

**DRIVING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE THROUGH AGRICULTURAL
SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING: PANACEA TO UNEMPLOYMENT IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

This paper focuses on driving youth participation through agricultural sector development and funding as the way of reducing unemployment in Nigeria. It examined the importance and contributions of agricultural sector development and funding to employment generation in the country, especially the willingness of the youth to participate and practice agriculture as substitute to the scarce white collar jobs for source of livelihood. Apparently from this study, the youth are willing to participate and practice agriculture to earn a living if government provides enabling environment by making funds available, review of the land tenure system, provision of infrastructural facilities and rural development. It also shows that youth will find agriculture attractive if government partners with private sector in the establishment of modern agriculture villages, providing modern agricultural tools coupled with modern agricultural practice training and skills acquisition to bridge the gap caused by the outdated curriculum of our tertiary institutions. This paper recommends among others public-private collaboration to fund and develop the agricultural sector and establishment of modern agricultural villages. It also recommends that government should incorporate in any existing youth development programmes a six months/a year modern agricultural practice, training for interested youth or newly establishment of such training programmes

Keywords: Agricultural sector, Development and Funding, Unemployment, Youth participation.

INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria's 2013 budget proposal, agriculture got less than 2 percent this reveals the position of the country's commitment to increase its investment or funding on agriculture. It is disheartening to know that allocation to agriculture in 2012 is more than the allocation the sector got in 2013 budget. N83 billion which accounts for 1.7 percent of the budget is below the expected 10 percent of the GDP agreed by the African heads of government in the Maputo Declaration. The body language of the Nigerian government to develop and fund extensively agricultural sector is, not surprising, this is because African nations that are endowed with mineral resources, especially crude oil have been turning deaf ears to agriculture since the discovery of the crude

oil many years ago. The sales of crude oil have been providing access to easy and cool money which make our political leaders not to consider investment in agriculture necessary. For example, the Nigeria 2013 budget is less than half of the expected revenue from crude oil sales and revenue from crude oil sales is always more than double the budget for many years. The excess is disbursed into the 'Excess Crude Oil Account', this is subsequently distributed among the levels of government this prompt them to concentrate on investing in oil industry rather than any other investment from other sectors of the economy Business day Newspaper (2013).

Every developing economy is faced with this developmental problem known as unemployment Patterson et al (2006), and Nigeria being a developing country is also affected. Its effect has been further felt by the youths especially, the graduates. The recent stampede that occurred in Nigeria Immigration Services recruitment exercise of 2014 which claimed no fewer than ten unemployed youth's lives was an indication that the rate of youth unemployment in the country is uncontrollably increasing at an alarming rate. According to Iwayemi (2013) 41% of the total population in 2011 accounted for a labour force of 67.3 million people, from this 67.3 million people 76.1% was gainfully employed. This shows a drop of 10.5% from figure in 2008. An average of two million people entered the labor market for the past five years despite the declining rate of job creation in the economy resulting into unemployment. This tally with the recent statement of the Minister for Finance, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, that no fewer than 1.8 million graduates enter into the labour market every year in the country Nigeria Tribune (2014). Iwayemi (2013) pointed out some remarkable observations that, one of every four Nigerian was unemployed in 2012 in comparison to one of every seven in 2008. Also noteworthy is the fact that unemployment is increasingly becoming a trend in rural areas, with rural accounting for 25.6% and 16.1% in urban areas. He further stated that Yobe state experienced the highest unemployment rate of 39% while Lagos state has the lowest rate of 7.5%. Educational qualification below post graduate had double digit unemployment rates more than 20%, 20.2% for bachelor's degree and 33.4% for senior and junior secondary school leavers. Unemployed educated and young people are a growing trend of the unemployment problem. Iwayemi (2013) classified unemployment rate base on age group thus, 15-24 age-groups has the highest unemployment rate of 37.7%, trailed by the 25-44 age group with unemployment rate of 22.4%, the above classification of poor and unemployed comprises of literate and illiterate young people.

Adequate employment opportunities in the formal economy/labour market are not available to absorb the continuous inflow of labour force. What will attract young people into the agricultural sector is a great deal of coordination and skillful thinking. One of the latest feasible 'solutions' hyped these days is greater youth participation in rural development through agriculture. However, youth participation in the agricultural sector in many developing countries is very low, basically because the sector is extremely unattractive as result of risks, inefficiency,

costs and its labour-intensive nature (Hall 2013). In order to motivate the youth to view agriculture as a career opportunity a general intervention must be targeted towards those within and outside the school system by enticing and sensitizing them. Agriculture accounts for the bulk of GDP in Nigeria and employs a higher absolute number than any other sector (Ruhl 2011). Even though the agricultural sector today contributes about 45 per cent to the nation's GDP, the sector is still far away from attaining its potential. It is important to recognize that agricultural sector composed of farming, gardening, lumbering, fishing, forestry, livestock and poultry. It is supposed that if the agricultural sector is appropriately developed and funded it will complement the oil industry by greatly reducing youth unemployment and boosting the country's gross domestic product. It will also relieve Nigeria overdependence on oil particularly in terms of revenue generation.

Many youths in Nigeria are not motivated by the circumstances surrounding the agricultural sector in the country, all motivating factors to encourage youth participation in agriculture and make it more attractive and lucrative are neglected by the government, for instance lack of supporting infrastructure (storage, good roads network etc) to make production and transportation of agricultural goods to market are unviable. The high amount of underutilized land and the scope for technological development suggests a strong potential for employment creation.

This paper looked at the relationship between motivation in agriculture and youth unemployment in Nigeria, it is attempted to know the willingness of Nigerian youths to participate in agricultural practice if government intervene by providing enabling environment and other necessary assistance. The focus of this study is to provide answer to whether the Nigerian youths will be motivated and find agricultural practices attractive so as to reduce youth unemployment in Nigeria. It also aims at validating if unemployment is really high in Nigeria and if youth participation in agriculture will reduce it. For primary data collection used in this study, a well administered questionnaire was used to obtain data from different category of people particularly the youths from randomly selected LGA in Ogun State and Lagos State of Nigeria. This was further analysed by the Chi-square analysis to show the relationship between youth unemployment and motivation in agriculture. While for the secondary data, different journals and textbooks were consulted for confirmation of the empirical testing and evidence of the study.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There is need to review some literatures and studies in order to account for different perspective to this study or those that will validate the result of this research work. According to a report conducted by Action Aid Nigeria (2013) cited from Ayansina (2013) noted that the country's commitment towards agricultural financing was decreasing on yearly basis, it stated that within

five years 2007-2011 the Nigerian federal government has allocated and average of seemingly 3.5 percent of national budget to agriculture exposing even greater hunger across in the country. Action Aid Nigeria (2013) also revealed that contrary to Nigeria, some African countries like Rwanda, Ghana and Burundi ensure budgetary allocation of 9-10 percent, 10.2 percent and 10.9 percent respectively this aligned them as the few countries that conformed to the 2003 Maputo declaration, cited from Ayansina (2013). This is similar to a study of 'Ghana's agricultural sector; solution to youth unemployment' by Bress-Biney (2013) he observed that the most possible solutions to youth unemployment in Ghana being hyped now a days is the greater participation of the youth in agriculture also see Hall (2013). He stated that agriculture is the bedrock of most developing countries in which Ghana is one.

Bress-Biney (2013) concludes that the importance of agriculture to the development of Ghana economy cannot be overemphasized and therefore should be attractive and lucrative to employ the youth and serve as a catalyst for the overall development of the country's economy. It is the major sector that can rescue our country from its current economic devastation. Government must therefore invest significantly in the rehabilitation of this sector financially. He said major reasons why industries are failing to perform and many collapsing has been that the country has not invested much time, energy and other resources into agriculture. This is as result of little attention is drawn to the important industrial crops like palm tree (oil), cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, and kenaf (used in the production of fiber bags).

Hall (2013) also concluded that those youth within the school system must be targeted and those outside the school system must be lured and sensitized. World Bank (2008) states that as 'traditional job-for-life career paths become scarce', youth entrepreneurship offers an additional way of incorporating youth into nowadays changing labour markets and enhancing their economic freedom. Self-employment provides income for some young people around the world, self-reliance and a dynamic route for growth and the development of human capital. In addition, agricultural practice embraces self-reliance and self-development. Alawode (2013) in a report analyzed in the Punch newspaper stated that although the Nigerian government is not investing financially in agricultural development, some factors like discovery of oil by other countries, increasing unemployment rate, have necessitated and compelled its greater attention to the sector by developing policies that encourage greater private sector investments in the sector.

According to a study by Tasié (2013) to evaluate the effect of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) credit supply on rural farmers in Rivers state using a multi-stage sampling technique for a well administered questionnaire to 90 farmer's beneficiaries. His result shows that seven independent variables were significant and there was a significant F-value. The significant variables are farm size, off-farm income, total household labour, educational level of farmer, gender, farm household size, and IFAD credit. The study also

shows that IFAD credit has positive effect on the well-being of rural farmers and has increase their farm output and income.

As regards unemployment, citing from Imeh (2012), Okafor (2011) observed that unemployment is a global issue, but occurs often in developing countries of the world, with associated social, economic, political, and psychological consequences. Oyebade (2003) added that colossal youth unemployment in any country appears to be far more complex problems. He grouped Nigeria's unemployment into two groups: the older unemployed who are jobless through retrenchment, structural changes, dismissal or liquidation and the younger unemployed, mostly without working experience. Furthering on the discussion some scholars like Echebiri (2005) and Onah (2001) described youth unemployment as the corporation of youth with different background, willing and able to work, but cannot find any. This means supply of labour exceeds the demand and it results into joblessness, unemployment and underemployment. Due to the insufficient employment opportunities in the formal sector, young people may oblige to engage in menial work and other unconventional livelihood sources, thus leading to underemployment cited from Imeh (2012).

According to statistics from National Bureau of Statistics, NBS (2009) the population of Nigerian youth is about 80 million, which represents more than average of the total population of the country accounted for 60% of the population. It shows that 64million of the population are unemployed, while 1.6 million are under-employed. The data on youth unemployment of 1990-2000 revealed that the group with highest number of unemployed was the secondary school leavers. While urban youth aged 20 - 24 pulled a total of 40% unemployment rate and those aged 15-19 has 31% unemployment rate. Also, two-third of the urban unemployed ranges from 15– 24 years old. Moreover, the educated unemployed are likely to be young males with few dependents. There are relatively few secondary school leavers and the menial job expectations of primary-school leavers. Okafor, (2011) opined, there is no consistent movement of unemployment rates in Nigeria. An increase in one or two years is sometimes preceded by a decline in the subsequent years

Accordingly Chinedum (2006) cited from Njoku and Ihugba (2011), he observed that one of the fundamental steps taken by the Nigerian government to reduce the problem of unemployment in Nigeria was the establishment of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), which was established in November 22, 1986 with the aim of quickly and effectively tackling unemployment through designing and implementing innovative programmes, that are focused towards the establishment of training opportunities through the guidance and management support services to graduate farmers and small scale entrepreneurs. The aim of NDE covered across programmes like: Agricultural development programme; Youth employment and vocational skills development programme; Special public works; and Small

scale industries and graduate employment programme, he furthered stated that the purpose of the agricultural programmes is to generate employment for graduates, non-graduates and secondary school leavers in the Agricultural sector, reiterating on self employment in agricultural production and marketing. However, factors such as insufficient funding among others have impeded the effectiveness of the NDE agricultural programmes (Chinedum 2006; reported by Njoku and Ihugba 2011).

Oyebade (2003) from a published report of Punch editorial of June 10, (2003) referred to a report by the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in 2001 stated that an average of about 120,000 graduates are groomed from the universities and other tertiary institutions in the country each year. Also another 500,000 secondary school leavers or college graduates are released out each year, without the hope of getting employed. Although NAPEP confessed the inaccurate number of the unemployed in the country, the agency believes that 50% of the unemployed are youth (The Punch Newspaper 2003).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS & HYPOTHESES

- (i) Does agricultural development/funding drive youth participation in agriculture?
- (ii) Does youth participation in agriculture reduce unemployment?

H_{0a}: There is no significant relationship between agricultural sector developments/funding and youth participation.

H_{1a}: There is significant relationship between agricultural sector developments/funding and youth participation.

H_{0b}: There is no significant relationship between youth participation in agriculture and unemployment.

H_{1b}: There is significant relationship between youth participation in agriculture and unemployment

METHODOLOGY

In order to establish whether there is any relationship between agricultural developments/funding and youth participation in agriculture. With the aim to establish if relationship exists between youth participation in agriculture and unemployment. The study employed a descriptive statistical method known as chi-square(χ^2) statistical method of data analysis to test the hypotheses formulated, also interview was conducted for 60 interviewees to re-test the findings of the chi-square while simple percentage and one way ranking scale was used to describe data collected. A well-structured questionnaire was administered on 300 respondents which were randomly selected among unemployed and employed youth, youth corps (National Youth Service Corps, NYSC) and students from some selected LGAs in Ogun

State and Lagos State to form the sample of the study. The questionnaire presents five sections. It contained close ended questions. Section 1 features the respondent's biography. Section 2 contains twelve questions that have to do with willingness of youth to participation in agriculture, respondents were asked to indicate whether agricultural sector developments/funding could be attributed to it. Three options- yes, no and don't know were provided. Section 4 contains one question relating to reasons for unattractiveness of agriculture to the youth, respondents were asked to indicate which factor causes the loss of interest the most. Four options- strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree and disagree were provided. Section 5 contains one question relating to what could motivate them to practice agriculture, respondent were asked to indicate what will motivate them to practice agriculture. Four options- strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree and disagree were provided. Out of the 300 questionnaires distributed 272 filled copies were received for analysis. Secondary data were obtained from text books, journals and print media.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The tables presented below contain the analytical details relating to the findings from the respondents. Table 1 below, explores the perception of respondents on willingness of youth to practice agriculture if agricultural sector is developed and funded

Table 1: Relationship between youths' participation and agricultural sector development/funding

Responses	N=272	Responses in Percentage (%)
Yes	231	84.93
No	22	8.09
Don't know	19	6.99
Total	272	100%

Table 1 above reveals that two hundred and thirty one(231) respondents are of the opinion that agricultural sector developments/funding contributes significantly to youth participation in agriculture. The respondents stood for YES at 84.93 percent while twenty-two (22) respondents stood against it NO at 8.09 percent, also nineteen (19) respondents stood at DON'T KNOW at 6.99 percent. It means that if government develops and fund the agricultural sector many unemployed youths will participate and practice agriculture.

Table 2 explores the perception of respondents regarding if youths' participation in agriculture will reduce unemployment in Nigeria.

Table 2: Relationship between youths' participation in agriculture and unemployment

Responses	N= 272	Responses in Percentage (%)
Yes	240	88.24
No	10	3.68
Don't Know	22	8.09
Total	272	100%

Table 2 above shows that two hundred and forty (240) respondents are of strong view that youth's participation in agriculture will reduce unemployment. The respondents stood for YES at 88.24 percent and ten (10) stood for NO at 3.68 percent, while twenty-two (22) respondents stood for DON'T KNOW at 8.09 percent. This implies that as government develops and funds the agricultural sector many youth will be encouraged to participate in agriculture and as they engage unemployment will be reduced.

Table 3: Chi-square Computation for Hypothesis A: Relationship between youth participation in agriculture and agricultural sector development/funding.

Response	Observed frequency	Expected frequency	$F_o - F_e$	$(F_o - F_e)^2$	$(F_o - F_e)^2 / F_e$
Yes	231	90.7	140.3	19684.09	217.02
No	22	90.7	-68.7	4719.69	52.04
Don't Know	19	90.7	-71.7	5140.89	5140.89
Total	272	272			$\sum(F_o - F_e)^2 / F_e = 325.74$

$$X^2_{cal} = (F_o - F_e)^2 / F_e = 325.74$$

5% level of significance with 2 degree of freedom

$$X^2_{tab} = X^2_{5\%, 2}$$

$$X^2 = 0.5, 2=5.991$$

$X^2_{cal}(325.74)$ is greater than $X^2_{tab}(5.991)$.

Table 3 above shows that calculated $X^2_{cal} 325.74$ is greater than $X^2_{tab} 5.991$.

The null hypothesis (H_0) is therefore rejected. It indicates therefore, that there is significant relationship between youths' participation in agriculture and agricultural sector developments/funding.

Table 4: Chi-square calculation for hypothesis B: Relationship Between youth participation in agriculture and unemployment.

Response	Observed frequency	Expected frequency	$F_o - F_e$	$(F_o - F_e)^2$	$(F_o - F_e)^2 / F_e$
Yes	240	90.7	149.3	22290.49	245.76
No	10	90.7	-80.7	6512.49	71.80
Don't Know	22	90.7	-68.7	4719.69	52.04
Total	272	272			$\sum(F_o - F_e)^2 / F_e = 369.60$

$$X^2_{cal} = (F_o - F_e)^2 / F_e = 369.60$$

5% level of significance with 2 degree of freedom

$$X^2_{tab} = X^2_{.5\%, 2}$$

$$X^2 = 0.5, 2=5.991$$

$X^2_{cal}(369.60)$ is greater than $X^2_{tab}(5.991)$.

Table 4 above shows that calculated $X^2_{cal} 369.60$ is greater than $X^2_{tab} 5.991$.

The null hypothesis (H_0) is therefore rejected. This reveals therefore, that there is significant relationship between youths' participation in agriculture and unemployment.

Table 5 is to explore the ranking perception of respondents regarding what makes agricultural practices unattractive to youth.

Table 5: Major reasons agricultural practices 1s unattractive to youth in Nigeria among others include

S/n		Ranking Responses (SA &A)	Ranking Responses in (%)
1	Poor pricing of agricultural products	182	66.91
2	Poor funding and neglect of agricultural sector	232	85.29
3	Lack of agricultural and entrepreneurship training and skills for the youth	260	95.59
4	Increased interest in demand for white collar job	272	100
5	Ideology, egoism and civilization as perceived by the youth	242	88.97
6	Laziness and the 'get rich quick syndrome'	230	84.56
7	Lack of social and infrastructural facilities e.g storage, roads	262	96.32
	Total Respondents	272	

It was observed from the table 5 above that increased interest in demand for white collar jobs was ranked first (1st) by all the respondents, this confirms the fact that agricultural practice has been replaced by modern day office work whereby everybody wants to be in an air conditioned office and dressing in a finest suit with a tie. This is couple with a well motivated compensation at the end of the month. Lack of social and infrastructural facilities like storage, good roads, and electricity e.tc was also ranked second (2nd) this shows that the youth are encouraged by the inadequate and non availability of these amenities particularly in the rural areas. Ranked third (3rd) was the lack of modern agricultural and entrepreneurial training and skills for the youth, this reveals that many youth do not possess this skill due to the outdated curriculum of education in our institutions that failed to capture and incorporate modern agricultural practice skills and training for the youth. The respondents ranked ideology, egoism and civilization as perceived by the youth that agriculture practice is a job for rural dwellers and illiterates, fourth (4th), and ranked poor funding and neglect of agricultural sector fifth (5th). While laziness/get rich quick syndrome among the youth and poor pricing of agricultural products were ranked sixth and seventh (6th & 7th) respectively.

Table is to explore the ranking perception of respondents regarding factors that will motivate /encourage youth participation in agricultural practices.

Table 6: Major factors that motivate/encourage youths' participation in agricultural practices in Nigeria among others include

S/n		Ranking Responses	Ranking Responses in (%)
1	Availability of finance and mechanize agricultural tools	272	100
2	Review of land tenure system	262	96.32
3	Provision of social and infrastructural facilities e.g Storage	271	99.63
4	Establishment of agricultural and entrepreneurial training and skills acquisition centre for the youth	270	99.26
5	Rural development/urban-rural linkages	269	98.89
6	Standardize agricultural products pricing	242	88.97
	Total respondents	112	100

It was observed from the table 5 above that all the respondents ranked availability of finance and mechanized tools first (1st) they opined that this will motivate and encourage youths to participate and practice agriculture. They also ranked provision of social and infrastructural facilities like storage, good road network and electricity particularly to rural areas, second (2nd). This establishment of agricultural and entrepreneurial training and skill acquisition centre is also

ranked third (3rd) this shows that the youth are ready to acquire new agricultural practices if government provides one, they opined that it will attract agriculture to the youth. This is in conformity with Tasiu 2013 findings that organizing training programmes for all farmers should be encouraged sequel to the fact that education creates significant influence on the earnings of the farmers. The respondent also ranked rural development/rural urban linkages and review of land tenure fourth and fifth respectively. This reveals that lack of development in the rural discourage the youth from participating in agriculture, also the review of system of land use act, is will be major motivator for the youth which enable them to possess land of their own to cultivate. The respondent also ranked regularization of agricultural products price sixth (6th), this confirms the poor pricing method of the products due to wastage which is caused by lack of proper storage facilities and making it incomparable with world markets.

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

It has been observed that agricultural sector development/funding can curb or reduce unemployment among unemployed or underemployed youth and students etc, who are desirous of being self-boss and employer of labour, due to increase in youth participation in agriculture as a result of the development and funding of the sector by government. The study also revealed that unemployment is very high in Nigeria and government is not doing enough to tackle it rather corruption is encouraged in the country. The research found out that youth are ready to practice agriculture in the absence of the scarce white collar jobs if and only if government can provide enabling environment by funding and developing the agricultural sector.

To confirm the findings/results of this research an interview of sixty (60) interviewees comprises of twenty (20) literate & illiterate unemployed youth, twenty (20) literate & illiterate employed youth, ten (10) Youth Corpers (National Youth Service Scheme) and ten (10) undergraduates. They were randomly selected within Lagos state and Ogun State in Nigeria. This was conducted as method of re-testing of findings. All the interviewees agreed that youth participation in agriculture reduces unemployment, this is in conformity with the earlier findings. They also agreed that agricultural sector development/funding by the government increases youth participation in agriculture, this also conform to the earlier findings.

However, fifty-eight (52) interviewees were of the view that increased interest in demand for white collar jobs as the major reason why youth find agricultural practice unattractive, they opined that the well motivated take-home packages and the conducive work environment make every youth wants white collar jobs, but in the absence of such jobs in our country today many of them may consider agricultural job, but government is not motivating and encouraging them due to lack of funds and infrastructural facilities. It was noted by them that the review of the land tenure system and provision of modern agricultural practice training and skill acquisition centre

are very germane factors to drive the youth participation in agriculture in order to reduce unemployment in the country. Hence, it is very interesting to know that these techniques used gave the same outcome validating that agricultural development/funding have positive effect on youth participation and thereby reduce unemployment.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has helped us to know the vital roles in which agricultural sector can play in tackling the unemployment plague in our country. Though, this sector accounted for about 70% of labour force and 45% of gross domestic product GDP in Nigeria during the 80s when crude oil has not been fully discovered. It is so disheartening that government has abandoned this sensitive and important sector. The government has been looking for ways to solve the unemployment issue but failed to realize that agriculture is the only remedy to this precarious state, it has forgotten that before the discovering of oil it was something that kept people engaged.

This study has validated other studies on agricultural funding and development being the solution to unemployment in Nigeria and other African countries. For instance, Majaliwa (2013) stated that Tanzania should undertake youth mindset in agricultural business undertakings, this step will eradicate the current unemployment problem. He explained that provision of education to youth on entrepreneurship resourcefulness through trainings, workshops and media. Also, accessibility of stress-free capital via availability of loans with enticing interest rates and grants to attract and encourage youth participation in agri-business. He stressed that additional activities like poultry keeping, dairy farming, training and advisory, fishery, agro forestry and cottage as well as agro-processing industries for agric-based foods, are vital areas for the youths to concentrate on for means of income and livelihood. Cited from Majaliwa (2013) "Prof Lascelles Chen said despite the challenges youths face; they remain key drivers and ambassadors of agricultural sector transformation in the country".

Furthermore, it was observed that there are three category of people or youth as related to agricultural participation; the first set of people are those who do not like to practice agriculture at all that is no interest what so ever, no matter how government try to encourage them by developing and funding the sector, they can never practice it except white collar job or other fields. The second set are those who are also not really interested in agricultural practice but in absence of their dream white collar jobs may consider practicing agriculture, if government develop and fund the sector to encourage them. This set of people constitutes highest number of unemployed youth in the country, they will perform better if government/private companies employ them through the establishment of the agricultural village and pay them monthly salary. The third category of people are those who do not like white collar jobs, they prefer to be self-employed and they love and are interested in agricultural practice if

government can provide the necessary assistance like funds, modern machinery and equipment/tools and modern agricultural training.

Thus, the study recommends the following to the government in order to drive and encourage youth participation in agriculture thereby reducing unemployment. Government should increase the awareness and sensitization on benefit of practicing agriculture by the youth to the economy and to themselves rather than looking for a salary paid jobs. The youth should be informed that agriculture practice should not be seen as a job for the rural dwellers, the illiterate and the poor, but be seen as other career jobs.

Government should partner with private sector to invest in agricultural sector and employ the youth to pay them monthly salary to those who want that. This means that federal government can collaborate with states and local government, private companies or organization to establish large agriculture villages across the six (6) geo-political zones or in all the thirty-six (36) states of the country to employ thousands of the youth and pay them monthly salaries. This is related to the view of Tasie 2013 that IFAD and their collaborating government agencies should increase their credit delivery so as to allow farmers benefit from their services. Incorporating modern agricultural practice in our education curriculum is also very important, this is to arouse the interest for agriculture of youth from their primary or secondary to tertiary, where institutions provide, conduct agricultural practical for their students. The importance of modern agricultural training and skills acquisition cannot be overemphasized, so, government at all levels should incorporate in any existing youth development programmes for instance, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), YouWin, SUREP etc, a six months or a year modern agricultural practice, training for interested youth or establishment of new programmes for the training.

It is also very important to review the land tenure system in Nigeria to make land easily available for the youth that are interested in setting up their personal agric-farm. This study recommends that government should lease out land free to the youth for first four years agreement which could be subjected to a review after the fourth year and a little rent fee will be paid to the government by the beneficiaries, this could be done in all the levels of governments that is, local, state and federal.

Provision of financial assistance and modern agricultural machinery/equipment & tools is also recommended for easy accessibility of fund to the youth. Provision of infrastructural and social facilities like electricity, water, storage and roads etc will also trigger the zeal to practice agriculture among the youth. Finally, there is need to develop our rural areas and make urban-rural linkages priority, developing the rural areas to be habitable for the youth will encourage them to settle down and practice agriculture in the rural areas provided there are social amenities, easy, durable and fast access roads to the cities.

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