Case of selected RPCS and SACCOS in Kilimanjaro and Ruvuma Regions. A paper presented in Annual symposium at Moshi Cooperative College, September 1998.

ANALYSIS OF THE FACTORS INFLUENCING AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS' ENTERPRISE PREFERENCE IN NORTH-WESTERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This research examined the agricultural enterprises preferred by the agricultural students and the factors influencing enterprise preference. Random sampling was used in selecting three states from the study area. One Federal university and one Monotechnic/Polytechnic offering Agriculture were selected from each State selected. Lastly, all final year agricultural undergraduate students in Faculty/ College/ School of agriculture were used from each institution selected. Data were collected through the use of questionnaires. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed in analysing the data collected. It was found that majority (61.9%) of the agricultural students preferred farm production as component of agripreneurship while poultry production got the highest (45.4%) response as preferred farm enterprise. Market access was found to be positive and significant (B = 0.013, SE = 0.153, P = 0.041) predictor of students' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The coefficient of expected income was positive and significant (B = 0.003, SE = 0.005, P= 0.017) predictor of students' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. It was found that pull factors (attitude, perception and aspiration) were significant predictors of respondents' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The respondents have positive attitude and perception towards agripreneurship. Respondents preferred poultry and farm production hence, it was recommended that opportunities for access to land and market should be provided by the government to enable them participate more in poultry and farm production.

Keywords: Agricultural Students, Enterprise, Preference, North-West, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Agripreneurs are interested in agriculturally related businesses with a motive for profit and self-employment (Tripathi and Agarwal, 2015). Agripreneurship has the potential to contribute to a country's economic development by creating employment for the local populace in direct and indirect ways, improving nutrition, and contributing to food security and food sovereignty (Bairwa, Lakra, Kushaha, Meena and Kumar, 2014). This then implies that Agripreneurship is a necessity for socio-economic enhancement through creation of agribusinesses, development of agricultural commodities value chains and the overall economic growth. A paradigm shift from agriculture to agripreneurship is essential to rejuvenate the Nigerian agriculture with a view to making it a much more attractive and profitable enterprise (Uche and Familusi, 2018). According to the International Labor Organization (ILO) (2014), youth

entrepreneurship in agriculture, that is, agripreneurship, could be the missing link to address the challenges of poverty and unemployment experienced by many young people especially in developing countries. Further, promotion of agripreneurship, including value addition to agricultural products by youth entrepreneurs has the potential to mitigate the challenges many young people experience, to improve their livelihoods, and to increase food security (International Youth Foundation, 2014; Montpellier, 2014). The identification of opportunities is the biggest problem that an agri-entrepreneur faces. The resources are always limited and the selection of the right field for developing a business and investment therein at the right point of time is the key to success (Kriti and Lok, 2017).

People tend to ascribe poverty and drudgery to farming and prefer white collar jobs that will provide steady flow of income, these perceptions often turn-off young men and women away from this noble profession (Saliu, et al., 2016). Yet youths are the most economically productive group that should supply continuous flow of labour and add sustainable value to food production chain that can ensure food security (Saliu, et al., 2016). It is however surprising to note that graduates who studied different aspects of agriculture such as agricultural economics, agricultural extension, crop production, animal science/production and soil science are currently looking for scarce white-collar jobs in the banking, oil and gas sectors. These set of people abandon what they spent several years to study in universities, polytechnics and colleges while people who had no special education in agriculture are doing well in different agricultural enterprises (Ojebiyi et al., 2015). Though, Adetunji (2016) explained that the university students in many cases are not exposed to the practical application of relevant skills on what they are taught in the classroom, the relevant books, journals and other educational materials also are absent. These are few among many problems confronting Nigerian university students and graduates.

There are differences in job preference within agriculture sector between male and female youths as well as between youths in rural and urban areas. This is confirmed by the results obtained in different studies. For example, Saliu et al. (2016) discovered that poultry farming had the highest mean score of 2.73 and fish farming 2.49. According to Stephen, (2011) girls preferred livestock farming to crop farming. FAO, (2012) stated that women, as the main users of locally adapted livestock breeds, play a major role in managing animal genetic resources and tend to have an affinity and preference for indigenous rather than improved breeds. Saliu et al. (2016) stated that certain profession such as livestock enjoyed a lot of willingness by the respondents which was attributed to the short gestation and or level of financial outlay. Cash crop and arable crop farming also received a lot of interest from the respondents. However, bee keeping, piggery, snail farming and cattle farming did not receive much willingness from the respondents. Akpantaku et al. (1998) opined that participation in livestock production may be attributed to the protein needs of the people. This is contrary to Gwary et al. (2008) who reported that young agricultural entrepreneurs are more interested in crop production, probably due to the short

production period of the crop varieties produced, which ensures quick turnover. In addition to the view of Gwary, et al. (2008), livestock production could be more capital intensive than crop production, hence the preference for crop. This also indicated that different individuals have different choice of agripreneurship as it can be influenced by students' field of study, access to land and market and locality. Thus, people living in rural areas have abundant land hence, may prefer crop than poultry or fisheries while people living in urban areas may prefer poultry and fisheries due to high demand. The objectives of this study were to identify the agricultural enterprises preferred by the agricultural students and examine the factors influencing enterprise preference by the agricultural students.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the tertiary institutions of North-Western (NW) geopolitical zone of Nigeria. This comprises of seven States namely: Katsina, Kano, Kaduna, Kebbi, Jigawa, Sokoto and Zamfara States as shown in Figure 1. The region is located between latitude 9°10'N and 13°50'N and longitude 3°35'E and 9°00'E. The zone is blessed with population of 35,786,944 million (National Population Commission (NPC) 2006) with a growth rate of 3.2 percent and a projected population of 55,621,203 million by 2020 (NBS 2012) and remains an agricultural hub for Nigeria with a huge proportion of its population in the agricultural sector (Ekpa et al., 2017). The main source of livelihood of the people in this zone is agriculture. Livestock such as cattle, goats, sheep, and poultry farm like chicken, turkey and pigeon are reared extensively (Ekpa et al., 2017).

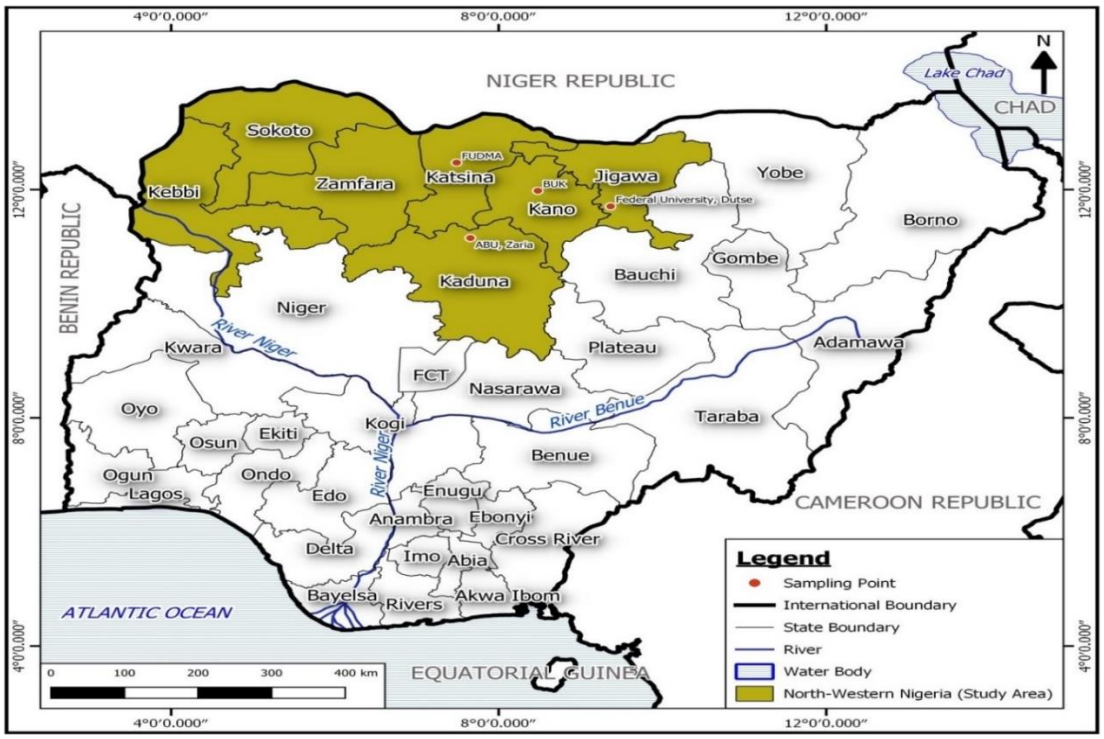

Fig.1: Map of Nigeria Showing North West Geopolitical Zone

Source: Map Gallery, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, 2019

Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

Multi stage sampling technique was used for this research work. In the first stage random sampling was used in selecting three states (Kano, Kaduna and Katsina) from the study area. In the second stage, one Federal university and one Monotechnic/Polytechnic offering Agriculture were selected from each State selected. Lastly, all final year agricultural undergraduate students in Faculty/ College/ School of agriculture were used from each institution selected (Table 1).

Table 1: Study population and chosen sample Size

States	Institutions	Number of final year agricultural students
Kano	Bayero University Kano (BUK)	27
	Hussaini Adamu Federal Polytechnic Kazaure (HAFEDPOLY)	67
Kaduna	Ahmadu Bello University (ABU)	54
	Samaru College of Agriculture / Division of Agricultural Colleges (SCA/DAC)	19
Katsina	Federal University Dutsnma (FUDMA)	15
	Hassab Usman Katsina Polytechnic (HUKPOLY)	36
Total	**6**	**218**

Data Collection and Analysis

The primary data were collected through the use of questionnaires which were administered to the respondents by the researcher. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed in analysing the data collected. Multinomial logistic regression analysis was used to analyse the factors influencing enterprise preference by the agricultural students.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Agricultural Enterprises Preferred by the Agricultural Students

Respondents' Preferred Agripreneurship Component

It was observed from Table 4.4.1 that majority (61.9%) of the respondents preferred farm production as component of agripreneurship, some (24.8%) of them preferred marketing, few (7.8%) preferred processing and few

others (5.5%) preferred agro-input supply. These findings contradicted Zakaria, (2013) who discovered that majority (54.8%) of them do not intend at all to engage in self-employed agribusiness enterprise upon graduation, instead they prefer to be employed either in the public or private sector. This showed that the lager number of the respondents preferred to go in to farm production than any other component of agripreneurship. The implication is that if many youths could venture in to farm production, Nigeria would achieve the objective of feeding its nation and become an exporter of food.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on preferred component of agripreneurship

Preferred Component of Agripreneurship	Frequency	Percentage
Agro-Input Supply	12	5.5
Farm Production	135	61.9
Processing	17	7.8
Marketing	54	24.8
Total	**218**	**100.0**

Respondents' Preferred Type of Farm Enterprise

The results in Table 3 showed that poultry production got the highest (45.4%) response, some (14.7% and 11.1%) of the respondents preferred arable cropping and small ruminants respectively. Few (9.2%, 3.2%, 2.3%, 2.3%, 2.3%) among them preferred marketing, cattle, processing, horticulture and rabbitry respectively, 0.5% piggery, 0.9% agro-forestry, 0.9% input supply, 0.9% transportation and 6.4% preferred other types of farm enterprise. This showed that the students preferred poultry production farm enterprise. Thus, many students considered livestock production as lucrative business. In line with the view of Akpantaku et al. (1998), participation in livestock production may be attributed to the protein needs of the people. This result is in line with Saliu et al. (2016) who found that poultry farming had the highest mean score of 2.73 and fish farming 2.49. They explained that certain profession such as livestock enjoyed a lot of willingness by the respondents which could be due to the short gestation and or level of financial outlay.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents based on preferred type of farm enterprise

Preferred Type of Farm Enterprise	Frequency	Percentage
Poultry	99	45.4
Small Ruminants	24	11.1
Cattle	7	3.2
Piggery	1	0.5
Arable Cropping	32	14.7
Agro Forestry	2	0.9
Input Supply	2	0.9
Processing	5	2.3
Marketing	20	9.2
Transportation	2	0.9
Horticulture	5	2.3
Rabbitry	5	2.3
Others	14	6.4
Total	**218**	**100**

Factors Influencing Agricultural Students Enterprise Preference

In Multinomial Logistic Regression for any analysis is to describe the overall test of relationship between the dependent and independent variables (Chan, 2005 and Bayaga, 2010). Model fitting information in Table 4, describes the relationship between the dependent and independent variables and revealed that probability of the model chi-square 43.367 was 0.021, less than the level of significance of 0.05 ($p < 0.05$). Hence it was concluded that the data fitted the model.

Table 4: Model Fitting Information

	Model Fitting Criteria	Likelihood Ratio Tests		
Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	734.241			
Final	512.874	43.367	18	.021

Table 5 showed the results of multinomial logistic regression and the coefficient (B) for each predictor variable for each alternative category of the outcome variable. Market access was found positive and significant (B = 0.013, SE = 0.153, P = 0.041) predictor of respondents' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The odds ratio indicated that respondents who had access to market would prefer input supply by a factor 3.987 times odds for farm production. It was indicated that for every unit increase in access to market the odds expressing preference of input supply increased by a factor 3.987. The finding agrees with Kising'u (2016) who found that proximity to market to influence majority (54%) of the youth to engage in marketing agricultural produce.

The coefficient of expected income was positive and significant (B = 0.003, SE = 0.005, P= 0.017) predictor of respondents' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The odds ratio for expected income in input supply is 1.200 times odds for farm production. The odds ratio indicated that respondents who expected higher income would more likely prefer input supply by a factor 1.200 than farm production. It was indicated that for every unit increase in income expectation the odds expressing preference of input supply increased by a factor 1.200. This agrees with Silva et al. (2010) who found that for majority of the people, the most important consideration in choosing jobs is the remuneration, i.e. the wages or salary. Gidaroku, (1999) opined that youth believed that agricultural industry is not a vibrant industry as it generates only meager income. This implies that majority of respondents who are closer to market would prefer to abandon farm production for input supply.

It was found that pull factors (attitude, perception and aspiration) were significant predictors of respondents' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The coefficient of attitude was positive and significant (B = 2.300, SE = 0.871, P = 0.031), respondents' perception was positive and significant (B = 0507, SE= 0.505, P = 0.015), the coefficient for aspiration was negative and significant (B = -0.173, SE = 0.647, P = 0.089) predictors of respondents' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The odds ratio indicated that respondents' attitude and perception would more likely prefer input supply by a factor 1.349 and 1.660 respectively than farm production. It was indicated that for every unit change in attitude and perception the odds expressing preference of input supply increased by a factor 1.349 and 1.660. It was indicated that for every unit increase in aspiration the odds expressing preference of input supply decreased by a factor 0.841. This also indicated that the odds ratio for aspiration towards input supply was 0.841 less than odds for farm production. The odds ratio indicated that students would less likely aspire to prefer input supply by a factor 0.841 than farm production.

Table 4.5.2 Factors influencing components of enterprise preference by the agricultural students (N = 218)

Preferred Component of Agribusiness[a]		B	Std. Err	Sig.	Exp(B)
Agro-input Supply	Intercept	-6.248	1.182	.0005	
	MARKET_ACCESS	.013	0.153	.041**	3.987
	ACCESS_TO_LAND	1.091	0.670	.103	.977
	EXPECTED_INCOME	.003	0.005	.017**	1.200
	ATTITUDE	2.300	0.871	.031**	1.349
	PERCEPTION	.507	0.505	.015**	1.660
	ASPIRATION	-.173	0.647	.089*	.841
Processing	Intercept	-4.588	3.643	.0003	
	MARKET_ACCESS	.125	1.118	.011**	.883
	ACCESS_TO_LAND	.751	0.800	.348	.472
	EXPECTED_INCOME	.023	0.040	.026**	1.060
	ATTITUDE	.822	0.689	.033**	2.274
	PERCEPTION	.332	0.423	.043**	1.394
	ASPIRATION	-.869	0.497	.030**	.419
Marketing	Intercept	-.310	2.360	.006	
	MARKET_ACCESS	.882	0.570	.024**	2.414
	ACCESS_TO_LAND	-.055	0.425	.898	.947
	EXPECTED_INCOME	.060	0.300	.036**	1.200
	ATTITUDE	-.632	0.494	.001***	.881
	PERCEPTION	-.417	0.270	.022**	.659
	ASPIRATION	-.021	0.339	.050**	1.021

a. The reference category is: farm production.

b. NB: *** P < 0.01, ** P < 0.05, * P < 0.10, Std Err = Standard Error, B = Coefficient.

The results of multinomial logistic regression showed in Table 4.5.2 that market access was positive and significant (B = 0.125, SE = 1.118, P = 0.011) predictor of respondents' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The odds ratio for market access in preference of processing is 0.883 less than odds for farm production. It was indicated that for every unit increase in access to market the odds expressing preference of processing decreased by a factor 0.883. The coefficient of expected income was positive and significant (B = 0.023, SE = 0.040, P= 0.026) predictor of respondents' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The odds ratio for expected income in processing is 1.060 more than odds for farm production. The odds ratio indicated that respondents who expected higher income would more likely prefer processing by a factor 1.060 than farm production. It was indicated that for every unit increase in income expectation the odds expressing preference of processing increased by a factor 1.060.

The coefficient of respondents' attitude was positive and significant (B = 0.822, SE = 0.689, P = 0.033), respondents' perception was positive and significant (B = 0.332, SE= 0.423, P = 0.043) and the coefficient for aspiration was negative and significant (B = -0.869, SE = 0.497, P = 0.030) predictors of respondents' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The odds ratio for attitude and perception towards processing was 2.274 and 1.394 respectively times odds for farm production. The odds ratio indicated that respondents' attitude and perception would more likely move towards processing by a factor 2.274 and 1.394 respectively than farm production. It was indicated that for every unit change in attitude and perception, the odds expressing preference of processing increased by a factor 2.274 and 1.394 respectively. It was indicated that for every unit increase in aspiration the odds expressing preference of processing decreased by a factor 0.419. This also indicated that the odds ratio for aspiration towards processing was 0.419 less than odds for farm production. The odds ratio indicated that respondents would less likely aspire to prefer processing by a factor 0.419 than farm production. This agrees with Zakaria, (2013) who found that respondents generally have a positive perception about the potential of agribusiness as an avenue for self-employed enterprise creation for them and that they see themselves succeeding in agricultural enterprises upon graduation.

The coefficient of market access was found positive and significant (B = 0.632, SE = 0.570, P = 0.024) predictor of respondents' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The odds ratio for market access in preference of marketing was 2.414 more than odds for farm production. It was indicated that for every unit increase in access to market the odds expressing preference of marketing increased by a factor 2.414. The coefficient of expected income was positive and significant (B = 0.060, SE = 0.300, P= 0.036) predictor of respondents' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The odds ratio for expected income in marketing is 1.200 times odds for farm production. It was also indicated that for every unit increase in income expectation the odds expressing preference of marketing increased by a factor 1.200. The result is in line with Cheteny (2016) who found that resources was significant at 10% (P = 0.75) level of probability but confirmed by

the odds ratio, Cheteny (2016) found that when resources are raised by one unit the odds ratio is 9 times as large and therefore youth are 9 times likely to participate in agriculture when resources are increased. The implication is that the odds ratio indicated that students who expected higher income would more likely prefer marketing by a factor 1.200 than farm production.

The coefficients of students' attitude and perception were negative and significant (B = -0.822, SE = 0.494, P = 0.001 and B = -0.417, SE= 0.270, P = 0.022 respectively) predictors of students' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. The odds ratios for attitude and perception of students towards marketing were 0.881 and 0.659 less than odds for farm production. The odds ratio indicated that students' attitude and perception would less likely prefer marketing by a factor 0.881 and 0.659 than farm production. It was indicated that for every unit change in attitude and perception the odds expressing preference of marketing decreased by a factor 0.881 and 0.659 respectively. The coefficient for aspiration was negative and significant (B = -0.021, SE = 0.339, P = 0.050) predictor of students' preference of component of agricultural enterprise. It was indicated that for every unit increase in aspiration the odds expressing preference of marketing increased by a factor 1.021. This also indicated that the odds ratio for aspiration towards marketing was 1.021 more than odds for farm production. The odds ratio indicated that students would more likely aspire to be processors by a factor 1.021 than farm producers. The results showed that the agricultural students had positive attitude towards various components of agriculture. These findings are consistent with Cheteny (2016) who found that attitude towards agriculture has a significant influence on youth interest in agriculture. The implication is that there will be more increase investment in agriculture by the youth which will ultimately improve food production.

CONCLUSION

The agricultural students have positive attitude, perception and aspired to be agripreneurs in the future. Agricultural enterprise choice by the respondents remains one of the key stimulating attitudes towards agripreneurship engagement which ultimately complements their mainstream learning from their various institutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made based on the findings:

i. Respondents preferred poultry and farm production hence, it was recommended that opportunities for access to land and market should be provided by the government to enable them participate more in poultry and farm production.

ii. Governmental and non-governmental organizations should establish more agricultural industries so as to employ the youth and provide higher wages for agricultural workers for better work output. This will also provide more opportunities for the youth to access and work with different

agricultural enterprise of their choice.

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