



# International Journal of Research in Agronomy

E-ISSN: 2618-0618

P-ISSN: 2618-060X

© Agronomy

[www.agronomyjournals.com](http://www.agronomyjournals.com)

2022; 5(1): 07-12

Received: 04-11-2021

Accepted: 07-12-2021

**Anoke Amechi Fabian**

Department of Business  
Administration, Faculty of  
Management Sciences, Nnamdi  
Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria

**Eze Solomon Uchechukwu**

Department of Business  
Administration, Faculty of  
Management Sciences, Nnamdi  
Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria

**Nwoye Ifeanyi Innocent**

Department of Agricultural  
Economics & Extension, Faculty of  
Agriculture, Chukwuemeka  
Odumegwu Ojukwu University,  
Igbariam Campus, Anambra,  
Nigeria

**Odumu Ato Victor**

Department of Banking and  
Finance, Faculty of Management  
Sciences, University of Jos, Nigeria

## Agropreneurship intentions among agricultural and entrepreneurship graduates in Nigeria

**Anoke Amechi Fabian, Eze Solomon Uchechukwu, Nwoye Ifeanyi Innocent and Odumu Ato Victor**

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.33545/2618060X.2022.v5.i1a.89>

### Abstract

It is clear that despite being the self-acclaimed giant of Africa by Nigeria and Nigerians and being the highest oil-producing nation in Africa, Nigeria has been unable to translate its oil wealth into raising the living standard for her growing population. This study investigates the Agropreneurship intentions among agricultural and entrepreneurship graduates in Nigeria. The study adopted a qualitative research design with six participants. A telephone interview was used to source the relevant data from the respondents. Data generated were transcribed, reviewed, and harmonized. Thematic categories were formed and categorized into two major themes- Prime factors dissuading students' involvement in agriculture and the strategies to improve students' involvement in agriculture. The study revealed that graduates are not still willing to engage in agribusiness owing to several factors such as lack of land for farming, lack of funds, and adequate support from the government which has mitigated their participation in agribusiness. It was also found that strategies like making agribusiness more interesting by providing the needed support from the government and other stakeholders will help in revamping agribusiness for the graduates to engage in agribusiness as a means of livelihood. The study, therefore, recommended that Universities' curricula should be more practical than theoretical in the teaching and learning of Agriculture and entrepreneurship thereby catching the youth young in Nigeria. Government should provide the needed funds and land for meaningful agricultural practice as this will help build the agribusiness mindsets of young graduates in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Agriculture, agropreneurship, entrepreneurship, graduates, and intentions

### Introduction

In the early years of Nigeria's independence, agriculture accounted for nearly 65% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and over 80% of export earnings. Today, agriculture accounts for less than 3% of the GDP and less than 1% of export earnings while all eyes and hope are geared towards oil (Omorogiuwa, Zivkovic & Ademoh, 2014) <sup>[13]</sup>. As crude oil prices collapsed in 2018 and the world pandemic of COVID-19 crippled the world economy and triggered the unpleasant memories of the 2014 and 2015 crash in world oil prices and its effects, the Nigerian government found itself in a fix having failed to diversify her means of earning for years, especially through Agropreneurship. Nigeria and its policymakers continue to struggle to revive the already depressed economy amidst dwindling oil revenue compounded by high unemployment, high poverty rate, and insurgency. The ciphers of Nigeria's leadership failures and misplaced attention and priority are now ever than before glaring in the country's face as the rate of unemployment increased at a compound rate which gives room to insecurity and other social vices. It is also clear that despite being the self-acclaimed giant of Africa by Nigeria and Nigerians and being the highest oil-producing nation in Africa, Nigeria has been unable to translate its oil wealth to show in the living standard for her growing population.

Musa (2020) <sup>[11]</sup> noted that there are rooms for countries like Nigeria to be strong and control the world economically through agriculture and entrepreneurship; the country continues to face several preventable challenges. Government Policies to date have not diversified the productive base from the continued reliance on a single industry (oil).

**Corresponding Author:**

**Anoke Amechi Fabian**

Department of Business  
Administration, Faculty of  
Management Sciences, Nnamdi  
Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria

For years now, there is near total neglect and underutilization of industrial capacity which resulted in unemployment, insecurity, and political anxiety in many parts of Nigeria. To bridge this gap, Yusoff, Ahmad, and Halim (2016) <sup>[18]</sup> opined that for any country to sustain its economic independence, it must blend agriculture and entrepreneurship which are the driving forces for today's economic growth and development in the developed world.

Agropreneurship simply refers to entrepreneurship in agriculture. Entrepreneurship is the concept that covers converting an idea or vision into a new and realistic business or venture creation, diversification of existing business by an individual, a group, or an established business (Anoke, Osita, Eze & Muogbo, 2021) <sup>[3]</sup>. Entrepreneurship drive and agripreneurship orientation have been seen and acknowledged to have played and continue to play a significant role in advancing and promoting agripreneurship intentions and assisting further development of Agropreneurship mindsets of the citizens especially students of tertiary institutions. Therefore, Agropreneurship education can contribute effectively to the increasing entrepreneurial mindset of the people and enhance their intention to become Agropreneurship, which is the brain behind the success of the most developed and sustained economies of the world today (Ntale, Anampiu, & Gathaiya, 2015) <sup>[12]</sup>.

Lately, with all the available human and material resources in Nigeria, Borgen Magazine on August 28, 2020, named Nigeria as the poverty capital of the world exceeding India with a large rate of people living in extreme poverty. More recently, Rewane (2021) <sup>[15]</sup> noted that Nigeria has maintained the infamous position as the poverty capital of the world with 93.9 percent of her citizen currently living below the poverty line even with the large numbers of agricultural and entrepreneurship students being turned out from Nigerian tertiary institutions yearly. It is against this backdrop that this study focuses attention on Agropreneurship intention among agricultural and entrepreneurship University students in Nigeria, to see if these ugly trends can be reduced if not completely eradicated and if Nigeria regain her past glory through Agropreneurship business. The specific objectives are to:

1. Examine the prime factors dissuading students' involvement in Agriculture.
2. Explore the strategies to improve students' involvement in agriculture.

## Review of Related Literature

**Agriculture, Unemployment Reduction, and the Nigerian Economy:** Nigeria is a federated nation whose economic contribution and sustainability largely depend on the oil, agriculture, and service sectors. Due to the world's current concern over food shortage as a result of insecurity, climate change, and the recent COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to the new concept that agriculture is the way forward, the Nigerian government has given great and urgent attention to the development of modern agriculture and agricultural related activities in the country through the establishment, management, and encouragement of more agricultural-entrepreneurship activities in the system. This no doubt has resulted in unemployment reduction to a large extent. Agropreneurship activities in Nigeria today have taken their root from commercializing agriculture products from activities like fish farming, rice planting and processing, and animal husbandry which the youth are actively involved, and many who are hitherto engaged in minor jobs are productively and profitably

incorporated into the mainstream of agriculture and agribusiness.

To sustain this, Musa, Idris, and Haris (2021) <sup>[11]</sup> noted that youths who are considered as the future hope of any nation need to be mentored, encouraged, and supported with modern agricultural and entrepreneurial facilities and skills if the global food supply must be maintained and food insecurity addressed thereby solving the hidden factor of youth unemployment in Nigeria. International Labour Organisation (ILO) asserted that the global youth unemployment rate stands at 13.6% in 2020 whereas a country like Nigeria has young and active brains wasting and large portions of fertile land lay fallow.

Successive governments in Nigeria have tried to transform, support, and improve the agricultural sector and make it an engine room of growth and economic sustainability. Such policies and programs like the Green Revolution by former President Olusegun Obasanjo. Coker, Alabi, and Adebayo (2012) <sup>[4]</sup> noted that several agricultural policies have been implemented in Nigeria but the sector has not yielded the desired result by bringing about the desired growth and achieving food security for a country of over 200 million, vast landmass, and active youths. It was expected that the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) of then President Goodluck Jonathan would have broken the jinx of ironies and contradictions of food shortage in the country but never saw the light at the end of the day. In the same line, Mojeed (2021) <sup>[10]</sup> opined that the current government of President Buhari promised to diversify Nigeria's oil-dominated economy by investing more in agriculture and encouraging young entrepreneurs to invest in Agropreneurship with the aim of food self-sufficiency and increasing foreign earnings; yet the agricultural sector still weakens as the centre could not hold.

**Agropreneurship Intention:** In a country of over 200 million people, the government of Nigeria has over the years instituted various initiatives to address the issue of youth unemployment, food insecurity, and youth lack of intention/ poor involvement in agriculture. However, the impact of these initiatives, programs, and policies has been minimal due to the poor and inadequate program implementation, inconsistency, changes in government, project/ programs abandonment among others by successive governments. A good example is the recent N-Power program designed by the federal government to take many young youths back to agribusiness (Agropreneurship).

Agropreneurship is entrepreneurship undertakings by individuals who have the intention to create wealth by applying creative thinking and innovative skills within the agricultural sector. At the micro-level, Agropreneurship allows the individual to develop creative and innovative means of meeting the growing demand for food whereas, at the macro level, it benefits the economy by creating employment opportunities and contributing to the national income of the country (Yusoff, Ahmad, & Halim, 2015) <sup>[17]</sup>.

Musa, Idris, and Haris (2021) <sup>[11]</sup> noted that institutional influence, more explicitly the design, method, and structure of agricultural studies programs, plays a critical and vital role in inducing agropreneurial intention among students of higher learning. To achieve the desired result through practical and managerial influences, a detailed and holistic Agropreneurship curriculum that goes beyond the current theory-based learning must be introduced, monitored, and implemented to be impactful in increasing agropreneurial intention amongst the youths, especially Nigerian students. These will no doubt open green areas for future exploration and policy implications for efforts

geared towards agricultural education, training, and agribusiness. Outside the current trade-based learning, educational systems and government policies should also focus on providing knowledge-based creativity, technical skills and building attributes that young farmers need to boost their agropreneurship career with the mindset that agribusiness is as lucrative as any other business.

**Factors Dissuading Students' Involvement in Agriculture in Nigeria:** Youths in any nation are essential resources if properly harnessed, particularly for sustaining agricultural productivity which is an important sector for nation-building. Regrettably, this group of people especially in Nigeria is practically left out in policies and program contemplations even though this is a critical, active, and vital stage for their transition into adulthood. Agriculture is considered as one of the foundation pillars of any society that gives it the desired attention which can only function as such if this insufficient youth involvement is upturned (Akpan, 2010) <sup>[2]</sup>. To achieve this, improving students' productivity and intention in the agricultural sector and discovering effective livelihood diversification is imperative. To this end, this active category of people will not only be the productive backbone of society, the engine of ideas and innovation but also the main source of food consumption.

Udemezue (2019) <sup>[16]</sup> noted that youths of today are not interested in agriculture as it is seen not to be delivering the types of dividends status lifestyles that young people desire and expect today. The agricultural sector in Nigeria over the years has not been able to deliver the required incomes and working conditions students of the 21st century are expecting, the kinds of lifestyles young people need and desire. If agriculture is not able to deliver either the desired living standards or the required prospects, then the probability of attracting young people into the sector or retaining the same will ever remain a dream.

Fayolle and Gailly, (2015) <sup>[7]</sup> opened that another factor dissuading students' involvement in agriculture is students' negative perception. Youths today perceive agriculture as an activity or an occupation for people with low quotient (IQ). In addition, proper and timely information which is key to any business success is not readily available to the youth as young they struggle to access information on agriculture and agribusiness; most of the youths are still ignorant of the enormous range of opportunities that abound in the sector. Most of them do not have a holistic view of the concept of agriculture and agricultural entrepreneurship, hence a myopic view that portrays agriculture from the production side only. An intensive sensitization and awareness need to be carried on the youth, especially university students.

**Strategies to Improve Students' Involvement in Agriculture in Nigeria:** Investing in and training young active rural people in agriculture is becoming increasingly crucial as the problems of adopting sustainable, climate-friendly agricultural methods and connecting with commercial opportunities in modern value chains become more complex today. The increasing interest of the government, policymakers, and companies in food value chains lately mean that there is hope and opportunities for young active people to engage in agriculture today and in the future greater than what it was in the past. Nevertheless, however, it is noteworthy that the training needs of young active rural people especially those who needed to develop skills and capacities to participate in creative, productive, profitable, and sustainable agribusiness have hardly been systematically incorporated in the education, vocational and training agendas. As a result, many

young vibrant people do not see agriculture as a viable and attractive option (Dalla Valle, 2012) <sup>[5]</sup>.

Food and Agricultural Organization in 2015 listed the strategies to improve students' involvement in agriculture

1. Mentoring: A mentorship and apprenticeship relationship enables youth to develop and acquire the relevant and required skills and competencies for agricultural development.
2. There should be youth voice Inclusion in policymaking and debates. Policymakers should always design a strong youth program for capacity building and development and all youth inclusive activities and policies in the agricultural sector.
3. Identifying required skills and key competencies: Identifying appropriate skills and key competencies required of today's young agricultural development professionals is vital as a strategy as most often these theoretically acquired skills do not match those required by employers. Adjusting the educational curriculum to capture and cover the relevant skills and competencies required for today's job market is therefore central.
4. Sharing agricultural success stories by the youth: Profiles and successful stories of young, active agricultural professionals who have performed creditably well in agribusiness should be made public to serve as a source of encouragement to others who have myopic views concerning agribusiness, especially in Nigeria

### Review of Empirical Literature

The relationship between agribusiness and unemployment reduction in the world especially in Nigeria has been relatively studied with variations in the past few years. This is because the myopic view that youths especially territory institution students have on the subject matter is still on the high side and the negative effect on both the unemployment level and the economy of the country is unprecedented. Some of the findings of the empirical studies are reviewed in this section.

Yusoff, Ahmad, and Halim (2016) <sup>[18]</sup> investigated the impact of Agropreneurship education, entrepreneurial orientation, and intentions and factors dissuading students from participating in agribusiness in Malaysian. Collected data were analyzed with the use of partial least squares-based structural equation modelling. The study found that lack of funds and inadequate support from the government is responsible for the inability of graduates to go into agribusiness. It was equally found that Agropreneurship education is a key factor in the development of students' entrepreneurial skills and intentions. The study recommended that there should be a revamp of the educational system to encourage students to become more entrepreneurially minded given the considerable role played by agribusiness in promoting entrepreneurial skills and intentions.

The study of Yusoff, Ahmad, and Halim (2016) <sup>[18]</sup> did not state the population, sample size, or sample size determination formula which are vital in a sensitive study of this nature.

In a related development, Musa, Idris, and Haris (2021) <sup>[11]</sup> examined the factors influencing the intention of agriculture students' involvement in agribusiness at Putra University Malaysia using the theory of Planned Behaviour. The study was qualitatively done using a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) among selected 20 students from the Faculty of Agriculture, UPM. The sampled 20 students are those who had some experience and knowledge in entrepreneurship either formally or informally. The study found that besides personal factors and social norms, institutional factors, play a domineering role in



influencing agripreneurial intention among students. The study, therefore, recommended that efforts should be intensified to align agriculture education and training with the current market demand.

The study of Musa, Idris, and Haris (2021) <sup>[11]</sup>, though well-constructed with proper statistical tools failed to state how the collected data was transcribed since the study is qualitatively done.

Udemezue (2019) <sup>[16]</sup> investigated all-inclusive agriculture and the constraints to youth participation, especially in Africa. The study used empirical literature to review the constraints to youths' involvement in agriculture in Africa. From the findings, the study recommended that youth groups and young farmers should be trained, supported, strengthened, and encouraged to go into agribusiness in some African states which will result in agricultural transformation and economic growth. Youth should be deeply incorporated in agricultural policy formulation as their constraints concerning livelihood and agribusiness will be made known through these means. The negative image of agriculture as unprofessional and a dirty enterprise with little returns by the youth must be redirected if they are to see agriculture as an inspirational career choice in Africa.

### Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) by (Ajzen, 1991) <sup>[1]</sup>. The theory stresses the importance of intention in any behaviour. The TPB is an intellectual theory that offers a useful foundation for envisaging behavioural intentions and can be used to describe many types of behaviours (Ajzen, 1991) <sup>[1]</sup>. Individuals' behavioural intents are instructions they present to themselves to behave in specific ways. Intentions can be conditionally attached to the participants' reactions and inactions. In addition, psychologically speaking, behavioural intentions propose an individual's inspiration to perform a behaviour and are a reliable pointer of how hard a person is willing to push and how much effort he/she makes to accomplish a particular behaviour timely. Krueger, Reilly, and Carsrud (2000) <sup>[9]</sup> noted that behavioural intentions are perceived as powerful predictors of behavioural patterns, especially in the case of purposive, planned, and goal-oriented behaviour.

The agripreneurial intention is an individual's willingness and preparedness to be self-independent and make a living through agribusiness ventures (Yusoff, Ahmed & Halim 2016) <sup>[18]</sup>. TPB, when applied to the choice of becoming an agripreneurial, an intention to follow it up becomes necessary. Azjen's TPB has been valuable in making directing students' intention towards becoming actively involved in agribusiness. This is because it identifies that multiple forces can affect an individual's intentions and mindsets and that the combination of those factors is mutually reinforcing.

### Methodology

#### Participants

The researchers used six (6) participants in all, three (3) each that studied agriculture and entrepreneurship, 1 each from six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria (South-South, South East, South West, North Central, North West, and North East) in Nigeria, and are willing to participate in this study were purposively and conveniently selected for the study. The minimum sample size in qualitative research is five (5) (Onalu, Uchechukwu, & Okoye, 2020) <sup>[14]</sup>. The criteria for selection are that the participants must have been in business two years post-service year as of December 2021, studied agriculture or

entrepreneurship, and have graduated from Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Igbaram, Nigeria (The institution was used to enable researchers to get contact information of the participants), and reside in Nigeria within the research period. The rationale behind the use of entrepreneurs and agricultural students is that they are directly or indirectly involved in Agropreneurship business. The researchers employed descriptive qualitative in the study.

### Material and Procedure

The instrument for data collection was an unstructured interview consisting of six (6) unstructured questions aimed at determining the study's goal. The instrument was adapted from the study of Ekoh, George, Ezulike, and Uzoma (2020) <sup>[6]</sup> with slight modifications, which were done by all the researchers. A telephone interview was chosen as the data collection strategy because participants are spread all over the country and will be impossible to assemble them together. This equally allowed COVID-19 protocols to be strictly adhered to by both parties (interviewer and interviewee).

All the researchers conducted the interviews as well as data analysis and interpretation of the result. In the interviews, a smartphone with recording ability was used while a digital voice recorder with the call-recording feature was used as a backup.

### Ethical Consideration

Before the interview was recorded, Participants were duly notified that the data to be collected was solely for research purposes, thus, oral consent was obtained from each respondent before the data collection. The participants were also assured of the utmost confidentiality data provided. Each interview with each respondent lasted between 15 to 20 minutes as their personal and business time was equally considered.

### Data Analysis

The data generated were analyzed with the use of statistical and qualitative data analysis software (Nvivo 12). The software is designed to analyze and organize unstructured text, audio, video, or image data. It can equally playback for audio and video files so that the interviews can easily be transcribed. After the responses were carefully transcribed and reviewed, thematic categories were created following the philosophical doctrine of qualitative research design. The transcribed material was then organized into an MS Word Excel spreadsheet with many subthemes based on the transcripts. The various data entry forms were verified internally after completion to ensure that responses were correctly classified before being harmonized and categorized into two primary categories: Prime factors dissuading students' involvement in Agriculture and the strategies to improve students' involvement in agriculture

### Results

**Prime factors dissuading students' involvement in Agriculture:** In our interview with the participants on the prime factors dissuading students from taking on agribusiness after school, the participants opined that lack of funds, lack of government support, and unfriendly business environment in agricultural sector is responsible for the inability of agriculture and entrepreneurship students to go into agribusiness after graduation. One of the respondents said that the "lip services on the part of the government, lack of mechanization, poor payment of firm owners, lack of capital and lack of land are the major factors dissuading students from, going into agribusiness after graduation. Can you imagine that I am been paid up to half a

million naira as a banker in a good working environment with an official car, which agricultural sector will take care of you in such a manner"? (Participant B, Male Abuja, North Central Nigeria, Agricultural graduate turned banker)

Still, on the prime factors that dissuade graduates from taking up agricultural practice as a means of livelihood, Participant C, Male from Abia, Southeastern part of Nigeria, made us know that lack of opportunities, lack of funds from financial institutions, high cost of starting agribusiness, little or no job related to agriculture, poor interest and high competition in the sector dissuade graduates from engaging into the practice of agricultural-related business.

An unfriendly environment, financial constraints, unfavourable land tenure system in Nigeria, lack of technology, and the inability to sell your product in your environment contribute greatly to the factors dissuading agricultural graduates from engaging in agribusiness (Participant A, Female, Delta State, South-South Nigeria; Practicing agriculturist).

On the same issue of the prime factors dissuading graduates from engaging in agribusiness, Participant E, Female, Lagos, southwest Nigeria opined that lack of government support (not taking agriculture seriously in Nigeria), the society does place value on farmers like what is obtainable in other parts of the world or even how medical doctors, engineers, politicians lawyers are been regarded in Nigeria society. This no doubt affects and reduces the interest of graduates in agribusiness, especially in Nigeria.

Finally, Participant D, Male Borno, North-East Nigeria said "My brother who wants to die, after your father pays your school fees and you graduate, Boko Haram insurgents (B-boys) will kill you if you go to farm; this is making graduates not to enter the farm and it is affecting the economy of this country. However, agribusiness is a good business any day any time"

### **Strategies to Improve Students' Involvement in Agriculture:**

Having gotten the prime factors dissuading graduates from engaging in agricultural-related businesses, the researchers sought to find out from the respondents the strategies to be adopted to improve students' involvement in agribusiness. The respondents maintained that the government of Nigeria should pay the required attention to the agricultural sector by making the sector not only attractive, lucrative, and interesting but also providing the needed support such as land and finance. By so doing the sector will take its rightful position as a catalyst of growth and economic sustainability.

Participant B, Male Abuja, North Central Nigeria, Agriculture graduate turned banker, maintained that the agriculture sector should be made interesting, attractive, increased remuneration, provision of land, and creation of value chain. It is only when this is done that graduates will proudly go back to the farm and agricultural-related businesses.

participant C, Male from Abia, the Southeastern part of Nigeria expressed that government should try to diversify from oil that is already dwindling to agriculture by providing the needed fund through the Bank of Agriculture and Bank of the industry for graduates since there is high demand for the agricultural product (food). There should equally be support from the government through the Agricultural Extension Officers who will revive the current sector that is already comatose.

On the same issue, Participant A, Female, Delta State, South-South Nigeria; Practicing agriculturist said that if government provide lands at an affordable rate and Universities/Agricultural Institution in Nigeria be practically minded, agribusiness in Nigeria will take their rightful position in Nigeria.

Participant E, Female, Lagos, southwest Nigeria told researchers that adequate campaign, sensitization, and awareness on the untapped opportunities inherent in the agricultural sector especially in Nigeria with a large population, available market, and adequate human and material resources is a good strategy in getting graduates back to agribusiness. Graduates should be groomed on the various value chains in agriculture with a special interest in agricultural societies (Young Farmers Club).

Participant D, Male Borno, North-East Nigeria said that the only strategy is that government should be serious in fighting insurgents in Nigeria, especially in the North-Eastern part of the country. When this is done, people including graduates will willingly go back to the farm knowing that they will not be killed in the process and their products will have a market.

### **Discussion of Result**

The study investigates Agropreneurship intentions and unemployment reduction among agricultural and entrepreneurship graduates in Nigeria with two themes of Prime factors dissuading students' involvement in Agriculture and the strategies to improve students' involvement in agriculture. From the extant literature reviewed, it was evident that agribusiness is and will continue to be an economic bridging factor to any economy that pays the desired attention to the sector (Yusoff, Ahmad, and Halim, 2016) <sup>[18]</sup>.

On the prime factors dissuading graduates from engaging in agribusiness, it was revealed that lack of fund, lack of support on the part of the government, and unfriendly business environment in the agricultural sector is responsible for the inability of graduates to go into agribusiness. This finding aligns with the findings of Yusoff, Ahmad, and Halim (2016) <sup>[18]</sup> who found that lack of capital and inadequate support from the government and its agencies is responsible for the inability of graduates to go into agribusiness.

On the strategies to improve students' involvement in agribusiness, it was revealed that the strategy lies in the hands of the government by fighting insurgents openly and sincerely. It is believed that when that is done, graduates will unforcefully move into agriculture and agriculture-related business. It is only the living that can do business. On a general note, it was revealed that the government of Nigeria should pay the required attention to the agricultural sector by making the sector not only attractive, lucrative, and interesting but also provide the needed support such as land and finance. By so doing the sector will take its rightful position as a catalyst of growth and economic sustainability. It was equally revealed that if graduates are well-groomed on the various value chains in agriculture with a special interest in agricultural societies such as the young farmers club, their intention and mindsets will be well built. This finding is in tandem with the findings of Udemezue (2019) <sup>[16]</sup> who recommends that youth groups and young farmers should be trained, supported, strengthened, and encouraged to go into agribusiness in some African states which will result in agricultural transformation and economic growth.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, from the various opinion expressed by the respondents, it was evident that graduates are not still willing to engage in agribusiness owing to several factors such as lack of land for farming, lack of funds and adequate support from the government have mitigated their participation in the area. However, the participants suggested some strategies that could aid in revamping the agribusiness for the graduate to engage in agribusiness as a means of livelihood. These strategies include

making agribusiness more interesting by providing the needed support from the government and other stakeholders. With this, young graduates will have a rethink towards agricultural businesses in Nigeria.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion, the following recommendations were made:

Government should provide the needed fund and land for meaningful agricultural practice as this will help build the agribusiness mindsets of young graduates in Nigeria.

Universities' curriculum should be more practical than theoretical in the teaching and learning of Agriculture and entrepreneurship in territory institutions thereby catching the youth young in Nigeria. Resources persons and extension officers should be invited frequently to groom the youths on the agricultural value chain and other untapped opportunities inherent in agriculture.

### Limitations of the Study

This study is limited to graduates from the Agricultural and Entrepreneurial Department, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbaram, Nigeria. It is expected that further studies should focus on Benue State which is considered the food basket of Nigeria with variables like herders/ farmers clash and its effect on agribusiness. This will help to validate the result of this study. Due to poor network, the researchers could not hear clearly Participant F, Male, North West Nigeria during the telephone interview and therefore, could not proceed with the interview. The restriction on a gathering of people by the state government due to COVID-19 equally limited our study as the researchers would have loved to have one-on-one contact with the participants.

### Acknowledgement

The researchers hereby wish to acknowledge those participants who willingly participated in this study with the shortest notice. This study is successful and timely due to your immense contributions and unalloyed support. Your contribution(s) will not be taken for granted. Permit the researchers also to acknowledge the staff of the Agricultural and Entrepreneurship Department of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbaram Campus for providing the needed information of their graduated students; without which, and this study would not have been completed timely. Worthy of note also is Prof Hope N. Nzewi of the Business Administration Department, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria who painstakingly reviewed and modified our data collection instrument to an internationally acceptable standard. In addition, the researchers' efforts are worth commending, as they work tirelessly in solving societal problems through research.

Finally, it is noteworthy that this study is not under any grant or financial support from any institution or government but on the equal personal contributions made by the respective researchers.

### References

1. Ajzen I. The theory of planned behaviour. *Organizational Behaviour and Human Decision Processes*. 1991;50(2):179-211. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0749-5978\(91\)90020-T](https://doi.org/10.1016/0749-5978(91)90020-T)
2. Akpan SB. Encouraging youth's involvement in agricultural production and processing. *International Food Policy Research Institute, Nigeria*; c2010. p. 1-4.
3. Anoke AF, Osita FC, Eze SU, Muogbo US. Business perception as a strategy for sustaining entrepreneurship in the face of insurgency in Niger State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Analysis*. 2021;4(10):1353-1360.
4. Coker AA, Alabi OO, Adebayo CO. A review of the existing agriculture policies in Nigeria and their implication of the agricultural transformation agenda, *Journal of Agriculture, Forestry and Social Sciences*. 2012;10(2):43-56.
5. Dalla Valle F. Exploring opportunities and constraints for young agro entrepreneurs in Africa. Conference abridged version. Rome, FAO; c2012. p. 19-21
6. Ekoh PC, George EO, Ezulike CJ, Okoye UO. The facemask: A tool for protection or an instrument for the transmission of COVID-19 in Nigeria? *Journal of Social Work in Developing Societies*. 2020;2(3):7-15.
7. Fayolle A, Gailly B. The impact of entrepreneurship education on entrepreneurial attitudes and intention: Hysteresis and persistence. *Journal of Small Business Management*. 2015;53(1):75-93.
8. Oparaojiaku JO, Ekumankama, Ifenkwe GN. Rural livelihood activities/services performed by community-based women organizations (CBWOs) in Imo and Rivers states, Nigeria. *International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development*. 2021;4(1):06-09.
9. Krueger N, Reilly MD, Carsrud AL. Competing models of entrepreneurial intentions. *Journal of Business Venturing*. 2000;15(5):411-432. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0883-9026\(98\)00033-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0883-9026(98)00033-0)
10. Mojeed A. Analysis: Despite in investments, agaric growth under Buhari weaken since 1999. *Premium Times*; c2021.
11. Musa SD, Idris SR, Haris NBM. Investigating agropreneurial intention among students in higher learning institutions using the Theory of Planned Behaviour. *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities*. 2021;29(2):1151-1170.
12. Ntale JF, Anampiu R, Gathaiya CW. Agro-entrepreneurship readiness model: An empirical investigation in Kenya. *International Journal of Development and Sustainability*. 2015;4(7):825-839.
13. Omorogiwa O, Zivkovic J, Ademoh F. The role of agriculture in the economic development of Nigeria. *European Scientific Journal*. 2014;10(4):133-147.
14. Onalu CE, Uchechukwu NE, Okoye UO. COVID-19 responses and social work education in Nigeria: Matters arising. *International Journal of Social Work Education*. 2020;39(8):1037-1047.
15. Rewane B. The monthly paper presentation in Lagos Business School on Nigeria still poverty capital of the world; c2021.
16. Udemezue JC. Agriculture for all; Constraints to youth participation in Africa. *Current Investigations in Agriculture and Current Research*. 2019;7(2):904-908. [Doi:10.32474/CIACR.2019.07.000256](https://doi.org/10.32474/CIACR.2019.07.000256).
17. Yusoff A, Ahmad NH, Halim HA. Promoting agropreneurship among Gen Y: An integration of individual, institutional and social level factors. *Australian Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences*. 2015;9(14):74-86.
18. Yusoff A, Ahmad HN, Halim AH. Entrepreneurial orientation and agropreneurial intention among Malaysian agricultural students: The impact of agropreneurship education. *Advance in Business-Related Scientific Research Journal*. 2016;7(1):78-96.
19. FOA. Developing the knowledge, skills and talents of youth to further food security and nutrition; c2015. p. 1-49. <https://www.fao.org/3/i5024e/i5024e.pdf>