**TOPIC: ASSESSMENT OF FACTORS INFLUENCING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AGRI-BUSINESS IN NIGERIA; AKURE SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS A CASE STUDY.**

By

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**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that to the best of our knowledge, (ABDULLAHI OPEOLUWA ABAYOMI), data incubator product in Zacrac Integrated, carried out this research satisfactory and has been accepted as meeting the regulations governing the completion of the Data incubator programme.

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***Mr. Gabriel Date***

**DEDICATION**

This research work is dedicated to God for his grace thus far!.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I will like to express my deepest and sincere appreciation to my loving parents, my dearest uncle (Mr Damilare), my wonderful Tutor Mr Yemi Segun ONI, my supervisor, amiable group ATTABY and fellow colleague in the incubator training. For their unreserved support throughout the course of the project work. I say a big thank you to you all.

**ABSTRACT**

Nigeria is blessed with fertile land and favorable atmosphere to practice Agric., her Youths also have the potential to engage in Agri-business but most of them view agribusiness as a petty job and this is resulting to mass unemployment. The General Objectives of this research is to analyze the assessment of factors influencing youth participation in agribusiness in Nigeria, Akure South local government in Ondo State as a case study. Specific objectives were; to access level of youth participation in agribusiness, to access influence of youth perspective towards youth participation in agribusiness in Akure South loal government, to establish the influence of access to credit facility towards youth participation on agribusiness in Akure South Local government, to examine influence of access to land towards youth participation in agribusiness in Akure South Local government and to determine the influence of perceived benefits towards youth participation in agribusiness in Akure South local government. The study was guided with push and pull theory ad utilization theory, had a sample size of 52, makes uses of descriptive analysis and test for th relationship between the variables using spearman correlation. The study revealed that youths perspectives, access to land and credit facility and access to land all have a positive significant influence on youth participation in akure south local government

**TABLE OF CONTENT**

**Title Page**

**Certification i**

**Dedication ii**

**Acknowledgement iii**

**Abstract iv**

**Table of Content**

1. **Introduction**

*1.1 Background of the study*

*1.2 Statement of research problem*

*1.3 Research questions*

*1.4 Objects of the study*

*1.5 Research hypothesis*

*1.6 Significance of the study*

* 1. *Scope and limitations*
  2. *Scope of study*
  3. *Definitions of terms*

1. **Literature review**
   1. *Introduction*
   2. *Theoretical review*
      1. *Push and Pull Theory*
      2. *Utility Maximization theory*
      3. *Conceptualization*
      4. *Operationalization*
2. **Methodology**
   1. *Introduction*
   2. *Research Design*
   3. *Target population and sample*
   4. *Sample Size technique*
   5. *Method of analysis*

**4.0 Analysis Report**

*4.1. Introduction*

*4.2. Respondent Information*

*4.3. Descriptive analysis for objective 1*

*4.4. Descriptive analysis for objective 2*

*4.5 Descriptive analysis for objective 3*

*4.6 Descriptive analysis for objective 4*

*4.7 Descriptive analysis for objective 5*

*4.8 Hypothesis Testing*

**5.0 Conclusion and Recommendation**

5.1 *Introduction*

*5.2 Summary*

*5.3 Conclusion*

*5.4 Recommendation*

*5.5 Study Limitation*

**CHAPTER ONE**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Background of the study.**

According to Nigeria, youths in ranges from age bracket of 18 – 29. Majority of youths shy away from engaging in Agribusiness and this can be attributed to lack of information and misconceptions that have burdened agribusiness. Many researchers and practitioners in the field of agribusiness argue that the sector holds opportunities and there is a need to erase all perceptions that have burdened the sector for many years. Youths in particular must start investing in agribusiness to create jobs for themselves and the entire society at large.

A study by Nathaniel (2014) showed that many youths were willing to engage in agribusiness activities but faced a lot of obstacles which include lack of land and credit to finance their startups. The study recommended that engaging youths in agribusiness was among the ways of reducing employment, crime rates and achieving and achieving food security.

The population of the young people is estimated to continue growing at high rate. This implies that the rate of unemployment among the youth will be increasing proportionally. One of the ways of addressing the ever increasing rate of employment among involvement in agribusiness. Young people should be encouraged to engage in agribusiness which will lead to job creation and food production for ever growing population. Considering dependent youths, it is a matter of concern because their population in all the sub region of Nigeria is declining and in the fast years the decline has been drastic especially in the last two decades though majority of the people rely on agriculture as source of employment (Soji, 2010).

Among the factors that have contributed to decline in agricultural productivity is lack of youth participation in agribusiness aggravated by lack of access to credit and land as main challenges affecting agricultural productivity (Word Bank, 2010). The participation of youth in agribusiness is not significant in terms of production of food to feed the country, but also in terms of wealth creation, financial security of the youths and creation of jobs for the ever increasing youth population.

**1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

The potential that lies in agriculture as an economically viable sector to address the problem of youth unemployment and food security has not been realized due to low youth participation. Globally, a number of factors have been identified that influence youth participation in agribusiness. In particular, youths are not willing to accept agribusiness as their career path because they have a negative perception about farming, lack access to land and have low access to financial resources. Because of the poor perception and attitudes, agriculture has been left for the elderly in rural areas and uneducated which lead to poor performance of the agricultural sector. The youth’s unemployment has also led to proliferation of rural-urban migrations in pursuit of white collar jobs which has relegated agribusiness into the periphery of economic activities and also aggravated the unemployment situation. This provided the impetus to carry out this study to access the factors influencing youth participation in Agribusiness in Nigeria; Akure south Local government of Ondo state as a case study.

**1.3 MOTIVATION**

The motivation behind this study stems from the fact that Agriculture/agribusiness as the power to not only transform social economy but can also bridge the gap of youth’s unemployment. Youths need to get involve in agribusiness hence his study sought to find out the factors influencing youth participation in it.

**1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are youth perception towards participation in agribusiness in Akure South local Government?
2. Are youths in Akure south local government participating in agriculture?
3. How has access to credit facility influence youth in Akure South Local Government?
4. How has access to land contributed / influenced to land towards youth participation in agribusiness in Akure South Local Government.
5. How has perceived benefits influenced youth participation in agribusiness in Akure South Local Government.

**1.5 OBJECTIVES**

1. To assess youth perception towards youth participation in agriculture in Akure south Local government
2. To examine the level of youth participation in agribusiness in akure south local government
3. To examine influence of credit facility towards youth participation in Agribusiness in Akure South Local government.
4. To examine influence of access to land towards youth participation in Agribusiness in Akure South Local Government
5. To assess impact of perceived benefits towards youth participation in agribusiness in Akure South Local Government

**1.6 Research Hypotheses**

i. HA1: There is no significant relationship between youth’s perception and their participation in agribusiness

ii. HA2: There is no significant relationship between access to credit facility and their participation in agribusiness

iii. HA3: There is no significant relationship between access to land and their participation in agribusiness

iv. HA4: There is no significant relationship between perceived benefits and youth participation in agribusiness

**1.7 Significance of the study**

Nigeria is blessed with not on quality and fertile soil but favorable conditions to practice agribusiness. With the government intervention towards engaging youths in agri-business in Nigeria, it is expected that the youth will respond positively and so there will be high level of participation. It was therefore important to understand the drivers to youth participation in agribusiness in order to target activities to improve those areas. Determining the level of participation by different categories of youth groups in areas such as age, gender, under the block farm, among others will give a clear picture of how participation is actually taking place. This is expected to help to target certain areas for improvement and, therefore, in increasing competition among the various categories of the youth participants in line with objectives.

**1.8 Scope of the Study**

The conceptual scope of the study was an assessment of factors influencing youth participation in agribusiness in Akure south local government. Perspective of youths, access to credit facility, access to land and perceived benefits are the factors that are examined. The target population of the study youths in akure south local government. Focus on akure south local government was due to the recent emergence of agriculture as a source of livelihood for youths facing unemployment in the country and the huge potential the region has in terms of supporting agribusiness activities.

**1.9 Definitions of Significance Terms**

**Agri-business Infrastructure** refers to structure need to engage in agri-business activities.

**Agribusiness** Is value addition in agri-business sector that employ modern technologies to for value addition.

**Credit Facility** refers to a variety of different loans which can be used to meet financing needs of a project

**Factors** a factor is a consistent or element that brings about certain effects or result. Factors is the viable under examination a study.

**Land** Refers to one of the factor of production where agriculture is conducted.

**Youth** In this study the youth will be used to define person who are below 30 years.

**CHAPTER TWO**

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

**2.1 Introduction**

The section analyses the theoretical backing and propositions that highlight the factors that lead to youth participation in agribusinesses in various regions. The theories and empirical literature analysis conducted in this section enabled the study to hypothesize the underlying relationship between the study variables.

**2.2 Theoretical Review**

**2.2.1 Push and Pull Theory**

According to the push and pull theory, the decision to be involved in an economic activity is influenced by a push, pull as well as mooring factors. Push factors correspond to expulsive factors that provide justification to take part in an economic activity such as agribusiness and may involve high rate of unemployment, political repression, low social status, rapid population growth, lack of opportunity for personal development and landlessness. On the other hand, pull factors correspond to attractions within the activity that attract individuals towards them. They encompass financial availability, better income prospects and supportive environment (Bansal et al., 2005).

According to Sumberg (2012), there exist some similarities in how young people relate to agriculture which is explained by the push and pull theory. Through pull factors, the theory clearly shows the importance of having special requirements such as financial accessibility in order to allow youths participate in doing Agri–business. This theory link the relationship between access to capital-both land and credit- and youth participation in agri-business. In this context, youth who have access to resources in terms of land and finance may be pulled towards engaging in agri-business while those who have no access are pushed away from engaging in agri-business ventures. Therefore, access to land and credit facilities are major pull and push factors for youth participation.

**2.2.2 Utility Maximization Theory** According to utility maximization theory, the decision to participate in Agri-business or not represents a binary choice (Tenel, 2001). The decision on whether or not to participate in Agri-business was considered under the general framework of utility or profit 12 maximization for youths (Norris, 2014). Tenel (2001) further states that despite the fact that many people are aware of the benefits of participation in agriculture, they still require to be coerced into participation and becoming agriculture entrepreneurs. According to Norris (2014) agriculture should be very profitable with guaranteed stability of income to act as catalyst for young people’s involvement. Youths need to learn and discover that the opportunity in agriculture is tremendous and overwhelming for them to get themselves involved (Norris, 2014). The huge potential in agriculture is founded on the fact that the demands for foods will always remain due to increasing population hence the potential for agribusiness will forever remain limitless. The proponents of this theory argue that individuals’ choice of career path is highly influenced by the utility maximization. Therefore, youth will choose to engage in agribusiness only if it is the utility maximizing career choice with benefits ultimately to be realized. Therefore, if individuals generally perceive the benefits of engaging in agribusiness to be higher than the costs, they would have more reason and justification to engage in the same. However, whether these benefits are realized or not depends on other factors such as accessibility of capital, land etc. This theory links the relationship between perceived benefits and participation in agribusiness.

**Theoretical Framework**

**Figure 2.1**

Youth Participation in Agri- Business

Utility Maximization Theory

Push and Pull Theory

**2.3 Conceptualization** In this study, the independent variables were factors that included perspective, access to credit facility, access to land and perceived benefits while the dependent variable was youth participation in agribusinesses. Based on the literature review, the study hypothesized that all the independent variables of attitudes, access to credit facility, access to land and perceived benefits significantly affected the dependent variables which is youth participation in agribusinesses.

Conceptual Framework

**Figure 2.2**

Youth participation in Agribusiness

Perceived benefits

Access to Credit

Access to Land

Youth’s perspective

**Independent Variables**  **Dependent Variables**

**2.4 Operationalization** The main independent variables for this study were perspective, access to capital and access to land. Attitudes were operationalized in terms of ideas about agribusiness, ability to invest in agribusiness and perception of the youth about agribusiness. Access to credit facility was operationalized in terms of access to commercial banks loan while access to land was operationalized in terms of ownership of land, size of accessible land and location of the land. On the other hand, the dependent variable was youth participation in agribusiness which is operationalized in terms of number of youth participating in agribusiness and number of agri-business projects owned by the youth as shown in figure 2

**Figure 2.3**

Perception

* Opinion
* Ideas
* Ability
* Commercial bank Loan
* Possible collaboration

Access to Credit

Youth participation in Agribusiness

* Ownership of land
* Size of land
* Location of the land

Perceived benefits

* Perceived Income
* Perceived Costs
* Perceived Social Status

Access to Loan

**CHAPTER 3**

**RESAERCH METHODOLOGY**

**3.1 Introduction** This chapter comprises of the research methods used by the study a provide answers to research questions. The chapter further documented the type of data, instrument used in gathering the data required and methodology for both data collection and analysis. The chapter basically demonstrated the procedures the study used in achieving the study objectives.

**3.2 Research Design** The study sought to determine the current situation on the factors that affect youth participation in agribusiness, the best research design was descriptive research design. Under this design, a questionnaires based on the research question is developed to measure the phenomenon

**3.3 Target Population and Sample** Kothari (2009) define target population as the objects of interests from which the researcher compiles research information. The target population of the study include youths in akure south local government. This is because of the recent emergence of agriculture as a source of livelihood for youths in this area.

**3.4 Sample size, technique**

E –questionnaire was used for this research. Simple random sampling was adopted since all the youths in akure south are put into consideration. The sampling size for this study is 384(sample size for a known population).

**3.5 Method of analysis**

Descriptive analysis was used in this study so as give explanatory statistics. And Spearman correlation was used to check for relationship between the variables.

**CHAPTER 4**

**DATA ANALYSIS, PRRESENTAATION AND DISCUSSION**

**4.1 Introduction**

This section provides the results to the data analysis. E- Questionnaire was used for the data collection made use of quantitative research questions. The E-questionnaire turned out 51 respondents and that is one of the limitation of this research. Analyzing the data tables are used to present the result obtained.

**4.2 SECTION A: RESPONDNET INFORMATION**

*Fig4.1 Respondent gender*

Fig 4.1 above showed the gender distribution of the respondent, it can be observed that there are 43 male respondent and 9 female respondent.

*Fig4.2 Respondent age distribution.*

Fig.4.2 above showed the age distribution of the respondent, 34 respondent have their age within the range of 26 to 31 years, 9 respondent have their age within 26 to 31 and 9 respondent as well are aged 32 or above.

*Fig 4.3 Respondent Employment status*

It can be observed from Fig 4.3 above that 35 of the respondent are unemployed, 18 are self-employed with 9 employed.

**4.3 SECTION B: Objective 1: Access youth perspective towards participation in agriculture.**

Table 4.1

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Descriptive Statistics of youth perspective** | | | |
|  | N | Mean | Std. Deviation |
| 4. It is better to stay idle than to opt-in to Agribusiness | 52 | 3.02 | 1.915 |
| 5. Only people of the lower stratum in the society will take up farming | 52 | 3.00 | 1.929 |
| 6. In this country, Farming seems to have a bleaking future | 52 | 2.83 | 1.203 |
| 7. Farming seems to be a labourious profession | 52 | 2.75 | 1.577 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 52 |  |  |

Table 4.1 above showed the descriptive analysis of youth perspective towards participation in agribusiness. In order of the mean, Most (3.02 mean) of the respondent agreed that it is better to stay idle tan to optin for agribusiness, respondent also agreed that farming is for people with lower stratum in the society and that farming seems to have a bleaking future in this country, and finally farming seems to be a laborious profession.

**4.4 SECTION C: Objective 2: Access to credit facility towards youth participation on Agriculture.**

Table 4.2

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Descriptive Statistics for access to credit facility** | | | |
|  | N | Mean | Std. Deviation |
| 8. Land subdivision in this region can make it difficult can make it difficult to participate in meaningful Agribusiness | 52 | 3.05 | 1.577 |
| 9. To start up an Agribusiness in Nigeria, one can have access to loans from commercial or microfinance banks | 52 | 1.95 | .779 |
| 10. Interest on available loans is encouraging | 52 | 1.90 | .680 |
| 11. Economic challenges have effect on sourcing capital for Agribusiness | 52 | 1.58 | .816 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 52 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

The descriptive analysis of the youth access to credit facility is showed Table 4.2 above, It is observed that the Land subdivision in this region cam make it difficult to participate in meaningful agribusiness (3.05). Also to start up an agribusiness in Nigeria, one can have access to loans from commercial or microfinance banks (1.95), Interest on available loans is encouraging, and Economic challenges have effect on sourcing capital for agribusiness.

**4.5. SECTION D: Objective 3: Access to Land towards youth participation in agriculture**

Table 4.3

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Descriptive Statistics on youth access to land** | | | |
|  | N | Mean | Std. Deviation |
| 12. Land ownership is one major factor that influences youth participation in agribusiness | 52 | 2.91 | 1.868 |
| 13. Land prices in this region are high for one to afford | 52 | 1.82 | .605 |
| 14. The terrains and locations of available lands are far from road networks | 52 | 1.81 | .505 |
| 15. Land subdivision in this region can make it difficult for youths to participate in meaningful agri-business | 52 | 1.42 | .499 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 52 |  |  |

Table 4.3 showed the mean distribution of the youth access to land towards their participation in agriculture, ranking their means, Land ownership is one major factor that influence youth participation in agribusiness (2.91), Land prices in this region are high for one to afford (1.82), The terrains and locations of available lands are far from road networks (1.81) and Land subdivision in this region can make it difficult for youths to participate in meaningful agribusiness.

**4.6 SECTION D: Objective 4: Perceived benefits towards youth participation in agriculture**

Table 4.4

**Descriptive Statistics of perceived benefits towards youth participation in agriculture**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | N | Mean | Std. Deviation |
| 16. With farming one can be his own boss | 52 | 2.21 | 1.707 |
| 17. One can practice Agriculture as an alternative career choice | 52 | 1.84 | .706 |
| 18. Agribusiness could serves as an adequate source of Income | 52 | 1.83 | .706 |
| 19. Getting involved in Agribusiness can make someone contribute to ecommic development | 52 | 1.35 | .764 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 52 |  |  |

Table 4.4 above showed the mean distribution of perceived benefits towards youth participation in agriculture, ranking there means, with farming one can be his own boss (2.21), One can practice agriculture as an alternative career choice (1.84), Agribusiness could serves as an adequate source of income (1.83) and getting involved in agriculture can make someone contribute to economic development.(1.35)

**4.7 SECTION E: Objective 5: Level of participation in Agriculture**

Table 4.5

**Descriptive Statistics of youth participation**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | N | Mean | Std. Deviation |
| 20. To what extent is your level of participation in Agriculture | 52 | 3.94 | .412 |
| 21. To what extent is your positive Perception Level towards agriculture | 52 | 1.56 | .345 |
| 23. To what would consider agriculture bridge the gap of unemployment | 52 | 1.48 | .505 |
| 22. To what extent do you consider agriculture as a viable source of income | 52 | 2.98 | .491 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 52 |  |  |

The extent of youth participation was showed in Table 4.5 above, ranking the mean distribution, to some high extent youths participate in agriculture (3.94), Youth have low extent of positive perception toward agriculture (1.56), to some moderate extent they consider agriculture to build the gap of unemployment (2.98) and they also consider agriculture to some low extent that agriculture can build the gap of unemployment.

**4.8 HYPOTHESIS TESTING**

Relationship between Youth perspective and their participation in agriculture.

Table 4.6

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Correlations between participation and perspective** | | | | |
|  | | | participation | perspective |
| Spearman's rho | particpation | Correlation Coefficient | 1.000 | 1.000\*\* |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | - | - |
| N | 4 | 4 |
| perspective | Correlation Coefficient | 1.000\*\* | 1.000 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | - | - |
| N | 4 | 4 |
| \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). | | | | |

The table above show the correlation output of the relationship between their perspective and their participation in agriculture. It has spearman’s rho correlation coefficient of 1.00 and significance value which indicate that youth perspective had a very strong and positive association with youth participation in agribusiness at a statistical confidence interval level of 0.01.

The correlation is significant as shown in the table. on this statistical ground fail to accept the Null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between youth perspective and their participation in agriculture.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.7  **Correlations between participation and access to credit** | | | | |
|  | | | particpation | Credit |
| Spearman's rho | particpation | Correlation Coefficient | 1.000 | 1.000\*\* |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | - | - |
| N | 4 | 4 |
| Credit | Correlation Coefficient | 1.000\*\* | 1.000 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | - | - |
| N | 4 | 4 |
| \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). | | | | |

The table above show the correlation output of the relationship between their access to credit facility and their participation in agriculture. It has spearman’s rho correlation coefficient of 1.00 and significance value indicates that youth access to credit facility had a very strong and positive association with youth participation in agribusiness at a statistical confidence interval level of 0.01.

The correlation is significant as shown in the table. on this statistical ground fail to accept the Null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between youth’s credit facility and their participation in agriculture.

Table 4.8

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Correlations between participation and access to Land** | | | | |
|  | | | particpation | Land |
| Spearman's rho | particpation | Correlation Coefficient | 1.000 | 1.000\*\* |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 |
| N | 4 | 4 |
| Land | Correlation Coefficient | 1.000\*\* | 1.000 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 |
| N | 4 | 4 |
| \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). | | | | |

The table above show the correlation output of the relationship between their access to Land and their participation in agriculture. It has spearman’s rho correlation coefficient of 1.00 and significance value of .00 which indicate that youth access to land had a very strong and positive association with youth participation in agribusiness at a statistical confidence interval level of 0.01.

The significant value of the above correlation is .000, which is less than 0.01 (at a confidence level of 99%) on this statistical ground fail to accept the Null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between access to land and their participation in agriculture.

Table 4.9

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Correlations between participation and perceived benefits** | | | | |
|  | | | particpation | percieved |
| Spearman's rho | particpation | Correlation Coefficient | 1.000 | 1.000\*\* |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 |
| N | 4 | 4 |
| percieved | Correlation Coefficient | 1.000\*\* | 1.000 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 |
| N | 4 | 4 |
| \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). | | | | |

The table above show the correlation output of the relationship between perceived benefits and their participation in agriculture. It has spearman’s rho correlation coefficient of 1.00 and significance value of .00 which indicate that perceived benefits had a very strong and positive association with youth participation in agribusiness at a statistical confidence interval level of 0.01.

The significant value of the above correlation is .000, which is less than 0.01 (at a confidence level of 99%) on this statistical ground fail to accept the Null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between perceived benefits and their participation in agriculture.

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Introduction**

This chapter presents the summary of the findings, conclusion made based on the finding and recommendation for practice and policy formulation. The summary of the findings was done based on the objectives while the conclusions and recommendations are specifically derived from findings

**Summary**

The study sought to analyze the assessment of factors influencing youth participation in agribusiness in akure south local government. According to the objectives, youth perspectives, access to credit facility, access to land and perceived benefits all have a strong effect on youth participation in agriculture. This is saying that an increase or decrease in any of these factors will have effect on youth level of participation.

**CONCLUSION**

The study made conclusions per objective based on the summary findings. The conclusions enabled the study to come up with the recommendations. The study concluded that perspectives, access to land, credit facility and perceived benefits will all have significant influence on youth participation in akure south local government.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The study recommendation of this study is first to the government of Ondo state, especially at the third tier level (local government) to create awareness and campaign to charge youths towards farming, granting loans for capital and if possible grant them access to land on lease. Secondly, there are enough perceived benefits in agriculture that should boost youth moral on deciding to practice agribusiness and bridge the unemployment gap in the society as agribusiness has the ability to bridge the unemployment gap in the society. The study lastly recommends that youths already in agribusiness should be assisted in terms of finance and inputs and used as good example of the potential benefits of agribusiness in changing the perception of the majority that are reluctant to venture into agribusiness as an alternative sources of livelihood.

**STUDY LIMITATIONS**

The study experienced a number of limitations and challenges but are care was taken to ensure that the limitations faced did not affect the final results and conclusion. One major limitation is the sample size, the proposed sample size was about 400, but as the time bound for this research the sample size was 52 which could be consider small compare to the population.

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