ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/IJISRT24OCT1092

Promoting Agripreneurship as a Means of Employment in Ogun State

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Abstract:- The integration of entrepreneurship into Nigeria's agricultural sector presents a promising avenue for addressing the country's persistent youth unemployment and food insecurity challenges. This study explores agripreneurship as a viable means of employment in Ogun State, focusing on various agripreneurship options, their perceived viability, and their potential to foster economic sustainability. A survey of 1,200 farm owners and workers randomly selected across diverse agriculture value chain in the three senatorial district of Ogun State was conducted. Data obtained were analysed with descriptive statistics and the hypothesis were tested with logistics regression analysis of the specified logit model. The results revealed that production-related activities, particularly poultry, livestock farming, and fishery, are perceived as the most viable agripreneurship options. However, input supply and support services require further development to enhance their attractiveness and viability. The findings underscore the need for targeted interventions to promote agripreneurship, particularly in underdeveloped areas, to maximize its potential for job creation and economic growth. However, challenges such as access to land, capital, and technology persist, hindering the full adoption of agripreneurship. The study concludes that promoting agripreneurship through targeted interventions could create sustainable employment opportunities for Nigerian youths, enhance agricultural productivity, and contribute to broader economic growth. The results also highlight the need for further development in areas like input supply and support services to make them more attractive to potential agripreneurs.

Keywords: *Agripreneurship, Employment, Job Creation, Youths.*

I. INTRODUCTION

➢ *Background to the Study*

The problem of food insecurity, poverty, joblessness especially among youth has led to the credence given to a number of alternative solutions to alleviate livelihood and socio-economic development in developing countries like Nigeria. The large expanse of arable farmland and climate and agricultural resources in Nigeria naturally offer window for the integration of entrepreneurial thinking and strategies and approaches into agricultural practices. The need for innovativeness, modernization, identification and utilisation of alternative solutions in agriculture and a host of push and pull factors necessitate the infusion of entrepreneurial dimensions into agricultural practices to enhance farm output, increase food supply, improve farmers' earnings and improve gross domestic product performance of the nation.

The National Bureau of Statistics (2021) puts Nigeria's unemployment rate at 42.5%, underscoring youth unemployment as a fundamentally troubling issues which bothers on a number of socio-economic problems in the Nigeria societies, and pointing to the need for sustainable employment solutions. Among others, Olokundun et al. (2018) submit that the integration of entrepreneurial models into agrobusiness, agro-allied production and agro-services, crop production, arable farming, fishery, poultry, livestock rearing, etc. will be helpful in creating scalable framework and pathway to address these challenges by leveraging the potentials of the agricultural sector to provide jobs, generate income and offer meaningful livelihoods to the growing youth population. Agriculture is the mainstay of Nigerian's economy because it supports high share of employment and livelihood. Agriculture contributes about 42% to the Gross Domestic Product (and serve as an important source of raw materials (Adesina, 2013).

The agricultural sector in Nigeria has traditionally been characterized by smallholder farming, but recent trends show a shift towards more entrepreneurial approaches, where innovation, technology, and business acumen are applied to enhance productivity and profitability (Eze, 2020).

Despite Nigeria's abundant agricultural resources, youth unemployment remains a critical challenge, particularly in Ogun State. The National Bureau of Statistics (2021) reports that the youth unemployment rate is alarmingly high, which poses a significant threat to economic stability and social cohesion. While agriculture has traditionally been a major employer in Nigeria, its potential to absorb the growing youth population remains underutilized due to a lack of innovation, entrepreneurial skills, and access to modern agricultural practices.

With a view to improving unemployment situation and facilitating economic sustenance through self-employment and wealth creation, Nigeria government are putting efforts and investment into training and development of skills,

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/IJISRT24OCT1092

capacities efforts are invested in entrepreneurship training – vocational, social, technical and other forms of entrepreneurial inclinations encompassing a number of awareness and engagement options for youths especially in tertiary institutions. However, there are emerging disposition driven by available evidences that efforts geared towards the development of agriculture-related entrepreneurship could foster job creation, expand employment generation and productive engagement of youth (Alam, 2019; Franzel et al., 2022). The disconnect between the youth labour force and the agricultural sector is exacerbated by the perception of agriculture as a low-profit, labor-intensive endeavor, which discourages young people from pursuing careers in this field (Olokundun et al., 2018). However, the concept of agripreneurship, in which agriculture is approached with a business mindset, incorporating innovation, technology, and market-driven strategies, offers a promising solution to this problem. Thus, this study explores the viability of agripreneurship practice for employment and job creation among youth in Ogun State, Nigeria. This study looks into the various agripreneurship options available to youths in Ogun State, examining how these can be leveraged for job creation, reduce unemployment and foster economic sustenance and resilience for the youths.

According to Amodu and Azeez (2019), agripreneurship typically means the adoption and integration of entrepreneurial models and principles (innovations, opportunity recognition, commercialization, branding and rebranding) into agriculture and agricultural processes, activities, marketing and services with a view to improving agricultural production and related services as well as economic growth. Roy and Chakraborty (2021) also sees agripreneurship as the practice of applying entrepreneurial orientation and disposition as well as innovative methods to the varying segments of the agricultural sector to create more fulfilling lucrative and sustainable agricultural venture through the recognition and exploitation of opportunities in the agricultural value chain – crop production, farm feed production, processing, animal rearing, agrochemical production, marketing outputs, etc. iIt is a term used basically to depict the innovativeness within the agricultural sector, such as the development of new methods, creation of new products ideas, offering services, and inventing novel or unique business models that create more opportunities and enhance productivity and profitability in agricultural ventures (Banerjee & Dutta 2022), and improving food production and distribution, application of modern agricultural practices, technology, and market-driven strategies to enhance food security (Okonkwo & Nnadi, 2021).

Okojie and Aluko (2022) posit that the need for food security, employment generation, rural community development and economic diversification through agriculture are reasons for the growing acceptance and campaign for agripreneurship as a model for sustainable economic development. Its emphasis on idea generation, innovative thinking, efficient resource utilisation, and market orientation in agricultural activities to foster long-term viability and sustainability is expected to motivate youth engagement in agriculture (Singh & Yadav, 2020; Adesina & Adedayo, 2021). Through agripreneurship, value addition, market expansion, and the commercialization of agricultural products are enhanced (Mbah & Eze, 2022) while climate-smart techniques capable of mitigating adverse impacts of climate change are easily adopted and harnessed towards having enhanced farm productivity and profitability as well as economic growth (Choudhury & Sharma, 2020).

In the Nigerian context, agripreneurship is increasingly recognized as a critical strategy for economic development and poverty alleviation. The traditional view of agriculture as a low-income, labor-intensive sector is gradually changing as more youths are encouraged to engage in agricultural enterprises that are profitable, scalable, and sustainable (Eze, 2020). Agripreneurship not only offers a pathway to self-employment but also contributes to national food security and rural development.

Unemployment is a significant economic indicator, reflecting the situation where capable individuals, actively seeking work, are unable to find jobs. In Nigeria, it poses significant socio-economic challenges, including increased poverty, social unrest, and reduced economic productivity (Aigbokhan, 2016). However, employment generation an important economic development goal of any nation depicting the provision of opportunities in more jobs, enhanced economic activities, increased tax revenues, and reduced appeal for idleness, which leads to improved quality of life and enhanced prospects for the citizenry (Taiga et al., 2019; World Bank, 2020). Job creation and employment are often affected by a number of factors ranging from availability of social infrastructures, level of government support and interventions, economic policies, investment in education, components and content of education programmes, and investment and development of key sectors, including agriculture and manufacturing and service (Klasen & Lamanna, 2009; Adewale, 2019)

The huge prospect for job creation in the agricultural sector offers a massive ground to accommodate the growing unemployed youth into productive engagement by exploiting the vast underutilized opportunities in agriculture (African Development Bank, 2016). Such productive engagement of youth in innovative and profitable agricultural ventures is a unique of reducing youth unemployment and food shortage and can transform the agricultural sector from a subsistence-based economy to a more commercial and industrialized one (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2017; Afolabi & Ajiboye, 2019). While the perceived low profit, poor or very low access to start-up capital and limited opportunities, etc. are attributable to the unappealing and reluctant involvement of youth in agriculture, involvement in farming and practice of agriculture with entrepreneurial mindset and the application of entrepreneurial principles and frameworks present agripreneurship as an attractive and viable option for

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/IJISRT24OCT1092

employment and a mechanism for develop rural areas through job creation, improved infrastructure, and stimulated local economies (Olokundun et al., 2018, Eze, 2020)). As the enhancement of agricultural productivity, increasing per capital income levels, and fostering economic diversification are achievable through agripreneurship, training programmes that focus on entrepreneurship skills, business management, and modern farming techniques are essential to equip youths with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in agripreneurship (Adeyanju et al., 2021).

While agribusiness has many advantages, there are a number of obstacles preventing it from being widely embraced in Nigeria. Some of the biggest challenges that young agripreneurs encounter are access to finance, land, and technology. Adeola and Adebiyi (2016) claim that young people are frequently discouraged from venturing into agricultural endeavors out of the concern about land tenure and the high cost of purchasing land. Furthermore, it is challenging for agripreneurs to invest in the cutting-edge agricultural tools, inputs, and other resources required to grow their companies due to restricted access to finance and financial services. In spite of these obstacles, Ogun State has a wealth of favourable climate and chances to foster agripreneurship (Ogun State Ministry of Agriculture, 2021).

Theory of Planned Behavior by Icek Ajzen is explored in this study to anchor youth engagement in agripreneurship as a viable means of employment and job creation. The theory posits that intention of an individual to manifest a behaviour or engaged in an activity could be linked to be influence of three major factors - attitude of the individual toward the behaviour, subjective norms, and perceived behavioural control (Ajzen, 1991). In this context, attitude covers an individual's evaluation of engaging in agripreneurship as a profitable path and viable enterprise. Subjective norms could be explained in terms of the influence of social pressures to be engaged in agripreneurship activity or not, including societal expectations, family influences, and community or otherwise (Ajzen, 1991). Insight from existing agripreneurs and their workers will show the social dynamics and expectations that either encourage or discourage agripreneurship. Understanding these norms is imperative for designing interventions that align with or reshape societal expectations to foster a more supportive environment for agripreneurship. Perceived behavioral control relates to the perceived ease or difficulty of performing the behavior, reflecting past experiences and anticipated obstacles. For agripreneurs, perceived behavioral control is influenced by factors such as access to capital, training, agricultural technology, and market opportunities. Surveying those already engaged in agricultural businesses will help identify the key enablers and barriers they face in their operations and opportunities that impact an individual's ability to become an agripreneur (Ajzen, 2002).

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Study Area:

The study was carried out in the three major divisions - senatorial districts of Ogun State, Nigeria. the state's unique blend of agricultural potential, economic activities, demographic composition, and strategic location makes it highly relevant for exploring the viability and impact of agripreneurship as a tool for employment generation. With vast arable land, fertile land and favorable climatic conditions, it is expected to be one of the leading agricultural regions the cultivation of a variety of crops, including cassava, maize, rice, cocoa, oil palm, and rubber, agro-processing and agribusiness ventures. Ogun State's strategic location, bordering Lagos State—the commercial hub of Nigeria—provides easy access to large markets, and its road network and proximity to seaports provides accessibility of agricultural products to both local and international markets.

B. Research Design, Sampling and Data Collection:

This study is descriptive in design with the use of survey method for data collection. A total of 1200 people who are either owners or workers of farms, agro-services businesses, agro-allied producers, distributors and marketers. 400 participants were randomly selected from each division, with adequate coverage of different agropreneurship businesses – crop production, poultry, livestock rearing, pesticides and fungicides production and sales, snail and honey rearing, tuber farming, agro marketers, etc. Efforts were made to ensure that the age range of the respondents fell between 25-45 years, while data collected from those outside the range were deliberately eliminated for the purpose of data analysis.

➢ *In Pursuant of the Objectives, the Following Research Questions were Raised:*

- What are the viable agriprenueurship options that youth could offer employment opportunity and job creation to youths?
- What is the level of perceived viability of agripreneurship as employment and job creation option for youths?
- To what extent could agripreneurship contribute to economic sustenance among youths?

C. Instrument:

A structured questionnaire, designed on a 4-point likert scale, was used for data collection in addition to key informant interviews conducted. Apart from the several agripreneurship options identified by the researchers, insights from the key informant interviews, involving one-on-one discussions with individuals - agricultural experts and successful agripreneurs and others who have specialized knowledge about agripreneurship, were factored into the development of the questionnaire. In addition, demographics such as age, gender, education, marital status, years in agripreneurship/experience were factored to determine the suitability of the participants and their

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/IJISRT24OCT1092

representation of the purported population and generalization of results. It was postulated that:

- Agripreneurship is not deemed as viable employment and job creation option for youth in Ogun State, Nigeria.
- Agripreneurship is not deemed as capable of creating economic sustenance among youths in Ogun State, Nigeria.

The two hypotheses focused on assessing the perceptions of agripreneurship as a viable employment option and its potential to create economic sustenance among youths in Ogun State. These perceptions were modelled as binary dependent variables (Y_1 and Y_2), where:

- Y_1 = 1 if agripreneurship is deemed viable as an employment and job creation option, otherwise = 0.
- Y_2 = 1 if agripreneurship is deemed capable of creating economic sustenance among youths, otherwise = 0.

D. Model Specification:

➢ *Given the Nature of the Hypotheses, the Logistic Regression Model were Specified as:*

- Model 1: Viability of Agripreneurship as Employment Option

$$\text{logit}(Y_1)=\beta0+\beta1X1+\beta2X2+\beta3X3+\ldots+\beta nXn+\epsilon \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots 1$$

- Model 2: Capability of Agripreneurship to Create Economic Sustenance

$$\text{logit}(Y_2)=\beta0+\beta1X1+\beta2X2+\beta3X3+\ldots+\beta nXn+\epsilon \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots..\ldots 2$$

Where:
Y_1 and and Y_2 are the binary dependent variables representing the outcomes related to the hypotheses.

$X_1, ..X_2, \ldots, X_5$ … are the independent predictor factors, which are Level of awareness/ knowledge of agripreneurship, Previous entrepreneurial experience, Experience in agropreneruship, Experience in the marketing of farm produce and Experience on

Perceived risks in agripreneurship
β0 is the intercept term.
β1, β2,…,βn are the coefficients of the independent variables.
ϵ is the error term.

E. Data Analysis:

Data Collected were analysed with descriptively using simple frequency count, percentage and mean while the hypotheses were subjected to inferential statistics (correlation and linear regression) at 95% confidence interval.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A number of agricultural options were identified and grouped into five major divisions in line with FAO model. This classification helps in identifying the various activities that potential agripreneurs can engage in within the agricultural value chain in Nigeria, offering numerous avenues for youth engagement and employment. The results are as follows:

Table 1: Perceived Viability of Agripreneurship Options

Classification	Agripreneurship Options	Mean	Standard Deviation (SD)
Input Supply	Agrochemical Production and Sales (fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals essential for farming).	2.91	0.35
	Animal Feed Production (Providing the nutritional needs of livestock, poultry, fish, and other animals)	2.70	0.41
	Agri-Tech and Digital Agriculture (Provision of technology-based solutions such as precision farming tools and mobile apps)	2.56	0.30
	Weighted Mean	**2.72**	
Production	Crop Production: Cultivation of crops like maize, rice, cassava.	3.32	0.25
	Poultry and Livestock Farming: Rearing of poultry, cattle, goats, and pigs.	3.43	0.20
	Fishery: Aquaculture activities such as fish farming.	3.41	0.22
	Snail Rearing and:	2.99	0.35
	Honey Production	2.73	0.32
	Agroforestry: Integrating trees with crops and livestock.	2.78	.33
	Weighted Mean	**3.11**	
Processing	Agro-Processing: Converting cassava into garri, fruits into juices, or milk into yogurt.	3.01	0.28
	Honey Processing: Further processing honey into refined products.	3.05	0.30
	Weighted Mean	**3.03**	
Marketing	Marketing of Agricultural Products (Distribution and sale of raw and processed agricultural goods)	3.12	0.27
	Marketing of agricultural inputs (Feeds)	3.11	0.29
	Marketing of agro-chemical products	2.89	0.34

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/IJISRT24OCT1092

	Weighted Mean	**3.04**	
Support Services	Agro-Allied Services: Leasing of agricultural equipment, consultancy, and extension services.	2.97	0.31
	Landscaping and Garden Design Services: Services focused on urban and peri-urban agriculture.	2.95	0.32
	Weighted Mean	**2.96**	

Source: Field Survey Result, 2024

The table presents the perceived viability of various agripreneurship options classified into four broad categories: Input Supply, Production, Processing, Marketing, and Support Services. As shown above, the perceived viability of agripreneurship options is depicted by the mean values which is ranked from 1 to 4 - a higher mean value represents a stronger perception of viability and a lower standard deviation shows more consensus in the response pattern. The result is represented on the chart below:

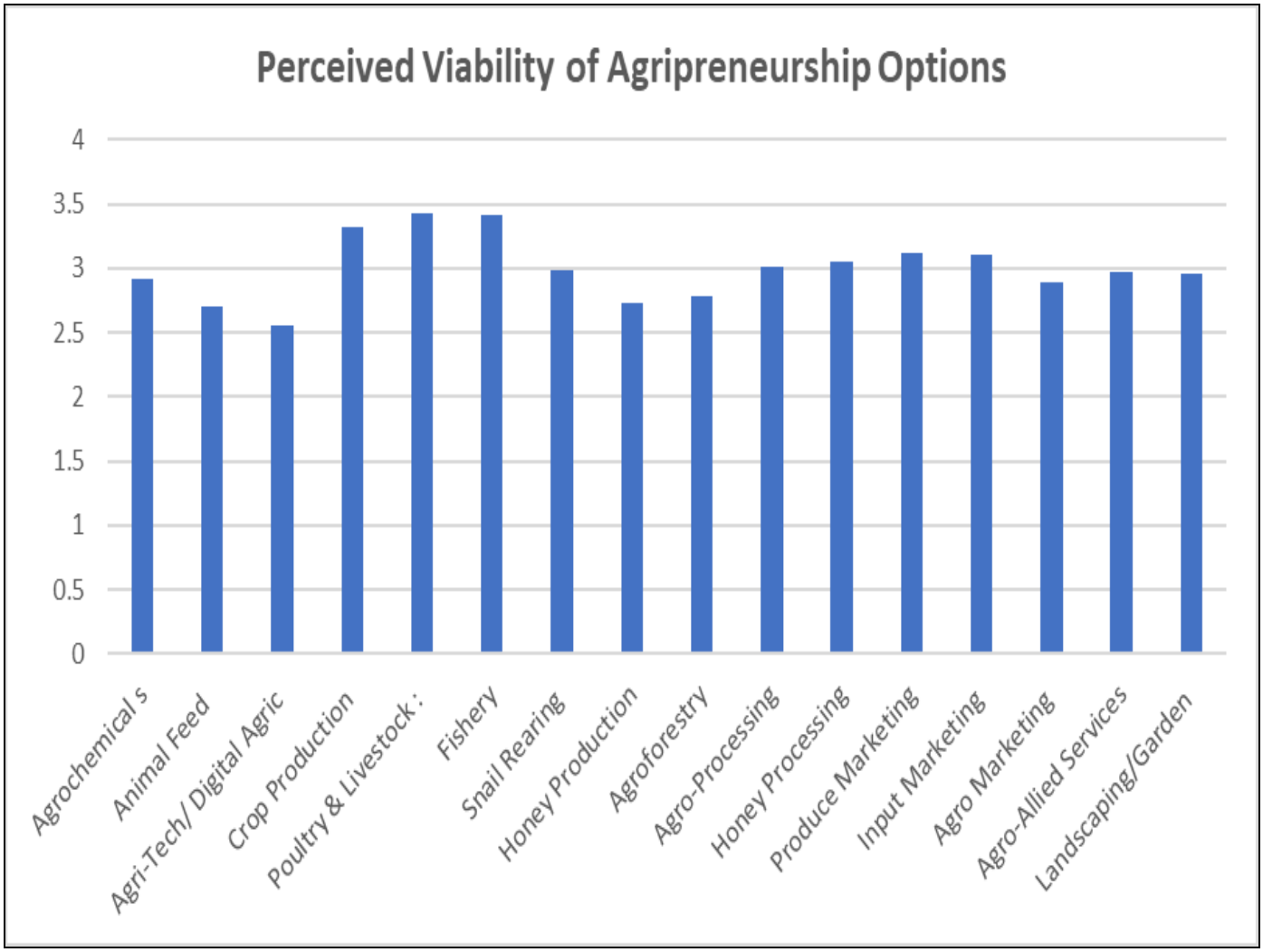

Fig 1: Perceived viability of Agripreneurship Options

From the above, the higher mean values and lower standard deviation as depicted in the results are indication of the respondents' perception of production-related agripreneurship options such as fishery, livestock and poultry farming and crop production as being the most. Input supply options, including animal feed production, agrochemical production and agri-tech solutions have fairly high perceived viability and higher variability in responses, suggesting that further development or support are required in the area for it to be perceive as viable. The marketing and support services has moderate perceived viability and a relatively low standard deviations, which positions that agricultural practices solely in this area are generally viewed favorably but could benefit from targeted efforts to enhance their attractiveness. The aggregate perceived viability is depicted in the figure below:

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/IJISRT24OCT1092

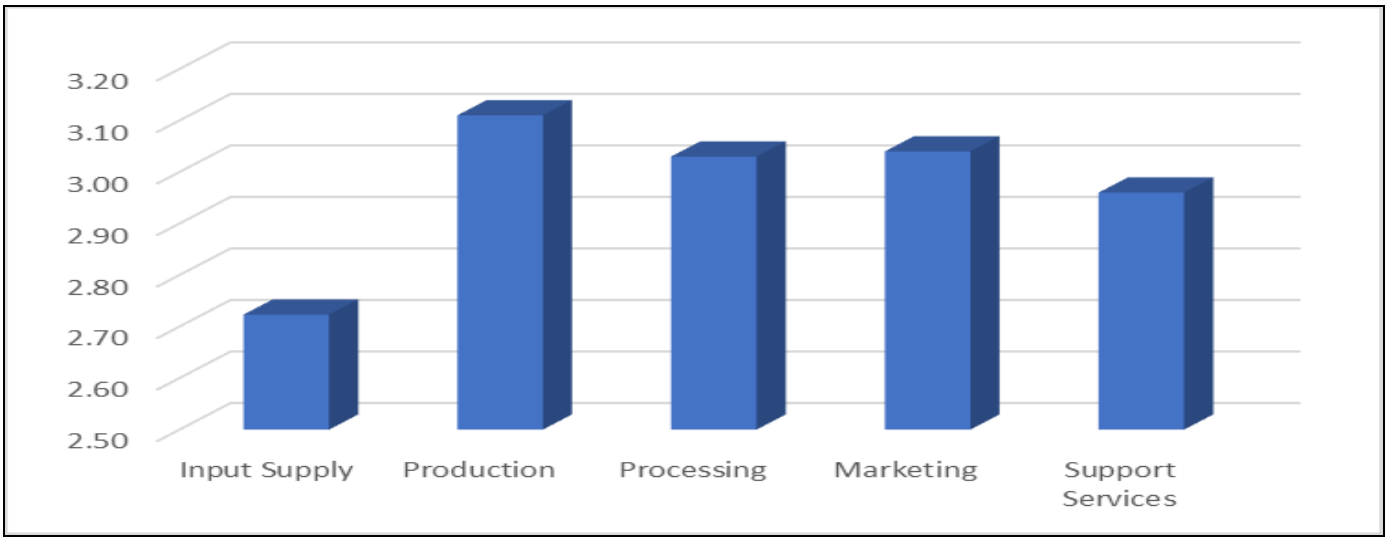

Fig. 1: Perceived Viability of Agripreneurship Group

The results highlight key areas where agripreneurship is perceived as a strong employment option, particularly in production activities (mean = 3.11) followed by processing and marketing (mean = 3.04 and 3.03 respectively) However, there is room for improvement in particularly in input supply and support services, to enhance their viability and attractiveness to potential agripreneurs.

➢ *Hypotheses Testing*

- **H_{01}:** Agripreneurship is not deemed as viable employment and job creation option for youth in Ogun State, Nigeria was tested as: H_{01}: $b_1 = b_2 = \ldots = b_5 = 0$. This was written as:

$$Logit(Y_1) = \beta_0 + \beta_1(Agripren.\ Knowl.) + \beta_2(Entrep.\ Exp.) + \beta_3(Agrip.\ Exp.) + \beta_4(Prod.\ Markt.\ Exp.) + \beta_5\ (Percd.\ Risk\ Knowl) + \epsilon$$

➢ *The Results of the Logit Regression are as Follows:*

- Intercept: $b_0 = -0.25$
- Agripreneurship Knowledge: $b_1 = 2.80$ ($p < 0.01$)
- Entrepreneurial Experiance: $b_2 = 1.19$ ($p < 0.01$)
- Agripreneurship Experience: $b_3 = 2.60$ ($p < 0.05$)
- Produce Marketing Experience: $b_4 = 1.50$ ($p < 0.01$)
- Experience on Perceived Risks: $b_5 = 1.30$ ($p < 0.03$)
- Model Chi-Square: 25.4 ($p < 0.01$)
- Pseudo R^2: 0.35

Given the logistic regression analysis results for the hypothesis, the intercept $\beta_0 = -1.25$ represents the log-odds of the dependent variable (in this case, the perception of agripreneurship as a viable employment and job creation option) being positive (i.e., perceived as viable) when all independent variables (Agripreneurship Knowledge, Entrepreneurial Experience, Agripreneurship Experience, Marketing Experience, and Experience on Perceived Risks) are equal to zero. A log-odds value of -0.25 means that when all the independent variables are zero, the log-odds of perceiving agripreneurship as viable are slightly negative. A negative intercept of -0.25 suggests that, without additional knowledge, experience, and other factors used, the baseline perception of viability of agripreneurship is slightly unfavorable.

The model chi-square = 25.4 ($p < 0.01$) indicates that the model as a whole is statistically significant, meaning it significantly predicts the viability of agripreneurship as an employment option for youths in Ogun State. The low p-value (< 0.01) suggests that the model provides a good fit to the data. Pseudo $R^2 = 0.35$: suggests that 35% of the variability in the dependent variable (perception of viability of agripreneurship) is explained by the independent variables in the model. While lower than R^2 in linear regression, a Pseudo R^2 of 0.35 is considered moderate and indicates a reasonable level of explanatory power for a logistic regression model.

Each coefficient (β_1, β_2, β_3, β_4, β_5) represents the change in the log-odds of perceiving agripreneurship as a viable employment option associated with a one-unit change in the respective independent variable, holding all other variables constant. Agripreneurship knowledge has a strong positive effect on the perception of agripreneurship as a viable employment option. A one-unit increase in agripreneurship knowledge increases the log-odds of perceiving agripreneurship as viable by 2.80. This result is highly statistically significant ($p < 0.01$), indicating that the participants' knowledge about agripreneurship substantially enhances the likelihood of viewing it as a viable career path. The coefficient of entrepreneurial experience ($\beta_2 = 1.19$, $p < 0.01$) implies the statistical significance of the coefficient. The p-value of <0.01 is a clear depiction of significant relationship of entrepreneurial experience and the perception of agripreneurship viability is highly statistically significant. This result suggests that as youth acquire more entrepreneurial experience, their perception and possible inclination towards agripreneurship as a viable employment and job creation option is likely to increase. Agripreneurship experience bears a a very strong positive

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/IJISRT24OCT1092

impact on the perceived viability of agripreneurship. A unit increase in agripreneurship experience increases is likely to lead to about 2.6 unit increase in the perception of agripreneurship as viable. This effect is statistically significant ($p < 0.05$), indicating that direct experience in agripreneurship greatly enhances the perception of its viability. Also, with a coefficient of $\beta_4 = 1.50$, $p < 0.01$, experience of the participants in the marketing of farm produce significantly contributes to their perception of agripreneurship as viable. The respondents' experience on Perceived Risks attached to agricultural enterprises contributes to their perception of agripreneurship as a viable employment option ($\beta_5 = 1.30$, $p < 0.03$). This effect is statistically significant ($p < 0.03$), suggesting that the participants awareness of the level of risks involved in agripreneurship informed their favourable perception of it as a viable option.

The results strongly suggest that specific knowledge and experiences significantly shape perceptions of agripreneurship among youths in Ogun State. All the independent variables have positive and significant coefficients, indicating that enhancing knowledge, experience, and risk management skills could improve the perceived viability of agripreneurship as an employment and job creation option. Given these results, the null hypothesis (H_{01}: Agripreneurship is not deemed as a viable employment and job creation option for youth in Ogun State, Nigeria) is rejected. The data provide strong evidence that agripreneurship is indeed considered a viable employment and job creation option for youth in Ogun State, with knowledge, experience, and risk awareness playing critical roles in this perception.

- **H_{02}:** Agriprenurship is not deemed as capable of creating economic sustenance among youths in Ogun State, Nigeria: H_{02}: $b_1 = b_2 = \ldots = b_5 = 0$ and re-written as:

$$Logit(Y_1)=\beta_0+\beta_1(Agripren.\ Knowl.)+\beta_2(Entrep.\ Exp.)+\beta_3(Agrip.\ Exp.)+\beta_4(Prod.\ Markt.\ Exp.)+\beta_5(Percd.\ Risk\ Knowl)+\epsilon$$

➢ *The Results of the Regression were Obtained as Follow:*

- Intercept: $b0 = -1.20$
- Agripreneurship Knowledge: $b1 = 1.75$ ($p < 0.01$)
- Entrepreneurial Experiance: $b2 = 1.18$ ($p < 0.01$)
- Agripreneurship Experience: $b3 = 1.90$ ($p < 0.03$)
- Produce Marketing Experience: $b4 = 1.10$ ($p < 0.03$)
- Experience on Perceived Risks: $b5 = 1.25$ ($p < 0.02$)
- Model Chi-Square: 20.4 ($p < 0.02$)
- Pseudo R^2: 0.29

Given the logistic regression results for the null hypothesis 2, the model provides insights into the relationship between various factors (independent variables) and the perception of agripreneurship as being capable of creating economic sustenance (the dependent variable).

The intercept ($\beta 0 = -1.20$) is an indication that the baseline of perceiving agripreneurship as capable of creating economic sustenance for youths when all independent variables are kept constantly zero is negative. That is, without the influence of agripreneurship knowledge, entrepreneurial experience, farm produce experience, etc. of the participants, their perception of agripreneurship as a means of economic sustenance for the youths would have been very low. Agripreneurship knowledge ($\beta_1 = 1.75$, $p < 0.01$) means that with each additional increase in the agripreneurship knowledge of the participants, their perception of agripreneurship as economically sustaining increases by approximately 1.75 times. Entrepreneurial experience gave a coefficient $\beta_2 = 1.18$, $p < 0.01$ suggesting that greater entrepreneurial experience significantly increases the perception of agripreneurship as a means of economic sustenance and the p-value indicates a strong, statistically significant relationship. A unit increase in entrepreneurial experience of the respondents increases the linear predictability of their perception of agripreneurship as capable of creating economic sustenance by 1.18 units. The results also show that the experience of the participants in agripreneurship activities vastly improves their notion and consideration of agripreneurship engagement as economically sustainable ($\beta_3 = 1.90$, $p < 0.03$) Produce Marketing Experience ($\beta_4 = 1.10$, $p < 0.03$) and Experience on Perceived Risks ($\beta_5 = 1.25$, $p < 0.02$) show statistically significant relationship and the influence the participants' perception of agripreneurship as economically sustaining venture for the youths.

The model chi-square (20.4, $p < 0.02$) indicates that the model as a whole is statistically significant. The p-value (< 0.02) suggests that the independent variables collectively provide a good fit to the data, significantly improving the prediction of the attitudes of the respondents over a model with no predictors. The pseudo R-squared value of 0.29 suggests that approximately 29% of the variability in the perception of agripreneurship as being capable of creating economic sustenance is explained by the model. While this value is not extremely high, it indicates a moderate explanatory power of the prediction of the participants perception about agripreneurship being capable of offering the youths economic sustenance.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this study showed that the perception of agripreneurship as a viable employment and job creation option is influenced by several factors, including agripreneurship knowledge, entrepreneurial experience, agripreneurship experience, marketing experience, and perceived risk knowledge. Each of these factors had a significant positive impact on the perception of agripreneurship as a viable option. Without deliberate awareness and enlightenment campaign, the perception of the youths on agripreneurship as an avenue for job creation and productive engagement will be somewhat unfavorable. However, the likelihood of youths taking interest in agripreneurship will be influenced by their knowledge and

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/IJISRT24OCT1092

awareness on agripreneurship as a viable path to earn a living.

The findings also demonstrate that the participants, based on their knowledge and experience in agripreneurship, entrepreneurial experience, marketing, and risk perception see agripreneurship as a viable means of economic sustenance for youths in Ogun State. This points to the need for creating awareness on agripreneurship among the teeming youths in the State. Such initiatives would likely increase the perceived viability of agripreneurship and, in turn, its adoption as a means of economic sustenance.

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that Nigerian government through its national economic and social development agencies and initiatives should enhance youth access to resources to spur the interest in agripreneurship. Youth should be provided with access to land, credit facilities, and modern agricultural technologies to support the establishment and growth of agripreneurial ventures. There should also be supportive government policies to advocate for and implement initiatives that encourage youth participation in agripreneurship, including incentives and support for agribusiness startups

The government at all level should develop and implement training programmes focused on entrepreneurial skills, agripreneurship, and modern farming techniques to equip youth with the necessary knowledge and expertise. Efforts should be made to promote Agripreneurship Awareness by launching awareness campaigns that highlight the profitability and sustainability of agripreneurship as a viable career path for youth.

Strategic partnerships should be fostered between government, private sector, and educational institutions to create comprehensive and coordinated agripreneurship initiatives that drive youth engagement and economic growth.

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