

Youths' Participation in Livestock Agribusiness Entrepreneurship in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The objective of this study was to examine the livestock business operations and livestock entrepreneurship interest of youths, their perception of livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship as a source of income and livelihood, the influence on their choice of livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship as a livelihood and the constraints to their livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship livelihood decision making.

Design/methodology/approach: Cross-sectional data were obtained from 779 youth livestock agribusiness entrepreneurs who were selected through a multi-stage sampling procedure. Descriptive statistics were used for data analysis.

Findings: Youths positively perceived livestock entrepreneurship as a source of income and livelihood. To a great extent, their personal interest and passion was a major factor that influenced their choice of livestock agribusiness as career. The most serious constraints to livestock agribusiness career decision making among the youths was the inadequate finance and inaccessibility to fund.

Research limitations/implications: The challenge of having limited access to data, time constraints and conflicts arising from some youth participants' personal issues.

Practical implications: This study will provide information to enable policy makers come up with policies that will address the food security needs of the country's population.

Originality/value: The information is required to close the gap in the literature and contributes to the body of understanding on youths' agribusiness entrepreneurship activities.

Paper type: Research paper

Keywords: Agribusiness, Entrepreneurship, Livestock, Nigeria, Youths' Participation

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I. INTRODUCTION

Livestock is tamed earthbound creatures that are raised to give a different exhibit of labor and products like hides, meat, footing, milk, eggs, filaments and plumes (Seré et al., 1996; Pandey & Upadhyay, 2022). They are faunas reared, kept or raised on a ranch to procure earnings, produce work and different items (Fearnley, 2018; Owode, 2019). Entrepreneurship business venture in agricultural related entrepreneurship business (agriprenurship) is one of the significant impetuses for monetary development and advancement in each arising economy. It characterizes the abundance creation exercises among economies of both developing and developed nations, and it is additionally the best answer for diminishing joblessness in non-industrial nations. This affluence is made by people who face the significant challenges as far as value, time and occupational responsibility of offering some incentive to some product or service, the product or service itself could possibly be new or interesting yet the worth must in some way be mixed by the agriprenur by getting and designating the vital ability and assets. Muñoz & Kimmitt (2019) depicted entrepreneurship business as an action that includes the disclosure, assessment and the use of chances to present new services and products, approaches to sorting out, entrepreneurship business sectors, cycles and unrefined substances through coordinating endeavours that recently had not existed. As indicated by Hertel et al. (2022), entrepreneurship business is the demonstration of exploring new territory and of worth by changing over a thought or creation into productive development. In this way, entrepreneurship business venture involves the formation of items, new entrepreneurship business sectors, industry, development and nonstop improvement in quality, abundance creation, work age, destitution decrease as well as upgrading various impacts in both the supply and demand side of the economy.

There exists no worldwide acknowledged meaning of the youth populace cluster. The idea is context oriented and differs (Philipps, 2018). For instance, while the United Nations, for assessable purposes, characterizes youth as individuals between the ages of 15 and 24 years (Hawke et al., (2019). the Africa Youth Charter and the Organization of African Youth characterize the youth as those matured somewhere in the range of 15 and 35 years (Bello, 2019). The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommends a 'down to earth' meaning of youth as the "period an individual creates capacities and interactive abilities expected to be prepared for monetary profit and the obligation to be brought by the situation with adulthood". Hence, this characterizes the young populace as those matured somewhere in the range of 18 and 35 years of age which utilizes the African Union Youth Charter (AYC) furthest restriction of 35 years and a lower age breaking point of 18 years (Barsukov & Kalachikova, 2020).

In Nigeria, the pertinence of agriprenurship area in the country's economy is being perceived Ikuemonisan & Akinbola (2021), The area gives tremendous and limitless opportunities to youngsters, particularly in this time of increasing joblessness. Recognizing the elements that pull people to become agriprenurs is significant as it will direct in planning the improvement of the area (Akron & Kotu, 2022). As needs be, Backman et al., (2021) recognized sex, age of the youth, yearly pay, region, and identity as the elements that impact people to turn into an entrepreneurship business person. Regardless of the recognized significance of the agriprenurship area in monetary development, ominous government programmes, different tax assessment, unfortunate admittance to fund, absence of schooling and preparing, natural issues, and defilement have stayed significant limitations to new companies by youngsters in Nigeria (Nmeregini et al., 2020).

Youth agriprenurship has begun to get huge consideration in view of its capability to diminish joblessness and set out financial opportunities for the youths (Ouko et al., 2022). To foster youngsters' advantage in agriprenurship area, the Nigerian government had given various exercises and projects to propel their abilities and supplant maturing ranchers in the area (Babu et al., 2020). Besides, the ongoing overabundance in the oil area universally has required a journey for elective method for abundance creation through the support and viable commitment of youth in agriprenurial exercises amidst the high joblessness rate among young people (L. O. Bello et al., 2021). Such issues and motivations that impact agriprenurial decision and inclinations among the youths should be explored for legitimate verbalization of acceptable and practical independent work opportunities for the youngsters of Nigeria (Adebayo, O. A. et al., 2020)

The association of youth in domesticated animals' business venture can contribute massively to youth improvement and go about as a wellspring of strengthening for them. Domesticated animals' business incorporates every one of the exercises connected with animals to which pay can be created. The target of including youth in livestock animals' venture fills in as a device for giving work to them in this way easing neediness and misconducts (Triana Ángel & Ariza Aya, 2019; Meena, 2018). Youth contribution in agricultural exercises won't just set out opportunities for the young people yet in addition increment food and creature creation and a huge degree lessen the hole between food creation and its interest locally (Ogunlusi et al., 2018). Youngsters can foster the demeanour, information and abilities that empower them to play a functioning capability in the public eye and team up or help out grown-ups to survey basic issues and respond well to tracking down answers for their necessities and issues (Attah et al., 2021). Youth entrepreneurship business venture implies the pragmatic use of big entrepreneurship business characteristics, for example, the

commencement, imagination and hazard taking into the workplace either in independent work or work in little beginning up firms, involving the suitable abilities vital for progress in that climate (Guinan et al., 2019). Significant segment of the populace in Nigeria are the young, consequently, the significance of youth in animals undertaking cannot be exaggerated. Youths are resilient and have the ample energy that needs legitimate directing and ingathering for expanded livestock and other animals' production (Dukpa & Wangdi, J.T., 2021)

The worry about youth contribution in agriculture particularly the agribusiness of domesticated animals verges on the bountiful actual energies and more prominent information securing penchant they have (Yami et al., 2019). By that, they are the fate of the country. These young people could frame a considerable human asset - base or labor force for agricultural production (Dvořák et al., 2020). With explicit reference to livestock production, Nigerian youths have shown negative perspectives towards dairy cattle raising among different portions of agriculture since they consider it to be work concentrated, long time venture, turning out sluggish and low-revenue opportunities and unpleasant (L. O. Bello et al., 2021). Different variables that are in many cases given for the non-support of young people in livestock production and agricultural business incorporate mass ignorance, unsound government strategies, absence of motivations, pessimistic friend pressure impact and poor infrastructural condition of the agribusiness networks (Al-amri et al., 2022). Now is the ideal opportunity overflowing to assemble and coordinate young people towards expanded livestock production as of now when there is such a lot of sob for putting more creature protein sources into the typical Nigerian consumption routine (Vickery et al., 2022; Awoyomi et al., 2022).

In any case, there is apparent and enough proof as reflected in the expanded country-metropolitan movement records, huge contribution of Nigerian youths in automobile and motorcycling riding services (both in the towns and in the urban communities), social indecencies, even prostitution and so on among young people, which are markers that the lively energies and energetic promptness of these teaming young people are not sufficiently tackled and tapped for the agricultural establishment and production (fagbemi et al., 2020). Sadly, the absence of work opportunities for young people in Nigeria has prompted youth restlessness, fortified burglary, abducting, village-city relocation, drug pushing and component of political disaster. This is an exceptionally risky array for the future heads and front-runners of the country (Ike et al., 2022).

The making of more beneficial and useful youth service and engagement in the livestock subdivision is the fundamental road-map to diminishing neediness. For this, one significant objective will be to further develop the market placement and commercialization of livestock production activities, likewise with a view to economical heightening and coming about expansions in efficiency (Chams & García-Blandón, 2019; Edamisan Stephen Ikuemonisan et al., 2022). Unswerving information on workforce markets is scant, likewise the deficiency of information on youth input as well as their view of business in animal production as a profession. As an outcome, very little is known about the significant awareness of the inspirations, yearnings, and limitations of young ladies and men in the business of domesticated animals (Uju & John, 2018). Government and organizations seldom incorporate young men and women who participate in the livestock agriculture and agribusiness area (Okechukwu & Nwekwo, 2020). Subsequently, this study will give make available data on youth contribution in livestock agriculture and agribusiness as well as their view of domesticated livestock agriculture and agribusiness as a job to empower policymakers to concoct strategies that will address the necessities of the substantial quota of the nation's populace (Som et al., 2018; Okolie & Igbini, 2020).

In view of the aforementioned, the study was designed to address the problem and provide answers, determined the livestock business operation and livestock entrepreneurship interest of youths, their perception of livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship as a source of income and livelihood, the influence on their choice of livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship as a livelihood and the constraints to their livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship livelihood decision making.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in two Nigerian geopolitical zones: North-Central and South-West. Two States were selected from each region. In North-Central, Niger and Kwara States were selected, and in South-West, Ogun and Oyo States were selected. These four states are states with a substantial proportion of youths in agriculture more especially in livestock agribusiness in Nigeria. Niger State covers a landmass of 76,363 km², has a latitude of 9.9309° N, a longitude of N, 5.5983° E and comprises 25 local government areas. Kwara State covers a landmass of 36,825 km², has a latitude of 8.9669° N, a longitude 4.3874° E and comprises 16 local government areas. Ogun State covers a landmass of 16,980.55 km², has a latitude of 6.9980° N, a longitude of 3.4737° E and comprises 20 local government areas. Oyo State covers a landmass of 28,454 km², has a latitude of 8.1574° N, a longitude of 3.6147° E and comprises 33 local government areas.

The target population for the survey was the Nigerian youth entrepreneurs who are engaged in involved in livestock initiatives (livestock agribusiness, marketing of livestock products/equipment and veterinary services), either as a primary or secondary occupation. The National Policy on Youth Development in Nigeria defined youth as individuals between 18 and 35 years (Ogunmodede et al., 2020; Osabohien et al., 2021). Multi-stage sampling technique was used to select was used in selecting 871 youth entrepreneurs who are engaged in livestock enterprises (livestock agribusiness, marketing of livestock products/equipment and veterinary services) from the sample frame of 1440 livestock (livestock agribusiness, marketing of livestock products/equipment and veterinary services) entrepreneurs (serving as the sample frame) i.e. 360 respondents from each state.

Only 779 questionnaire was retrieved, which constituted about 54.1% of the sample frame, were used in the subsequent analysis. The first stage involved the purposive selection of the Kwara, Niger, Oyo and Ogun States. In the second stage, 4 local government areas were purposively selected from each of the states, based on the reported large number of youths in these local government areas by the State Ministry of Agriculture ADP. The third stage involved the selection of 6 clustered communities from the selected local government areas from each state, making a total of 24 clustered communities for each state. The final stage involved the selection of 15 Nigerian youth entrepreneurs who are engaged in involved in livestock enterprises (livestock agribusiness, marketing of livestock products/equipment and veterinary services) per community through a simple random technique.

Primary data were obtained on respondents’ personal characteristics, their livestock business operation and livestock entrepreneurship interest of youths, their perception of livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship as a source of income and livelihood, the influence on their choice of livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship as a livelihood and the constraints to their livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship livelihood decision making which was measured on a Likert-type scale ranging from strongly agreed (10) to strongly disagreed (1), influencing factors on the choice of livestock agribusiness as a livelihood among the youth entrepreneurs which was measured on a Likert-type scale ranging from to a great extent (10) towards to no extent (1) and the constraints to choosing livestock as a livelihood ranging from serious (10) to not a constraint (1). This was achieved with the use of a structured questionnaire. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Personal characteristics of the respondents

Table 1 showed that majority of the respondents (67.65%) were male while the remaining (32.35%) constituted the female livestock entrepreneurs in the study area. This study is supported by Olayemi et al., (2021) who stated that males are more interested in agribusiness activities because of its tedious nature. The table also showed that majority of the respondents (50.19%) were between the ages of 24 and 29 years old while the mean age of the respondents was 28.91 years. This indicates that the respondents were in their reproductive years. A majority of the respondents (63.16%) were married while 36.46% were not married. Thus, a majority of the respondents (47.88%) had post-secondary education while 11.94% did not have formal education. The result implied that majority of the respondents were literate. Education is important in creating positive mental attitude towards adoption of modern agribusiness innovations (Adefunke A Odumosu et al., 2020). It was observed that majority of the respondents (55.33%) earned less than 500,000 Naira annually. The mean annual income of the respondents was 348,043.26 Naira. This indicated that the youths are low income earners and it has negative implication on their ability to invest in livestock production business (Rufai et al., 2021). More than half of the respondents (51.99%) had a livestock business experience of less than 10 years while 48.01% of the respondents had more than 10 years’ experience in the livestock business. The mean livestock experience of the respondents was 9.73 years. This implied that the youths are relatively experienced in the livestock business practice (Alabi et al., 2019; Oghenero Joseph et al., 2020; Adeyonu et al., 2021).

Table 1 – Personal characteristics of the respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Gender	Male	527	67.65
	Female	252	32.35

	18-23	104	13.35	
Age (Years)	24-29	391	50.19	29.91
	30-35	284	36.46	
	Married	492	63.16	
Marital Status	Not married	287	36.84	
	No formal education	93	11.94	
Educational Status	Primary education	146	18.74	
	Secondary education	167	21.44	
	Post-Secondary education	373	47.88	
	Annual income from livestock agribusiness (Naira)	≤ 500,000	431	55.33
>500,000	348	44.67		
Years of Experience (Years)	≤ 10	405	51.99	9.73
	>10	374	48.01	

B. Livestock business operations and livestock entrepreneurship involved

As presented in Table 2, a majority (66.11%) of the respondents indicated that they operated a full time livestock business while 33.89% of the respondents operated a part-time livestock business. This implied that majority of the youths are interested in livestock agribusiness, thus, this should be a good opportunity to be explored by government, agrarian stakeholders and policy makers to drastically reduce the level unemployment and poverty especially among the youths in the country (Dimelu et al., 2020). A majority of respondents (39.92%) are involved in the monogastric (poultry, pigs, rabbits, cane rats, grasscutters) livestock business while (32.22%) of respondents are involved in the ruminant (cattle, sheep, goats) livestock business. However, other major livestock entrepreneurship the respondents (10.14%) are involved in are aquaculture (fish, crustaceans and mollusks), sales of livestock farm products/drugs/equipment (9.11%) and offer of veterinary services (8.60%).

Table 2 – Livestock business operation and livestock entrepreneurship involved

	Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Livestock business operations	Full time basis	515	66.11
	Part time basis	264	33.89
Major livestock entrepreneurship involved	Monogastrics	311	39.92
	Ruminants	251	32.22

<i>Aquaculture</i>	79	10.14
<i>Sales of livestock farm products/drugs/equipment</i>	71	9.11
<i>Veterinary Services</i>	67	8.60

C. Perception of livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship as a source of income and livelihood

As revealed in Table 3, the respondents positively perceived livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship as a source of income and livelihood. The youths agreed that livestock agribusiness is profitable (8.89) and there is a high demand for livestock and its products (8.55). Livestock agribusiness guarantees a regular income (8.45) though it involved so much risk (8.01), creates job opportunities (7.97) and it is a means of livelihood (7.83) which lots of money is made from it (7.83). Also, they perceived that they are financially independent by investing in livestock agribusiness (7.55), thus, is also prestigious venture (7.39) and the future is bright while invested in livestock agribusiness (7.29). They professed livestock agribusiness is their main career choice as youth (6.79) and it pays them better than other jobs offered to them (6.35). Consequently, the respondents had an indifferent view that young people cannot be successful in livestock agribusiness (5.83), they will only venture into livestock agribusiness if they are unable to secure a good job (5.81), despite the fact that the income of livestock agribusiness is too small to attain their desired standard of living (5.61). Hence, they will prefer to be a livestock entrepreneur rather than work in other labor sectors (5.39). Although, they slightly disagree that it is a waste of time for them venturing into livestock agribusiness as a young person (4.73). It is clear that the youths were indifferent to the negative statements of livestock agribusiness as means of livelihood. A grand mean of 7.07 out of 10 points indicated livestock entrepreneurship is positively perceived as a source of income and livelihood (Ahmadu et al., (2021).

Table 3 – Respondents’ perception of livestock entrepreneurship as source of income and livelihood

<i>Respondents’ perception of livestock entrepreneurship as source of income and livelihood</i>	<i>Mean Score</i>
<i>Livestock agribusiness is profitable</i>	8.89
<i>There is a high demand for livestock and its products</i>	8.55
<i>Livestock agribusiness guarantees a regular income</i>	8.45
<i>Livestock agribusiness involves so much risk</i>	8.01
<i>Livestock agribusiness creates job opportunities</i>	7.97
<i>Livestock agribusiness is a means of livelihood</i>	7.83
<i>Lots of money is made from livestock agribusiness</i>	7.83
<i>Being financially independent by investing in livestock agribusiness</i>	7.55
<i>Livestock agribusiness is a prestigious venture</i>	7.39
<i>The future is bright with livestock agribusiness</i>	7.29
<i>Livestock agribusiness is my main career choice as youth</i>	6.79
<i>Livestock agribusiness pays me better than other jobs</i>	6.35

<i>Young people cannot be successful in livestock agribusiness</i>	5.83
<i>I will only venture into livestock agribusiness if I am unable to secure a good job</i>	5.81
<i>Income of livestock agribusiness is too small to achieve my desired standard of living</i>	5.61
<i>I will prefer to be a livestock entrepreneur rather than work in other labor sectors</i>	5.39
<i>It is a waste of time going into livestock business as a young person</i>	4.73
<i>Grand Mean</i>	7.07

D. Influencing factors on the youths’ choice of livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship as a livelihood

As shown in Table 4, some factors were identified to have influenced the choice of livestock agribusiness as livelihood among the youth entrepreneurs. To a great extent, the factors identified to have influenced the choice of livestock agribusiness as livelihood among the youth entrepreneurs includes personal interest and passion (8.93), work experience, skills and capability (8.07), parents and family background (8.00), people known to be involved in livestock agribusiness (7.93), the country’s unemployment situation (7.83), career leadership, guidance and management (7.63) and the respondents’ educational background (7.60). The factors identified to have influenced the choice of livestock agribusiness as livelihood among the youths to a little extent includes the mentors/teachers influence and encouragement (6.73), other family members (6.60) and the media (6.27).

Table 4 – Influencing factors on the youths’ choice of livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship as a livelihood

<i>Influencing factors on the youths’ choice of livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship as a livelihood</i>	<i>Mean</i>
<i>Personal interest and passion</i>	8.93
<i>Work experience, skills and capability</i>	8.07
<i>Parents and family background</i>	8.00
<i>People known to be involved in livestock agribusiness</i>	7.93
<i>The country’s unemployment situation</i>	7.83
<i>Career leadership, guidance and management</i>	7.63
<i>Educational background</i>	7.60
<i>Mentors influence</i>	6.73
<i>Other family members</i>	6.60
<i>The Media</i>	6.27

E. Constraints to youths’ livestock agribusiness livelihood decision making

Some factors were identified to be constraints to youths’ livestock agribusiness livelihood decision making among the youths. The serious constraints includes inadequate finance and inaccessibility to fund (8.63), high cost of animal feeds/veterinary services (vaccines and drugs)/prevailing pests, diseases and disorders of animals (8.03), insufficient skill acquisition/ignorance of the potentials of career in livestock/fear of livestock failure/attitudinal problem of being called a farmer/inadequate manpower/cynicism towards livestock animal producers and production (8.00) and lack of basic infrastructure and high livestock carrying cost, poor transportation network (7.77). The mild constraints to livestock agribusiness livelihood decision making among the youths includes inadequate extension services (6.80) and the difficulties in acquiring land/urbanization (6.77).

Table 5 – Constraints to youths’ livestock agribusiness livelihood decision making

<i>Constraints to youths’ livestock agribusiness livelihood decision making</i>	<i>Mean</i>
<i>Inadequate finance and inaccessibility to fund</i>	<i>8.63</i>
<i>High cost of animal feeds/veterinary services (vaccines and drugs)/prevailing pests, diseases and disorders of animals</i>	<i>8.03</i>
<i>Insufficient skill acquisition/ignorance of the potentials of career in livestock/fear of livestock failure/attitudinal problem of being called a farmer/inadequate manpower/cynicism towards livestock animal producers and production</i>	<i>8.00</i>
<i>Lack of basic infrastructure and high livestock carrying cost, poor transportation network</i>	<i>7.77</i>
<i>Inadequate extension services</i>	<i>6.80</i>
<i>Difficulty in acquiring land/ Urbanization</i>	<i>6.77</i>

IV. CONCLUSION

This study concluded that the youths involved in livestock agribusiness entrepreneurship in Nigeria are predominantly male, they are less than 30 years old, married, and are literate/educated. They earned low income from the livestock agribusiness and are sparingly/relatively experienced in the livestock agribusiness practice. They operated a full time livestock agribusiness venture and most of the youths are involved in the monogastric (poultry, pigs, rabbits, cane rats, grasscutters) and ruminant (cattle, sheep, goats) livestock agribusiness. The youths positively perceived livestock entrepreneurship as a source of income and livelihood. To a great extent, their personal interest and passion was a major factor that influenced their choice of livestock agribusiness as career. The most serious constraints to livestock agribusiness career decision making among the youths was the inadequate finance and inaccessibility to fund.

Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended that assistance should be given to youths through provision of credits and loans, encouragement/recognition of youth agripreneurs by relevant stakeholders to increase the participation of youth in the agribusiness sectors to reduce the level of unemployment among youth in the country, through the provision of adequate well-funded skills acquisition and training programs in agribusiness in form of workshops, forums, seminars, local agricultural shows and competitions.

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