

Poor Agricultural Policy Implementation and Youths Unemployment in Anambra State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study explores the socioeconomic implications of youth unemployment as a result of poor implementation of agricultural policies in Nigeria, Anambra State as a case study. The research utilizes a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data analysis. A thematic descriptive method was adopted to examine poor implementation of Agricultural policies on youth unemployment and its socioeconomic effects. Data sources included primary, secondary, and tertiary materials. Primary data were obtained through interviews and surveys, while secondary sources included historical records, books, and journal articles. Tertiary sources such as e-books and verified online resources complemented the dataset. The study sampled 1,200 respondents across six local government areas in Anambra State, utilizing oral interviews and structured questionnaires. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including tabular and modal presentations. Findings revealed that youths and other agricultural stakeholders are not consulted during policy formulation and implementation. There is a nexus between youth unemployment and armed robbery, cybercrime and kidnapping, hence, the socioeconomic consequences of joblessness. Structural challenges such as land tenure insecurity, poor government investment in agriculture etc. hinder youth's engagement in the sector, language barriers and corruption also effect agricultural policy implementation in Nigeria. We recommend that government should involve youths and critical agricultural stakeholders in the making and implementation of agricultural policies. The structural challenges should be handled and the use of rural community language in educating rural farmers.

Keywords: Agriculture, Unemployment, Implementation, Language, Policy, Youth

Introduction

Agriculture is the major drive of some countries' economy. It is imperative to note that before the discovery of oil in the early 50s and the oil boom of 1970s agriculture is the main stay of Nigeria economy. In the document of Central Bank of Nigeria in 2016, agricultural sector in the 1960's contributed 85% of the Nigeria foreign exchange earnings, 90% employment generation, and about

80% to gross domestic product. However, the growth that was achieved in agricultural sector during the colonial era and early postcolonial period that propelled Nigeria's economic growth and development was attributed to the colonial government policy on agriculture. This was when policies were put in place to encourage output growth and exportation.

Nigerian then was making huge earnings from agricultural sector because the British policy made it that the immense products generated from the rural areas were exported to satisfy the demand for raw materials in metropolitan Britain industries that needed the product. It is important to note that this early interest of the extraction policy was on forest resources and agricultural exports like cocoa, coffee, rubber, groundnut, oil palm etc. It is imperative to argue that the discovery of crude oil, its exploration which was followed by oil boom in Nigeria led to the decline in agricultural sector. This is simply because of the fact that government attention was diverted from agriculture to the new and fast-growing oil economy.

Eneji & Akwaji (2018) argued that the implementation of the agricultural policy is a function of the macro-economic policies which provide the enabling environment for agriculture to grow along with the other sectors. These policies usually have major impact on the profitability of the agricultural system and the welfare of farmers as they affect the flow of funds to the sector in terms of budgetary allocation, credit, subsidies, taxes, etc. and, therefore, must be in harmony and mutually reinforcing the agricultural policy. The macro policies comprise the fiscal, monetary, trade, budgetary policies and other policies governing macro-prices. Successive government in Nigeria has always initiated programmes towards promoting agriculture to guarantee food security and reduce youth unemployment. However, these programmes have not yielded the desired results due to corruption, structural weakness, mismanagement and undue politicization (Manggoel et al 2012).

Eneji & Akwaji (2018) contended that a nationwide, unified and all-inclusive extension delivery system under the Agricultural development Programme (ADP) was put in place in a joint Federal and State Governments collaborative effort towards improvement of agriculture. The Agro-allied industries were actively promoted. Other incentives such as rural infrastructure, rural banking, primary health care, cottage industries, etc, were provided to encourage agricultural and rural development and attract youth, including school leavers to farmland. The neglect or poor implementation such policy on agriculture in Nigeria is one of the major challenges to youth's unemployment in the country today. Thus, it revealed the basic weakness of agricultural policies in Nigeria and the inability of the successive administrations to solve the basic and fundamental problems of agricultural development. The decline in oil revenue and poor revenue from the agricultural sector led to emergence of many policies in agriculture that are targeted towards revamping the sector. They emphasize almost same objectives like: to provide food for the inhabitants of the nation (food security and sufficiency), employment for the unemployed youths, raw materials for the industries and export excess to other countries of the world.

The problem that stimulates this present research interest is the rate at which crime is increasing in the society, poverty and youth unemployment. Following this therefore, it has implication on Nigerian socio-economic development. Agriculture has been neglected by our youths; thus, unemployment and social vices are on increase. This calls for deep inquiry to unravel the causes, true implication and solution to youth's unemployment.

Methodology

In view of the nature of this research work, the survey research design was used. Fundamentally, the method focuses on research that calls for multi-level perspective and real-life contextual understanding. A total of 1200 respondents were selected for both oral and questionnaire administration in 6 local governments in Anambra State. Data analyses were carried out using descriptive statistics with respect to mode and tabular presentation. Secondly, the statistical analyses used were non parametric statistics.

Scope

The research work focuses on socioeconomic implications of youth unemployment as a result of poor implementation of agricultural policies in Anambra State, Nigeria. The study concentrated on examining 6 rural local governments from 3 senatorial zones in Anambra State. Therefore, we selected 2 rural local governments from each senatorial zone.

Table 1: Distribution of local government on senatorial zones

Senatorial Zones	Local Government Selected
Anambra Central	Awka North and Idemili South
Anambra South	Orumba North and South
Anambra North	Ayamelum and Ogbaru

Poor Implementation of Agricultural Policy and Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

Tiri, Ogoh & Ekpa (2017) pointed out that it is a well-established fact that Nigeria suffers from endemic and systemic corruption which harms the country’s development. The adage that “HIV and AIDs kills an individual, but corruption kills a whole generation, a whole people, and a whole country” implies that corruption is more lethal, more deadly and more devastating than HIV and AIDs. The Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index, shows that corruption has increased in Nigeria with the country ranked 145th among the 180 countries surveyed in the corruption perception index (<https://tradingeconomics.com/nigeria/corruption-index>). The 2010 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released by Transparency International (TI) showed that Nigeria ranked 134th out of 180countries surveyed in 2010. In 2008, Nigeria scored 2.7 points and took 12st position out of 180 countries but in 2010, the country’s CPI score dropped to 2.1. With this score, Nigeria ranks below Ghana, Cameroun, Niger and Benin on the Transparency International rating scale (Daily Trust, 2009; Online Nigeria, 2009). Oyejide (2008) argued that the associated types and level of corruption in Nigeria may have been influenced and heightened by the direct access of government to oil windfall income in an environment of weak public institutions

USAID (2005) argued that corruption undermines social, political, and economic development; cripples’ democracy and impedes economic growth. It stated further that failure to address endemic corruption ultimately undermines all development efforts with small and medium-sized enterprises being disproportionately affected. By tracking and reducing leakage, and enhancing citizens’ oversight, Agricultural extension programmes require adequate funding to ensure successful extension service delivery. Poor financing of extension programmes has been a long-standing problem facing the service (Williams, 1989).

Phillip, Nkonya, Pender, & Oni (2008) commenting on low access to agricultural credit argued that access to agricultural credit has been positively linked to agricultural productivity in several studies. Yet this vital input has eluded smallholder farmers in Nigeria. Banks with large loan funds are generally difficult for smallholder farmers to access. Problems with collateral and high interest rates appear to frequently screen out most potential rural farmer beneficiaries. In addition, agricultural loans are often short-term with fixed repayment periods, a loan structure that is not suitable for annual cropping or livestock production.

Land Tenure Insecurity and Land Degradation: An important institutional constraint is the absence of a clear title to land. Group ownership of land in Nigeria has been associated with such problems as limited tenure security, restrictions on farmers' mobility, and the inevitable fragmentation of holdings among future heirs. It may also limit access to formal credit, since the farmer cannot use land as collateral. This reduces incentives to invest in land quality maintenance or improvement. Because poor farmers cannot afford alternative farmlands, and do not have customary access to lands not inherited, they remain on depleted lands and further degrade these resources. Thus, poverty and custom may constrain farmers' ability and willingness to mitigate land degradation, leading to declining productivity. Land degradation, particularly due to soil fertility depletion and soil erosion, is a serious constraint to agricultural productivity in Nigeria.

According to the Global Assessment of Soil Degradation (GLASOD), more than one-fourth of the agricultural land in Nigeria is severely degraded, with most of this very severely degraded, meaning major and irreversible losses in productivity. In situations where technology is affordable, poor knowledge may lead to over use of agrochemicals such as fertilizers, which may precipitate environmental problems. Today Nigeria immediate concern is under usage of fertilizers as a result of high costs. Land degradation has been manifested in soil erosion, especially the southeast zone; desertification due to deforestation, mainly in the northeast and northwest zones; and oil spillage, especially in the oil producing states.

Poverty and Gender Issues: Poverty is a constraint to agricultural productivity. When farmers cannot afford yield-enhancing inputs, low productivity and food insecurity can follow. Gender imbalances also constrain productivity. In spite of their significant role in agricultural production in many parts of Nigeria, women have varying and relatively limited rights to farmland, and lower access to extension services and credit. These constraints limit their agricultural productivity.

Tsokar (2024) noted that with the increasing population, estimated to reach 400 million by 2050, enhanced agriculture productivity through adaptation of new technologies and innovations is necessary to ensure food security and nutrition. Support from all partners to the efforts by the federal and state governments is central for achieving this goal. Nweke & Nweke (2020: 111) observed that there is high level of unemployment among Nigerian youths. Many Nigerian graduates are roaming the streets looking for paid jobs while host of other youths engage in various criminal activities and odd jobs as a means of livelihood abandoning agriculture. These includes: kidnapping, internet fraud, robbery, prostitution, etc.

The Second National Youth Policy Document of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 2009 stated that Youth are one of the greatest assets that any nation can have. Not only are they legitimately regarded as the future leaders, they are potentially and actually the greatest investment for a country's development. Young women and men are, in particular, recognized as a vital resource whose future prospects are inextricably tied to that of their country. They are the valued possession

of any nation or region. Without them there can be no future. They are the center of reconstruction and development. They serve as a good measure of the extent to which a country can reproduce as well as sustain itself. The extent of their vitality, responsible conduct, and roles in society is positively correlated with the development of their country Nweke and Nweke (2020: 112)

Agriculture has been neglected by our youths; thus, unemployment and social vices are on increase (Abada 2001 in Nweke 2019). The result of the analysis presented found the effect of people migrating from rural areas to urban centres on the society to include: increase in prostitution in the urban centres; increase in squalor settlement in the urban centres; and people are doing all sorts of odd jobs in order to survive in urban centres. Eneji and Akwaji (2018) commenting on poor implementation of agricultural policies in Nigeria noted that, quite often, the formulation of policies seems to be considered as ends in themselves, rather than as means to desired ends. Thus, little attention is paid to the efficient implementation of policies. Bureaucrats and policy implementers tend to lose sight of the fundamental objectives of policies, instead, focusing on superficial issues. Poor managerial capacity, bureaucratic problems, corruption, and high rates of policy turnover tended to complicate the problem of policy implementation.

The Highlight of Unemployment Rate in Nigeria 2023

- The labour force participation rate among the working-age population declined to 79.5% in Q3 2023 compared to 80.4% in Q2 2023.
- The employment-to-population ratio was 75.6% in Q3 2023 with a decrease of 1.5% compared to a ratio of Q2 2023.
- The combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment as a share of the labour force population (LU2) increased to 17.3% in Q3 2023 from 15.5% in Q2 2023.
- About 87.3% of workers were self-employed in Q3 2023.
- The proportion of workers in Wage Employment in Q3 2023 was 12.7%
- The unemployment rate increased significantly in Q3 2023 at 5.0%. This is an increase of 0.8% from Q2 2023.
- The rate of unemployment among persons with post-secondary education was 7.8% in Q3 2023
- The unemployment rate among youth aged (15-24 years) was 8.6% in Q3 2023. Increase of 1.4% compared to Q2 2023.
- The unemployment rate in urban areas was 6.0% in Q3 2023, a slight increase of 0.1% from Q2 2023.
- Time-related underemployment in Q3 2023 was 12.3%, showing a slight increase of 0.5% from the rate recorded in Q2 2023. This shows an increase of 1.4% compared to the rate in Q4 2022.
- 4.1% of the working-age population was in subsistence agriculture in Q3 2023.
- Informal employment rate in Q3 2023 was 92.3%, while Q2 2023 was 92.7%.
- Percentage of youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET Rate) was 13.7% in Q3 2023.

Source: National Bureau of Statistics

Problem of Agricultural Policy Implementation in Nigeria

Lack of Policy Continuity: abandonment of a well-articulated policy of previous government by the incumbent government is a serious challenge to development of agriculture in Nigeria. Eneji & Akwaji (2018) noted that successive governments have tended to jettison most of their inherited policies and programs in the erroneous belief that a new government could only justify its existence or make its mark by adopting entirely new policies and programs. In order to ensure sustained and increased inflow of investment into Nigerian agriculture, agricultural policies must endure and even outlive the governments that formulated them. The practice of changing macroeconomic policies by successive federal governments is inimical to long-term investments in agriculture (Phillip, Nkonya, Pender, & Oni (2008).

Non Involvement of Stakeholder in Policy Formulation: Not involving stakeholders like youths, farmers, community leaders, town unions, traditional rulers, and cooperative societies in policy making are some of the major problems facing agricultural policy implementation in Nigeria. The simple fact is that because they are not involved at the time of policy formulation, it becomes problematic implementing the policy.

Poor Policy Implementation: Formulation of good policy is one thing; implementation of the policy is another thing. Thus policy implementation has been a serious challenge facing agricultural sector in Nigeria. Hence, the issues of food insecurity. Poor managerial capacity, bureaucratic problems, corruption, and high rates of policy turnover tended to complicate the problem of policy implementation Eneji & Akwaji (2018). Nweke (2021) noted that the high level of poor service delivery in Nigeria is as a result of weak or lack of monitoring and evaluation system. Nweke (2019) argued that government should embark on the development of agricultural sector to create employment and infrastructural development in the rural areas.

Lack of Policy Coherence: Some agricultural policies and programs often seem to be mutually antagonistic rather than being complementary and reinforcing. Fundamental key reason for the policy inconsistency is the failure of policy makers to adopt a systems approach to policy formulation. A systems approach is that which the entire spectrum of agricultural and rural development problems is viewed globally so that consistent, mutually reinforcing policies could be addressed to them (Eneji & Akwaji, 2018). Nweke & Nweke (2025) identified poor effective communication, poor attitude to work, lack of team work, and chauvinism as some of the major problems facing public sector management in Nigeria

Language Barrier: Language is a key factor when it comes to the issues of agricultural policy making and implementation. In the policy process language determines the policy education and promulgation. Making sure that the language of the policy is understood by the farmers at the point of implementation. It is imperative to note that the policy is meant for the development of agriculture and the farmers are the end users, hence, the need for adequate understanding of the language. Nweke (2024) contended that Language is an important tool in any society and thus, it plays crucial roles in human life. It is fundamentally a communicative tool characterised by taking systematically into account the speaker's and hearer's side, and the communicative needs of the speaker and of the given language community. As human beings, we communicate our ideas using language (Nweke 2021:25). The interpersonal metafunction is about the social world, especially the relationship between speaker and hearer, and between the speaker and his message, by the concept interpersonal metafunction, it means that users of language establish, negotiate and assume their position in social relationships (Nweke 2024:41). This calls for the agricultural extension

officer or agents to apply the language of the community in communicating with the rural famers. In using language as an effective communication tool, Nweke & Okeke (2023) argued that, we organize our messages in ways which reflect how they fit in with other messages around them and with the wider context in which we are talking or writing. Nweke & Nweke (2025) argued that for efficient and effective performance of an organization, a good interpersonal relationship is a sine-qua-non. It therefore noted that effective communication will create good interpersonal relationship among the members of organization. Every organization is specifically created to achieve a specific objective or goals, and the extent to which the goals were achieved determines the effectiveness of the organization

Poor Policy Learning: Policy learning has to do with educating people (famers) on the content and applicability of the policy. Making sure that the rudiments of the policy is effectively communicated to the people. Nweke, Nweke, Madubueze, & Okpalibekwe (2025) noted that drivers of food insecurity include government insincerity, flooding, inadequate training in modern agricultural techniques, language barriers in agricultural training, limited access to farm tools, insufficient investment in agriculture, and shortages of fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides. Nweke & Nweke (2025) identified lack of trust, language barrier, lack of clear vision, and goal clumsy as the problems facing organizational service delivery in Nigeria

Corruption: Corruption has eaten deep into the fabrics of Nigeria society. Hence Nigeria is ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. The Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index, Nigeria scored 25 on a scale from 0 ("highly corrupt") to 100 ("very clean"). When ranked by score, Nigeria ranked 145th among the 180 countries in the Index, where the country ranked first is perceived to have the most honest public sector (<https://tradingeconomics.com/nigeria/corruption-index>). Dada (2014) pointed out that corruption undermines good government, fundamentally distorts public policy, leads to the misappropriation of resources, harms the public sector and private sector development, and particularly it hurts the poor. Madubueze, Nweke, Nweke & Obiora (2026) argued that Institutional rivalry across sectoral regulators produces fragmented decision making that weakens investor confidence.

Table 2. Poor implementation of agricultural policy and youth unemployment in Nigeria

S/N	Item	Mean $\pm$ Standard Deviation	T-value	p-value
1	Lack of government commitment to youths agricultural empowerment creates food insecurity	4.62 $\pm$ 0.80	69.72	0.00
2	Do lack of access to agricultural credit leads to youths poor interest on agriculture	4.99 $\pm$ 0.03	23.99	0.00
3	Youths unemployment is caused by poor government investment on Agriculture	4.84 $\pm$ 0.36	175.14	0.00
4	Lack of access to Agricultural land reduces youths involvement in agriculture	4.79 $\pm$ 0.40	154.66	0.00
5	Unemployment is increased because of poor mechanized agriculture	4.70 $\pm$ 0.56	104.59	0.00
6	Do issues of land tenure insecurity creates youths low interest in agriculture	4.85 $\pm$ 0.36	178.43	0.00
7	Youths unemployment leads to increase in cyber crime	4.93 $\pm$ 0.25	265.09	0.00
8	Youths unemployment leads to increase in Kidnapping	4.90 $\pm$ 0.29	223.99	0.00
9	Youths unemployment leads to increase in Armed robbery	4.97 $\pm$ 0.18	374.72	0.00
10	Continued use of very primitive production methods hinders youths involvement in agriculture	4.76 $\pm$ 0.43	142.46	0.00

The findings of the result presented in Table 2 highlight the significant impact of poor implementation of agricultural policies on youth unemployment in Nigeria, with all items showing high mean scores and statistically significant results ($p < 0.05$). The most critical issue is the link between youth unemployment and armed robbery ($\text{Mean} \pm \text{SD} = 4.97 \pm 0.18$, $t = 374.72$, $p = 0.00$), emphasizing the social consequences of joblessness. Similarly, unemployment’s connection to cybercrime (4.93 ± 0.25 , $t = 265.09$, $p = 0.00$) and kidnapping (4.90 ± 0.29 , $t = 223.99$, $p = 0.00$) underscores its broader societal impact. Structural challenges such as land tenure insecurity (4.85 ± 0.36 , $t = 178.43$, $p = 0.00$) and poor government investment in agriculture (4.84 ± 0.36 , $t = 175.14$, $p = 0.00$) significantly deter youth participation in agriculture. Limited access to agricultural land (4.79 ± 0.40 , $t = 154.66$, $p = 0.00$), reliance on primitive production methods (4.76 ± 0.43 , $t = 142.46$, $p = 0.00$), and lack of mechanization (4.70 ± 0.56 , $t = 104.59$, $p = 0.00$) further hinder engagement. Additionally, lack of access to agricultural credit (4.99 ± 0.03 , $t = 23.99$, $p = 0.00$) and government commitment to youth agricultural empowerment (4.62 ± 0.80 , $t = 69.72$, $p = 0.00$) exacerbate the problem. Addressing these barriers is crucial to reducing youth unemployment and its associated societal issues.

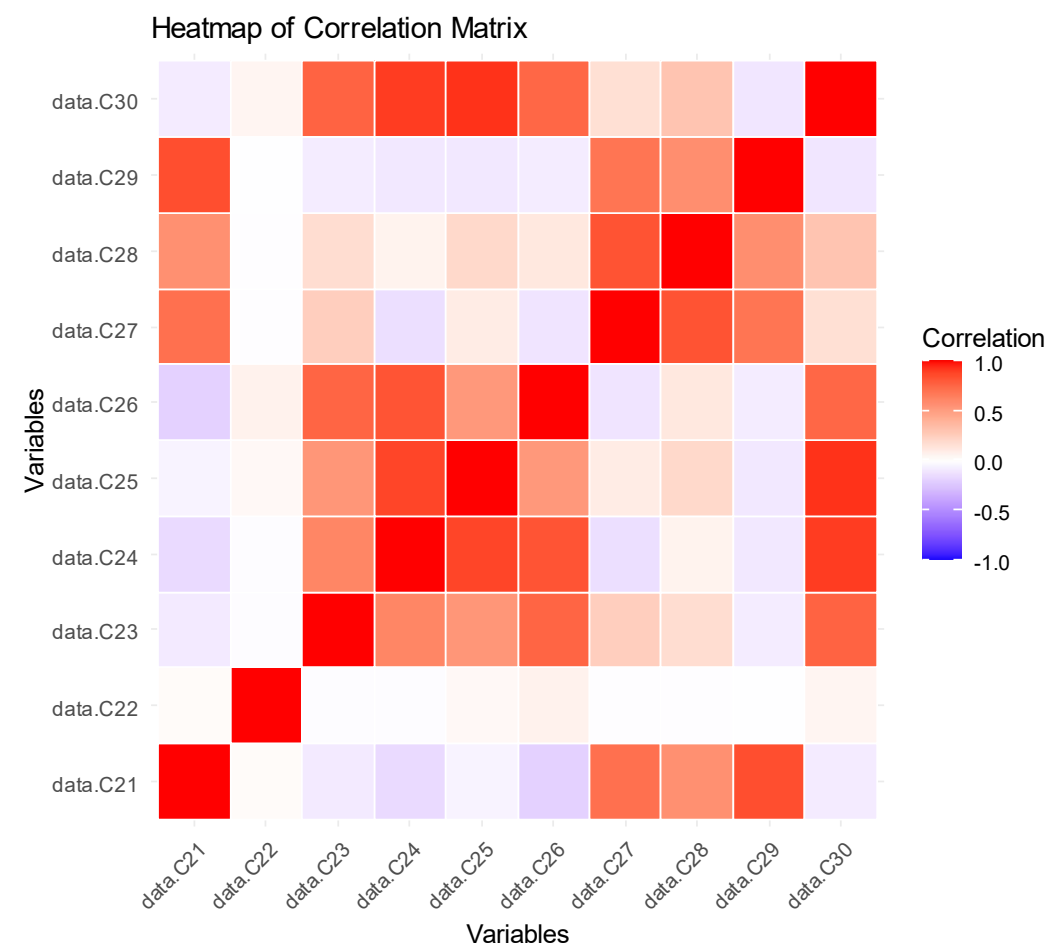


Figure 1. Correlation Heat map of the responses of poor implementation of agricultural policy and youth unemployment in Nigeria

The result provided in Figure 1 shows the correlation matrix which provides insight into the relationships between the different items in Section C, and assesses the effect of poor implementation of agricultural policies on youth unemployment in Nigeria. It was found that the association between items C21 and C27 was 0.71378, which indicates a strong positive relationship between the lack of government commitment to youth agricultural empowerment (C21) and youth unemployment leading to an increase in cybercrime (C27). This suggests that inadequate policy implementation may indirectly influence societal issues like cybercrime. The association measure between items C23 and C30 was 0.76765, this result suggests that poor government investment in agriculture (C23) and continued use of primitive production methods (C30) are closely linked. This reflects the interconnected nature of policy failures and outdated agricultural practices. The correlation measure between items C24 and C25 was obtained as 0.87651. This demonstrates that lack of access to agricultural land (C24) and poor mechanized agriculture (C25) are strongly correlated. This indicates that structural challenges in land access and technology deficits may reinforce each other.

Further result showed that the association measure between items C27 and C28 was 0.83186. This result suggests a moderate positive link between youth unemployment leading to cybercrime (C27) and kidnapping (C28). This underscores how unemployment may propagate multiple social challenges. The correlation measure between items C24 and C30 was 0.90388. This result highlights the relationship between lack of access to land and the use of primitive methods, which may deter youth participation in agriculture.

Also, the correlation measure between items C21 and C26 was -0.19789. This implies the existence of a weak negative relationship between the lack of government commitment to youth agricultural empowerment and land tenure insecurity (C26). This suggests that while they are both problematic, they might operate independently. The correlation measure between items C22 and Most Variables were close to 0. This indicates that lack of access to agricultural credit (C22) does not strongly correlate with other variables, suggesting that it may affect youth unemployment differently or indirectly.

Hence, the correlations reveal key factors driving youth unemployment due to poor implementation of agricultural policies:

- i. Strong interconnections between land access, mechanization, and investment: These are systemic issues that require comprehensive reforms to enhance agricultural productivity and youth involvement.
- ii. Unemployment's link to social ills: High correlations between youth unemployment and crimes like cybercrime, kidnapping, and armed robbery (e.g., C27 with C28 and C29) suggest that policy failures have far-reaching consequences beyond the agricultural sector.
- iii. Credit access as a distinct issue: The relatively weak correlations for C22 highlight that improving access to credit may need targeted interventions rather than broader systemic reforms.



Figure 2. Bar Chart of the distribution of Occupation of the respondents

The distribution of respondents' occupations presented in Figure 2 showed that Farmer recorded 1093 respondents. This implies that the majority of the respondents are farmers, indicating that agriculture is a dominant occupation in the sampled population. Also, 107 respondents were Traders. A much smaller portion of the respondents are traders, suggesting either fewer traders in the sample or a focus on rural/agricultural populations.

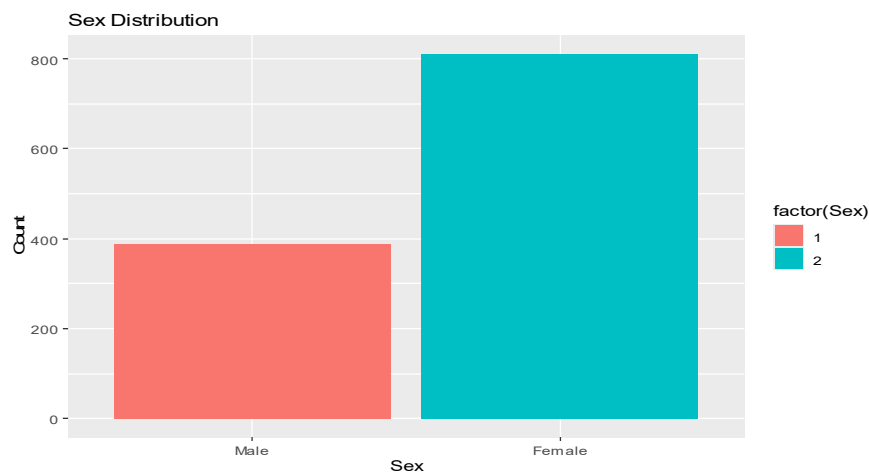


Figure 3. Bar Chart of the distribution of Sex of the respondents

Sex distribution of the respondents presented in Figure 3 showed that 388 of the respondents are Male while 812 of the respondents are Female. This result indicates that the majority of respondents

are female, indicating that women are more actively engaged in these occupations in the sampled context.

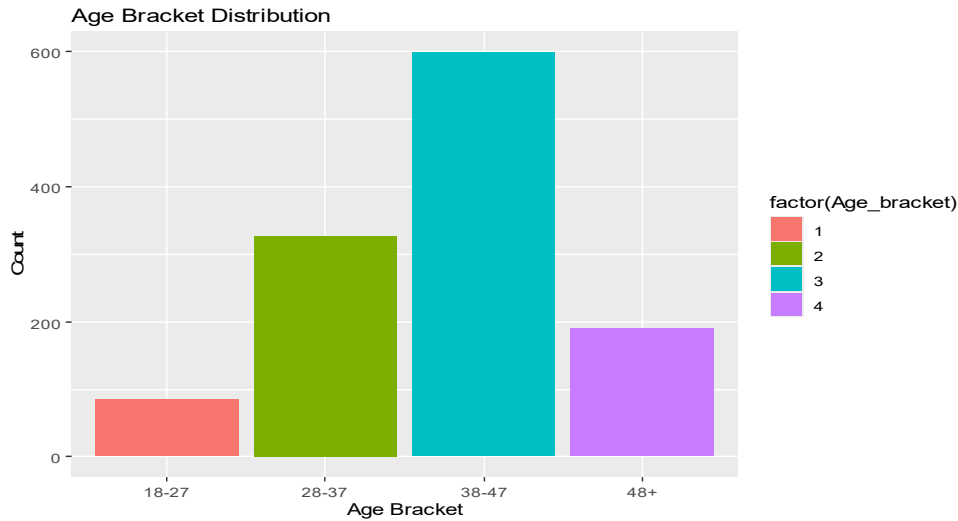


Figure 4. Bar Chart of the distribution of Age Bracket of the respondents

The distribution of the Age Bracket of the respondents presented in Figure 4 showed that 18-27 years recorded 84 respondents. This is the smallest age group, suggesting lower participation of younger individuals in these occupations. While 28-37 years recorded 327 respondents. This group represents moderate involvement, possibly indicating individuals transitioning into mid-career stages. The age bracket 38-47 years has 599 respondents, recording the largest age group, and indicating significant involvement of individuals in their prime working age. 48 years and above has 90 respondents which is considered a smaller yet notable representation, reflecting continued activity in these occupations among older individuals.

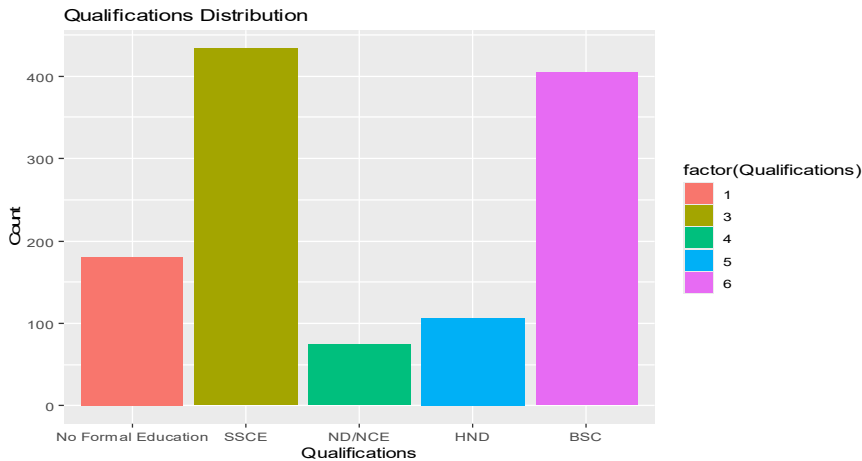


Figure 5. Bar Chart of the distribution of Educational Qualification of the respondents

The distribution of the educational qualifications of the respondents presented in Figure 5 revealed that 181 respondents have No Formal Education which represents a significant number of respondents who lack formal education, which may indicate barriers to educational access in the sampled population. No respondents reported having FSLC as their highest qualification, which is unusual and might reflect data entry issues. While 434 respondents have SSCE and represent the largest group with formal education, indicating secondary school completion as a common qualification level. 74 respondents have ND/NCE which is a smaller representation of individuals with post-secondary education at this level. Also, 107 respondents have HND which implies that a moderate number of respondents have technical or professional post-secondary education. 404 respondents have a BSc. which indicates that a relatively large number of respondents have a university degree, indicating a substantial presence of educated individuals. No respondents identified other qualifications.

Hence, with farmers making up the majority, agricultural policy implementation has direct implications for a large portion of the population. Poor policies may push farmers to seek better opportunities in urban areas.

The higher number of females in these occupations suggests that policies should be gender-sensitive, particularly in providing support and incentives for women in agriculture. The largest age group (38-47 years) reflects active working-age individuals. Migration policies targeting younger groups (18-27 years) might prevent them from leaving rural areas prematurely. The high number of individuals with only SSCE or no formal education highlights the need for skill-based training and education in rural areas to improve productivity and reduce migration.

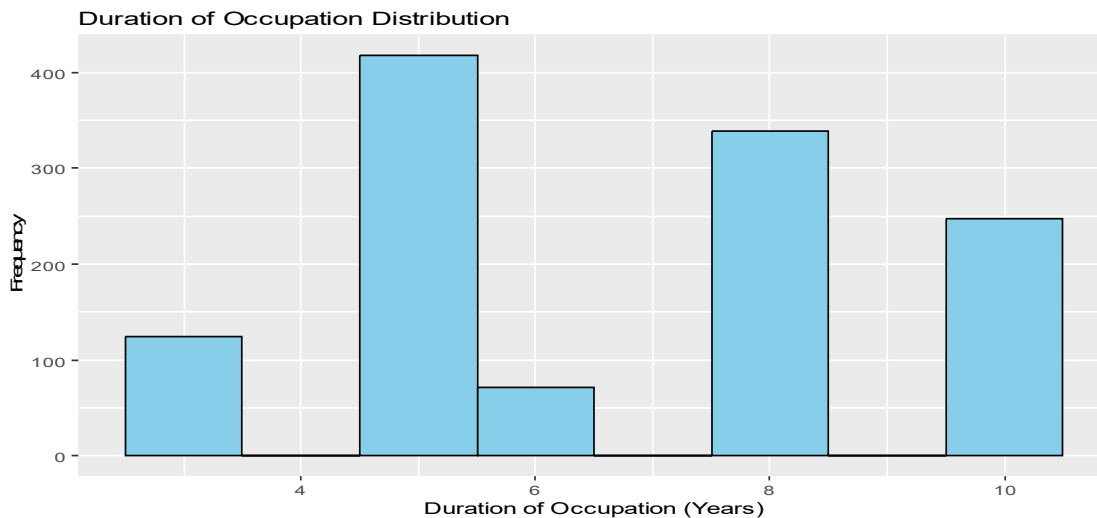


Figure 6. Bar Chart of the distribution of Occupation of the respondents

The result of the duration of occupation presented in Figure 6 provides insights into how long respondents have been engaged in their respective occupations. It was found that on average, respondents have been in their occupations for approximately 6.73 years, indicating a moderate level of experience across the sample with a standard deviation measure of approximately 2.28 years indicating a moderate spread around the mean, reflecting some variability in the duration of occupations across respondents. The minimum reported duration is 3 years, which implies that all

respondents have at least some levels of experience in their occupations. The maximum reported duration is 10 years, showing that some respondents have considerable experience in their field.

The variability in durations is not extreme ($SD = 2.28$), indicating that most respondents have durations clustered near the mean. A minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 10 years reflect a range of experience levels but also suggest that the sample does not include individuals with very recent or extremely long durations in their occupations.

The findings indicate moderate experience levels (average of approximately 7 years) suggesting that respondents are well-established in their occupations. This means they are likely familiar with the challenges posed by poor agricultural policy implementation. The relatively narrow range of durations (3-10 years) implies a consistent sample group, making it easier to generalize findings related to the impact of rural-urban migration and poor agricultural policies on the economy.

Conclusion

We argue that agricultural sector driven by youths is the panacea to youth's unemployment problem in Nigeria. The poor implementation of agricultural policies is to great extent the causes of youth unemployment in the country. This is because of the facts that youths and other agricultural stakeholders are not consulted during policy formulation and implementation. It is imperative to note that there is a nexus between youth unemployment and armed robbery, cybercrime, kidnapping etc. Hence, emphasizing the social consequences of joblessness. Similarly, we noted that structural challenges such as land tenure insecurity and poor government investment in agriculture significantly deter youth participation in agriculture. Also, the issues of limited access to agricultural land, reliance on primitive production methods and lack of mechanization further hinder engagement of youths in agricultural sector. Additionally, lack of access to agricultural credit and government commitment to youth agricultural empowerment exacerbate the problem. Language barriers and corruption to great extent hinders effective and efficient agricultural policy implementation in Nigeria. We therefore recommend that the government should involve youths and critical agricultural stakeholders in making and implementation of agricultural policies. The structural challenges such as land tenure insecurity and poor government investment in agriculture should be handled by the government. The agricultural extension officers, agents and others that are involved in implementation of agricultural policies should employ the language of the rural community in educating the rural farmers. Running a transparent government is very crucial. Addressing these barriers is crucial to reducing youth unemployment and its associated societal issues.

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