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## Youths' Involvement in Root and Tuber Crops Production as A Mean of Attaining Food Security in South-west Nigeria

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### Abstract

Youth is a stage of transition between childhood and adulthood characterised by the possession of attributes such as energy, intelligence and hopes which enable them improve their knowledge and capabilities. Youths constitute about 40% of the Nigerians population, who are between ages of 18 and 30 years and are the major group much needed for agricultural transformation and global food security. The study analysed youths' involvement in root and tuber crop production in South-Western Nigeria. A total of 120 youths involved in root and tuber crop production were purposively selected. Descriptive and inferential statistical tools such as frequency distribution, percentages and regression analysis were used for analysing the data. The results revealed that majority of the respondent were within the agriculturally and economically productive age range of 20–30 years and 63.3% were male. With respect to their marital status 52.5% were married while 91.6% of the respondents have formal education. Main sources of agricultural information were friends, broad cast and print media, Reasons for youths' involvement in root and tuber crop production are source of income, consumption and alternative occupation. Annual income was between N1,000.00 — N 500,000.00. Result of the regression analysis show that Age ( $R = -0.630$ ,  $p = 0.013$ ), Household size ( $R = 0.198$ ,  $p = 0.011$ ), Educational level ( $R = 0.338$ ,  $p = 0.023$ ), Farming experience ( $R = 0.256$ ,  $p = 0.009$ ) and Annual income ( $R = 0.397$ ,  $p = 0.007$ ) had significant relationships with the respondents' level of root and tuber production. They constituted the  $R^2$  value of 0.76. Constraints to root and tuber production by youths are inadequate extension services, lack of access to credit facility, lack of access to market facilities and poor transportation facilities. It was recommended that credit facilities should be provided to the youths, extension services should be motivated to provide, transportation and market facilities should be provided for the youths involved in root and tuber crops production. Universities should make the results of their findings available to farmers irrespective of their ages in form of new technologies package to enhance farmers' high productivity and thereby help in attaining food security

**Keywords:** Food security and productivity, root and tuber crop, youths in agriculture