

ROLE OF EDUCATION IN YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE

A CASE STUDY ONDO STATE

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Abstract - This study, role of Education in youth participation in agriculture a case study of ondo state was aimed to determine whether education is independent of youth participation in agriculture and also to determine whether age is independent of youth participation in agriculture. Chi-Square analysis is use to analyse the data,result of the analysis revealed that education is independent of youth participation in agriculture and that participation in agriculture is independent of age. This study there by recommended that government at all level should give out non interest loan to farmers and stabilize control price, so that rate of unemployment will be reduce and it will increase food production with minimum price.

Keywords: youth, participation, agriculture, poverty, eradication and farmer.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is a nation blessed with good climatic conditions that favour agricultural production. Agriculture is an important sector in the economic development and poverty alleviation drive of many countries. The importance of this sector is more pronounced in the developing countries including

Nigeria where it is the main thrust of national survival, employment, food and foreign exchange earning [2],[4],[5]. Though youths have desirable qualities that can promote agriculture, most of them have strong apathy toward it[1]. This has resulted in mass unemployment and lack of sustainable livelihood activities among the youths. This has further led most youths into cultism, prostitution and street begging, among others. With fewer youths into agriculture, the long-term future of the agricultural sector is in question. The development of the agricultural sector of the Nigerian economy therefore depends on the young people, more especially the rural youths. This is because a larger population of youths represents the link between the present and the future as well as a reservoir of labour. The role agriculture has played in the industrial growth and development of most of the industrialized countries in the world can not be over emphasized[3]. Youth-in-Agriculture programme has been described as a very important structure for land and agrarian reform which will go a long way towards promoting the interest of youth in the agricultural sector of the economy. Since agricultural development is the basic tool for economic development, there is the need for more emphasis to be placed on the role youth can

play in agriculture. In Nigeria, agricultural production is still carried out using physical strength, which declines with age. This has therefore been observed as one of the major constraints to agricultural production in Nigeria. The successive regimes at the Federal Government level have introduced various agricultural development schemes with the aim of encouraging the youth and boosting food production and farmers’ income through provision of agricultural infrastructure, inputs and effective extension work[6]. The state and local governments also introduced some agricultural programmes aimed at boosting food production and youths’ participation.

METHODOLOGY: χ^2 Test for Independence

- Examines the relationship between two (or more) categorical variables to determine if they are independent
 - Two variables are said to be independent if there is no relationship between them
 - Two variables are said to be dependent if there is a relationship between them
 - Similar to the correlation coefficient, except that instead of both variables being continuous, both variables are categorical
- Chi square formula is

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{\text{all cells}} \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

$$f_e = \frac{(\text{row total})(\text{column total})}{\text{grand total}}$$

DATA PRESENTATION

Table 1: Distribution according to Level of education sex of **youth - in - agriculture programme in ondo state**

	MALE	FEMALE
ADULT EDUCATIOION	3	3
PRIMARY EDUCATION	22	20
SECONDARY EDUCATION	61	55
POST SECONDARY EDUCATION	17	15

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 2: Distribution according to sage of **youth - in - agriculture programme in ondo state**

AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
16-22	6	5
23-29	45	41
30-36	25	23
37-43	21	19
44-50	13	12

Source: Field Survey, 2008

DATA ANALYSIS

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-s ided)
Pearson Chi-Square	37.049 ^a	3	.060
Likelihood Ratio	38.873	3	.070
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.080	1	.074
N of Valid Cases	286		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 26.50.

Conclusion: since the p-value =0.060> α =0.05, we do not reject H₀ and conclusion that “*education is independent of youth participation in agriculture*”.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-s ided)
Pearson Chi-Square	37.049 ^a	4	.160
Likelihood Ratio	38.873	4	.180
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.080	1	.064
N of Valid Cases	286		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 26.50.

Conclusion: since the p-value =0.160> α =0.05, we do not reject H₀ and conclusion that “*participation in agriculture is independent of age*”.

CONCLUSION

This study carried out an assessment of the technical efficiency of the Youth-in Agriculture Programme in Ondo State, Nigeria. The study also identified the

determinants of the technical inefficiency of the participants. The findings of this study may therefore be of immense contribution to the growth and development of agriculture in Nigeria. More importantly, the study can be used by various agencies and organizations interested in youth empowerment through agriculture to identify the areas of concerns for effective participation in agriculture. Based on the findings of this research, we discovered that *education is independent of youth participation in agriculture and that participation in agriculture is independent of age*. This study there by recommended that government at all level should give out non interest loan to farmers and stabilize control price, so that rate of unemployment will be reduce and it will increase food production with minimum price

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to improve on the efficiency of the youth participation in the Ondo State Youth-in-Agriculture programme, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. The youth should be assisted to have better access to the necessary inputs of production such as land, labour, herbicides and cassava cuttings.
2. The households’ size of the participants should be controlled especially by the use of modern family planning technique. This however requires visiting the health centres around them for proper advice.

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