Factors Influencing Youths’ Participation in Agricultural Training Programs: The Case of Fadama GUYS Program in Nigeria

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Introduction

The study was conducted in three states: Kebbi, Ekiti and Abia states.

Table 1: Area of study and socio-economic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Land Area</th>
<th>Unemployment rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abia State</td>
<td>3,699,168</td>
<td>South-east</td>
<td>4,900 km sq</td>
<td>39.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ekiti State</td>
<td>2,398,957</td>
<td>South-west</td>
<td>5,735 sq km</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kebbi State</td>
<td>3,256,541</td>
<td>North-east</td>
<td>12,600 km sq</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Study Area

The study was conducted in three states: Kebbi, Ekiti and Abia states.

Objective

Identify Factors influencing youth participation in agricultural programs in Nigeria

Assess youth Willingness to engage in Agriculture

Identify Factors constraining youth participation in agriculture in Nigeria

Other Objectives

The Fadama Graduate Unemployed Youth and Women Support (GUYS) Program

Introduction

The program was introduced in 2017 with the aim of empowering unemployed youths in the field of agribusiness so as to reduce youth unemployment. It was conducted in 23 states across Nigeria, targeting people between the ages of 18 and 35 years.

Objective

Identify Factors influencing youth participation in agricultural programs in Nigeria

Assess youth Willingness to engage in Agriculture

Identify Factors constraining youth participation in agriculture in Nigeria

Method of Analysis

Data were analyzed using logistic regression model and descriptive statistics

The Logit Model

\[ \log \left( \frac{P}{1-P} \right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \cdots + \beta_k X_k \]

where

- \( P \) is the probability of a youth participating
- \( X \) are the independent variables
- \( \beta \) are the coefficients

Let the decision to participate in the program, \( Z \), be a dichotomous response, taking the value of 1 if a youth participated and 0 for otherwise.

The log-odds is specified as:

\[ \log \left( \frac{P}{1-P} \right) = \text{logit}(P) = \log \left( \frac{P}{1-P} \right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \cdots + \beta_k X_k \]

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Coef.</th>
<th>Std.Err.</th>
<th>t-value</th>
<th>dy/dx</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.110</td>
<td>0.025</td>
<td>4.48***</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of Formal Education</td>
<td>0.074</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>2.35**</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (Male =1)</td>
<td>-0.417</td>
<td>0.183</td>
<td>-2.27**</td>
<td>-0.104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household size</td>
<td>-0.067</td>
<td>0.028</td>
<td>-2.36**</td>
<td>-0.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ownership of Agribusiness</td>
<td>0.940</td>
<td>0.218</td>
<td>4.31***</td>
<td>0.231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration Status (Migrated =1)</td>
<td>0.397</td>
<td>0.182</td>
<td>2.19</td>
<td>0.098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agribusiness Intention</td>
<td>0.674</td>
<td>0.072</td>
<td>9.32***</td>
<td>0.167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Index Score</td>
<td>-0.042</td>
<td>0.033</td>
<td>-1.30</td>
<td>-0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Perception</td>
<td>0.593</td>
<td>0.296</td>
<td>2.01</td>
<td>0.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agribusiness Perception</td>
<td>0.821</td>
<td>0.271</td>
<td>3.03***</td>
<td>0.192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household head Education (Years)</td>
<td>0.013</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status (Married =1)</td>
<td>0.042</td>
<td>0.254</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>-7.152</td>
<td>0.802</td>
<td>-8.91***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pseudo r-squared: 0.257

Chi2: 346.49 ; prob > Chi2: 0.000

Discussion and Conclusion

The results of the logit model showed that age, education, household size, agribusiness intention and perception were factors which significantly influenced youths’ decision to participate in the training program.

A remarkable percentage of the youths (75 per cent) indicated their willingness to engage in agribusiness which clearly shows that the problem has shifted from the common perception that young people do not find agriculture attractive.

Majority of the youths (79 per cent) identified “lack of access to finance” as a major barrier, 11 per cent attributed their non-engagement to lack of mentorship while 10 per cent chose lack of information.

Recommendation

Need to improve youth perception about agribusiness

Improve access to credit facilities

Challenge Funds

Partial credit guarantee to banks

Small grants and loan

Providing relevant mentorship to young people willing to engage in agribusiness

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