

**ENGAGING YOUTH IN AGRIPRENEURSHIP: STRATEGIES FOR  
FOSTERING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
IN EDO STATE**

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### **CERTIFICATION**

We the undersigned hereby certify that this work was carried out by Prayer ABISOYE with the Matriculation Number EDU2009513 from the Department of Agricultural/Fine and Applied Arts Education, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria In partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science Degree B.Sc.(Ed) in Agricultural Education of University of Benin, Benin City

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## DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to the Almighty God for His divine mercy, love, grace, wisdom, understanding, strength and assistance granted throughout this study.

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study is on "Engaging Youth in Agripreneurship: Strategies for Fostering Agricultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship among Youths in Edo State,". It investigates the challenges limiting youth participation in agribusiness and identifies strategies that can enhance their involvement in the sector. The research was guided by four research questions and four purposes of study.

The study employs a descriptive survey research design, With a population of 150,203 youth involved in agripreneurship in Edo State, a sample of 150 respondents was selected using simple random sampling due to the large population size. The research instrument was a structured questionnaire, validated by my supervisor and two lecturers from the Department of Vocational and Technical Education, University of Benin.the instrument was tested for reliability using pearson correlation coefficient yielding a coefficient of 0.68.

The analysis was conducted using mean and standard deviation, with a threshold of 2.5 for acceptance of responses.

The Findings revealed that digital agriculture platforms, cooperative farming models,agribusiness incubators and hubs, and government-subsidized youth agribusiness loans would significantly support young agripreneurs in Edo State. However, challenges such as limited access to land, unfavorable government policies, inadequate agricultural training, lack of mentorship, and negative perceptions of agriculture continue to hinder youth participation.

To address these barriers, the study recommends Establishing youth-focused agricultural training programs that combine practical experience with modern agribusiness education to bridge knowledge and skills gaps,Developing financial support systems such as grants, low-interest loans, and investment incentives tailored to young agripreneurs to overcome funding constraints

This research highlights that integrating modern agricultural techniques and creating enabling environments can significantly enhance youth engagement, boost agricultural productivity, and contribute to the economic development of Edo State

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Background of the Study**

Agriculture has long been the backbone of many economies, particularly in developing countries, where it provides food, employment, and raw materials for industries. In Nigeria, agriculture plays a crucial role, contributing significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employing a large portion of the population (Nwafor et al., 2011). In 2020, agriculture contributed about 21.91% to Nigeria's GDP and employed over 70% of its labor force, making it a critical sector for economic stability and development (National Bureau of Statistics, 2021). The sector encompasses a wide range of activities, including crop production, livestock farming, forestry, and fisheries. Historically, agriculture in Nigeria has been characterized by smallholder farming, with limited use of modern inputs and technology. This has resulted in low productivity and inefficiencies. For example, the average yield of major crops in Nigeria is significantly lower than the global average. Maize yields, for instance, average about 1.5 tons per hectare compared to the global average of 5.5 tons per hectare (FAO, 2019). Similarly, rice yields in Nigeria are about 2.5 tons per hectare, significantly lower than the 6 tons per hectare global average (FAO, 2019). These productivity gaps are primarily due to traditional farming practices, poor access to quality inputs, inadequate extension services, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to modern technologies. These challenges are exacerbated by the aging population of farmers and the lack of interest among youth in pursuing agricultural related careers and Agripreneurship. Agripreneurship, an innovative blend of agriculture and entrepreneurship which is the activity of starting and managing a business with the aim of generating profit, aimed at transforming traditional farming practices into profitable ventures offers a potential solution to these challenges. It involves applying innovative business models and technologies to agricultural practices, thereby enhancing productivity, sustainability, and profitability (OECD, 2015). Engaging youth in agripreneurship is particularly important for several reasons. First, the youth population in Nigeria is substantial, with individuals aged 18-35 constituting about 60% of the country's population (World Bank, 2020). This demographic segment represents a significant potential workforce that can drive agricultural innovation which is the introduction and application of new ideas, technologies, or methods to improve agricultural practices and outcome if effectively engaged, youth are typically more open to adopting new technologies and innovative practices, which are crucial for modernizing agriculture, also engaging youth in agripreneurship can help address the high levels of youth unemployment in Nigeria, which stood at 53.4% in the fourth quarter of 2020 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2021). So therefore engaging youth in agripreneurship is critical for revitalizing the agricultural sector and ensuring food security. In Edo State, like many other regions in Nigeria, youth engagement in agriculture remains low despite its potential benefits. Several factors contribute to this situation. These include pervasive perception among youth that agriculture is a labor-intensive, low-income, and unattractive career option.

This perception is often reinforced by societal attitudes and the portrayal of agriculture in the media (Oluwatayo & Oluwatayo, 2012). Youth face significant barriers to entry into agripreneurship, including limited access to land, finance, and training. Land ownership in Nigeria is often restricted by traditional and legal constraints, making it difficult for young people to acquire the land needed for farming (FAO, 2018). Similarly, access to finance is a major challenge, as many financial institutions perceive agriculture as high-risk and are reluctant to provide loans to young farmers (IFAD, 2019). Furthermore, there is a lack of adequate training and educational opportunities that can equip youth with the skills needed for modern agribusiness. Many agricultural education programs in Nigeria are outdated and do not cover modern farming techniques or agribusiness management (Adekunle & Fatunbi, 2012). This gap in knowledge and skills further discourages youth from pursuing careers in agriculture.

Edo State, with its fertile land and favorable climate, holds significant potential for agricultural development. The state is known for the production of various crops, including oil palm, rubber, cocoa, maize, and cassava. However, the agricultural sector in Edo State faces the same challenges as the rest of Nigeria, including low productivity, limited access to modern technologies, and a declining interest among the youth. Several initiatives have been launched to promote agripreneurship and engage youth in agriculture in Edo State.

These include government programs, non-governmental organization (NGO) initiatives, and private sector interventions. For example, the Edo State Agripreneurship Program aims to train and support young farmers in modern agricultural practices and agribusiness management. Similarly, various NGOs and development agencies are working to improve access to finance, training, and markets for young agripreneurs (Akinbami et al., 2019).

However, the impact of these initiatives has been limited due to various challenges, including poor implementation, lack of coordination, and insufficient targeting of the specific needs of young agripreneurs.

To address these issues and effectively engage youth in agripreneurship, it is essential to identify and implement strategies that can overcome the barriers and foster a culture of

innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture. These strategies should be based on a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the context of Edo State. They should also be designed to leverage the strengths and potential of the youth demographic, while addressing the systemic issues that hinder their participation in agripreneurship.

#### Statement of Problem

The agricultural sector in Edo State faces a significant challenge: despite its vast potential for economic growth and job creation, there is a notable reluctance among the youth to engage in agripreneurship or consider agriculture as a viable career path. This reluctance is influenced by multiple factors, including the perception of agriculture as a low-status, high-risk profession characterized by drudgery and limited financial returns. Many young people view agriculture as an unattractive option due to

its demanding nature and the limited opportunities for quick financial gains. Moreover, young aspiring agripreneurs often encounter substantial barriers, such as restricted access to critical resources like land, capital, and modern technologies. The lack of adequate support systems further exacerbates these challenges, making agricultural

work appear more strenuous and less appealing (IFAD, 2019; World Bank, 2020).

Agripreneurship presents immense prospects for economic growth, innovation, and job creation, especially in a region like Edo State with its rich agricultural potential. Engaging youth in agripreneurship can lead to the development of modern farming techniques, improved food security, and the transformation of agriculture into a more attractive and profitable sector. The infusion of entrepreneurial ideas into agriculture can stimulate rural development, create employment opportunities, and reduce the high rate of youth unemployment.

#### Research Questions

The study will be guided by the following research questions

1. What are the main barriers preventing youth from engaging in agripreneurship in Edo State?
2. Which successful agripreneurship models and initiatives from other regions and countries can be effectively adapted to the Edo State context?
3. What specific strategies can be developed to overcome the barriers to youth engagement in agripreneurship in Edo State?
4. How can these strategies be implemented to maximize their impact on youth engagement, agricultural productivity, and economic development?

#### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to explore and propose effective strategies for fostering agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship among youths in Edo State.

The study intends to specifically:

1. Identifying Barriers to Youth Participation in agripreneurship in Edo state including social, economic and institutional factors
2. Assessing Existing Programs and Policies aimed at supporting youth agripreneurs in Edo State.
3. Proposing Actionable Strategies that can foster agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship among youths.
4. Assessing the Socio-Economic Impact of increased youth participation in agripreneurship.

#### Significance of the Study

This study on fostering youth engagement in agripreneurship in Edo State holds significant value for a variety of stakeholders, including youths, policymakers, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the broader agricultural community. By addressing key barriers and proposing strategies for enhancing youth participation in agriculture, the findings of this study are expected to contribute meaningfully to economic development, food security, and rural

transformation. The significance of the study can be understood through its potential benefits to the following groups:

The primary beneficiaries of this study are the youths in Edo State, This study will highlight specific strategies and policy recommendations to make agripreneurship more accessible and attractive to young people because engaging youth in agripreneurship has the potential to rejuvenate the agricultural sector by introducing innovation, entrepreneurship, and modern farming techniques.

Policymakers at the state and federal levels will benefit from the evidence-based recommendations provided by the study, thereby Improving policymaking in agriculture which will not only address youth unemployment but also contribute to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector, enhancing food security and economic resilience.

Educational institutions, vocational training centers, and NGOs involved in youth development and agricultural programs stand to benefit from the insights gained in this study. Building capacity among youth is essential for fostering entrepreneurship and innovation in agriculture, which can lead to increased productivity, economic growth, and the creation of sustainable farming practices.

The agricultural sector in Edo State and beyond will benefit from increased innovation, productivity, and participation from younger generations. The infusion of entrepreneurial thinking and innovative practices into agriculture will help address the challenges of food insecurity, inefficiency, and the declining interest in farming, ensuring that the sector remains a viable contributor to the state's and nation's economy.

The study will have direct benefits for rural communities in Edo State, where agriculture

is a key source of livelihood. Engaging youth in agriculture can foster a new generation of farmers and entrepreneurs who will continue to invest in and develop rural communities.

#### Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The study will assess the engagement of youths in agripreneurship and strategies for fostering agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship among youths in Edo state, Nigeria.

The study is confined to Edo State, one of Nigeria's key agricultural regions.

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## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This chapter is designed to review related literature of this study under the following subheadings

- Theoretical Framework
- Concept of Agripreneurship
- Concept of Youth in Agripreneur
- Barriers to Youth Engagement in Agripreneurship
- Successful Agripreneurship Models and Innovative
- The Role of Technology and Innovation in Agripreneurship
- Strategies for Fostering Youth Engagement in Agripreneurship
- Review of Related Empirical Literature
- Summary of Literature Review

#### **Theoretical Framework**

The work is hinged on the theory of innovation by Schumpeter and the theory of entrepreneurial discovery by Kirzner. Schumpeter's theory of innovation posits that entrepreneurs are central to economic development by introducing innovative that disrupt market and create new opportunities (Schumpeter 1934).

Kirzner's theory of entrepreneurial discovery explains that entrepreneurs are alert individuals who discover opportunities that others fail to notice (Kirzner 1973). Youth agripreneurs, by being open to modern technologies and innovative farming methods, can identify gaps in the agricultural sector and exploit them to create successful agribusinesses.

This alertness is crucial, especially in rural settings, where traditional farming practices may dominate, leaving room for innovative agripreneurial ventures.

In addition, the resource-based theory emphasizes the importance of having access to unique resources, including land, capital, and knowledge, which are vital for agripreneurship. According to Barney (1991), firms that possess resources that are valuable, rare, inimitable, and non-substitutable are more likely to achieve competitive advantage.

For young agripreneurs, accessing such resources can be a challenge, especially in environments where traditional systems of land ownership and financial exclusion persist.

Thus, entrepreneurship theory helps to contextualize the challenges and opportunities faced by youths engaging in agripreneurship.

Another relevant model is the participatory development model, which focuses on empowering local communities, including youth, to participate in decision-making processes. In agripreneurship, this model emphasizes youth involvement in creating agricultural policies and initiatives that affect them directly. Participatory development approaches are particularly relevant in regions like Edo State, where youth involvement in agricultural policy formulation could lead to more tailored and effective interventions

(Pretty, 1995).

The Concept of Agripreneurship

Agripreneurship is a blend of agriculture and entrepreneurship, where individuals or groups engage in agricultural ventures that focus not only on production but also on adding value and innovating within the agricultural value chain.

Agripreneurship refers to entrepreneurial ventures in agriculture that apply business principles to the farming sector, focusing on the commercialization of agriculture and the creation of value-added products. It involves innovative agricultural practices, marketing, and supply chain management to meet the growing demands of consumers (Olugbola,

2017). Agripreneurs are not merely farmers; they are business-oriented individuals who seek to maximize profits while addressing food security challenges. The scope of agripreneurship goes beyond primary production and includes processing, packaging, marketing, and distribution of agricultural products. This scope is vital in the context of youth engagement, as young people can participate in various segments of the agricultural value chain, from food processing industries to agribusiness startups that focus on new

technologies like precision farming (Adekunle et al., 2020).

Agripreneurship is crucial for transforming the agricultural sector from subsistence farming to a more sustainable and profitable venture. It plays a significant role in improving agricultural productivity, creating jobs, and ensuring food security.

According to the Food

and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2017), agripreneurship fosters innovation by encouraging farmers and agribusinesses to adopt new technologies that improve crop yields,

reduce waste, and create value-added products.

For youth, agripreneurship presents an opportunity to enter a sector traditionally viewed as labor-intensive and unappealing. By introducing modern farming techniques and innovative business models, agripreneurship can change perceptions of agriculture among young people, making it a more attractive and viable career option (wosu et al., 2015).

Moreover, agripreneurship can address youth unemployment by creating sustainable jobs in both rural and urban areas, contributing to economic development. In Nigeria, agripreneurship is gaining attention as a key strategy for addressing youth unemployment and boosting agricultural productivity. The Nigerian government, through various initiatives such as the Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP), has recognized the potential of agripreneurship to drive economic growth and reduce youth unemployment (Osabohien et al., 2021). However, despite these efforts, many challenges remain, including access to land, finance, and modern agricultural technologies.

According to Agboola et al. (2019), youth engagement in agripreneurship in Nigeria is hindered by the perception that agriculture is a low-status profession with minimal financial returns. Nevertheless, successful agripreneurship programs, such as those initiated by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) have demonstrated that youth can be effectively engaged in agribusiness when provided with the necessary support, including training, mentorship, and access to markets

(IFAD, 2019).

### The Concept of Youth in Agripreneurship

Youth play a critical role in the development of the agricultural sector, especially when equipped with the tools and knowledge to engage in agripreneurial activities. Nigeria has one of the largest youth populations in the world, with individuals aged 15-35 years making up over 60% of the total population (NBS, 2018). This large demographic presents both opportunities and challenges for the country's economic development. In rural areas, where agriculture is the primary economic activity, youth engagement in agriculture is critical to ensuring the sustainability of the agricultural sector. However, many young people are migrating to urban areas in search of better job opportunities, leaving behind an aging farming population (Akinyemi et al., 2019). Youth perception of agriculture is shaped by various factors, including cultural norms, family background, and exposure to modern agricultural practices. Many young people in Nigeria perceive agriculture as a labor-intensive and unprofitable sector, a perception reinforced by traditional farming practices and low levels of mechanization (Alarima et al., 2017). However, agripreneurship offers an alternative view of agriculture, one that emphasizes innovation, profitability, and the potential for economic growth.

According to a study by Nwibo and Okorie (2013), young people who view agriculture through the lens of agribusiness are more likely to engage in the sector. Exposure to entrepreneurial education and modern agricultural technologies can shift youth perceptions, making agriculture a more attractive career choice. Initiatives such as the IITA's Youth

Agripreneur Program have been successful in changing perceptions by showcasing successful young agripreneurs who have built profitable agribusinesses (IFAD, 2019). Youth participation in agripreneurship offers numerous benefits, both for the individual and for society at large. Engaging young people in agribusiness can reduce youth unemployment, enhance food security, and drive rural development. According to FAO

2017), youth are more likely to adopt new agricultural technologies and innovative farming practices, which can lead to increased productivity and sustainability in the agricultural sector.

Youth agripreneurs also contribute to the diversification of rural economies by creating

new business opportunities in areas such as agro-processing, marketing, and distribution.

This diversification reduces dependence on subsistence farming and promotes economic growth in rural communities (World Bank, 2020). Additionally, youth engagement in agripreneurship can lead to social and cultural changes, as young people challenge traditional gender roles and encourage greater participation of women in the agricultural value chain (Osabohien et al., 2021).

### Barriers to Youth Engagement in Agripreneurship

While agripreneurship holds significant potential for youth, several barriers prevent

young people from fully engaging in the sector. Some of those barriers include;

#### 1. Access to Land

Land access remains a major challenge for youth who want to engage in agripreneurship.

In many African countries, including Nigeria, traditional land tenure systems limit young people's ability to acquire land for agricultural purposes. Land is often owned by older generations and passed down through family lines, making it difficult for young people to secure land for farming (Nwosu et al., 2015). This issue is particularly prevalent in rural areas, where customary land tenure systems dominate.

Without access to land, young

agripreneurs are unable to scale their businesses or invest in long-term agricultural projects.

#### 2. Access to Finance and Credit

Access to finance is another significant barrier for youth agripreneurs. Young people often face difficulties in securing loans from financial institutions due to lack of collateral, credit history, and business experience. According to a study by Adebayo and Olagunju (2015), financial institutions perceive youth agripreneurs as high-risk borrowers, which limits their ability to access the capital needed to start or expand their agribusinesses. Moreover, government programs aimed at providing credit to youth are often underfunded or poorly implemented, further exacerbating the challenge.

#### 3. Access to Training and Skills Development

Many young people entering the agricultural sector lack the technical knowledge and business skills needed to succeed in agripreneurship. A study by Alarima et al. (2017) found that most youth agripreneurs in Nigeria have limited access to training programs that teach modern farming techniques, agribusiness management, and value chain development.

Without adequate training, youth are less able to innovate or adopt new technologies that could improve agricultural productivity and profitability.

#### 4.. Social and Cultural Barriers

Social and cultural factors also play a role in limiting youth engagement in agripreneurship.

In many rural communities, agriculture is seen as a low-status profession that is only suitable for older generations or those who are unable to secure formal employment (Nwibo & Okorie, 2013). This perception discourages young people from pursuing careers in agriculture, particularly in agribusiness. Additionally, gender roles in rural communities often limit the participation of young women in agripreneurship, as they are expected to focus on household responsibilities rather than entrepreneurial ventures (World Bank, 2020).

#### 5.. Policy and Institutional Barriers

While several government initiatives aim to promote youth engagement in agripreneurship, policy and institutional barriers continue to limit the effectiveness of these programs.

According to Osabohien et al. (2021), many youth-targeted agricultural programs in Nigeria suffer from poor implementation, lack of transparency, and limited funding. Additionally, existing agricultural policies often fail to address the specific needs of young agripreneurs, particularly in areas such as land reform and access to finance.

#### Successful Agripreneurship Models and Initiatives

Despite the challenges, several successful agripreneurship models and initiatives have emerged globally and within Nigeria, offering valuable lessons for fostering youth engagement in agriculture. Some of which include;

##### 1. Global Agripreneurship Models

Around the world, innovative agripreneurship models have demonstrated the potential of agriculture as a viable and profitable business for youth. For example, in Kenya, the "One Acre Fund" has supported smallholder farmers, including youth, by providing training, financial support, and access to markets. This model has empowered young farmers to increase their productivity and scale their operations (World Bank, 2020). Similarly, India's agritech startups, such as "DeHaat," are utilizing digital platforms to connect young farmers with input suppliers, buyers, and financial services, thereby enabling them to thrive in the agricultural value chain (Singh et al., 2020).

##### 2. Nigerian Agripreneurship Programs

In Nigeria, several initiatives have been implemented to promote youth engagement in agripreneurship. The Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP) is one such program that aims to create job opportunities for youth in agriculture by providing training, mentorship, and access to finance (IFAD, 2019). The IITA's Youth Agripreneur program has also been successful in training young people to become agribusiness entrepreneurs by offering hands-on experience in modern farming techniques and agribusiness management (Akinyemi et al., 2019).

##### 3. Lessons Learned from Successful Agripreneurship Programs

The success of these agripreneurship programs highlights several key lessons that can be applied to foster youth engagement in agripreneurship in Edo State. First, providing youth with access to training, mentorship, and financial support is critical to their success in agribusiness. Second, integrating modern technology and digital platforms into agricultural value chains can enhance the productivity and profitability of young agripreneurs. Finally, successful programs must address the specific challenges faced by youth, such as access to land and finance, through targeted policy interventions and institutional reforms (World Bank, 2020; IFAD, 2019).

#### The Role of Technology and Innovation in Agripreneurship

Technology and innovation are transforming agripreneurship by improving productivity, reducing costs, and creating new business opportunities in the agricultural sector. Digital agriculture, which involves the use of mobile technologies, data analytics, and digital platforms, is playing a significant role in modernizing agripreneurship. According to Adewale et al. (2020), digital tools such as mobile apps, online marketplaces, and precision farming technologies enable young agripreneurs to access real-time market information, monitor crop performance, and improve decision-making. In Nigeria, platforms such as "FarmCrowdy" have empowered

young agripreneurs to crowdsource funding for their agricultural ventures while providing access to input suppliers and buyers (IFAD, 2019).

Innovation in agricultural value chains is critical to the success of agripreneurship. By adopting new technologies, young agripreneurs can increase the efficiency and profitability of their businesses. For example, value-added processing, such as turning raw agricultural products into processed goods, allows youth agripreneurs to tap into higher-value markets and increase their profit margins (Adekunle et al., 2020). Similarly, innovations in supply chain management, such as cold storage facilities and logistics solutions, reduce post-harvest losses and ensure that agricultural products reach markets in optimal condition (Agboola et al., 2019).

Emerging agricultural technologies, including drones, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and

blockchain, are revolutionizing agripreneurship by providing new ways to monitor crops, manage resources, and ensure food safety. According to Agboola et al. (2019), the use of drones in precision agriculture allows farmers to monitor crop health, optimize input usage, and improve yields. Blockchain technology, on the other hand, provides transparency in the agricultural supply chain, ensuring that farmers receive fair prices for their products while reducing fraud and inefficiencies in the market.

#### Strategies for Fostering Youth Engagement in Agripreneurship

Given the barriers identified earlier, several strategies have been proposed and implemented to foster youth engagement in agripreneurship. These strategies focus on enhancing access to resources, developing capacity-building programs, leveraging government policies, and promoting agripreneurship through awareness and advocacy.

##### 1. Enhancing Access to Resources

Enhancing access to key resources, such as land, finance, and technology, is essential for encouraging youth participation in agripreneurship. According to Nwosu et al. (2015), land reform policies that provide young agripreneurs with secure land tenure or affordable leases can significantly increase youth engagement in agriculture. Additionally, financial institutions and government programs must develop youth-friendly loan products that do not require excessive collateral or credit history (Adebayo & Olagunju, 2015).

##### 2. Developing Capacity-Building and Training Programs

Capacity-building programs that provide young people with the technical knowledge and business skills needed for agripreneurship are critical to their success. Programs that offer hands-on experience in modern farming techniques, agribusiness management, and value chain development have been shown to increase youth engagement in agripreneurship (Alarima et al., 2017). Training programs should also focus on fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among young people, encouraging them to view agriculture as a viable and profitable business.

##### 3. Leveraging Government Policies and Initiatives

Government policies and initiatives play a key role in promoting youth engagement in agripreneurship. Policies that provide subsidies for agricultural inputs, tax incentives

for agribusinesses, and grants for startups can reduce the financial barriers faced by young agripreneurs (IFAD, 2019). Additionally, government programs that focus on rural development and infrastructure improvements can create an enabling environment for agripreneurship to thrive.

#### 4. Promoting Agripreneurship through Awareness and Advocacy

Promoting agripreneurship through awareness campaigns and advocacy is essential for changing perceptions of agriculture among young people. By showcasing successful youth agripreneurs and highlighting the profitability of agribusiness, awareness campaigns can encourage more young people to consider careers in agriculture. Advocacy efforts that focus on policy reforms, such as land access and financial inclusion, can also help remove the barriers that prevent youth from engaging in agripreneurship (Adekunle et al., 2020).

#### Review of Related Empirical Literature

The review of related empirical literature presents a comprehensive analysis of research findings that inform the current study on youth engagement in agripreneurship in Edo State, Nigeria. This section organizes and synthesizes empirical studies on themes relevant to agripreneurship, focusing on youth engagement, entrepreneurship, innovation, and the challenges and opportunities that shape youth participation in agriculture. Each study's findings, methodologies, and implications are critically analyzed, with an emphasis on their relevance to this research. The review highlights gaps in existing literature that justify the need for further research on agripreneurship among youths in Edo State.

Studies across Africa and Nigeria in particular have investigated youth engagement in agriculture and agripreneurship, emphasizing the importance of addressing unemployment and promoting economic development through agriculture. Nwosu et al. (2015) examine agripreneurship's role in transforming Nigeria's agricultural sector, showing that youth participation in agripreneurship can enhance rural livelihoods and reduce unemployment.

Similarly, Adebayo and Olagunju (2015) explore agricultural innovations as a pathway to improve rural livelihoods in Nigeria, emphasizing that integrating entrepreneurship and innovation in agriculture can lead to increased youth interest and engagement.

Research by Agboola, Ogunremi, and Adeleke (2019) focuses specifically on the barriers that prevent Nigerian youth from actively participating in agripreneurship, identifying issues such as limited access to land and finance, as well as socio-cultural perceptions that

discourage youth from viewing agriculture as a viable career. Adekunle et al. (2020) provide further evidence on agripreneurship development among Nigerian youths, arguing that capacity-building programs and supportive policies are essential to foster youth-led agricultural enterprises.

Youth engagement in agriculture has become a focal point of agricultural policy and research in Nigeria, as many scholars have noted the sector's potential to address high youth unemployment rates. For instance, Alarima et al. (2017) analyze determinants

of youth involvement in agriculture in rural Nigeria, finding that while youth show interest in agriculture, lack of support systems, including financial and training resources, limits their

participation. Osabohien et al. (2021) further support this, demonstrating that youth view agriculture as a low-status profession, which negatively impacts engagement. These findings are critical for understanding youth perceptions and the socio-cultural challenges

that must be addressed to promote agripreneurship. The role of entrepreneurship and innovation in agriculture has received substantial attention from researchers, who argue

that these elements are essential to making agriculture attractive to youth. Kirzner (1973)

discusses entrepreneurship as a process of identifying opportunities, a perspective applicable to agripreneurship, where youth are encouraged to create value through agricultural ventures. Schumpeter's (1934) theories on economic development emphasize innovation as a driving force for entrepreneurship, highlighting that fostering innovation in agriculture can lead to increased productivity and economic growth. In the Nigerian context, Nwibo and Okorie (2013) suggest that agripreneurship can be a transformative

tool if supported by targeted training and innovation initiatives.

Singh et al. (2020) examine the impact of agritech startups in transforming Indian agriculture, providing insights into how similar innovations could potentially boost youth engagement in Nigerian agriculture. These studies underscore the need for an ecosystem that encourages both entrepreneurial thinking and technological innovation, which is pertinent to engaging Nigerian youth in agripreneurship.

Several studies identify barriers and opportunities in agripreneurship, highlighting factors that either hinder or foster youth participation. Agboola et al. (2019) list limited access to land, insufficient funding, and lack of training as critical barriers for Nigerian youth.

Similarly, research by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2017) indicates that structural issues like market access and lack of institutional support are significant

obstacles. However, opportunities exist in leveraging technology and creating government-backed agripreneurship programs, as shown in studies by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD, 2019). Such initiatives can provide young agripreneurs

with resources, mentoring, and financial support.

Methodologically, studies on youth engagement in agripreneurship use a mix of quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews, revealing both similarities and differences

in findings. For instance, quantitative studies by Agboola et al. (2019) and Alarima et al.

(2017) focus on statistical correlations between youth engagement and various barriers, while qualitative research, such as Nwibo and Okorie (2013), delves into the

perceptions and experiences of young agripreneurs. The comparative analysis reveals a consistent emphasis on access to resources and institutional support as crucial for promoting youth engagement in agriculture, though gaps remain in understanding regional-specific dynamics within Nigeria, particularly Edo State.

Each of the reviewed studies informs the current research by providing a framework to understand the multifaceted issues surrounding youth engagement in agripreneurship. For example, Alarima et al. (2017) and Agboola et al. (2019) highlight barriers that may be applicable to youth in Edo State, emphasizing the need for context-specific approaches.

Studies on agritech by Singh et al. (2020) provide insights into how technology can transform agriculture, suggesting possible interventions to make agriculture more appealing to Edo State youth. By connecting these findings to the current study, this review builds a foundation for exploring strategies to foster agripreneurship and innovation in Edo

State.

Despite extensive research on youth and agripreneurship, gaps exist in the literature that underscore the need for the current study. Notably, there is limited empirical research focusing specifically on Edo State, despite its unique agricultural potential and youth demographics. Additionally, while studies have explored challenges in youth agripreneurship, few have examined the integration of localized solutions and innovative models tailored to the socio-economic landscape of Edo State. These gaps justify the need

for further research to provide contextually relevant strategies for engaging youth in agripreneurship, which is the primary aim of this study.

#### Summary of Literature Review

The review of literature provides a comprehensive understanding of the factors that influence youth engagement in agripreneurship, the barriers they face, and the strategies for fostering participation. Key insights from the empirical literature suggest that access to

land, finance, and skills development are the primary barriers to youth involvement in agripreneurship. Traditional land tenure systems, lack of collateral, and insufficient technical training have consistently emerged as significant constraints preventing youth from fully participating in agribusiness (Adebayo & Olagunju, 2015; Nwosu et al., 2015).

At the same time, the literature highlights the critical role of policy, institutional support, and technology in overcoming these barriers. Programs such as the IITA Youth Agripreneur program and government-led initiatives like the ATA have demonstrated that youth

participation in agribusiness can be significantly enhanced with the right support structures in place (World Bank, 2020). These programs have not only provided access to resources but also fostered mentorship and entrepreneurial skill development, which are key to

sustaining youth engagement in agripreneurship.

Furthermore, technological innovations, including digital agriculture and emerging agricultural technologies, have transformed the way young people approach farming. The literature shows that youth are more inclined to engage in agriculture when they perceive it as a modern, technologically advanced, and profitable industry (Adewale et al., 2020; Agboola et al., 2019). These findings underscore the need for strategies that focus on improving access to technology, markets, and resources for young agripreneurs.

Overall, the literature reveals significant gaps in youth access to the resources necessary for agripreneurial success. While many programs and policies aim to support youth engagement, there remains a need for more targeted interventions that address the unique challenges faced by young agripreneurs, particularly in rural areas like Edo State. The following chapter will outline the research methodology used in this study to explore these issues in greater detail, focusing on the factors influencing youth engagement in agripreneurship in Edo State.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter will focus on the method and procedure used in conducting the study under the following sub-headings:

- Design of the Study
- Population of the Study
- Sample and Sampling Technique
- Research Instrument
- Validity of the Instrument
- Reliability of the Instrument
- Method of Data Collection
- Method of Data Analysis

#### **Design of the Study**

This study employs a descriptive survey design to investigate strategies for fostering agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship among youths in Edo State. The design is

suitable for obtaining data about current practices, challenges, and perceptions related to agripreneurship.

#### **Population of the Study**

The population includes youths aged 18-35 in Edo State who are either engaged in or have the potential to engage in agripreneurship. young agripreneurs in Edo State between the ages of 18 and 35 has hypothetically increased to 150,203 due to the new Youth Empowerment Program launched by The Edo State Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Security.

#### **Sample and Sampling Technique**

Using Simple random sampling technique, A sample of 150 respondents will be selected due to the large population of youths involved in agripreneurship in Edo State.

#### **Research Instrument**

The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire which was designed based on

the research question raised. It has two sections. Section A contains the demographic information of the respondents such as age, gender, educational background, location and employment status, while section B contains items that elicit information from the respondents that was used to answer the research questions raised for the study. The options were measured and analyzed through a four-point Likert scale option of Strongly agree (SD), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and strongly disagree (SD).

#### **Validation of Instrument**

The questionnaire was validated by my supervisor and two other lecturers from the Department of Vocational and Technical Education, university of Benin.

#### **Reliability of the Instrument**

Test-retest method was used to determine the reliability of the instrument. The research instrument was administered twice to twenty (20) respondents who were not part of the population within two-weeks. The data collected was correlated using

Pearson correlation coefficient and this gave a reliability coefficient of 0.68

#### Methods of Data Collection

Data will be collected through electronic administration of the questionnaire by the researcher and one other research assistant using google forms. The questionnaire would

then be sent to multiple youth agrepreneurs group spaces across different platforms (WhatsApp, Facebook and Emails).

#### Methods of Data Analysis

Data collected was analyzed using frequency count, simple percentage while the mean and standard deviation was used to determine the degrees of Reponses. The mean rating of 2.5 was used for the decision point such that only items less than 2.5 were regarded as disagree

while rating equal or above 2.5 were regarded as agreed.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

#### Presentation of Results

This chapter presents and analyzes data collected on the innovative approaches to teaching and learning agricultural science and seducation, engaging students in hands on learning.

The results of the analysis are presented in the order of the research questions that guided the study.

#### Presentation of Data (Demographic Data Analysis)

The demographic data of the respondents were analyzed to provide a foundation for understanding the context of the findings.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Variable

Frequency

Percentage

56%

Male

84

Female

66

44%

100%

Total

150

In Table 1, 84 representing 56% of the respondents were males, while 66 representing 44% of the respondents were females. From the analysis, the majority of the respondents were females.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
18 - 24 years	45	30%
25 - 30 years	60	45%
31 - 35 years	45	30%
Total	150	100%

In Table 2, 45 representing 30% of the respondents were between age 18-24 years, 60 representing 45% of the respondents were between age 25-30 years, while 45 representing 30% of the respondents were between age 31-35 years. From the above, it could be deduced that majority of the respondents were between age 25-30 years.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Location

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Urban	69	46%
Rural	81	54%
Total	150	100%

In Table 3, 69 representing 46% of the respondents have were urban dwellers, while 81 representing 54% of the respondents have were rural dwellers. From the analysis,

the majority of the respondents were rural dwellers.

Research Question 1: What are the main barriers preventing youth from engaging in agriculture in Edo State?

Table 4 Mean and Standard Deviation of barriers preventing youth from engaging in agriculture in Edo State

SA

A

D

SD

Mean

Standard Remarks

S/N Items

Lack of access to land is an exploding problem preventing youths from engaging in agriculture in edo state

72

42

3

2.90

Deviation

0.75

Agreed

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Most youth cannot engage in agriculture due to Government policies and regulations.

Youths

no longer engage

In 39

agriculture due to Inadequate agricultural training and knowledge.

Young People in Edo state are not

interested in agriculture due to their

Perception that agriculture is not

profitable.

Agrepreneurs in Edo states Lacks45

mentorship and role models.

As a Young agrepreneurs in Edo State, 130 feel engaged and motivated.

51

36

9

3.00

0.92

Agreed

75

70

33

34

6

3.00

0.75

Agreed

2.96

0.81

Agreed

63

36

2.98

2.46

0.84

1.00

Agreed

Agreed

Data from table 4 shows all the items have mean value range from 2.90-3.00, signifying that all are accepted as barriers preventing youth from engaging in agrepreneurship in Edo State. The standard deviation of the items ranges from 0.75-1.00, this shows that the respondents are close to one another in their responses.

Research Question2: Which successful agripreneurship models and initiatives from other regions and countries can be effectively adapted to the Edo State context?

Table 5 Presents Mean and Standard Deviation on successful agripreneurship models and initiatives from other regions and countries can be effectively adapted to the Edo State context

7.

S/N Items

Digital agriculture platform would really

SA  
A  
D  
SD  
Mean  
Standard Deviation  
Remarks

improve youth participation in agrepreneurship in Edo State.

30

84

30

6

2.92

0.74

A greed

8.

Cooperative farming models would work efficiently for the Edo State youth agrepreneur.

27

78

36

2.72

0.88

Agreed

9.

Agribusiness incubators and hubs would fit the Edo state Agrepreneurs perfectly.

30

66

36

18

2.72

0.92

Agreed

10.

Government-subsidized youth agribusiness loans would be a breakthrough for the young Agrepreneurs.

38

84

20

8

3.01  
0.77  
Agreed

The data from table 5 shows all the items have mean value range from 2.72-3.01, signifying that all are accepted as successful agripreneurship models and initiatives from other regions and countries that can be effectively adapted to the Edo State context. The standard deviation of the items ranges from 0.74-0.92, this shows that the respondents are close to one another in their responses.

Research Question 3: What specific strategies can be developed to overcome the barriers to youth engagement in agripreneurship in Edo State?

Table 6 presents Mean and Standard Deviation of specific strategies that can be developed to overcome the barriers to youth engagement in agripreneurship in Edo State

S/N  
Items  
SA  
A  
  
SD  
Mean  
Standard  
Deviation  
Remarks

11.  
Providing access to land through 77  
government schemes.

32

8

33

3.02

1.20

Agreed

12.

Increasing financial support (grants, 68  
loans, etc.)

39

29

14

3.07

1.01

Agreed

13.

Enhancing agripreneurship education 39 and training

63

42

6

2.90

3.00

0.83

0.82

Agreed

Agreed

14.

Creating mentorship programs with 45  
successful agripreneurs.

66

33

6

15.

16.

Improving market access and value36  
chain support.

Reducing regulatory bottlenecks.

25

48

54

2.72

0.92

Agreed

59

34

32

2.51

1.00

Agreed

Data from table 6 shows all the items have mean value range from 2.51-3.07,  
signifying that all are accepted as strategies that can be developed to overcome the  
barriers to

youth engagement in agripreneurship in Edo State. The standard deviation of the  
terms ranges from 0.82-1.20, this shows that the respondents are close to one another  
in their

responses.

Research Question 4:How can these strategies be implemented to maximize their

impact on youth engagement, agricultural productivity, and economic development?

Table 7 Presents Mean and Standard Deviation on how strategies that can be implemented to maximize their impact on youth engagement, agricultural productivity, and economic development

S/N

SA

Items

A

D

SD

Mean

Standard Deviation

Remarks

The above listed strategies should be57 implemented by the government.

3.10

0.90

Agreed

Private sector should be put in charge of33 implementing these strategies.

19

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) 30

would implement these strategies to

42

51

encourage youths.

27

2.50

1.01

Agreed

20

Universities and research institutions 42

63

33

should prioritize youth engagement in entrepreneurship.

12

2.90

0.90

Agreed

Data from table 7 shows all the items have mean value range from 2.50-3.10, signifying that all are accepted as ways these strategies can be implemented to maximize their impact on youth engagement, agricultural productivity, and economic development. The standard

deviation of the terms ranges from 0.90-1.01, this shows that the respondents are close to

one another in their responses.

Discussion of Findings

Data finding in research question one shows that agripreneurship among youth in Edo State faces several barriers that hinder active participation, which includes; Lack of access to land as an exploding problem preventing youths from engaging in agriculture, Most youth cannot engage in agripreneurship due to Government policies and regulations, Youths no longer engage in agripreneurship due to Inadequate agricultural training and knowledge, Young People in Edo state are not interested in agriculture due to their Perception that agriculture is not profitable, Agripreneurs in Edo states Lacks mentorship and role models, Young agripreneurs in Edo State do not feel engaged and motivated. These are in accordance with the findings in the study by Akpan, S. B. (2010).on Encouraging Youth's Involvement in Agricultural Production and Processing. These views are supported by the International Food Policy Research Institute. which stressed that land access is a critical factor influencing youth participation in agriculture, particularly in regions where traditional land tenure systems dominate. As highlighted by Adekunle et al. (2009), in their article on institutional challenges to youth participation in agribusiness in Nigeria. Journal of Agricultural Extension which noted that complex institutional procedures reduce young

people's willingness to engage in agricultural business ventures. The gap in knowledge and

training was also reported by FAO. (2014) in an article on Youth and Agriculture: Key Challenges and Concrete Solutions. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization., which

emphasized that without adequate agribusiness education and training, youth are unable to compete in the rapidly evolving agricultural sector. This perception is corroborated by White, B. (2012). Agriculture and the generation problem: Rural youth, employment and the future of farming. IDS Bulletin, 43(6). who observed that negative stereotypes about

agriculture significantly deter youth from entering the sector. Moreover, the absence of mentorship and agribusiness role models leaves young people without guidance as pointed out by Aloba Loison (2015), mentorship is a vital part of agricultural success, especially for new entrants. Without visible and relatable examples of youth succeeding in agribusiness, many potential young agripreneurs are left uninspired and

discouraged.

Data finding in research question two revealed that Digital agriculture platform would really improve youth participation in agripreneurship in Edo State, Cooperative farming models would work efficiently for the Edo State youth agripreneurs, Agribusiness incubators and hubs would fit the Edo state Agripreneurs perfectly. Government-subsidized youth agribusiness loans would be a breakthrough for the young Agripreneurs. According to Akinbamijo, Y. (2021). Digital transformation in African agriculture: Trends and opportunities. FARA Report. It states digital tools have revolutionized farming by

providing access to market prices, weather forecasts, training resources, and buyer networks. Implementing such platforms in Edo State could bridge information gaps and

improve youth productivity and market access. International Labour Organization (ILO).

(2019). Decent Jobs for Youth in Agribusiness. found that youth cooperatives significantly improved access to finance and agricultural inputs, helping youth overcome capital and knowledge barriers. This strategy also encourages peer learning and shared innovation. according to African Development Bank (AfDB). (2016). Empowering Youth through Agribusiness Incubation., incubators are critical for transforming agriculture into a youth-

driven enterprise by offering structured support systems that focus on value addition and

agribusiness innovation.

Data finding in research question three revealed that Providing access to land through government schemes, Increasing financial support (grants, loans, etc.). Enhancing agripreneurship education and training, Creating mentorship programs with successful agripreneurs. Improving market access and value chain support. Reducing regulatory bottlenecks as specific strategies that could be developed to overcome the barriers to youth engagement in agripreneurship in Edo State. IFAD. (2019). Rural Development Report: Creating opportunities for rural youth. noted that youth-friendly land policies and land banks have been successful in attracting young people into agriculture in several African countries. Community-based land-sharing initiatives, supported by local authorities, can also ease access.

Education and training are key. Strengthening the agripreneurship curriculum and introducing practical, hands-on training through vocational programmes and field demonstrations can build capacity and confidence among youth Yami, M., et al. (2019).

Youth in Agriculture: Challenges and Prospects. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). Mentorship and peer networks are equally important. Studies show that mentorship positively influences business sustainability among youth entrepreneurs Ghimire, B., & Samuels, F. (2020). Mentorship and youth entrepreneurship: Evidence from Nepal. Overseas Development Institute..

Access to markets must be improved. Linking young farmers to buyers through cooperatives, digital marketplaces, and value chain networks will ensure fair pricing

and reduce post-harvest losses AGRA. (2020). Youth in Agribusiness: Unlocking the potential of the future. Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa

Data finding in research question four emphasize that a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach is necessary to address barriers and promote youth agripreneurship in Edo State. these include: The above listed strategies (In research question three) should be implemented by the government. Private sector should be put in charge of implementing these strategies, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) would implement these strategies to encourage youths. Universities and research institutions should prioritize youth engagement in entrepreneurship. As highlighted by NEPAD. (2017). Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard. African Union Development Agency.that Government institutions must lead by enacting inclusive land policies, simplifying regulatory procedures, and investing in agricultural infrastructure such as roads, irrigation, and storage.

The private sector can support by offering mentorship, funding, and technical assistance.

Agribusiness firms can integrate youth into value chains, providing reliable market access and fair trade conditions. Financial institutions should design agribusiness loan products

tailored to the cash flows of farming enterprises (FAO & CTA. (2016). Inclusive Finance

and Business Models for Youth in Agriculture. According to reports from USAID. (2015).

Strengthening Youth Engagement in Agricultural Value Chains, NGOs are key players in sensitization, capacity building, and policy advocacy. They can organize training on sustainable farming, assist with grant applications, and push for policy changes that support youth agribusiness development. University institutions can support by updating curricula,hosting incubation hubs, and conducting applied research in collaboration with youth.

In conclusion, overcoming youth barriers to agripreneurship in Edo State will require sustained efforts from all actors. With strategic interventions, appropriate models, and inclusive policies, the agricultural sector in the state can become a dynamic space for innovation, youth employment, and economic transformation.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Summary**

Agripreneurship has the potential to drive economic growth, enhance food security, and create employment opportunities for young people in Edo State. However, youth participation in agricultural entrepreneurship remains significantly low due to various challenges. This study explores the barriers hindering youth engagement in agripreneurship and proposes strategic solutions to foster agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship among young people in Edo State. The research identifies key obstacles, including limited access to land, inadequate financial support, insufficient agricultural education, negative

perceptions of farming, and weak market linkages. The study also examines how bureaucratic government policies and regulatory challenges discourage young agripreneurs

from establishing and sustaining agribusiness ventures.

This study employs a descriptive survey design, which is suitable for obtaining data about

current practices, challenges, and perceptions related to agripreneurship. The population consists of youths aged 18-35 in Edo State, with an estimated 150,000-250,000 potential

agripreneurs following the Youth Empowerment Program launched by the Edo State Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. A sample size of 150 respondents was selected using a simple random sampling technique to ensure fair representation. Data was collected

using a structured questionnaire, divided into two sections: demographic information and agripreneurship-related items measured on a four-point Likert scale. The instrument was validated by a supervisor and two lecturers from the Department of Vocational and Technical Education, while test-retest reliability was established using the Pearson correlation coefficient, yielding a reliability score of 0.68. Data was collected electronically through Google Forms, distributed across WhatsApp, Facebook, and email agripreneur groups. The analysis was conducted using frequency count, simple percentages, mean, and standard deviation, with a decision mean of 2.5 determining agreement or disagreement on key issues.

The study highlights innovative approaches to agripreneurship, including digital agriculture platforms, cooperative farming models, agribusiness incubators, and youth-friendly financial schemes. By leveraging technology, young agripreneurs can access critical market information, financial services, and training programs to enhance productivity and competitiveness. Government-backed land allocation schemes, youth-focused financial programs, improved agricultural education, structured mentorship, and policy reforms are recommended to create a supportive environment for youth in

agribusiness. Strengthening value chain linkages and market access will further enhance

youth participation by ensuring profitability and sustainability.

The research concludes that fostering youth engagement in agripreneurship requires a multi-stakeholder approach involving the government, private sector, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Collaboration among these stakeholders will facilitate policy reforms, financial support, skill development, and infrastructure improvements necessary for agribusiness growth. By implementing these strategies effectively, Edo State can experience a transformation in its agricultural sector, with increased youth participation, innovation, and economic development.

#### Conclusion

Addressing the barriers to youth participation in agripreneurship in Edo State requires targeted strategies that improve access to land, finance, training, and markets. Drawing from successful models elsewhere, initiatives such as agribusiness incubators, financial support, and technical training can be adapted to meet local needs. Changing societal perceptions and strengthening support systems are crucial for inspiring youth engagement.

Effective implementation, stakeholder collaboration, and leveraging digital technologies

will drive sustainable growth. Ultimately, empowering young agripreneurs will enhance

food security, rural development, and economic progress in Edo State.

## Recommendations

1. Establish youth-focused agricultural training programmes that combine practical experience with modern agribusiness education to address knowledge gaps and skill shortages.
2. Develop financial support systems such as grants, low-interest loans, and investment incentives tailored to young agripreneurs, reducing barriers related to funding and capital access.
3. Adapt proven agripreneurship models from successful regions by incorporating local resources, culture, and market conditions to ensure their relevance and sustainability in Edo State.
4. Strengthen partnerships between government agencies, private sector investors, and educational institutions to create mentorship opportunities and business incubation hubs for young farmers.
5. Promote the use of digital technology and innovative farming techniques to attract young people into agriculture, increasing productivity and enhancing market access.

## Suggestions for Further Studies

1. Investigating the role of digital agriculture and smart farming technologies in enhancing youth participation in agripreneurship in Edo State.
2. Assessing the impact of government policies and intervention programmes on youth engagement in agricultural enterprises.
3. Analysing the effectiveness of agribusiness incubation centres in supporting young entrepreneurs and reducing unemployment.
4. Examining the influence of social and cultural perceptions on youth interest and involvement in agripreneurship.

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## APPENDIX II

### Section A: Demographic Information Of The Respondents

Tick appropriate bracket

1. Age:

18-24(),25-30(),31-35()

2. Gender:

Male(),Female()

3. Location:

Urban Area ), Rural Area )

E

D

U

A

JH LIBRARY

### Section B: Youth Involvement in Agripreneurship

Strongly agree (SD), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and strongly disagree (SD).

S/

ITEMS

SA

A

D

SD

N

What are the main barriers preventing youth from engaging in agripreneurship in Edo State?

1.

Lack of access to land is an exploding problem preventing youths from engaging in agriculture in edo state

2. Most youth cannot engage in agripreneurship due to Government policies and regulations.

3. Youths no longer engage in agripreneurship due to Inadequate agricultural training and knowledge.

Young People in Edo state are not interested in agriculture due to their Perception that agriculture is not

5.

profitable.

Agripreneurs in Edo states Lacks mentorship and role models.

6. As a Young agpreneur in Edo State, I feel engaged and motivated.

Which successful agpreneurship models and initiatives from other regions and countries can be effectively adapted to the Edo State context?

7. Digital agriculture platform would really improve youth participation in agpreneurship in Edo State.

8. Cooperative farming models would work efficiently for the Edo State youth agpreneur.

Agribusiness incubators and hubs would fit the Edo state Agpreneurs perfectly.

10. Government-subsidized youth agribusiness loans would be a breakthrough for the young Agpreneurs.

What specific strategies can be developed to overcome the barriers to youth engagement in agpreneurship in Edo State?

11. Providing access to land through government schemes.

12. Increasing financial support (grants, loans, etc.).

13. Enhancing agpreneurship education and training

14. Creating mentorship programs with successful

15.

agpreneurs.

Improving market access and value chain support.

16.

How

Reducing regulatory bottlenecks.

can these strategies be implemented to maximize their impact on youth engagement, agricultural productivity, and economic development?

17. The above listed strategies should be implemented by the

18.

government.

Private sector should be put in charge of implementing these strategies.

19. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) would implement these strategies to encourage youths.

20. Universities and research institutions should prioritize youth engagement in entrepreneurship.