**Executive Summary**

Youth unemployment is a critical issue in Nigeria, with many young people lacking opportunities for economic empowerment and livelihood development. At the same time, the agricultural sector remains largely unexploited despite its potential to create jobs and food security due to challenges such as land access, resource inadequacy, and knowledge deficiency, among others. This project proposal seeks to combat the interrelated challenges by launching a social enterprise that empowers Nigerian youth through agriculture. The approach involves allocating the participants sizeable hectares of land, availing comprehensive training and essential resources and providing support to enable them to fully engage in the sector. The structured program will train the participants in modern farming and business management techniques and market access opportunities for them to run viable agribusiness ventures. Furthermore, the project will establish the requisite infrastructure, facilitate market linkage, and establish networks to boost the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of the ventures.

Over a five years period, it hopes to achieve the following: empower at least 1000 Nigerians youth in different states through land allocation, training, and facilitation to become successful agripreneurs, enhance food security and poverty reduction in the target communities by increasing agricultural productivity and income opportunities for the youth, and promote knowledge sharing, innovation, and collaboration among the youth. The project proposal recognizes potential risks such as land tenure conflicts, business growth uncertainty, market vagaries, and environmental variation, but remains optimistic that strategic risk management strategies and stakeholders’ participation would minimize the risks. It anticipates a transformative impact on the Nigerian agricultural and youth empowerment landscape. The dream is for Nigerian youth to exploit agriculture’s potential and become industry leaders.

**Background/ The Problem**

Nigeria faces a significant challenge of youth unemployment, with the youth population constituting a large percentage of the unemployed demographic (Ojo et al., 2020). This issue is exacerbated by limited economic opportunities, particularly in rural areas where access to formal employment is scarce. The agricultural sector, despite being a primary source of livelihood for many Nigerians, has not been effectively tapped to address youth unemployment due to various constraints such as access to land, capital, and technical knowledge (Ajayi & Daramola, 2017).

Historical data reveals a persistent trend of underutilization of Nigeria's vast agricultural potential, with the sector experiencing stagnation and declining productivity in recent years (World Bank, 2020). While government initiatives and development projects have been implemented to promote agriculture and youth empowerment, these efforts have often been fragmented and insufficient to address the systemic challenges faced by young people in rural areas (FAO, 2019).

In addition to structural barriers, young Nigerians also contend with socio-economic factors such as limited access to education, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of support networks, further hindering their ability to engage in productive activities and improve their livelihoods (Agwu & Ejike-Alieji, 2018). As a result, many youth remain trapped in a cycle of poverty and marginalization, with few opportunities for upward mobility.

Despite ongoing efforts by various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector actors, the problem of youth unemployment persists, highlighting the need for innovative and holistic approaches to address the root causes of the issue. While some projects and programs have been successful in providing temporary relief or targeted interventions, there remains a gap in sustainable solutions that empower young Nigerians to become self-reliant and actively contribute to economic development.

The proposed project seeks to fill this gap by establishing a social enterprise focused on empowering Nigerian youth through agriculture. By providing access to land, training, resources, and support, the project aims to equip young people with the skills and opportunities needed to build successful agribusiness ventures and break the cycle of poverty. Through collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships, the project aligns with national development objectives and offers a scalable model for youth empowerment and agricultural revitalization in Nigeria.

Youths are very important resources for every nation especially for sustaining agricultural productivity, an important sector for the development. The youth is a stakeholder in the development process especially in view of the great assets of youth, resilience, resourcefulness and perseverance. Nigeria has a young population overall, with 42.54% of inhabitants between the ages of 0–14 (O’Neill 2024). Half of the population is aged under 19 years (Doris 2022). With the significant high population of youth in Nigeria, there is also been high rate of unemployment among the Nigerian youths. Youth unemployment in Nigeria is a significant challenge with far-reaching implications for the country's economic and social stability. With over half of Nigeria's population under the age of 30, the youth unemployment rate is concerning. Reports indicate that approximately 64 million young Nigerians are unemployed, with an additional 1.6 million underemployed Akaninyene et al. (2022). This high rate of youth unemployment contributes to issues such as poverty, inequality, and social unrest, leading many unemployed youths to engage in activities like betting games for survival (Olaore et al., 2020).

There is insufficient youth participation in the agricultural sector even though this class of people is the most productive of any society as it contains people in the prime of their lives physically and mentally (Nwude 2021). The agricultural sector in Nigeria being a significantly contributes to the country's socioeconomic development. Over 70% of the economically active population in Nigeria is employed in the agricultural sector Matemilola & Elegbede (2017). Agriculture in Nigeria not only supports the economy but also provides employment, food security, raw materials for industries, and foreign exchange earnings (Salisu & Haladu, 2021).

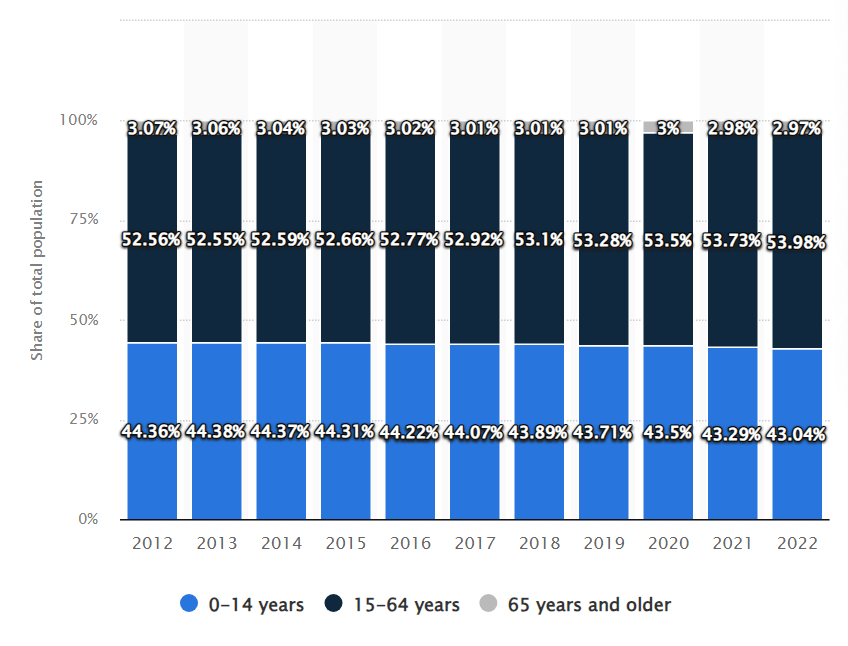
There is a troubling trend of youth neglecting this sector, primarily driven by challenges such as an aging farming population, illiteracy, and lack of basic amenities (Maduabueke 2018). These barriers deter youth from engaging in agriculture, affecting sustainable productivity and environmental protection. However, empowering youth through agriculture can significantly impact income and poverty reduction, with studies showing that active youth participation in agriculture can increase household income and reduce poverty by up to 17% (Osabohien et al. 2021). Factors such as gender, determination, market access, and agricultural occupation are crucial for youth engagement. Educational neglect and inadequate practical teaching in agricultural education exacerbate this issue (Adetunji 2023). Therefore, government policies should focus on empowering youth through targeted agricultural programs and strategies to enhance market connectivity and land access, ensuring sustainable development (Nwude 2021). Addressing these challenges and providing necessary support is essential to encourage youth participation in agriculture, thereby boosting income, reducing poverty, and contributing to Nigeria’s overall development.

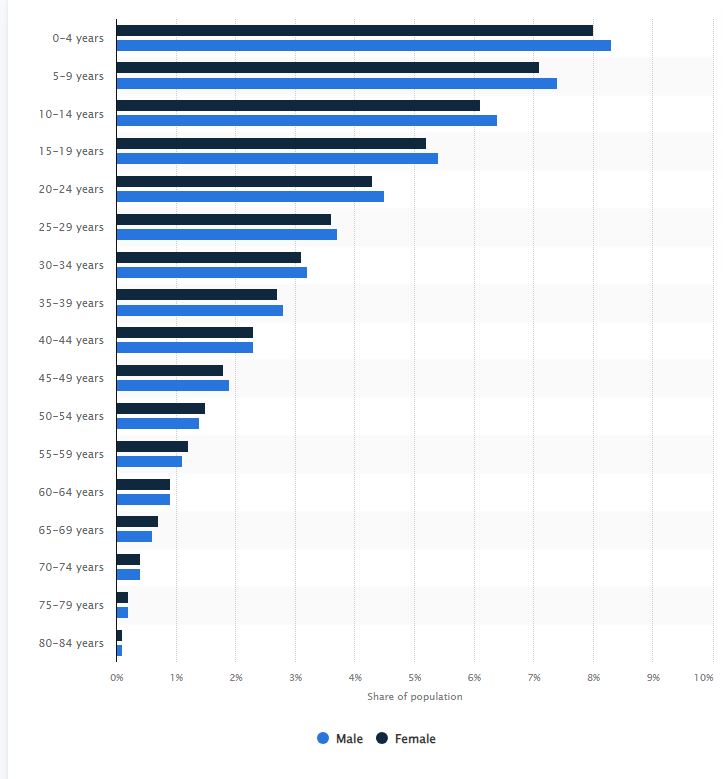
**Youth Participation in Agriculture and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria**

Agriculture plays a crucial role in Nigeria’s economy, but there has been a concerning trend of youth neglecting this sector. Let’s delve into some key points:

1. **Challenges Faced by Nigerian Youth in Agriculture:**
   * **Aging Farmers:** The bulk of Nigeria’s food production comes from aging farmers who are less likely to adopt new technologies. This hinders sustainable agricultural productivity and environmental protection.
   * [**Challenges:** Factors such as illiteracy, lack of basic amenities, societal disorientation, and media influence contribute to the reluctance of youth to engage in agribusiness](https://guardian.ng/features/agro-care/tackling-challenges-of-youth-involvement-in-agribusiness/) (Maduabueke 2018).
2. **Empowering Youth Through Agriculture:**
   * [A study](https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/14/7795) by Osabohien et al. (2021) found that youth participation in agriculture as a primary occupation significantly impacts income and poverty reduction.
   * **Positive Factors:**
     + **Gender and Determination:** Gender and a strong determination to stay in agriculture increase the likelihood of youth participating in agribusiness.
     + **Income and Poverty:** Youth engaged in agriculture contribute significantly to per capita household income and can reduce poverty by up to 17%.
     + **Market Access:** Access to markets, having agriculture as a primary occupation, and income from agricultural production play vital roles.
   * **Recommendations:**
     + Promoting other secondary occupations, improving land access, and enhancing market connectivity are essential for sustainable youth engagement in agriculture.
3. **Educational Neglect:**
   * Agricultural education in Nigerian schools has often been neglected. [The practical aspects of the subject were overlooked, and theoretical teaching was inadequate](https://guardian.ng/features/agro-care/tackling-challenges-of-youth-involvement-in-agribusiness/) (Adetunji 2023).
4. **Government Policies and Youth Empowerment:**
   * Government policies should focus on empowering youth through agricultural programs. [Strategies to enhance youth participation are crucial for sustainable development](https://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jbm/papers/Vol23-issue7/Series-2/B2307020813.pdf) (Nwude 2021).

In summary, encouraging youth to actively participate in agriculture can boost income, reduce poverty, and contribute to Nigeria’s overall development. However, addressing challenges and providing necessary support are essential for achieving this goal.





**Methodology**

Goal:

* To empower Nigerian youth through agriculture by providing them with access to land, training, and resources to establish sustainable agribusiness ventures.

Objectives:

1. Conduct a needs assessment survey to identify the specific challenges and opportunities faced by youth in agriculture in target communities (Ajayi & Daramola, 2017).
2. Allocate land to participating youth and provide comprehensive training programs covering agricultural best practices, business management, and market access strategies (FAO, 2019).
3. Establish support structures and networks, including mentorship programs and peer learning platforms, to facilitate knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation among youth participants (Ojo et al., 2020).
4. Monitor and evaluate the progress and impact of the project through key performance indicators such as increased agricultural productivity, income generation, and youth empowerment outcomes (Agwu & Ejike-Alieji, 2018).

Research Methodology:

The research methodology will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative research techniques to gather comprehensive data and insights relevant to the project objectives. The methodology will consist of the following components:

1. Needs Assessment Survey:
   * A quantitative survey will be conducted among youth participants in target communities to assess their knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to agriculture, as well as their specific needs, challenges, and aspirations.
   * The survey will utilize structured questionnaires administered through face-to-face interviews or electronic means, ensuring a representative sample and high response rate.
   * Quantitative data analysis techniques, including descriptive statistics and inferential analysis, will be employed to analyze survey responses and identify key trends and patterns.
2. Stakeholder Interviews:
   * Qualitative interviews will be conducted with key stakeholders, including government officials, community leaders, agricultural experts, and potential partners, to gain insights into the broader context of youth empowerment and agricultural development in Nigeria.
   * Semi-structured interview guides will be used to facilitate in-depth discussions and explore diverse perspectives, experiences, and recommendations.
   * Thematic analysis will be employed to identify recurring themes, emerging issues, and areas of consensus or divergence among stakeholders.
3. Focus Group Discussions:
   * Focus group discussions (FGDs) will be organized with youth participants to delve deeper into specific topics or themes identified during the needs assessment survey and stakeholder interviews.
   * FGDs will provide a forum for participants to share their experiences, opinions, and aspirations regarding agriculture and youth empowerment.
   * Facilitated discussions will be recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using qualitative data analysis techniques such as content analysis and thematic coding.
4. Document Review:
   * A review of relevant literature, reports, policy documents, and project evaluations will be conducted to contextualize the findings and identify best practices, lessons learned, and gaps in existing interventions.
   * Document review will help inform the design and implementation of project activities, ensuring alignment with national development priorities and global best practices in youth empowerment and agricultural development.
5. Ethical Considerations:
   * Ethical considerations, including informed consent, confidentiality, and respect for participants' autonomy and dignity, will be strictly adhered to throughout the research process.
   * Institutional review board (IRB) approval will be obtained prior to data collection, and appropriate safeguards will be implemented to protect the rights and welfare of all research participants.

By employing a rigorous research methodology encompassing both quantitative and qualitative approaches, the project aims to generate robust evidence and insights to inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions aimed at empowering Nigerian youth through agriculture.

Using the findings of the literature review and primary data collection, a scheme will be formulated that will give rise to the process of Young People's Agricultural Cooperative Society (YPACS). The scheme framed will be based on the needs and preferences of young people of Nigeria and will support sustainable agricultural production that will provide the basis for the young people's economic empowerment. The development of the scheme will cover the following steps:

* Designing the organizational structure and governance framework of the YPACS.
* Identifying biologically productive areas, which are no longer actively being used.
* Building a land dream team.
* Establishing a training school.
* Establishing partnerships with key stakeholders.
* Business planning.

The six steps will form the blueprint for the operational modus operandi of the YPACS. These are issues that the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union regularly contends with, and these are instructive lessons based on practical experiences.

Project task:

1. Conduct Needs Assessment Survey: Justification: The needs assessment survey will provide valuable insights into the current situation and help tailor project activities to address the most pressing needs of the target beneficiaries (Ajayi & Daramola, 2017).
   * Develop survey questionnaires to gather data on the challenges, needs, and aspirations of youth in agriculture.
   * Administer surveys to a representative sample of youth participants in target communities.
   * Analyze survey responses to identify key themes, priorities, and areas for intervention.
2. Land Allocation and Training Program: Justification: Access to land is a critical barrier for youth engagement in agriculture, and allocating land to participants will provide them with a tangible resource to start their agribusiness ventures (FAO, 2019).
   * Identify suitable land parcels for allocation to participating youth based on survey findings and feasibility assessments.
   * Facilitate the legal processes for land acquisition, including lease agreements and land use permissions.
   * Develop and implement comprehensive training programs covering agricultural techniques, business management, and market access strategies.
   * Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training activities through participant feedback and performance assessments.
3. Establish Support Structures and Networks: Justification: Building support structures and networks will provide participants with ongoing guidance, encouragement, and opportunities for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation (Agwu & Ejike-Alieji, 2018).
   * Organize mentorship programs, peer learning groups, and farmer field schools to provide ongoing support and guidance to youth participants.
   * Facilitate networking events, workshops, and knowledge-sharing sessions to foster collaboration and innovation among youth farmers.
   * Establish communication channels and online platforms for information sharing, resource mobilization, and community engagement.
4. Monitoring and Evaluation:
   * Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework with key performance indicators (KPIs) aligned with project objectives.
   * Collect baseline data on agricultural productivity, income levels, and youth empowerment indicators before project implementation.
   * Regularly collect and analyze data on project activities, outputs, and outcomes to track progress and identify areas for improvement.
   * Prepare periodic progress reports and conduct review meetings with stakeholders to ensure accountability and transparency in project implementation.

Each task will contribute to the achievement of project objectives and the delivery of specific, measurable, and time-bound outcomes. By systematically executing these tasks, the project aims to empower Nigerian youth through agriculture and create sustainable livelihood opportunities in target communities.

Timeline:

1. Needs Assessment Survey (2 weeks)
   * Design survey questionnaire (3 days)
   * Obtain ethical approval (1 week)
   * Pilot test survey instrument (2 days)
   * Administer survey (3 days)
   * Data collection (1 week)
2. Data Analysis and Report Writing (4 weeks)
   * Clean survey data (1 week)
   * Analyze survey data (2 weeks)
   * Transcribe qualitative data (1 week)
   * Analyze qualitative data (1 week)
   * Draft needs assessment report (2 weeks)
3. Land Allocation and Training Programs (12 weeks)
   * Identify suitable land parcels (2 weeks)
   * Negotiate land agreements (3 weeks)
   * Organize training sessions (4 weeks)
   * Procure agricultural inputs (2 weeks)
   * Distribute agricultural inputs (1 week)
4. Support Structure Establishment (8 weeks)
   * Develop mentorship program guidelines (2 weeks)
   * Organize peer learning platforms (3 weeks)
   * Establish collaboration networks (3 weeks)
5. Monitoring and Evaluation (Ongoing)
   * Develop monitoring and evaluation framework (2 weeks)
   * Collect monitoring data (ongoing)
   * Analyze monitoring data (2 weeks)
   * Conduct periodic project reviews (ongoing)
6. Measurement, Tracking, and Monitoring:

By breaking down the project timeline into manageable phases and tasks, the project team can ensure effective planning, execution, and monitoring of project activities, leading to the successful achievement of project objectives.

**Timeline and Activities**

| **Task** | **Duration** | **Activities and Milestones** | **Risks and Mitigation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Literature Review** | 2 weeks | Conduct comprehensive review of existing literature on youth in agriculture, cooperatives, and related topics. | Limited access to relevant literature: Utilize multiple databases and search strategies. Engage with experts for recommendations. |
| **Stakeholder Engagement** | 2 weeks | Identify and reach out to key stakeholders, including government officials, local authorities, NGOs, and private sector partners. Schedule meetings and consultations to secure support and collaboration. | Delayed responses: Begin engagement early and maintain consistent follow-up. |
| **Primary Data Collection** | 3 weeks | Administer surveys to youths, conduct interviews with key stakeholders, and organize focus groups with potential beneficiaries. | Data collection challenges: Pilot test instruments and develop contingency plans. |
| **Data Analysis** | 2 weeks | Analyze quantitative data from surveys using statistical tools (e.g., SPSS). Perform qualitative analysis of interviews and focus group data using thematic and content analysis techniques. | Data quality issues: Ensure thorough training of data collectors and utilize robust analysis software. |
| **Development of YAC Model** | 4 weeks | Design the YAC organizational structure, governance framework, and business plan. Identify suitable locations for land allocation and develop training programs. Establish partnerships and create a financial model. | Resource constraints: Prioritize spending, explore cost-effective alternatives, and seek additional funding sources. |
| **Stakeholder Review and Feedback** | 2 weeks | Present the YAC model to stakeholders for feedback and validation. Make necessary adjustments based on input received. | Stakeholder resistance: Engage stakeholders early in the process and highlight the benefits of the YAC model. |
| **Implementation Planning** | 3 weeks | Develop a detailed implementation strategy, outlining steps, resources, and timeline required to establish and operationalize the YAC. | Implementation hurdles: Develop a flexible plan that allows for adjustments as needed. |
| **Pilot Testing** | 4 weeks | Conduct a pilot test of the YAC model in selected locations. Monitor and evaluate the pilot for effectiveness and scalability. | Pilot failure: Choose pilot locations carefully and ensure comprehensive monitoring and support during the pilot phase. |
| **Impact Assessment** | 2 weeks | Measure changes in youth participation in agriculture using quantitative and qualitative data collected from the pilot. Compare key indicators before and after implementation. | Limited participation: Increase outreach and offer incentives for participation. |
| **Final Adjustments and Recommendations** | 2 weeks | Make final adjustments to the YAC model based on pilot test results. Develop recommendations for scaling up and policy suggestions. | N/A |
| **Writing and Finalizing Dissertation** | 4 weeks | Compile research findings, analysis, and recommendations into a coherent dissertation document. Review, edit, and finalize the dissertation. | Writer's block and time constraints: Break tasks into smaller milestones and utilize time management techniques. |
| **Submission** | 1 week | Submit the completed dissertation by the specified deadline. | N/A |

**Measurement, Tracking, and Monitoring**

**Data Collection:**

| **Task** | **Duration** | **Activities and Milestones** | **Risks and Mitigation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Literature Review** | 2 weeks | Conduct comprehensive review of existing literature on youth in agriculture, cooperatives, and related topics. | Limited access to relevant literature: Utilize multiple databases and search strategies. Engage with experts for recommendations. |
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| **Development of YAC Model** | 4 weeks | Design the YAC organizational structure, governance framework, and business plan. Identify suitable locations for land allocation and develop training programs. Establish partnerships and create a financial model. | Resource constraints: Prioritize spending, explore cost-effective alternatives, and seek additional funding sources. |
| **Stakeholder Review and Feedback** | 2 weeks | Present the YAC model to stakeholders for feedback and validation. Make necessary adjustments based on input received. | Stakeholder resistance: Engage stakeholders early in the process and highlight the benefits of the YAC model. |
| **Implementation Planning** | 3 weeks | Develop a detailed implementation strategy, outlining steps, resources, and timeline required to establish and operationalize the YAC. | Implementation hurdles: Develop a flexible plan that allows for adjustments as needed. |
| **Pilot Testing** | 4 weeks | Conduct a pilot test of the YAC model in selected locations. Monitor and evaluate the pilot for effectiveness and scalability. | Pilot failure: Choose pilot locations carefully and ensure comprehensive monitoring and support during the pilot phase. |
| **Impact Assessment** | 2 weeks | Measure changes in youth participation in agriculture using quantitative and qualitative data collected from the pilot. Compare key indicators before and after implementation. | Limited participation: Increase outreach and offer incentives for participation. |
| **Final Adjustments and Recommendations** | 2 weeks | Make final adjustments to the YAC model based on pilot test results. Develop recommendations for scaling up and policy suggestions. | N/A |
| **Writing and Finalizing Dissertation** | 4 weeks | Compile research findings, analysis, and recommendations into a coherent dissertation document. Review, edit, and finalize the dissertation. | Writer's block and time constraints: Break tasks into smaller milestones and utilize time management techniques. |
| **Submission** | 1 week | Submit the completed dissertation by the specified deadline. | N/A |

**Timeline**

| **Task** | **Duration** | **Week 1** | **Week 2** | **Week 3** | **Week 4** | **Week 5** | **Week 6** | **Week 7** | | **Week 8** | | **Week 9** | **Week 10** | **Week 11** | **Week 12** | **Week 13** | **Week 14** | **Week 15** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Literature Review** | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Conduct literature review | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Primary Data Collection** | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Administer surveys | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Conduct interviews | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Impact Assessment** | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Quantitative analysis of survey data | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Qualitative analysis of interview and focus group data | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Comparison of key indicators and highlight of success stories | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Recommendations and Implementation Strategy** | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Develop recommendations | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Create an implementation strategy | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Writing and Finalizing Dissertation** | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Compile the research findings | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review, edit, and finalize the dissertation | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Submission** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Measurement, Tracking, and Monitoring**

**Risk and Mitigation**

| **Task** | **Risk** | **Likelihood** | **Severity** | **Mitigation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Literature Review | Limited access to relevant literature | Low | Moderate | Utilize multiple databases and search strategies. Engage with experts for recommendations. |
| Primary Data Collection | Data collection challenges | Moderate | Moderate | Pilot test data collection instruments. Develop contingency plans to address potential issues. |
| Development of the YAC Model | Resource constraints | High | High | Prioritize spending. Explore cost-effective alternatives. Seek additional funding sources. |
| Impact Assessment | Limited participation of stakeholders | Moderate | High | Increase outreach efforts. Offer incentives for participation. |
| Recommendations and Implementation Strategy | Stakeholder resistance to recommendations | Low | High | Engage stakeholders early in the process. Highlight benefits of recommendations. |
| Writing and Finalizing Dissertation | Writer's block and time constraints | Low | Moderate | Break down tasks into smaller milestones. Utilize time management techniques. |

| **Task** | **Week 1** | **Week 2** | **Week 3** | **Week 4** | **Week 5** | **Week 6** | **Week 7** | **Week 8** | **Week 9** | **Week 10** | **Week 11** | **Week 12** | **Week 13** | **Week 14** | **Week 15** | **Week 16** | **Week 17** | **Week 18** | **Week 19** | **Week 20** | **Week 21** | **Week 22** | **Week 23** | **Week 24** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Research Planning (6.1) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Develop Research Questions | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review Literature | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Obtain Ethical Approval |  |  | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Finalize Research Objectives |  |  |  | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Data Collection (6.2) |  |  |  |  | ● | ● | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Administer Questionnaires |  |  |  |  | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Conduct Interviews |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Focus Group Discussions |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Data Analysis (6.3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Organize Collected Data |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Analyze Quantitative Data |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Analyze Qualitative Data |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Finalize Data Analysis |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Report Writing (6.4) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Draft Introduction & Literature Review |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Draft Methodology & Data Analysis |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Draft Discussion & Conclusion |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review & Finalize Dissertation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Implementation (6.5) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |
| Establish Social Enterprise |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vocational Training & Workshops |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● |  |  |  |  |
| Marketing & Exhibitions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● | ● |  |  |

Top of Form

| **Type of Risk** | **Risk Description** | **Likelihood** | **Severity** | **Risk Management and Mitigation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey | Low response rates | Moderate | Moderate | Implement strategies to enhance survey participation (e.g., incentives, community engagement) |
|  | Data collection errors | Low | High | Conduct thorough data quality checks |
| Land | Land tenure disputes | Moderate | High | Conduct thorough land tenure assessments, establish clear communication channels with landowners |
| Allocation | Logistical challenges | Moderate | Moderate | Anticipate logistical needs and plan accordingly |
| Support | Limited stakeholder engagement | Moderate | Moderate | Build strong relationships with stakeholders, leverage existing networks and partnerships |
| Structure | Lack of mentor availability | Low | High | Provide incentives for mentor participation |
| Monitoring | Incomplete or inaccurate data | Moderate | High | Implement robust data collection protocols, use standardized indicators |
| and | Insufficient resources for monitoring | Low | High | Allocate adequate resources for monitoring and evaluation efforts |

By identifying and categorizing potential risks, the project team can proactively address them through appropriate risk management strategies and mitigation measures, ensuring smooth project implementation and successful achievement of project objectives.

Professional Issues:

1. Professional:
   * Lack of specialized skills and expertise among project team members may hinder effective project implementation (Liao & Lou, 2020).
   * Limited access to professional development opportunities for project staff may impact their ability to stay updated with best practices and industry standards (Dhiman & Gaur, 2018).
2. Social:
   * Community resistance or lack of buy-in for project interventions may impede project success (Choudhary & Shankar, 2019).
   * Gender disparities in access to project benefits and opportunities may exacerbate existing social inequalities (Chen, 2019).
3. Ethical:
   * Potential exploitation of vulnerable groups, such as youth participants, if proper safeguards and ethical guidelines are not followed (Gillam, 2018).
   * Ethical considerations related to the treatment of research participants and the use of sensitive information collected during the project (De Vries et al., 2019).
4. Legal:
   * Compliance with land tenure laws and regulations to ensure legality and legitimacy of land allocation activities (Karki et al., 2020).
   * Adherence to labor laws and regulations to ensure fair treatment and protection of project staff and participants (Katz, 2017).

Addressing these professional, social, ethical, and legal issues requires careful planning, stakeholder engagement, and adherence to relevant guidelines and regulations to ensure the ethical and legal integrity of the project while promoting positive social outcomes.

Stakeholder Analysis:

1. Government Agencies:
   * Ministry of Agriculture: Responsible for policy formulation and regulation of agricultural activities. Stake in promoting youth empowerment in agriculture aligns with national development goals.
   * Ministry of Youth and Sports: Concerned with youth development and empowerment. Interest in supporting initiatives that create economic opportunities for young people.
2. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):
   * Youth Empowerment NGOs: Organizations focused on promoting the welfare and empowerment of young people. Likely to be interested in collaborating on projects that address youth unemployment and provide skill-building opportunities.
   * Agricultural Development NGOs: NGOs with a mandate to support agricultural development initiatives. May provide technical expertise, funding, or other resources to support the project.
3. Community Leaders and Traditional Authorities:
   * Local Chiefs and Elders: Hold influence and authority within the community. Their support and endorsement of the project are crucial for community acceptance and participation.
   * Community-Based Organizations (CBOs): Grassroots organizations representing the interests of community members. Important partners for mobilizing community support and ensuring project relevance and sustainability.
4. Private Sector:
   * Agribusinesses: Companies engaged in agricultural production, processing, and marketing. Potential partners for market linkages, value chain development, and investment in youth-led agribusiness ventures.
   * Financial Institutions: Banks and microfinance institutions. Interest in supporting initiatives that promote entrepreneurship and economic development, including providing access to finance for youth agribusinesses.
5. Academic and Research Institutions:
   * Universities and Research Centers: Institutions with expertise in agriculture, youth development, and research. Potential collaborators for providing training, conducting research, and evaluating project impact.
6. Youth Participants:
   * Potential Beneficiaries: Young people interested in agriculture or seeking employment opportunities. Stake in accessing training, resources, and support to start their own agricultural enterprises.
7. Donors and Funding Agencies:
   * International Development Agencies: Organizations providing funding and technical assistance for development projects. Interest in supporting initiatives that address youth unemployment, poverty alleviation, and sustainable agriculture.

Understanding the interests, influence, and expectations of these stakeholders is critical for effective project planning, implementation, and sustainability. Engaging stakeholders throughout the project cycle, addressing their concerns, and leveraging their resources and expertise will enhance project outcomes and impact.

Budget in Pounds:

1. Personnel:
   * Project Coordinator: £10,000 (Responsible for overall project management, coordination, and reporting)
   * Field Officers (2): £7,000 each (£14,000 total) (Responsible for survey administration, training facilitation, and community engagement)
   * Data Analyst: £5,000 (Responsible for data cleaning, analysis, and report writing)
2. Training and Capacity Building:
   * Training Materials and Supplies: £3,000 (Includes printing materials, stationery, and training equipment)
   * Training Venue Rental: £2,000 (Cost of renting training facilities for workshops and sessions)
3. Land Allocation and Agribusiness Support:
   * Land Lease Agreements: £6,000 (Cost of leasing land for youth participants' agricultural ventures)
   * Agricultural Inputs: £4,000 (Includes seeds, fertilizers, tools, and equipment for participants)
   * Mentorship Program Development: £2,500 (Cost of developing mentorship guidelines and materials)
4. Monitoring and Evaluation:
   * Data Collection Tools: £1,500 (Includes tablets, survey software licenses, and data collection accessories)
   * Transportation and Logistics: £2,000 (Cost of field visits, transportation, and other logistical expenses)
   * Evaluation Consultant: £3,500 (Hiring an external consultant to conduct project evaluation and impact assessment)
5. Contingency:
   * Contingency Fund: £5,000 (Reserved for unforeseen expenses and contingencies)

Total Budget: £56,500

Responsibilities:

* Project Coordinator: Overall budget management, procurement, and financial reporting.
* Field Officers: Budget oversight for training and capacity-building activities, procurement of training materials and supplies.
* Data Analyst: Budget oversight for monitoring and evaluation activities, procurement of data collection tools and services.
* Evaluation Consultant: Responsible for conducting an independent evaluation of project activities and outcomes, ensuring budget compliance and accountability.

The budget allocation reflects the realistic costs associated with implementing the project in the Nigerian context, taking into account personnel salaries, training expenses, land allocation costs, monitoring and evaluation activities, and contingencies to address unforeseen challenges.

Budget:

| **Item** | **Cost (£)** | **Responsible Person** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Research Assistant | £300 | Research Assistant |
| Data Analyst | £400 | Data Analyst |
| Needs assessment survey | 2000 | Research Assistant and Researcher |
| Stationery and Supplies | £100 | Researcher |
| Field Visits | £300 | Researcher |
| Local Transportation | £150 | Researcher |
| Contingency Fund | £200 | Researcher |
| **Total Budget** | **£2000** |  |

Responsibilities:

* **Project Coordinator**: Responsible for overseeing budget allocation, financial management, and ensuring adherence to the proposed budget.
* **Research Assistant**: Assists with conducting literature review, data collection, and other research-related tasks under the supervision of the Project Coordinator.
* **Data Analyst**: Responsible for data cleaning, analysis, and preparation of research findings within the allocated budget.
* **All team members**: Responsible for ensuring efficient use of resources and timely reporting of expenses to the Project Coordinator.

**Conclusion**

In summary, the proposed project aims to address the pressing issue of youth unemployment in Nigeria by empowering young people through agriculture. Through a comprehensive needs assessment, land allocation, training programs, and establishment of support structures, the project seeks to equip youth with the necessary skills, resources, and support to establish sustainable agribusiness ventures. By leveraging a mixed-methods research approach, engaging stakeholders, and adhering to ethical and legal standards, the project aims to generate evidence-based solutions and promote inclusive and sustainable agricultural development. With a realistic budget and clear delineation of responsibilities, the proposed project offers a strategic and feasible approach to addressing youth unemployment and promoting economic empowerment in Nigeria's agricultural sector.

Top of Form

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Top of Form

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Top of Form