

**LEVERAGING ON AGRICULTURAL YOUTH SENSITIVE POLICIES: A WAY
FORWARD IN ENHANCING YOUTH INCLINATION TOWARDS
AGRICULTURE**

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BY

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**RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
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APPROVAL

I hereby certify that this work was carried out by Esther Oghenerurie EWOBOR with Matriculation number EDU1904655 in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of B.Sc. (Ed.) Degree in Agriculture Education in the Department of Vocational and Technical Education, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City.

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CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that this research work was carried out by Esther Oghenerurie EWOBOR with Matriculation Number: EDU1904655 of the Department of Vocational and Technical Education, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.

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DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to the memory of my beloved father, Late Mr. Ewobor Joel.

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This project would not have actualize without the support and assistance of some persons. My greatest gratitude goes to God Almighty who in His infinite mercy be upon my life till this day. My special gratitude go to my project supervisor, Dr. D.N Dumbiri, who, despite his busy schedule, was able to read my work through the scripts and making adequate corrections and suggestions where necessary, to improve the quality of this project work. I also want to appreciate Mr Newton for the unwavering support in making this project work a success.

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ABSTRACT

This research work aims to investigate how agricultural youth sensitive policies can be leveraged to enhance youths inclination towards agriculture. The population of study comprised of 67 students from 200level to 400level studying Agriculture Education in the Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin city, Edo State. The descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study . The entire population of 67 students was used because of the few students enrolled to study agriculture education in the department. Questionnaire was administered to them ,which was collected immediately after filling. Five research questions were raised to guild the study. The instrument was validated by 3 experts from the Department of Vocational and Technical Education Faculty of Education . The data collected was analyzed using frequency count, mean and standard deviation. The findings of this study reveal that the current state of youth participation in agriiculture is low. It also examine the barriers and challenges facing youths participation in Agriculture. The study also revealed the existing agricultural youth sensitive policies. The limitations of agricultural youth sensitive policies and also to analyse the roles of government in implementing agricultural youth sensitive policies. It was recommended that efforts should be made by enhancing youth inclination towards agriculture by providing incentives, training programs and mentorship opportunities to attract and retain young people in the sector. Another recommendation was that the youth sensitive policies should be reviewed and strengthened to address the limitations identified by incorporating feedbacks from young farmers , providing financial support and ensuring policies are responsive are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the youth.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of study

Agriculture has been the bedrock of human civilization since ancient times, providing sustenance and livelihoods for billions around the world. However, in recent decades, there has been a concerning trend of declining youth interest and participation in agricultural activities, particularly in developing countries (Leavy & Hossain, 2014). This phenomenon poses significant challenges to the sustainability and productivity of the agricultural sector, which is crucial for ensuring food security and driving economic development (Torero, 2014).

The global population is projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, placing immense pressure on the agricultural sector to meet the rising demand for food (United Nations, 2019). Simultaneously, the agricultural workforce is aging, with a significant portion of farmers nearing retirement age (Gosine & Beckford, 2015). This demographic shift, combined with urbanization and the allure of non-agricultural careers, has contributed to a widening generational gap in the agricultural sector (White, 2020).

Engaging and empowering youth in agriculture is vital not only for addressing the labor shortage but also for fostering innovation, adopting sustainable practices, and ensuring the intergenerational transfer of traditional agricultural knowledge (Engel et al., 2017). However, numerous barriers and challenges discourage young people from pursuing

careers in agriculture, including negative perceptions, limited access to resources, inadequate education and training, lack of infrastructure and support services, and limited opportunities for entrepreneurship and value addition (Afande et al., 2015; Zapata et al., 2020).

To overcome these challenges and harness the potential of youth in revitalizing the agricultural sector, comprehensive and targeted policies are crucial. Agricultural youth-sensitive policies refer to strategies, programs, and initiatives designed to address the specific needs, aspirations, and challenges faced by young people in the agricultural sector (FAO, 2022).

Leveraging agricultural youth-sensitive policies has the potential to bring about transformative change by enhancing the attractiveness of agriculture as a viable and rewarding career choice for young people (Bennell, 2017). Such policies can promote inclusive and equitable access to land, finance, technology, and markets for youth-led agricultural enterprises (Sabates-Wheeler & Sumberg, 2020). Furthermore, they can foster skills development and capacity building through tailored education, training, and mentorship programs, as well as encourage youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture, including value addition and agribusiness ventures (Brooks et al., 2013). By investing in youth-sensitive policies and creating an enabling environment, countries can unlock the potential of their youth population, driving sustainable agricultural

development, fostering economic growth, and contributing to the achievement of global food security goals.

Agricultural youth-sensitive policies and programs are designed to address the specific challenges and needs faced by young people in the agricultural sector. These initiatives aim to create an enabling environment that encourages and supports the participation of youth in agriculture, recognizing their potential as a driving force for innovation, productivity, and sustainable development.

One notable example is the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which includes a specific focus on empowering and engaging youth in agriculture (NEPAD, 2003). Under the CAADP framework, member states are encouraged to develop and implement national strategies that promote youth employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in the agricultural value chain.

Another prominent initiative is the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Regional Initiative on Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms for Improved Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction, which prioritizes the engagement of youth and women in agriculture (FAO, 2017). This initiative supports the development of tailored policies, programs, and capacity-building efforts to address the specific needs and aspirations of young people in rural areas.

In addition, several countries have implemented national-level programs and strategies to promote youth involvement in agriculture. For instance, the Nigerian government launched the Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP) in 2014, which provides training, access to finance, and support services to young agripreneurs (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria, 2014). Other youth sensitive agricultural policies include : Young Farmers Network (YFN) , Youth Agripreneurship Development Program (YADP), Agricultural Youth Empowerment Scheme (AGRIC-YES) , and Youth Farm Lab:

Furthermore, international development organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also developed initiatives to support youth in agriculture. For example, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has a dedicated Rural Youth Action Plan that aims to increase economic opportunities and employment for young people in rural areas through various interventions, including skills development, access to finance, and support for youth-led enterprises (IFAD, 2019).

Statement of Research problem

The agricultural sector in many developing countries is facing a significant challenge in attracting and retaining young people. Youth participation in agriculture has been declining, with young people increasingly opting for other economic activities perceived as more lucrative or prestigious. This trend threatens the long-term sustainability and productivity of the agricultural sector.

While many countries have implemented policies and programs aimed at engaging youth in agriculture, the effectiveness of these initiatives has been limited. There is a need to better understand the factors that influence youth inclinations towards agriculture and to identify strategies that can more effectively leverage policy interventions to enhance youth participation.

This research aims to investigate how agricultural youth-sensitive policies can be leveraged to positively influence the attitudes and behaviors of young people towards pursuing careers and livelihoods in the agricultural sector.

Purpose of study

The primary purpose of this study is to develop a comprehensive framework for leveraging Agricultural youth sensitive policies as a way forward to enhance youth inclination towards agriculture. Specifically, the study will:

1. Examine the current state of youth participation in agriculture
2. To examine the barriers and challenges of youth participation in Agriculture
3. To analyse the existing agricultural youth policies
4. To analyse the limitations of agriculture youth policies
5. To analyse the roles of Government in implementing agricultural youth sensitive policies.

Research Questions

What is the current state of youth participation in Agriculture? What are the barriers and challenges of youth participation in agriculture?

What are the existing agricultural youth Policies?

What are limitations to the existing agricultural youth-sensitive policies?

What are the roles of the government in the implementation of effective agricultural youth sensitive policies?

Significance of study

The research work have a lot of significance implication, providing immense benefit to the government, ministry of Agriculture, Farmers, Researcher , and the broader society

The study is of great significance to the government as it can provide critical insights to help develop and refine youth-focused agricultural policies that can effectively engage and incentivize young people to pursue careers in the agricultural sector, thereby contributing to the long-term sustainability, productivity, and innovation of the country's agricultural industry. The society and nation benefits as well as it can contribute to the agricultural sector , there by ensuring food security, sustainable development , and the preservation of rural livelihoods and communities.

The Ministry of Agriculture benefits as it will provide crucial insights to guide the design and implementation of more effective, youth-centric policies and programs that

can successfully attract, engage, and retain young people in the agricultural sector, thereby securing the future sustainability and growth of the country's agricultural industry.

This study is also significant for farmers as it can help inform the development of policies and programs that can encourage more young people to engage in and contribute to the agricultural sector, thereby ensuring a steady supply of skilled, motivated workers to sustain and advance farming practices and rural livelihoods for the long-term benefit of the agricultural industry.

The research work is highly significant for researchers as it can provide a valuable opportunity to generate empirical insights that can inform and guide the design of more effective, evidence-based policies and interventions aimed at fostering greater youth participation and interest in the agricultural sector.

Definition of Terms

Agriculture : This is the practice of cultivating plants, animals, fungi, and other life forms for food, fiber, biofuel, and other products used to sustain and enhance human life. It is the foundational industry that has allowed human civilizations to develop and flourish.

Youth : Youth generally refers to the period of time between childhood and adulthood. There is no universally agreed upon definition, but it is typically associated with the teenage years and early 30s.

Entrepreneurship: This refers to the process of starting, organizing, and managing a new business or enterprise, often with the aim of making a profit.

Limitation: Limitation refers to a restriction, constraint, or boundary that defines the extent, capacity, or scope of something.

Policies: Policies refer to the principles, rules, or guidelines that govern and guide the actions, decisions, and operations of an organization, institution, or governing body.

Inclination: Inclination refers to a person's natural tendency, preference, or disposition towards a particular action, belief, or way of thinking.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter reviewed the related literature of the study under the following subheadings;

- Theoretical Framework
- Concept of Agricultural Youth Sensitive Policies
- Youth's participation in Agriculture
- Challenges faced by Youths in Agriculture
- Agricultural youth sensitive policies
- Strategies in addressing specific barriers and challenges faced by youths in Agriculture
- Roles of Government in implementing effective Agricultural Youth Sensitive Policies
- Summary of Literature Review

Theoretical Framework

The theory used for this research is based on the Youth Development Theory. The Youth Development Theory, proposed by researchers like Richard M. Lerner, emphasizes the importance of creating supportive environments and opportunities for young people to develop their skills, competencies, and potential. In the context of the research work "Leveraging on Agricultural Youth Sensitive Policies as a Way Forward in Enhancing Youth Inclination towards Agriculture," this theory provides a framework for

understanding how policies can be designed and implemented to foster youth engagement and participation in the agricultural sector.

According to the theory, youth development is a process that involves the interaction between individual characteristics and the contexts in which young people live, learn, and work. By creating supportive and enabling environments through agricultural youth-sensitive policies, governments and stakeholders can nurture the positive development of young people and encourage their inclination towards agriculture. These policies can address various factors that influence youth engagement, such as access to resources (e.g., land, credit, training), enabling environments (e.g., addressing land tenure issues, providing support services), and opportunities for participation and capacity building. By involving youth in the design and implementation of these policies, their voices and perspectives can be integrated, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to the agricultural sector.

Furthermore, the Youth Development Theory emphasizes the importance of asset-building and promoting entrepreneurship among young people. Agricultural youth-sensitive policies can facilitate access to finance, business development services, and market linkages, enabling young people to develop entrepreneurial skills and pursue agricultural ventures as viable career paths.

Concept of Agricultural Youth Sensitive Policies

Agriculture is a cornerstone of economic development, food security, and sustainable livelihoods, particularly in rural areas (IFAD, 2019). However, there has been a growing concern regarding the declining interest and participation of youth in the agricultural sector, which poses a significant threat to the sector's future viability and sustainability (White, 2020). This research proposes a comprehensive approach to address this challenge by implementing targeted and youth-sensitive agricultural policies.

The barriers and challenges that deter young people from pursuing agriculture as a career or livelihood option are multifaceted. These include limited access to resources such as land, credit, and inputs (Bennell, 2007); inadequate knowledge and skills development opportunities (Brooks et al., 2013); exposure to risks like climate change, price volatility, and natural disasters (Mwaura, 2017); and negative sociocultural perceptions or norms surrounding agriculture (Leavy & Smith, 2010).

To tackle these barriers, the research suggests designing and implementing policies that facilitate access to resources, provide agricultural education and training, promote risk mitigation strategies, and address sociocultural factors through awareness campaigns and youth empowerment initiatives (Sumberg et al., 2014). By addressing these key challenges through targeted agricultural youth-sensitive policies, the framework aims to positively influence youth's attitudes, intentions, and behaviors toward agriculture, ultimately leading to increased youth participation in the sector

Increased youth participation in agriculture is expected to contribute to the revitalization of the sector, driving innovation, productivity, and sustainability (Brooks et al., 2013; White, 2020). Moreover, the research recognizes the broader development impacts that can result from an enhanced youth inclination toward agriculture, such as economic empowerment, food security, rural development, and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods (Leavy & Smith, 2014).

The effective implementation of these agricultural youth-sensitive policies requires monitoring, evaluation, and continuous improvement mechanisms. This involves establishing measurable indicators, monitoring and evaluation processes, and regular policy reviews to ensure alignment with evolving needs and challenges. Additionally, multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships among government agencies, private sector organizations, civil society groups, and international organizations are crucial for the effective design, implementation, and scaling up of these policies (Brooks et al., 2013; Sumberg et al., 2014).

Youth Participation in Agriculture

The current state of youth participation in agriculture is generally low across many countries and regions. A report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) highlights that the average age of farmers globally is around 60 years, indicating a lack of interest among youth in pursuing agriculture as a profession (FAO, 2014). This trend is

concerning as agriculture plays a vital role in food security, economic development, and environmental sustainability. The current state of youth participation in agriculture in relation to leveraging youth-sensitive policies as a way forward in enhancing youth inclination towards agriculture is a topic of growing concern and interest.

In many countries, there has been a significant decline in youth engagement in agriculture. Young people are increasingly moving away from rural areas in search of better economic opportunities, often perceiving agriculture as an unattractive and low-income profession. This trend poses a challenge to the sustainability of the agricultural sector, as the aging farming population is not being adequately replaced by young farmers.

However, there is a growing recognition of the importance of youth in agriculture and the need to create an enabling environment through youth-sensitive policies. These policies aim to address the specific challenges faced by young farmers, such as limited access to land, capital, and markets, as well as inadequate training and support systems.

In some regions, there have been successful initiatives that leverage youth-sensitive policies to enhance youth inclination towards agriculture. These initiatives include the provision of financial incentives and support schemes for young farmers, the establishment of youth-focused agricultural programs and training opportunities, and the promotion of youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector.

While these efforts have shown promising results, there are still significant gaps and challenges to be addressed. It is important to ensure that youth-sensitive policies are implemented effectively and are responsive to the diverse needs and aspirations of young farmers. Collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector is crucial in creating a supportive ecosystem for youth in agriculture.

Further research and evaluation of the impact of youth-sensitive policies on enhancing youth inclination towards agriculture are needed to inform evidence-based policy interventions. By actively involving young people in the design and implementation of these policies, the agricultural sector can tap into the potential of the youth, fostering their interest and engagement in agriculture for a sustainable future.

Challenges faced by Youths in Agriculture

Youth involvement in agriculture faces numerous challenges that hinder their participation and limit the potential benefits they could bring to the sector. These challenges span various dimensions, including access to resources, knowledge and skills, sociocultural perceptions, and exposure to risks.

One of the major obstacles is the limited access to resources such as land, credit, and agricultural inputs. Many young people face difficulties in obtaining land ownership or secure land tenure, which restricts their ability to invest in and manage agricultural

activities effectively. Additionally, lack of access to financial services and credit facilities limits their capacity to acquire the necessary resources for agricultural production and entrepreneurship (Bennell, 2007; White, 2012).

Lack of awareness among young people about the existence and benefits of agricultural youth-sensitive policies. Many youth may not have access to information about these policies and how they can support and encourage their participation in agriculture. This lack of awareness hinders their ability to take advantage of the opportunities provided by such policies.

Negative sociocultural perceptions and norms surrounding agriculture can also deter youth from pursuing agricultural careers or activities. Agriculture is often perceived as an unattractive, low-status, and financially insecure occupation, particularly among educated youth. These perceptions, coupled with the lack of positive role models and limited opportunities for social mobility, can discourage young people from considering agriculture as a viable career option (Mwaura, 2017). Another challenge lies in the implementation gaps of agricultural youth-sensitive policies. Even if these policies are in place, there may be challenges in effectively implementing and enforcing them. Limited resources, weak institutional capacity, and a lack of coordination among relevant stakeholders can hinder the successful implementation of these policies.

Inadequate youth representation in policy formulation and implementation is another challenge. Youth voices and perspectives may not be adequately considered and represented in the decision-making processes related to agriculture. This can result in policies that do not fully address the specific needs and aspirations of young farmers. Limited access to decision-making processes further hampers youth participation in agriculture. Young people often face barriers in participating in policy discussions and decision-making processes. They may not have opportunities to actively engage and contribute their ideas and suggestions, which can hinder their ability to shape policies that affect them.

The lack of coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders is another challenge in enhancing youth participation in agriculture. Effective implementation of agricultural youth-sensitive policies requires collaboration and coordination among government agencies, youth organizations, and agricultural institutions. However, there may be challenges in fostering such collaboration and ensuring effective communication among these stakeholders. Furthermore, there is often a lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of agricultural youth-sensitive policies. Monitoring and evaluating the outcomes and impact of these policies is crucial to assess their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments. The absence of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms makes it difficult to track progress and identify areas for improvement.

To address these challenges, it is crucial to prioritize youth engagement and participation in policy formulation and implementation processes. This can be achieved through targeted awareness campaigns to educate young people about agricultural youth-sensitive policies. Capacity-building programs can also empower youth with the knowledge and skills needed to actively participate in agriculture. Strengthening coordination among stakeholders, allocating sufficient resources, and establishing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact of these policies are also necessary steps forward.

Agricultural Youth Sensitive Policies

Youth-Sensitive Policies in agriculture are characterized by their inclusivity, participatory approach, and consideration of the unique needs and aspirations of young people. These policies recognize the importance of creating supportive environments that enable young people to actively participate in agricultural activities and provide them with opportunities for growth, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihoods. Youth-Sensitive Policies also aim to address the challenges faced by young farmers, such as limited access to land, finance, technology, mentorship, and markets. Examples of these policies include:

1. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP):

CAADP plays a pivotal role in enhancing youth inclination towards agriculture in Africa. Through its policy framework, CAADP provides guidelines and encourages African

countries to prioritize investments in agriculture, including measures aimed at attracting and retaining youth in the sector. It facilitates knowledge sharing, capacity building, and advocacy efforts to raise awareness about the opportunities and potential in agriculture, promoting it as a viable and modern career choice for young people. Additionally, CAADP coordinates and mobilizes resources from governments, development partners, and the private sector to support youth empowerment and engagement in agricultural activities.

However, CAADP's efforts face certain limitations. While the framework provides guidance, the implementation of youth-focused policies and programs largely depends on individual countries' commitment and allocation of resources. Access to resources such as land, finance, and agricultural inputs remains a challenge for many young people in Africa, hindering their ability to pursue agricultural enterprises successfully. The appeal of urban life and non-agricultural jobs continues to draw youth away from rural areas, undermining CAADP's efforts. Changing the negative perception and cultural barriers associated with agriculture as a low-status occupation also remains a significant challenge, particularly in certain regions and communities.

2. The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) : FAO Regional Initiative on Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms plays a crucial role in enhancing youth participation in agriculture. This initiative recognizes the importance of engaging young people in smallholder and family farming as a means to promote sustainable agricultural

development, food security, and rural employment. Through this initiative, the FAO works to create an enabling environment that addresses the specific challenges and needs of young farmers, such as access to land, credit, markets, and training opportunities. It also promotes policies and programs that encourage entrepreneurship, innovation, and the adoption of modern technologies in agriculture, making it more attractive and viable for the younger generation.

However, this initiative faces limitations in its efforts to enhance youth participation. Limited resources and funding can hinder the effective implementation and scaling up of youth-focused programs across different regions. Additionally, deeply rooted cultural perceptions and societal norms that view agriculture as a less desirable career path can be difficult to overcome, particularly in certain communities. Inadequate infrastructure, lack of access to reliable information and extension services, and limited opportunities for skill development and capacity building can further discourage youth from pursuing agricultural activities.

3. The International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD): The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) plays a vital role in enhancing youth inclination towards agriculture through its strategic focus on rural youth employment and entrepreneurship. IFAD recognizes the importance of engaging young people in the agricultural sector to achieve sustainable rural development, food security, and poverty reduction. The organization supports projects and initiatives that create opportunities for

young people to generate income, access finance, acquire skills, and embrace modern technologies in agriculture. This includes promoting youth-led enterprises, facilitating access to land and resources, and fostering an enabling environment for youth to thrive in the agricultural sector.

However, IFAD's efforts to enhance youth inclination towards agriculture face limitations. Despite its commitment, the organization's resources are limited, and scaling up successful initiatives can be challenging. Additionally, deeply entrenched cultural perceptions and societal norms that view agriculture as an unattractive profession for young people can be difficult to overcome, particularly in certain regions. Lack of access to education, training, and extension services, as well as insufficient infrastructure and market linkages, can further discourage youth from pursuing careers in agriculture. IFAD's work is also heavily dependent on the commitment and collaboration of national governments and local communities, which can vary across different contexts.

4. Nigeria's Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP) : The Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme (YEAP) plays a crucial role in enhancing youth participation in the agricultural sector by providing training, mentorship, and support to young individuals interested in pursuing agricultural activities. It aims to equip them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to establish successful agricultural enterprises or secure employment in the industry. Through its initiatives, YEAP seeks to

address the challenges of an aging farming population and ensure the sustainability of the agricultural sector.

However, YEAP also faces several limitations that may hinder its effectiveness in promoting youth participation in agriculture. These limitations include limited awareness and negative perceptions about agriculture among youth, lack of access to land, capital, and markets for young farmers, inadequate infrastructure and support systems, challenges in adopting modern agricultural technologies, and policy and regulatory constraints that may not cater to the

specific needs of young farmers. Addressing these limitations requires collaborative efforts from various stakeholders, including government agencies, educational institutions, financial institutions, and private sector organizations, to create a more supportive and enabling environment for youth engagement in agriculture.

General limitations of these policies include:

Agricultural youth-sensitive policies have certain limitations that need to be addressed to effectively leverage them as a way forward in enhancing youth participation in agriculture. These limitations include:

- Lack of inclusivity: Agricultural youth-sensitive policies may not adequately address the diverse needs and aspirations of all young people involved in agriculture. They may not consider the specific challenges faced by marginalized

groups, such as young women, indigenous youth, or those from disadvantaged backgrounds. This lack of inclusivity can hinder the effectiveness of policies in promoting equal opportunities for all youth in agriculture.

- **Inadequate implementation strategies:** While agricultural youth-sensitive policies may exist, there may be limitations in the strategies and mechanisms for their implementation. These policies may lack clear guidelines, action plans, and monitoring mechanisms, which can make it difficult to ensure their effective execution and impact on youth participation in agriculture.
- **Limited access to resources:** Even with the presence of agricultural youth-sensitive policies, young farmers may still face challenges in accessing essential resources, such as land, finance, technology, and training. These limitations can hinder their ability to actively participate and thrive in the agricultural sector, despite the supportive policy environment.
- **Insufficient coordination among stakeholders:** Effective implementation of agricultural youth-sensitive policies requires collaboration and coordination among various stakeholders, including government agencies, agricultural institutions, youth organizations, and development partners. However, there may be limitations in fostering such collaboration, which can hinder the holistic and coordinated approach needed to address the challenges faced by young farmers.
- **Lack of awareness and dissemination:** Agricultural youth-sensitive policies may not be widely known or understood by the target audience, including young

farmers themselves. The lack of awareness and dissemination of these policies can limit their impact and uptake among young people, as they may not be aware of the opportunities and support available to them.

- **Limited evaluation and feedback mechanisms:** Agricultural youth-sensitive policies may lack robust mechanisms for evaluation, feedback, and learning. The absence of regular assessments and feedback loops can make it challenging to identify the strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement in these policies. This hampers the ability to adapt and refine the policies based on the changing needs and realities of young farmers.

To overcome these limitations, it is crucial to address the gaps in inclusivity, implementation strategies, resource access, coordination, awareness, and evaluation mechanisms. This can be achieved through targeted outreach and awareness campaigns, capacity-building programs, stakeholder engagement, improved resource allocation, and the establishment of monitoring and evaluation frameworks. By addressing these limitations, agricultural youth-sensitive policies can be more effectively leveraged as a way forward in enhancing youth participation in agriculture.

Strategies in addressing specific barriers and challenges faced by Youths in Agriculture

One key strategy is improving access to resources such as land, credit, modern technologies, and markets. Research by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD, 2019) emphasizes the importance of facilitating access to these

resources, enabling young farmers and agripreneurs to establish and grow their agricultural enterprises.

Another strategy is promoting youth entrepreneurship and innovation in the agricultural sector. As highlighted by the World Bank (2018), supporting youth-led agribusinesses through business incubation, mentorship, and access to finance can create attractive employment opportunities and foster innovation in the sector.

Furthermore, strengthening agricultural education, vocational training, and skill development programs tailored to the specific needs and interests of youth is essential. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2014) recognizes the importance of equipping young people with the necessary knowledge, techniques, and entrepreneurial skills to pursue successful careers in agriculture.

Additionally, fostering youth participation and leadership in decision-making processes related to agriculture can play a significant role in shaping policies and programs that address their specific needs and aspirations. The African Union (2015) emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the voices and perspectives of young people are heard and their needs are adequately addressed.

Lastly, addressing negative societal perceptions and stereotypes about agriculture is crucial. As highlighted by Naamwintorne and Bagson (2013), challenging deep-rooted

perceptions through awareness campaigns, role model programs, and community engagement can foster a more positive narrative about careers in agriculture.

Roles of Government in implementing effective Agricultural Youth Sensitive Policies

Sustainable agricultural development in developing countries like Nigeria to uplift young small-scale farmers and create sustainable rural economy requires access to productive infrastructures such as land, roads, electricity, marketing facilities, irrigation facilities, specialized agricultural careers across the value chains, etc. Access to land for example is extremely important for young people trying to earn a livelihood in agriculture. Land access is not only the number one requirement for starting farming, but it can also contribute to household food security and is a means for employment creation and income generation. Youth from all around the world see secure access to land as fundamental for entering farming. The sector is seen as highly unattractive due to ignorant assumptions which often times limit it to labour intensive engagement; ignoring many other professional and entrepreneurial opportunities across the value chain (Obert, 2012). Promotion and support of advocacy work that is aimed at creating entrepreneurial awareness among youths about countless opportunities existing across the value chain remains paramount.

There ought to be the creation of ongoing initiatives to support youths in agricultural enterprises, and opportunities to showcase their successes in order to attract more young people. There should also be the incorporation of information communication

technologies such as the Internet, mobile phones, computers, and global positioning systems, associated or not with traditional communication technologies such as radio, television, print and video. With this in mind, the emerging Youth in Agriculture Strategy must demonstrate a clear understanding of the youth's affinity for technology, efficiency and a strong voice in the decision-making processes. The strategy must also emphasize the need for the incorporation of agriculture in the regular curriculum (Onwubiko, 2011). ICTs have high appeal to young rural individuals. The Internet is becoming an increasingly important medium, including in the poorest regions of the world, to acquire access to information and allow producers to be better connected, The Internet provides numerous opportunities for absorbing knowledge and information and following training programmes.

To encourage youth in agriculture, government should invest in training the youths in order to ensure successful participation. Professional facilitators and artisans in the trade should be employed to train youths and ensure that they undergo compulsory periodic training, seminars, workshops and symposiums to further improve their skills. The federal government should make it part of their plans to further encourage youths after training them by empowering them. Empowerment comes in various forms, and listed below are the ways in which government can empower youths interested in practising the trade:

- Offering financial support: government should ensure that youths are offered financial supports in terms of grants and loans to further encourage trainees in the various agricultural programmes.
- Government should ensure that farm implements are rented out to youths at subsidized rates. Farm machineries such as: ploughs, ridgers, tractors, cultivators and so on should be sold at very affordable rates to encourage youths to participate in agriculture.

Federal government should set up committees that would scrutinize how funds are being managed and follow-up on all agricultural projects. It is no longer news that the majority of the problems we are facing in this country today is as a result of corruption and misappropriation of public funds. Government implementing different agricultural projects on daily basis and one would still wonder why farmers cannot have access to these facilities made available by the government. This sometimes can be as a result of mismanagement, or diverting public funds for personal use by government officials. Most times we see a lot of abandoned agricultural projects everywhere, sometimes this may be due to lack of continuity or change in government plans. We discover that government keeps pumping money into agriculture projects and schemes, and at the end of the day there's nothing to show for it. Government should put in place agencies that would look into management of funds, implementation of policies and sanction those responsible for misappropriation of government funds.

Summary of Literature Review

The literature review examines the declining interest among youth in pursuing agriculture as a livelihood and career path, which poses risks to food security and agricultural productivity given the aging workforce. Many youth perceive agriculture as an unattractive sector characterized by labor-intensive work, low profitability, and limited opportunities. This negative perception is often driven by limited exposure to modern agricultural practices, technologies, and value chains, leading to rural-urban youth migration in search of non-farm employment.

However, researchers argue that engaging youth in agriculture can bring new skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship to the sector, capitalize on their affinity for technology to modernize practices, and ensure generational renewal and sustainability of the agricultural workforce. The literature explores policy approaches aimed at creating enabling environments that make agriculture more appealing and accessible to youth. These include tailored policies, investments, and programs that improve youth's access to resources like land, finance, education/training, and markets. The use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and social media to raise awareness of agricultural opportunities among youth is also highlighted. Ultimately, the literature emphasizes the importance of engaging youth for sustainable agricultural development and providing policy recommendations for creating enabling environments that foster their participation and entrepreneurship in the sector and the roles of the government in ensuring effective implementation of the policies.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

The chapter deals with the research procedure used in this study. It was discussed under the following sub-headings;

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

Design of Study

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The survey research design involves a systematic gathering of information from respondents for the purpose of understanding or predicting some aspects of the behavior of the population . The research design was also used, because it will enable the researcher to obtain specific response from the respondents.

Population of the Study

The population of this study was 67. It consist of all the 200Level ,300Level and 400Level students enrolled into Agricultural Education ,Department of Vocational and Technical Education(VTE) ,Faculty of Education , University of Benin.

STUDENT ILEVEL	POPULATION
200 level (VTE)	9
300 level (VTE)	25
400 level (VTE)	33
TOTAL	67

SOURCE: Departmental office

Samples and Sampling Technique

The sampling size adopted for this research work is sixty - seven (67) students enrolled into Agriculture programme at the department of Vocational and Technical Educion from 2001 - 4001. This entire population was used because of the few students enrolled in Agricultural programmes in the Department of Vocational and Technical Education.

Instrument of Data Collection

The instrument used for data collection is a structured questionnaire titled Youth Inclination towards Agriculture using Agricultural Youth Sensitive Policies (YIAAYS) which was designed based on the research questions raised. The structured questionnaire has two sections , Section A and Section B . Section A contains the demographic information of the respondents , 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 analysed through a 4-point rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A) , Disagree (D) , and Strongly Disagree [SD].

The instrument is made up of twenty - five (25) items constructed to draw answers from the different respondents.

Validity of the Instrument

The instrument will be validated by the researcher's supervisor and two other experts . Their corrections, critiques, suggestions, and notification will be taken into consideration in putting together the final draft of the questionnaire

Reliability of the Instrument

The reliability of the instrument will be determined by using test-retest method. The research instrument will be administered twice to twenty [20] respondents who were not part of the population within a two week interval period. The two scores of data obtained were analysed using Pearson product moment correlation. This yield a reliability coefficient of 0.85, which shows that the instrument is reliable

Method of Data Collection

The instrument for the data collection was personally administered by the researcher to the respondents. Effort was made to explain the questions to the respondents in a manner that enables them to respond objectively to the questions asked. All the questionnaire that

will be administered will be collected on the spot to ensure high return rate for a period of one week.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected was analysed using frequency count and simple percentage for respondents bio-data, the mean and standard deviation was used in analyzing the research questions. A mean of 2.50 and above being the criterion level/benchmark was interpreted as agree while mean score below 2.50 were interpreted as disagree. This was arrived at by the four-point modified rating scale options of Strongly Agree[SA] = 4 POINTS, Agree[a] =3 points, Disagree [D] =2 Points, and STRONGLY Disagree [SD]= 1 point. The average of this points culminates in $4+3+2+1/4 ; 10/4 =2.50$.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULT AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter deals with the analysis of data as well as the presentation and discussion of results according to the response from the response questions formulated.

Presentation of Results

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	29	43.3%
Female	38	56.7%
Total	67	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents according to sex. As shown in the table above, male respondents are 29 which constitute 43.3% while female respondents are 38 representing 56.7%. This indicates that majority of the respondents were females.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Level

Level	Respondents	Percentage
200	9	13.5%
300	25	37.3%
400	33	49.2%
Total	69	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

The table above shows the distribution of respondents according to their level. As shown in the table above 200 level respondents are 9 which constitute 13.5%, 300 level respondents are 25 which constitute 37.3% while 400 level respondents are 33 which represent 49.2%. this shows that majority of the respondents were 100 level students.

Research Question 1: What is the current state of youth participation in Agriculture?

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation showing responses on the current state of youth participation in agriculture.

S/N	ITEMS	MEAN	S.D	DECISION
1	Young people are actively involved in agricultural activities in their community	2.03	0.39	Disagree
2	The Agricultural workforce in many countries is aging , with a declining number of young people taking up farming or agricultural related professions	3.15	0.72	Agree
3	The physically demanding and labour intensive nature of agricultural work discourage youths from pursuing it as a career	3.45	0.86	Agree
4	There is a lack of interest among youths in pursuing agriculture as profession due to negative perceptions about it	3.72	0.54	Agree

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

The data presented in table 1 indicated that the mean responses ranged from 2.03 – 3.18, while the standard deviation values ranged from 0.984 – 1.119. The mean responses for Items 2-3 indicates an agreement to the aging factor of agricultural workforce in many countries, the physical demanding and labour intensive nature of agricultural work which discourage youths , lack of interest among youths in pursuing agriculture as a profession ,While Item 1 disagreed that young people are actively involved in

agricultural activities. This is also revealed with a grand mean of 2.72 which implies that the current state of youth participation is low.

Research Question 2: what are the barriers and challenges of youth participation in Agriculture?

Table 4: Descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation showing responses on the barriers and challenges of youth participation in agriculture.

S/N	ITEMS	MEAN	S.D	DECISION
5	Limited access to modern technologies and equipment makes agricultural work more labour intensive and unattractive for youth	3.22	1.11	Agree
6	Societal perception and stereotypes about agriculture as a carer choice discourage young people from considering agriculture as a viable option	3.18	0.95	Agree
7	Limited access to land and resources by youths is a major significant barrier to youth participation in agriculture	3.21	0.89	Agree
8	Obtaining financial support or credit facilities for agricultural related ventures is difficult for young people	3.40	0.87	Agree
9	Lack of awareness and information about sensitive policies limit the participation of youths from pursuing agricultural activities	3.52	0.85	Agree

The data in table 2 showed that the mean responses ranged from 3.18 – 3.52, while the standard deviation values ranged from 0.85 - 1.11. The mean responses for all items showed that the respondents agreed to the presence of barriers and challenges affecting youth participation in agriculture leading to a limited interest among young people in the field, with an average mean of 3.31. The standard deviation has low values which implies that the responses do not deviate far from one another.

Research Question 3: What are the existing agricultural youth policies

Table 5: Descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation showing responses on the available agricultural youth sensitive policies

S/N	ITEMS	MEAN	STD	DECISION
10	Youth Agricultural Development Program [YADP]	3.73	0.45	Agree
11	Food and Youth Network [FYN]	3.75	0.44	Agree
12	National Association of Farmers and Agricultural Youth Support [NAFAYES]	3.21	0.89	Agree
13	Youth Employment in Agricultural Programme [YEAP]	3.67	0.56	Agree
14	Youth Farm Lab [YFL]	3.69	0.58	Agree
15	Food and Agricultural Organization	3.88	0.33	Agree

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

The data presented in table 3 showed that the mean responses ranged from 3.21 - 3.88 while the standard deviation values ranged from 0.33 - 0.89. The mean responses for all items showed an agreement among the respondents indicating the presence of agricultural youth sensitive policies that has been set up to enhance the inclination of youths towards agriculture, which is also revealed with an average mean of 3.66. The

standard deviation has low values which implies that the responses were consistent and did not deviate far from one another.

Research question 4: What are the limitations of the existing Agricultural youth sensitive policies?

Table 6: Descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation showing responses on the limitations of the existing agricultural youth sensitive policies.

S/N	ITEMS	MEAN	STD	DECISION
16	Limited awareness and knowledge about existing agricultural youth sensitive policies hinder their effective utilization by young farmers	3.42	0.87	Agree
17	Limited involvement of young farmers in the policy making that do not fully address the needs and concern of youth	3.43	0.86	Agree
18	Insufficient financial support and investment hinder the effective implementation of agricultural youth sensitive policies	3.70	0.46	Agree
19	Some agricultural youth sensitive policies do not adequately address the specific aspiration of young farmers	3.72	0.45	Agree
20	The absence of clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms make it difficult to access the effectiveness and impact of the agricultural youth sensitive policy	3.78	0.46	Agree

The data in table 4 showed that the mean responses ranged from 3.42 - 3.78, while the standard deviation values ranged from 0.45 - 0.87. The mean responses for all items demonstrated a consensus among respondents regarding the limitations of existing agricultural youth sensitive policies. The limitations are resulting in decrease in their involvement and influence on young people, which is revealed with an average mean of

3.61. The standard deviation has low values which implies that the responses do not deviate far from one another.

Research Question 5: What are the roles of government in the implementation of effective agricultural youth sensitive policies?

Table 7: Descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation showing responses on the roles of government in the implementation of agricultural youth sensitive policies

S/N	ITEMS	MEAN	STD	DECISION
21	The government actively promotes positive perception and societal attitudes towards agriculture as a viable career option for youth	1.94	0.76	Disagree
22	Training and skill development opportunities provided by the government are not sufficient to equip youth with the necessary agricultural knowledge and expertise	3.43	0.86	Agree
23	Government initiatives facilitate access to land and resources for young farmers and agripreneurs	3.25	0.78	Agree
24	Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be established by the government to assess the impact and outcome of agricultural youth sensitive policies	3.45	0.88	Agree
25	Government should prioritize the inclusion of young farmers in the policy making process to ensure the effectiveness of agricultural youth sensitive policies	3.81	0.39	Agree

The data in table 5 showed that the mean responses ranged from 2.16 – 3.22, while the standard deviation values ranged from 0.832 – 1.130. The mean responses for items 21-25 indicates that the respondents agreed on the training and skill development opportunities provided by government are not sufficient ,government initiative facilitate access to Land and resources to young farmers ,establishment of monitoring and

evaluation mechanisms by the government that cater the interest and encourages the young people in the field of agriculture, while that of Item 1 disagreed to the fact that government actively promotes positive perception and societal attitudes towards agriculture which is also revealed with a grand mean of 2.78, which implies that the roles of government in implementing effective agricultural youth sensitive policies are important.

Discussion of findings

The findings from research question one explored the current state of youth participation in agriculture. The data from item 1 had a mean response of 2.03 which indicated that the respondents Disagreed to young people being actively involved in agricultural activities in their community . This suggests that youths are not actively involved in agriculture in most of the communities. Furthermore, Item 2 had a mean response of 3.15 which revealed an Agreement by the respondents that the agricultural workforce in many countries is aging, with a declining number of young people taking up farming or agricultural related profession.

However, in Item 3 respondents expressed their discouragement in pursuing agriculture as a career due to the physically demanding and labour intensive nature of agricultural work ,which is expressed with a mean response of 3.15 indicating an Agreement by the respondents. Also, in Item 4 ,respondents expressed their lack of interest among youths in pursuing agriculture as a profession due to the negative perceptions about it which is

expressed with a mean of 3.72. These show the possible hesitancy of youths in engaging agriculture as a career and profession

Overall, the grand mean of 3.09 indicating a possible hesitancy of youths in engaging agriculture as a profession and has made the state of agriculture in many communities to be low. This is in agreement with Leavy [2014] where he stated that young people are increasingly turning their backs on agriculture ,seeing it as an unattractive and unrewarding occupation. The lack of interest among youth in engaging in agriculture is becoming high, given the importance of the sector for economic growth,employment and food security in developing countries.

Research question 2 investigates the barriers and challenges of youth participation in agriculture. Item 1 shows that the limited access to modern technologies and equipment makes agricultural work more labour intensive and unattractive for youths to invest in, with a mean response of 3.22, indicating an Agreement with the item. Item 2 reveals that societal perception and stereotypes about agriculture as a career choice discourage young people from considering it as a viable option. It has a mean response of 3.18 which indicates an Agreement by the respondents on the item.

Furthermore, Item 3 showed that that the respondents are in Agreement with the challenge of limited access to land and resources by youths as a major significant barrier to youth participation in agriculture with a mean score of 3. Item 4 revealed an Agreement that obtaining financial support or credit facilities for agricultural related

ventures is difficult for young people which has a mean of 3.21. Item 5 shows an Agreement by the respondents that the lack of awareness and information about sensitive policies limit the participation of youths from pursuing agricultural activities, with a mean of 3.52 .

However the grand mean of 3.31 was indicated which showed a general agreement on the barriers and challenges of youth participation listed above. This is in agreement with the study conducted by White [2012], where he stated that many young individuals who are interested in pursuing agricultural activities or starting their own farming businesses often lack the necessary resources to secure loans or other credit from financial institutions. This lack of access to financing can severely hinder their ability to acquire land, purchase equipment, or invest in the necessary inputs required for sustainable agricultural operations.

The findings on research question 3 showed the existing agricultural youth policies. Item 1 indicated the agreement by the respondents on “Youth Agricultural Development Program [YADP] “ with a mean response of 3.73 as an existing agricultural youth sensitive policies . Item 2 reveals an **Agreement by the respondents** that “Food and Youth Network [FYN]” with a mean of 3.75 is an agricultural youth sensitive policy. Furthermore, Item 3 shows an agreement that National Association of Farmers ad Agricultural Youth Support [NAFAYS] with a mean response of 3.21. Item 4 revealed the agreement of “ Youth Employment in Agricultural Programme [YEAP]” as an

existing agricultural youth sensitive policies with a mean response of 3.67, which indicates an Agreement. Item 5 shows that the respondents are in Agreement that 'Youth Farm Lab [YFL]' is an existing agricultural youth sensitive policy with a mean response of 3.69. Also, Item 6 showed that the respondents Agreed to 'Food and Agricultural Organization [FAO]' as an existing agricultural youth sensitive policy.

However the grand mean of 3.66 was gotten which indicated that the respondents agreed to the existence of agricultural youth sensitive policies.

The findings on research question 4 indicates the limitations of the existing agricultural youth sensitive policies. Item 1 indicated an Agreement that the limited awareness and knowledge about agricultural youth sensitive policies hinders the effective utilization by young farmers, with a mean response of 3.42. Item 2 indicates the Agreement by respondents on the limited involvement of young farmers in the policy making that do not fully address the needs and concern of youth, which has a mean response of 3.43. Item 3 showed the Agreement of respondents on the issue of insufficient financial support and investment which hinder the effective implementation of agricultural youth sensitive policies with a mean response of 3.72. Item 4 showed the agreement of the respondents on some agricultural youth sensitive policies which do not adequately address the specific aspirations of young farmers, with a mean response of 3.72. Item 5 indicates that the absence of clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms make it difficult to access the

effectiveness and impact of the agricultural youth sensitive policy with a mean score of 3.78 indicating an agreement by the respondents

However, the grand mean is 3.61 which indicates that there is an agreement that there are limitations to the existing agricultural youth sensitive policy. This finding is in agreement with the study by Kinyua and Muriithi [2019] which explored the barriers faced by young farmers in accessing and taking advantage of agricultural youth sensitive policies. Despite the implementation of various initiatives and programs aimed at supporting youth engagement in agriculture, the research indicates that many young individuals remain unaware or lack comprehensive understanding of these policies and their potential benefits. As a result, many young farmers and aspiring agricultural entrepreneurs miss out on valuable opportunities and resources that could facilitate their entry and success in the agricultural sector.

The findings on research question 5 shows the roles of government in the implementation of effective agricultural youth sensitive policies. Item 1 had a mean response of 1.94 which showed that the respondents Disagreed to the fact that government actively promotes positive perception and societal attitudes towards agriculture as a viable career option for youth. Item 2 has a mean response of 3.43 which showed that the respondents Agreed that training and skill development are not sufficient to equip youth with the necessary agricultural knowledge and expertise. However , Item 3 has a mean score of 3.45 which indicates that the respondents Agreed that the government initiative facilitate

access to land and resources for young farmers and agripreneurs . Item 4 has a mean score 3.45 which indicates an Agreement by the respondents that monitoring and evaluation mechanism should be established by the government to access the impact and outcome of agricultural youth sensitive policies. Item 5 has a mean score of 3.81 which indicates an Agreement by the respondents that government should prioritize the inclusion of young farmers in the policy making process to ensure the effectiveness of agricultural youth sensitive policies.

However ,the grand mean of 3.18 revealed that the respondents agreed with the role of government in the implementation of effective agricultural policy. This findings is in alignment with the study conducted by Aryeeteey and Kyei [2020] where he argued that monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are essential for identifying strengths ,weaknesses,and areas of improvement within existing agricultural youth sensitive policies. Thus,providing valuable insights into the aaccessibilit ,uptake,and tangible outcomes of these initiatives ,enabling evidence based decision making and policy refinement to better address the unique needs and challenges faced by young farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Summary

This research work aims to investigate how agricultural youth sensitive policies can be leveraged to enhance youth inclination towards agriculture. The researchers reviewed literature on the concept of agricultural youth-sensitive policies, the challenges faced by youth in agriculture, existing youth-focused agricultural policies, and the role of government in implementing effective youth-centered policies. The study employed a descriptive survey research design. The study population consisted of 67 students enrolled in the Agricultural Program, ranging from the 200 to 400 levels. The researchers administered a survey instrument to these students, collected the data, and analyzed it using descriptive statistics. The findings revealed that youth participation in agriculture is currently low. Young people face numerous barriers and challenges that hinder their involvement in agricultural activities. While there are existing agricultural policies designed to appeal to youth, these policies have limitations that impede their effectiveness. The study highlighted that the government has crucial roles to play in implementing impactful agricultural youth-sensitive policies that can encourage greater youth engagement in the agricultural sector.

Conclusion

The research work concludes that there is a concerning trend of declining youth interest and participation in agriculture, which poses significant challenges to the sustainability and productivity of the agricultural sector. The study found that the current state of youth participation in agriculture is low, and there are barriers and challenges that affect their involvement. It also identified existing agricultural youth sensitive policies but highlighted limitations that hinder their effectiveness. The study emphasizes that government has a crucial role to play in implementing effective agricultural youth sensitive policies.

Recommendation

1. Improve youth participation: Efforts should be made to enhance youth inclination towards agriculture. This can be achieved by providing incentives, training programs, and mentorship opportunities to attract and retain young people in the agricultural sector.
2. Strengthen agricultural youth policies: The existing agricultural youth sensitive policies should be reviewed and strengthened to address the limitations identified. This can involve incorporating feedback from young farmers and stakeholders, providing financial support, and ensuring the policies are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the youth.

3. Enhance government involvement: Governments should take an active role in implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of agricultural youth sensitive policies. This can include creating supportive environments, providing funding for agricultural programs, and collaborating with relevant stakeholders to create opportunities for youth in agriculture.

Suggestion for Further Studies

1. A Comparative Analysis of Successful Agricultural Youth-Sensitive Policies: Identifying Best Practices and Lessons for Cross-Context Application.
2. Longitudinal Assessment of Agricultural Youth-Sensitive Policies' Long-Term Impact on Youth Participation, Productivity, and Sustainability in the Agricultural Sector.
3. Exploring the Perspectives and Aspirations of Young Farmers: Informing the Development of Targeted and Effective Agricultural Youth-Sensitive Policies and Interventions.

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APPENDIX
DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN
BENIN CITY

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON "YOUTH INCLINATION TOWARDS AGRICULTURE
USING AGRICULTURAL YOUTH SENSITIVE POLICIES"**

Dear Respondent,

I am a final year student of Department of Vocational and Technical Education in the above-named institution. I am carrying out a research study on topic " Leveraging on Agricultural Youth Sensitive Policies as a way forward in enhancing Youth inclination towards Agriculture". Kindly assist me by availing yourself to fill out this questionnaire. This study is strictly for academic purpose and you are hereby assured that all information supplied will be treated in a confidential manner.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

SECTION A : DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1. Sex Male []; Female[]
2. Level 200 []; 300 []; 400 []

SECTION B: DATA ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please indicate the extent of your agreement to the following items in the table below:

Key: Strongly Agree (SA) ,Agree (A) , Strongly Disagree (SD) , Disagree (D)

S/N	Items	SA	A	SD	D
	what is the current state of youth participation in Agriculture?				
1	Young people are actively involved in agricultural activities in their community				
2	The Agricultural workforce in many countries is aging, with a declining number of young people taking up farming or agricultural - related professions .				
3	The physically demanding and labour - intensive nature of agricultural work discourage youths from pursuing it as a career.				
4	There is a lack of interest among youths in pursuing agriculture as profession due to negative perceptions about it				

	What are the barriers and challenges of youth participation in Agriculture?	SA	A	SD	D
5	Limited access to modern technologies and equipment makes agricultural work more labour - intensive and unattractive for youth.				
6	Societal perception and stereotypes about agriculture as a career choice discourage young people from considering agriculture as a viable option				
7	Limited access to land and resources by youths is a major significant barrier to youth participation in agriculture				
8	Obtaining financial support or credit facilities for agricultural related ventures is difficult for young people				
9	Lack of awareness and information about youth sensitive policies limit the participation of youths from pursuing agricultural activities.				
	What are the existing Agricultural youth Policies?	SA	A	SD	D
10	The Youth Agricultural Development Programs (YADP)				
11	The Food and Youth Network (FYN)				
12	National Association of Farmers and Agric-Youth Empowerment Support (NAFAYES)				
13	The Youth Farm Lab (YFL)				
14	Youth Employment in Agricultural Programme (YEAP)				
15	Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)				
	What are the limitations of the existing Agricultural youth sensitive policies?	SA	A	SD	D
16	Limited awareness and knowledge about existing agricultural youth sensitive policies hinder their effective utilization by young farmers				
17	Limited involvement of young farmers in the policy making process leads to policy that do not fully address the needs and concerns of youths				
18	Insufficient financial support and investment hinder the effective implementation of agricultural youth sensitive policies				
19	Some agricultural youth sensitive policies do not adequately address the specific needs and aspirations of young farmers				
20	The absence of clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms makes it difficult to access the effectiveness and impact of the agricultural youth sensitive policies				
	What are the roles of government in the implementation of effective Agricultural youth sensitive policies?	SA	A	SD	D
21	e government actively promotes positive perception and societal				

	tudes towards agriculture as a viable career option for youth				
22	Training and skill development opportunities provided by the government are sufficient to equip youth with the necessary agricultural knowledge and expertise				
23	Government initiatives facilitate access to land and resources for young farmers and agripreneurs.				
24	Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be established by the government to assess the impact and outcome of agricultural youth sensitive policies				
25	Government should prioritize the inclusion of young farmers in the policy making process to ensure the effectiveness of agricultural youth sensitive policies				