SUSTAINABILITY OF THE YOUTH AGRICULTURE EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES IN OSUN AND OYO STATES

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ABSTRACT
The problem of youth unemployment in Nigeria necessitated both the federal and state governments to introduce several empowerment programmes particularly in agriculture in order to enhance the economic capacity of youths. However, some of these programmes barely outlive the political regime that initiated them. Meanwhile, Osun youth empowerment programme has been acclaimed to be a model copied by other local and international organisations. Therefore, this study investigated sustainability of youth empowerment programmes in agriculture in Osun and Oyo States. Three (3) Local Government Areas (LGA) with 25% of the beneficiaries were selected randomly from each of the two states to give a total of 260 respondents. Data were collected using structured questionnaire and analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics at $\alpha_{0.05}$. The study revealed more male participation in the programme in both states, high formal education with mean age of 28.2 (Osun) and 31.5 years (Oyo). Major benefit derived by respondents was positive attitudinal change towards agriculture (Osun=96.1%, Oyo= 73.5%) and job opportunity (Osun=91.6%, Oyo=87.4%) Respondents' level of participation in the programme was low (Osun=56.1%, Oyo= 58.4%), 60.6% and 89.3% in Osun and Oyo respectively perceived the programme to be unsustainable. Inadequate funding, lack of post empowerment support and monitoring were the major constraints to sustainability There was a significant relationship between benefits derived (r = 0.398) by respondents' in Oyo, constraints in both states (Osun =0.243, Oyo = 0.855) and sustainability of the programme. The youth empowerment programme in agriculture in both states was adjudged unsustainable. Monitoring and evaluation process as well as, appropriate legislation to insulate the programme from political shocks should be included from onset.
Keywords: Youth empowerment, agriculture, sustainability, unemployment

INTRODUCTION

The agricultural sector has been described as the engine for economic growth and improved livelihoods in Africa (Diao, Hazell, and Thurlow, 2007; World Bank 2006) because the majority of the population in sub-Saharan Africa depends directly or indirectly on it (Diao *et al.*, 2007). Agwu and Kadiri (2014) identified agricultural sector in Nigeria as the segment that is most critical to the achievement of the elusive goal of a diversified economy. It has equally been seen as a tool for job creation, income generation and maintenance of sustainable livelihood. In addition, agricultural and rural development constitutes an important factor in alleviating poverty in any economy particularly in Nigeria where poverty is a rural phenomenon. However, most of the world's food is produced by ageing smallholder farmers in developing countries like Nigeria, such older farmers are less likely to adopt the new technologies needed to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and ultimately feed the growing world population (Food and Agricultural Organisation of United Nations (FAO, 2014).

Meanwhile, youths are the future of every society. In agriculture, youths perform the most tedious jobs in the farm. Rural youth contribute to family labour (White, 2012); they also constitute a moving force in the development of their communities (Ekong, 2003) but they have the impression that agricultural production can rarely be a profitable venture. To correct this impression,, there is urgent need to teach them the importance and prospects in farming in order to increase the farming population. Hence, the renewed zeal by all tiers of government to re-engage youth in agriculture. Furthermore, as Nigeria grapples with the problem of unemployment among youths in the country (Abefe-Balogun, 2015), the Federal Government and various states in the country have designed and executed several empowerment programmes particularly in agriculture to enhance the economic capacity of youths (Umeh and Odo, 2002). Such programmes include; National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Youth Initiative for Sustainable Agriculture (YISA), Youth Integrated Training Farm (Kwara State), Agricultural Youths Empowerment Scheme (AGRIC-YES), Graduate Farmers Scheme, Osun Youth Empowerment Scheme (O-YES) and youth empowerment scheme of Oyo state (YES-O) to mention a few.

The empowerment programme embarked on by the Osun State government has been acclaimed to be a model copied by other local and international organisations such as World Bank Youth Employment and Social Support Operations (YESSO) programme (Osun Defender, 2014). O-YES is a palliative livelihood programme with the aim of ensuring food security, job creation and economic transformation using agriculture as a key driver. The agricultural aspect of the scheme include: Osun Broiler Outgrowers Production Scheme (O'BOPS), O' Beef/O' Ram programme to exploit cattle/sheep rearing business, Osun Rural Enterprise and Agricultural Programme (O' REAP)

for food production and food security and O'Germany for sponsoring the travelling of selected youth to Germany for capacity building in modern farming techniques. The programme did not only target youths who are seen as engines of economic and social development but also primary school children who are enjoying free feeding (O'Meal). In the same vein, YES-O was inaugurated to reduce youth unemployment in the state by acquiring the necessary skills for a period of one year to enable them fit-in for job placements and entrepreneurship. YES-O covered six pivot components which include: Environment, Works and Transportation, Emergency, Health, Agriculture and Education. The agricultural component was charged with the responsibility of providing extension services to farmers, ensuring increase crop and animal production under the administrative control of the ministry of agriculture.

However, experience has shown that these programmes that is, government empowerment programmes barely outlive the administration that initiated them. More so, that Osun and Oyo states are facing dire economic challenges in the form of dwindling economic fortune. This implies that sustainability of the programme could be threatened as a result of the economic downturn. The ripple effects of the economic challenge may definitely affect the states' agricultural empowerment Programme (Ogunlela, 2015). The pertinent question is, how will the states cope with the sustenance of the programmes in the face of the protracted economic crunch they are currently facing? There is urgent need to determine if the programme has been insulated from other envisaged and unforeseen situations such as regime change, market dynamics, and instability in government policy, which may occur upon the expiration of the incumbent administration. Sustainability evaluation of project and programmes will provide guidance and guarantee the ultimate aim of ensuring the lasting development impact in the society while saving resources such that the ripple effect of the development programmes extend to generation yet unborn. The study was guided by the following specific objectives;

1. identify the benefits derived from youth empowerment programmes in agriculture by the respondents;
2. describe the sources of information available to the beneficiaries of the empowerment programme;
3. ascertain the level of satisfaction of the respondents about the programme;
4. examine perceived sustainability of the programmes and
5. determine constraints to the sustainability of the empowerment programmes.

The study assumed that no significant relationship exists between socioeconomic characteristics of respondents' benefits derived from the programme, level of satisfaction of the respondents about the programme and perceived sustainability of the programme in both states.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Osun and Oyo states. Both states are located in southwestern Nigeria with population of over 3million and 5,591,589 respectively (NPC 2006). Osun state occupies a land mass of approximately 14,875km^2 while Oyo occupies approximately 28, 454km^2 (NBS, 2013). The major occupation in both states is farming and they are dominated by Yoruba ethnic tribe. The land tenure system, originally communal in nature, has long given way to individual tenure in both states. Population of the study comprised of all beneficiaries of youth empowerment programme in agriculture in both states.

A multi-stage sampling procedure was used in the selection of respondents for this study. In the first stage, simple random sampling was used to select three LGAs from each of the three senatorial districts in Osun state. The selected LGAs are Ife central LGA, Atakunmosa West LGA and Obokun LGA from Osun east senatorial district; Boluwaduro LGA, Olorunda LGA and Boripe LGA from Osun central senatorial district and Ede North LGA, Iwo LGA and Egbedore LGA from Osun west senatorial district. In the second stage, 25% of the total beneficiaries in the selected LGAs were randomly selected amounting to 130 respondents (45 out of 180, 33 out of 130 and 52 out of 210 in the selected LGAs in Osun east senatorial district, Osun central senatorial district and Osun west senatorial district respectively using proportionate sampling). In Oyo state however, the list of beneficiaries (380 in all) was obtained from the state coordinator out of which 34% of these beneficiaries were randomly selected to give a total of 130 respondents as in Osun state. The total sample size for the study was 260 respondents. Data was collected from respondents using structured questionnaire and analysed using descriptive statistics, PPMC and t-test at $\alpha_{0.05}$.

Respondents' level of satisfaction with the empowerment programme was measured using eight items (e.g Time for practical and entire programme, relevance of training to the enterprise, the training method adopted, mode of selecting beneficiaries etc) on a three-point scale of satisfactory = 2, moderately satisfactory = 1 and not satisfactory = 0. Mean of the scores was computed and used to classify level of satisfaction into high and low satisfaction. Sustainability was taken as perceived sustainability and it was measured by providing respondents with a set of 26

statements on sustainability in four main domains (economic, political, ownership and technical) using 5-point likert- type scale of strongly agree = 5, agree = 4, undecided = 3, disagree = 2 and strongly disagree = 1. Sustainability index was computed and the empowerment programme was categorised as sustainable and unsustainable using mean (Osun = 65.2, Oyo = 58.4) as benchmark. Constraints to sustainability were measured as either a constraint = 1 or not a constraint = 0. Mean was obtained and used to rank constraints according to severity.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Personal characteristics

Table 1 shows that the mean age of respondents in Osun was 28.2years while that of Oyo was 31.5years. It shows that Youths in Osun state were more younger than their counterpart in Oyo state. Nevertheless, most of the respondents in Osun (75.7%) and Oyo (95.3%) states were between the ages of 21 and 40 years. This shows that the programmes in each state captured youths, who are the intended beneficiaries especially within the context of prolonged youth age and postponed transition to adulthood. This might also explain the reason behind participation of overwhelming majority (92.1%) of beneficiaries in Osun state in Osun Broilers Outgrowers Production Schemes (O'BOPS) which is stressful but less capital intensive. This also can be said to make respondents in Oyo to fit into any available activity irrespective of its energy requirement such as cultivation of maize, cassava, soybean, bee, vegetable, snail, extension activity and processing because these activities are energy driven and could only be effectively accomplished by young vibrant individuals. Youths are generally known for their activeness and energy to which Odubola (2009) asserted that it makes them more viable for agricultural activities. More males were involved in the programmes in the two states; Osun (78.7%) and Oyo (76.8%). This confirms the commonly held notion that agriculture is male dominated, owing to its energy demanding nature. This agrees with the finding of Oladele and Kareem (2003) that males are readily available for energy demanding jobs like agriculture. Majority of the respondents (Osun, 68.5% and Oyo, 76.2%) had at least 13 years of formal education. However, the inclusion of beneficiaries with no formal education shows that the programmes do not discriminate based on someone's educational status. This is also pointing to the fact that, many criteria might have been used in the selection of the beneficiaries.

Table 1: Personal characteristics of respondents

Variables	Osun	Oyo	Mean
Age			
20 and below	19.7	4.6	Osun = 28.2
21-30 years	59.2	40.0	
31-40 years	16.5	51.5	Oyo = 31.5
40 and above	4.7	3.8	
Sex			
Male	78.7	76.8	
Female	21.3	23.2	
Years of schooling			
No formal education	5.5	3.1	
1-6 (primary education)	13.4	6.2	Osun = 11.4
7-12 (secondary education)	17.3	14.6	Oyo = 11.9
Above 12 (tertiary education)	63.5	76.2	
Programme participated			
O' BOPS	92.1	-	
O'GERMANY	7.9	-	
Membership of association			
Yes	86.6	44.6	
No	13.4	55.4	

Benefits derived by respondents from the programmes

Table 2 shows that while 100.0% of the respondents in Osun indicated skill acquisition as benefit, skill acquisition was a benefit to 81.5% in Oyo. The participants are taught requisite farming skills during training via which they are empowered for self-sustenance. All agricultural activities inculcates practical training to the recipients, thus acquisition of skill in this programme will make respondents to be self-sufficient in all areas of life thus encouraging sustainability of the programme. This aligns with Idoko (2014), who retorted that training through skill acquisition and capacity building programmes will enhance the sustainability of the youths in

different fields of endeavour. Agriculture is widely known to provide employment to people, to which 91.3% (Osun) and 87.4% (Oyo) of the participants attested to, which translates to a means of alleviating poverty for 85.8% (Osun) and 76.0% (Oyo) thereby helping to boost the self-esteem and confidence of 98.4% (Osun) and 84.7% (Oyo) of them. Hence, agriculture is a field of study that prepare people for gainful employment and enables one to carry out successfully a socially "useful occupation.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on benefits derived from programmes

Benefits Derived	Osun	Oyo
Skill acquisition	100.0	81.5
Self Esteem and confidence	98.4	84.7
Positive change in attitude towards agriculture as a vocation	96.1	73.5
Provision of job opportunities	91.3	87.4
Alleviation of poverty	85.8	76.0
Additional Qualification	81.1	55.5
Access to Fund/capital	71.7	40.0
Linkage to market	70.1	61.5
Linkage to input supplier	66.1	71.4

Multiple responses
Source: Field survey, 2016

Sources of information on farming enterprise

Table 3 shows that the respondents received relevant information concerning agriculture at varying intervals from various sources. Results show that while professional associations was ranked the most primal source of agricultural information in Osun (mean=1.60), radio was ranked 1st in Oyo. This suggests that professional associations provide easy and convenient access to agricultural information, as members of such associations are profit-driven partners in the execution of the programmes with government. Therefore, timely, genuine, relevant and reliable information are supplied to respondents so as to enhance their enterprise profitability, which also enhances the profit of the professional associations as well. Radio a popular channel for communicating agricultural and non-agricultural information ranked 2nd in Osun state. However, extension agent ranked 6th and 4th in Osun and Oyo respectively indicates its unpopularity as a source of agricultural information in the study areas. This might be due to shortage of public agricultural extension agent (extension to farmer ratio; 1:1000) and unwillingness of farmers to patronize private extension agent due to the perception of agricultural extension information as a public good in Nigeria. Ahmad, Akram, Rauf, Khan and Pervez (2007) also observed that the role of extension field staff in dissemination of agricultural information was not significant and their interaction with farmers was meagre.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents based on sources of agricultural information

Sources of Information	Osun		Oyo	
	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank
Professional associations	1.60	1st	1.24	3rd
Radio	1.52	2nd	1.55	1st
Television	1.50	3rd	1.32	2nd
Newspapers	1.35	4th	1.19	5th
Mobile devices	1.31	5th	1.19	5th
Extension Agents	1.19	6th	1.23	4th
Input Dealers	1.03	7th	0.4	6th

Source: Field survey, 2016

Areas and level of satisfaction with programmes

Table 4 shows that the aspect of the programme that the respondents were mostly satisfied with time given to practical classes as it was ranked highest (mean=1.72), followed by time spent on empowerment training (mean=1.70) for Osun. Comparatively, these were respectively ranked last, that is, 8th (mean=0.56) and 6th (mean=1.12) for Oyo. It is evident that the beneficiaries in Osun relished instances of programmes activities that involved hands-on practical or physical demonstration of such activities that engage more of their senses and are capable of arousing their interest and sustainability of the empowerment programme with the respondents, which was not so with the

beneficiaries in Oyo. Contrastingly, the beneficiaries in Oyo were most pleased with training method adopted for the programmes (ranked 1st with mean of 1.53) and they considered training obtained relevant to their enterprises (ranked 2nd, mean=1.5), whereas Osun beneficiaries ranked them 6th (mean=1.42) and 5th (mean=1.50) respectively. Apparently, this infers specificity of the agricultural programmes to beneficiaries' needs in Oyo relative to Osun. Nevertheless, it is pertinent to note that a high level of satisfaction can lead to an increase in their productivity (Wagner and Harter, 2006) and consequently sustainability of the empowerment programme.

Table 5 further shows that the level of satisfaction about the youth empowerment in agriculture program was high in Osun and low in Oyo states. This could be attributed to the organised nature of the empowerment programme in Osun state as it was observed that participants in Osun had varieties of activities and areas of specializations as opposed that of Oyo state.

Table 4: Areas of satisfaction with the empowerment programme

Statements	Osun		Oyo	
	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank
Time given to practical classes	1.72	1st	0.56	8th
Attitude of other beneficiaries during training	1.70	2nd	1.34	4th
Time spent for empowerment training	1.70	2nd	1.12	6th
Coordination of the empowerment programme	1.61	3rd	1.06	7th
The mode of selecting beneficiaries	1.52	4th	1.42	3rd
Relevance of training to the enterprise	1.50	5th	1.51	2nd
The training method adopted for the programme	1.42	6th	1.53	1st
Personal assessment of Trainers' competence	1.40	7th	1.14	5th

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 5: Level of satisfaction with the empowerment programme

States	Categories	Freq.	Percent	Mean	Max. value	Min. value
Osun	Low (5.0-10.8)	59	45.3	11.12±3.2	16	5
	High (10.9-16.0)	71	54.7			
Oyo	Low (3-8.2)	67	51.5	11.12±3.2	13	3
	High (8.3-13.0)	63	48.5			

Perceived sustainability of programmes

Table 6 shows the beneficiaries' perception towards the sustainability of youth empowerment programmes in agriculture. Relating to economic sustainability, statement on access to factors of production had the highest mean (4.30) in Osun, while in Oyo it had the lowest mean (1.60). The statement that some beneficiaries are only after the grants promised by government was 3rd (mean=2.00) and 4th (mean=3.39) in Oyo and Osun respectively. Such set of beneficiaries can be likened to free-riders who, according to Albert (2000), are usually the unintended beneficiaries of a socially provided public good. They as a result channel any grant received into other non-agricultural ventures.

Results on the perceived political sustainability of the programmes showed that the statement on enactment of relevant policies to support the survival of the programmes had the highest mean scores (Osun=4.28, Oyo=4.20) in both states. This corroborates an earlier finding on the uncertainty over the political environment to support programme continuity in the country, a trend that keeps recurring as a result of a systemic policy problem and continues to be a bane to effective agricultural development.

Concerning ownership sustainability, a similar trend was observed as the statement on beneficiaries benefitting more when there is a positive programme outcome had the highest mean scores (Osun=4.01, Oyo=4.30) in both states. This will give the impression to the beneficiaries that they are stakeholders of the programmes, which would make them to assiduously work towards achieving the stated objectives of the programmes.

The perception of respondents on the technical sustainability of the programmes in agriculture reveals that statements on the programmes could have done more in equipping beneficiaries with the skills to undertake agricultural projects and need of task force to recommend areas of programmes requiring improvement had the highest (mean=4.06) and joint second highest (mean=4.01) mean scores in Osun but the statements respectively came out second highest (mean=4.10) and highest (mean=4.20) in Oyo.

Table 6: Perceived sustainability of youth empowerment scheme in agriculture

Dimensions of sustainability	Osun (mean)	Oyo (mean)
Economic sustainability		
1. Access to factors of production such as land, capital and inputs could be a challenge if government fails to provide them.	4.30	1.60
2. My enterprise may be incapable of meeting my needs if there is no further support from government.	3.95	2.10
3. Expansion for increased profitability may not be possible in my business enterprise without continuous help from government.	3.67	3.00
4. Some beneficiaries seem to be after the grants promised by the government rather than being trained to be self-reliant.	3.39	2.00
Political sustainability		
1. There seem to be laws in place to ensure the continuity of the programme from one regime to another.	3.24	2.50
2. The programme is seen to be more of political propaganda; therefore it may be discontinued by next government.	3.55	2.05
3. More relevant government policies need to be enacted to support the programme for its survival.	4.28	4.20
4. The government seems to be fulfilling all its promises, to ensure success of the programme.	2.12	3.40
5. The programme might fail because many of the achievements claimed are untrue.	3.55	2.60
6. Government seems committed to building on the successes of the programme.	3.53	3.10
7. Constitutional amendment processes are required to scrap the programme.	3.17	2.70
8. The programme may be scrapped as soon as the incumbent government leaves office.	3.66	1.90
Ownership sustainability		
1. The government is willing to bear the loss in case of negative outcomes.	2.74	2.60
2. The programme appears to benefit all, despite party affiliations.	2.30	2.90
3. Beneficiaries benefit more when there is positive result.	4.01	4.30
4. It appears beneficiaries cannot make decision on the enterprise without approval from the government	3.65	3.50
5. The programme may be a sheer waste of time of beneficiaries as people view the programme as political campaign rather than to empower them	3.42	2.20
Technical sustainability		
1. The programme could have done better in equipping beneficiaries with the skills to undertake agricultural projects.	4.06	4.10
2. There ought to be a special task force established to recommend areas requiring improvement in the programme.	4.01	4.20
3. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) should get more involved in the programme.	4.01	3.80
4. There seems to be adequate resources to empower the beneficiaries	2.20	2.50
5. Infrastructures appear to be available to be used by beneficiaries.	2.29	2.60
6. The experience gathered looks insufficient to manage and maintain a bigger farm enterprise	3.72	2.40
7. The programme may not achieve set objectives as it is a means to perpetrate corruption by the state government	3.47	3.50
8. Beneficiaries seem capable to source market for produce if government fails to buy.	2.33	3.00
9. The beneficiaries could take advantage of cooperatives formed to access more governmental support	1.84	3.40

Source: Field survey, 2016.

Table 7: Categorisation of perceived sustainability of Osun-YE programmes in agriculture

Sustainability	Percentage	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Unsustainable (Below mean)	60.6	49.00	87.00	61.8
Sustainable (Mean and above)	39.4			

Field survey, 2016

Table 8: Categorisation of perceived sustainability of Oyo-YE programme in agriculture

Sustainability	Percentage	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Unsustainable (Below mean)	89.3	44.00	76.00	61.8
Sustainable (Mean and above)	10.7			

Field survey, 2016

Constraints to sustainability of programmes

As shown in Table 9, inadequate funding was ranked as the primal constraint affecting the sustainability of the programmes in Osun but second in Oyo state. This is because fund is essential to the success of any program/project/activities without which the empowerment programme will drag, there will be lack of equipment or facilities to organise the training effectively, payment of trainers and money to support the trainees to take-off/ put what has learnt into practice and this will greatly affect sustainability of the programme. Meanwhile uncertainty over the political environment to support continuity of programmes was ranked 3rd and 4th respectively in Osun and Oyo. In Nigeria in particular, regime change implies non funding or scrabing of programmes initiated by the previous government no matter how laudable they are thus, resulting in collapse of such programmes. Hence, lack of continuity in government programme(s) means unsustainability of the programme. These findings are quite germane as Salako and Badmus (2014) stated that most government's empowerment programmes often fail to achieve the targeted goal due to inadequate funding. Relating to policy issue, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) (2005) advanced that overtime policy instability, policy inconsistencies, narrow base of policy formulation, poor policy implementation and weak institutional framework for policy coordination have remained constraints to effective agricultural development. Meanwhile, in Osun and Oyo respectively, poor post-empowerment support was ranked 2nd and 3rd while inadequate monitoring and evaluation of the beneficiaries was ranked 4th and 1st. All the constraints identified by the respondents revolved round the issue of funding such as monitoring and evaluation that involve cost of transportation, feeding and sometimes accommodation. In line with these, Jide (2009) asserted that government does not always give programme participants support such as grant or loan to establish their own enterprises and also fail to provide an enabling environment after conclusion of programmes. Additionally, it is reported that government employment programmes do not always have adequate supervision (Akinremi and Sonaiya, 2009), which results in poor service delivery. It is interesting to point out that simultaneously in the two states, negative attitude of other beneficiaries during training, favouritism in the process of selecting beneficiaries which accounted for some beneficiaries of more than 40years of age as youth and Inadequate access to Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems were ranked 5th, 7th and 11th respectively.

Table 9: Constraints to the sustainability of the empowerment programmes

Constraints	Osun Mean	Rank	Oyo Mean	Rank
Inadequate fund or capital support by the government.	0.81	1st	0.92	2nd
Poor post-empowerment support by the government	0.72	2nd	0.82	3rd
Uncertainty over the political environment to support continuity	0.69	3rd	0.81	4th
Inadequate monitoring and evaluation of the beneficiaries	0.59	4th	0.94	1st
Negative attitude of other beneficiaries during training	0.58	5th	0.68	5th
Non-payment for the produce purchased by government	0.58	5th	0.26	12th
Favouritism in the process of selecting beneficiaries	0.56	7th	0.52	7th
Present means/method of extension service delivery	0.56	7th	0.48	8th
Programme is fraught with excessive bureaucracy	0.55	9th	0.53	6th

Constraints	Osun Mean	Rank	Oyo Mean	Rank
Poor response of agricultural knowledge and information system to beneficiaries challenges	0.54	10th	0.45	9th
Inadequate access to agricultural knowledge and information system	0.52	11th	0.42	11th
Lack of market for produce as envisaged	0.48	12th	0.43	10th
Inability to benefit from Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems	0.45	13th	0.42	11th

Source: Field survey, 2016.

Relationship between benefits, constraints and perceived sustainability of Youth Empowerment Programme in agriculture in both states

Result revealed that there was significant relationship between constraints and perceived sustainability of the empowerment programmes in both states. It implies that the constraints (such as insufficient funding, unfavourable political environment, lack of ready market, etc) faced by the respondents will threaten the sustainability of the programme. For instance insufficient fund can affect acquisition of inputs, hiring of labour, evacuation /transportation of output to the market etc thus, threaten involvement and or sustainable production. This is supported by the findings of Adekunle, Adefalu, Oladipo, Adisa and Fatoye (2009) that several constraints faced by the youths are responsible for their low level of involvement in agriculture. Furthermore, sustainability of the programme in Oyo is dependent on the benefits derived by the respondents. Loan/credit to set up the business as well as ready market for the output can serve as incentives for continuous involvement in the programme. This is in line with Ogunleye *et al* (2014) that the benefit offers by any programme will determine its sustainability.

Table 10: Relationship between benefits, constraints and perceived sustainability of youth Empowerment Programme in agriculture in both states

Variables	r-value	p-value
Benefit (Osun)	0.101	0.249
Benefit (Oyo)	0.398*	0.000
Constraint (Osun)	0.243*	0.005
Constraint (Oyo)	0.855*	0.022

$P \leq 0.05$

Test of difference in sustainability of the empowerment Programme in Osun and Oyo state

There was no significant difference in the constraints faced by respondents as well as perceived sustainability of the programme in both states. This might be because beneficiaries in both states were faced with several constraints that are germane to the sustainability of any programme. Also, lack of significant difference in both states perceived sustainability might be because change in government policies as a result of regime change is a common phenomenon that always affects sustainability of programmes initiated by government, aside the 'get rich quick syndrome' attitude of youth i.e. doing the job that will bring them quick money as opposed long gestation period of most agricultural activities can affect their interest in sustaining the empowerment skill acquired thus no significant difference in both states perceived sustainability of the empowerment programme.

Table 11: Test of difference in sustainability of the empowerment programme in Osun and Oyo state

Variables	State	Mean	t-value	p-value
Sustainability	Osun	65.2	1.90	0.341
	Oyo	58.4		

$p \leq 0.05$

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The empowerment programme was not without shortcomings as identified by the beneficiaries notwithstanding the majority of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the empowerment programme. The programme's aim of imparting skill, changing of attitude of the youth to agriculture as a vocation was significantly achieved. Although the programme was laudable and impactful, respondents found the Youth Empowerment Programmes in Agriculture to be unsustainable based on economic, political, technical and ownership criteria of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD 2007).

Youth empowerment scheme in agriculture of Oyo state did not get it right from onset because beneficiaries were not given opportunity to decide on what they want to be empowered on. Thus, putting sustainability of the programme in a great doubt.

Based on the findings, the following are recommended;

1. Subsequent programme should be gender sensitive in order to balance male to female enrolment.
2. There must be viable link between beneficiaries and extension agent in order to enhance productivity.
3. There may be need for Osun state government to substitute O'Germany (that is, sponsoring the travelling of some (40) youths to Germany for capacity building in modern farming technique) with a less expensive and relevant empowerment programme.
4. Government, development experts and donor agencies must ensure that sustainability of programme is taken into cognizance at every level of the programme and incorporation of monitoring and evaluation from the beginning so as to prevent wastage of resources.
5. Appropriate legislation to insulate the programme from political shocks should be included from onset.

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