteristics considered for the regression, only years of farming experience of the respondents was found to be significant while six (6) others i.e. education qualifications, gender, age, marital status, household or family size, annual income of the respondents were found not to be significant. This implies that changes in these independent variable do not reflect any change in the output levels of the respondents. In the case of education and annual income, the youth may prefer other income-earning activities other than farming, due to the fact that when they become more educated with the possibility that their knowledge will be enlighten and to seek for opportunity that will earn them more income.

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS

The primary objective of the study was to assess the involvement of youth in agribusiness; a case of cassava production in Odigbo and Ondo East local government area of Ondo state, Akure and to identify factors that influence the youths involvement in agribusiness. Specifically, objective one of the study was to determine the level of youth's involvement in cassava production in the study area; objective two was to identify the youth's socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area; while objective three was to determine the factors influencing youths involved in cassava production in the study area for improvement. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze objective one, two and three while the logistic regression model was used to analyze hypothesis. The results indicated that about 6.7% of respondents were 25 years

of age or less, 65.8% were between the ages of 26-35 years of age while 27.5% of respondents were above 36 years of age. Also indicates that majority (65.8%) of the respondents were males, while 34.2% were females. About 45.0% were married while 55.0% were single, the marital status of the respondent was also revealed a close margin in the status of respondents.

The logistic (binary model) analysis revealed that the main determinants of youth's involvement in agribusiness were gender, age, marital status, educational level/qualification, household/family size, farming experience and annual income. In this respect, variables that were found to have a positive relationship with level of involvement are age, annual income and farming experience. However, education qualifications, gender, marital status, household or family size, negatively influenced involvement in agribusiness. The logistic model analysis further reveals that farming experience was significant at 5%, while age, gender, education qualification, household size, and annual farm income were not significant at 5%.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on these findings, there is low level of participation for the youths aged between 15-25 years. Male participation is higher than females. Most of the youth farmers (58.3%) went to university of their choice and obtained their bachelors' degrees (B.sc/B.A/B.Tech).Education qualification of the farmer had a negative impact on participation in agribusiness despite the fact that most of them went to university of their choice, this may not be unconnected with the fact that education play a prominent role among farmers as supported by the finding of Amaza and Tashikalma (2003), who noted that education offers the opportunities to earn better and could impart significant variation in skills acquisition and adoption of new ideas.

Annual farm income had a positive impact on participation implying that high farm income motivates young farmers to participate in agribusiness.

Household size had a negative impact on participation this could suggest that they have plans for their future, which they know for now depends on agriculture as their means of employment.

Age of respondents had a positive effect on involving in agribusiness, implying that the more experience a farmer his, is as a result of the aged of the farmer since he is expected to have acquired much farming techniques. It is also in accordance with the finding of Ani (1999) who reported that the age of a farmer is very important in agribusiness as it entails experience.

Farming experience had a positive impact on involving in agribusiness implying that more experienced a farmer his, he's expected to have acquired much farming techniques.

Marital status of respondents had a negative effect on their level of participation in agribusiness, this may imply that productive age range to which most of them belong and is therefore, responsible for the even distribution.

Gender of respondents had a negative effect on youth involvement in agribusiness, implying that in most African countries, the provision of food and shelter is the responsibility of the man being the head of the house, particularly Nigeria where this research was conducted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that:

Government should embark on programmes towards sensitizing the youth (especially those who have just completed basic and second cycle schools) on the incentive package and the benefits to be derived from participating in agribusiness in order to attain a high level of youth's participation. In order to motivate more youth to participate in agribusiness and improve income of farmers, Government, public and private individuals in the various states of the country should develop strategies targeting the following factors:

I. improving the literacy levels of farmers through workshops, seminars and other training programmes;

II. increasing the farm size of farmers in areas where the youth/young farmers farm on government acquired lands by giving larger plots;

III. encouraging farmers to join existing or form new farmer groups;

IV. increasing access to credit facilities such as quantities of farm inputs supplied and training the youth on how to reduce post-harvest losses or store and market their produce in order to improve their farm income;

V. Acquiring more lands for agencies (e.g. WECA) in support of youth in agribusiness from traditional rulers, chiefs and other private land owners and as close as possible to farmers‟ communities.

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