

## **Towards Rural Agro-Entrepreneurship Choice to Nigerian Economic Development among Youths in South-Eastern, Nigeria.**

Igboji Chidi<sup>1\*</sup>, Ukaegbu, Jude .U<sup>2\*</sup>, Chikelu Uchenna<sup>3\*</sup>, Nneji Chinaza, P<sup>4\*</sup>  
& Uzoma Chinenye<sup>5\*</sup>

<sup>\*1,4</sup>Department of Agricultural Economics, Management and Extension, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Nigeria.

<sup>\*2,3</sup>Department of Accounting Education, Federal College of Education Technical, Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria

<sup>\*5</sup>Department of Animal Production Technology, Federal College of Agriculture, Ishiagu, Ebonyi State, Nigeria  
Corresponding Author: Igboji Chidi

Email: [igbojijoseph2012@gmail.com](mailto:igbojijoseph2012@gmail.com), [judeukaegbu2@gmail.com](mailto:judeukaegbu2@gmail.com), [chikeluu@gmail.com](mailto:chikeluu@gmail.com),  
[uzomachinenye015@gmail.com](mailto:uzomachinenye015@gmail.com) & [chinazaprisilia@gmail.com](mailto:chinazaprisilia@gmail.com)

Phone Number: +2348033380027

---

**Abstract:** The study was to investigate on towards rural agro-entrepreneurship choice to Nigerian economic development among youths in South-eastern, Nigeria. A combination of multistage and purposive sampling techniques was adopted in the collection of data from three hundred and sixty (360) agribusiness investors using structured questionnaires. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed to realize the objectives of the study. From result of the analysis, the study also identified farm production (e.g. crop and livestock production), farm input supply, agro-processing and marketing /distribution as their major agro-entrepreneurial area of specialization. It is however noteworthy from the result, that lack of job came up as the most significant possible factors influencing rural youths agro-entrepreneurship development, this is quickly followed by socio-economic attributes of rural youths (age, gender, marital status, educational status, years of experience, household size, annual income, etc) and ambition to become entrepreneurs. Other factors such as desire to self-employment, small investment, economic need, family entrepreneurship history, personal choice, high profitability, parent motivation, good market potential, technical qualification, previous experience, and government support are relatively of the same range of significance with mean score between 2.5 and 3.3 respectively. Result of the multiple regression analysis shows that the Multiple determination ( $R^2$ ) was 0.681 (68.1%) and adjusted  $R^2$  was 0.630 (63%), this means that about 68.1% variation on the dependent variable was influenced by the combined effects of the independent variables ( $X_1$ - $X_8$ ) and the remaining 31.9% change in the dependent variable was caused by those variables that are relevant to the dependent variable,  $Y$ , but were not included in the regressions model, since, they are not the subject of the study. The high value of  $R^2$  (68.1%) signifies that the independent variables ( $X_1$ - $X_8$ ) had significant effects on the dependent variable and important variables were not omitted from the regression model used, this was confirmed by the positive coefficient of all of the independent variables, the closeness of  $R^2$  (68.1%) to adjusted  $R^2$  (63%) in numerical value implies that the explanatory power of the regression model employed was not exaggerated. Finally, the study identified the major constraints to agro-entrepreneurship development and youths choice in agro-entrepreneurial include; institutional, economic, and social factors. Based on the findings of the study, the following policy recommendations were made; government should give young rural entrepreneurs opportunities to achieve their dream and young people with viable business ideas get start-up capital from the government and other financial institutions.

**Keywords:** Towards, Rural Agro-entrepreneurship, choice, Youths, Panacea, Unemployment, Poverty, Alleviation.

---

Date of Submission: 26-07-2019

Date of Acceptance: 12-08-2019

---

### **I. Introduction**

Youth entrepreneurship is the process whereby youth become aware of the self employment career option, develop ideas, take and manage risks, learn the process and take the initiative in developing and owning a business (Chigunta, 2002). The study borrows heavily from the Schumpeter's economic theory of entrepreneurship; since to survive and grow, youth enterprises must adopt entrepreneurial initiatives as part of their strategy by implementing a dynamic process that stimulates a continuous flow of ideas and thereby provide the potential for an ongoing competitive advantage (Krueger, 2002). Youth entrepreneurship promotes innovation and resilience as it encourages young people to find new solutions, ideas and ways of doing things through experience based learning (White and Kenyon, 2000). McClelland's psychological theory of need for

achievement is relevant in analyzing what kind of motives and incentives are required to enforce youth entrepreneurial activity and to investigate why a young person would start a new venture (Virtanen, 2000). In addition, according to Nelson and Johnson (1992) entrepreneurial education programs are necessary to develop personal entrepreneurial traits and thereby potential entrepreneurs would be more likely to initiate action and have a better chance for success in their business ventures. Learning the necessary skills, attributes and behaviors creates positive attitudes towards entrepreneurship and has a significant impact on a young person's decision to become an entrepreneur (Schoof, 2006). Chigunta et al. (2005) adds that effective youth entrepreneurship education prepares young people to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and contribute to economic development and sustainable communities.

Moreover, young people are more likely to lack the skills, the experience and social networks that provide access to jobs and long-term job security (Elder et al., 2010) making youth unemployment one of the major challenges for African governments. One approach to tackle this crisis that has gained popularity among both academics and policy makers is an inquiry into youth entrepreneurship and how it can mitigate societal needs. In spite of the apparent benefits of entrepreneurship, there is little empirical data on how far the perceived benefits of youth entrepreneurship are realized in Africa (Chigunta et al., 2005) especially in rural areas where empirical research data is hard to come by. If we believe that entrepreneurship may provide a solution to the youth unemployment crisis in rural areas we need to understand the related issues of entrepreneurial environment, the youth entrepreneurs' motivations and growth aspirations (Namatovu and Dawa, 2012).

According to Namatovu et al. (2011), the rural youth are not only more entrepreneurial than their urban counterparts but also more entrepreneurial than other rural adults. Langevang, Namatovu & Dawa, (2012) postulated. The reasons for entrepreneurial activities amongst these age groups should be seen as a blend of a range of factors including personal characteristics, life course events, infrastructural development, socio-cultural and economic issues. Although the youth as a group is afflicted by unemployment problems and faces difficulties accessing the labour market, it also contains some of the most dynamic and skilled entrepreneurs capable of supporting wider economic development (Zille & Benjamin, 2011). The second highest level of entrepreneurial activity is among individuals in the age-group 25-34 (Namatovu et al., 2011). This age group may have high entrepreneurial levels because individuals are forced into entrepreneurship as a survival mechanism since the job market is unable to absorb them. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) has popularized this argument in the literature referring to it as necessity driven entrepreneurship. There is a tendency to emphasize "forced entrepreneurship" in the literature on developing countries as a characteristic of entrepreneurship in these societies (Olomi, 2006), however, there has been criticism of such categorizations (Rosa *et al.*, 2006).

In the study of unemployment in Nigeria, Adebayo (1999), Alanana (2003), Echebiri (2005), Ayinde (2008), Morphy (2008) and Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) have identified the main causes of youth unemployment in Nigeria. The first is the rapidly growing urban labour force arising from rural urban migration. Rural-urban migration is usually explained in terms of push-pull factors. The push factors include the pressure resulting from man-land ratio in the rural areas and the existence of serious underemployment arising from the seasonal cycle of climate. The factors are further exacerbated in Nigeria by the lack of infrastructural facilities, which makes the rural life unattractive. Youths move to urban areas with the probability of securing lucrative employment in the industries. In addition to this, there is the concentration of social amenities in the urban centers. This meant that the rural areas are neglected in the allocation of social and economic opportunities. The second is the rapid population growth. Going by the 2006 census in Nigeria, the nation's population was put at 140,431,790 and projections for the future indicate that the population could be over 180 million by the year 2020, given the annual growth rate of 3.2 percent (National Population Commission and ICF Macro, 2009). With this population, Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa. It is argued that the high population growth rate has resulted in the rapid growth of the labour force, which is far outstripping the supply of jobs. The accelerated growth of population on Nigeria's unemployment problem is multifaceted. It affects the supply side through a high and rapid increase in the labour force relative to the absorptive capacity of the economy. The third is the outdated school curricula and lack of employable skills. Some scholars and commentators have argued that as far as the formal sector is concerned, the average Nigerian graduate is not employable and, therefore, does not possess the skills needed by the employers of labour for a formal employment. After all employers do not need people to pay or spend their money on but people that will help their organization grow and make more profit as the primary goal of every enterprise is to make profit. Often, this is attributed to the Nigeria's education system, with its liberal bias. The course contents of most tertiary education in Nigeria lack entrepreneurial contents that would have enabled graduates to become job creators rather than job seekers

Schoof (2006), has identified some key entrepreneurship educative shortcomings and constraints in developing countries. These include general lack of introduction and adoption of enterprise education, inadequate curricula and study programmes, wrong learning methods, negligence of students' personal environment (parents and family members), lack of trained/educated teachers, lack of career information and

business possibilities, lack of business and education linkages; and lack of ICT infrastructure/capability. According to Chigunta (2002) young entrepreneurs face key constraints and challenges in accessing funding for their business ventures. These include lack of personal savings and resources, lack of securities and credibility (for debt financing), lack of business experience and skills (for debt financing), strict credit-scoring methodologies and regulations, complex documentation procedures, long waiting periods (time needed to decide on an application for funding), lack of knowledge, understanding, awareness of start-up financing possibilities, unfavorable firm characteristics and industry and legal status/form of enterprise. This is in tandem with findings of Schoof (2006) and USAID (2005). Given that the resource-based view addresses the resources and capabilities of the firm as an underlying factor of performance, it was found to be a suitable theory to use in this study. Youth entrepreneurs have specific resources that facilitate the recognition of new opportunities and the assembling of resources for the venture (Alvarez and Busenitz, 2001). An abundance of capabilities in the firm ensures survival, rapid growth and profitability (Chandler and Hanks, 1994). Unemployment (or joblessness), as defined by the International Labour Organization, occurs when people are without jobs and they have actively sought work within the past four weeks. In a 2011 news story, Business Week reported, that "more than 200 million people globally are out of work, a record high, as almost two-thirds of advanced economies and half of developing countries are experiencing a slowdown in employment growth."

### **Objectives of the Study**

The broad objective of the study is to investigate on towards rural agro-entrepreneurship choice to Nigerian economic development among youths in South-east, Nigeria.

Specifically the objective are, to:

- I. determine the rural agro-entrepreneurship activities involved among youths in the study area;
- II. identify factors influencing the youth's engaged rural agro-entrepreneurship activities;
- III. analyze the relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of the rural youth entrepreneurs and rural agro-entrepreneurship preference in the study areas;
- IV. Identify constraints to rural agro-entrepreneurship inclination/behavior among rural youths in the study area.

## **II. Methodology**

### **Study Area**

The study area is South-east Nigeria. The area is one of the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria and it comprises of five states, namely; Anambra, Imo, Abia, Enugu, and Ebonyi. The area has a total population of 16.4 million people who are mainly of Igbo extraction (NPC, 2006). With an approximated land mass of 58,214.7 square kilometers, the area lies between longitude 60 50I and 80 30I E latitude 40 30I and 70 5I N. Atmospheric temperature in the area varies from 180C to 340C within the year. The area is endowed with abundant natural resources and lots of agricultural activities. The agricultural activities conform to the tri-aggregates of agribusiness which include; farm supply, farm processing and distribution/marketing of processed products.

### **Sampling Technique and Data Collection**

Both multistage and purposive sampling techniques were adopted in the selection of 360 rural youth agro-entrepreneurs in the study area.

**Stage 1:** From the five States of the South-East geo-political zone (Anambra State, Abia State, Imo State, Enugu State, and Ebonyi State), three States (Ebonyi, Imo, and Anambra) were randomly selected.

**Stage 2:** From the three States that were randomly selected, two agricultural zones each were randomly selected. The zones that were selected are; Ebonyi North and Ebonyi Central for Ebonyi State, Abia South and Abia Central for Abia State, Anambra Central and Anambra North for Anambra State.

**Stage 3:** Then two Local Government Areas (L.G.As) each were purposively selected from the randomly selected six agricultural zones of the States, which gave a total of 12 L.G.As.

**Stage 4:** From each of the purposively selected, twelve L.G.As and thirty (30) rural youth agro-entrepreneurs each were purposively selected to give a total of three hundred and sixty (360) respondents which constituted the study sample.

Data that were used for analysis were collected primarily using structured questionnaire and interview schedule. The construction of the research instrument was based on the study objectives. To ensure reliability and validity of the instrument, samples of the questionnaire were pre-tested on thirty (30) respondents that were distinct from the 360 sample size.

### **Data Analysis**

Both descriptive and inferential statistics were adopted in the analysis of the data collected. Descriptive statistics, such as tables, percentages, and means were employed to analyse objectives (i) and (ii). Objective (iii)

was achieved using probit regression analysis, while objective (iv), was achieved using mean score; likert scale 4-points.

**Model Specification**

**Regression analysis model**

The model of specification will be stated as follows; the multiple regression analysis models expressed as

$$Y = F(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_8) \dots \dots \dots \text{Implicit form}$$

$$Y = a_0 + a_1 X_1 + a_2 X_2 + a_3 X_3 + a_4 X_4 + a_5 X_5 + a_6 X_6 + a_7 X_7 + a_8 X_8 + e_t \text{ -Explicit form}$$

Where.

Y= Agro-entrepreneurial choice

X<sub>1</sub>= Age (years).

X<sub>2</sub> = Gender ( Dummy; male= 1, female= 0)

X<sub>3</sub> = Business experience(years)

X<sub>4</sub>= Household size (total number of persons in a household)

X<sub>5</sub>= Marital status (married = 0, single = 1, separated=3, widowed=4, and divorced=5).

X<sub>6</sub>= Annual income (naira)

X<sub>7</sub>= Family Entrepreneurship history (yrs)

X<sub>8</sub>= Level of Education (years).

**Factor Analysis**

The primary purpose of a factor analysis is to define the underlying structure in a set of variables that refer to a common theme or topic. When many variables are being measured, the factor analysis recognizes that some of these variables may be measuring different aspects of the same phenomenon and hence will be interrelated. It systematically reviews the correlation between each variables and all the other variables and groups together those that are highly inter correlated with one another. The factor that loaded higher than the other were isolated using Kaiser’s rule of thumb. Kaiser developed a rule of thumb of 0.4 as a minimum loading weight which a factor can have before it can be isolated as being positive to the attribute in question or considered significant while variables (factors) that loaded below 0.4 is not significant.

**III. Result And Discussion**

**Agro-entrepreneurship Activities engaged by the youths**

**Table:** Distribution of the Respondents according rural Agro-entrepreneurship Activities Existing in the Area.

Rural Agro-entrepreneurship Activities	Frequency	Percentage
<b>(A) Farm Production</b>		
i. Cassava	80	16.3
ii. Yam	99	20.1
iii. Rice	98	19.9
iv. Cocoyam	69	14.0
v. Vegetable	89	18
vi. Watermelon	57	11
<b>(B) Animal Production</b>		
vii. Cattle	89	14.6
viii. Piggery	108	17.7
ix. Poultry	91	14.9
x. Fish	93	15.2
xi. Goat	90	14.8
xii. Sheep	85	13.9
xiii. Bee keeping	72	14.6
xiv. Snail	71	14.4
<b>(B) Supply of Farm Input</b>		
i. Cassava stems	86	16.0
ii. Live stock feed	96	17.9
iii. Fertilizer	81	15.1
iv. Farm equipments	88	16.4
v. Seedling	90	16.8
vi. Agro-chemicals	96	17.9
<b>(C) Processing/Marketing</b>		
i. Cassava products	90	13.2
ii. Yam products	96	13.9
iii. Fish	86	12.6
iv. Palm oil / kernel	77	11.3
v. Livestock / Livestock feed	88	12.9
vi. Rice product	76	11.1
vii. Maize product	83	12.2
viii. Timber/Timber product	87	12.8

Source: Survey Field, 2017

**Multiple Response Recorded\***

According to Nwibo and Okorie (2015) agro-entrepreneurship activities can be categorized into four components; supply of farm input, farm production, agro-processing/marketing. From frequency distribution in Table(1), it was noted that that under crop production component, 20.1% of rural youths entrepreneurs are into cassava production while 19.9% of them are into rice production activities as their major source of livelihood opportunity. Other crop production activities such as yam, vegetable, cocoyam, and watermelon had 16.3%, 18.1%, 14%, and 11.6% respectively.

From the animal production activities of rural youth agro-entrepreneurs, the result showed that 17.7% of the rural youths are into poultry production, 15.2% are into fish production, while 14.9% are into piggery production. Meanwhile, the rural youths also into animal production such as cattle 14.6%, goat 14.8%, bee keeping 14.6% and snail 14.8%. From the analysis (Table 1), it was observed that under the farm input supply category, the rural youths entrepreneurs engaged into supply of livestock feed 17.9% and agro-chemicals 17.9%, while 16.8% are into farm equipments supply, 16% are into supply of cassava flour and 15.1% are into supply of fertilizer.

However, the principal market and processing players into the field of processing and marketing are mainly those that were into the processing and marketing of products (13.2%), yam products (13.9), fish feed (12.6%), palm oil/kernel (11.3%), livestock product/feed (12.9%), rice product(11.1%), maize product(12.2%), and timber product (12.8%) respectively. This findings implies that the rural youth entrepreneurs are engaged into various agro-entrepreneurship activities as a way of income diversification which help in reducing poverty and unemployment among the youths in the area. This research is in agreement with Lwakuba (2011) who reported the farm production paradigms in Uganda have emphasized options that include intensifying conventional production by volume increase as well as by selective and diversification. These options include involvement in different agro-entrepreneurship operations such as farm production (eg crop and animal production), supply of farm input and processing/marketing.

<b>Factors influencing the youths in agro-entrepreneurship choice</b>			
S/N	Factors	Mean Score	Remark
	High profitability	2.8	Accepted
	Technical qualification	2.5	Accepted
	Good market potential	2.6	Accepted
	Small investment	3.2	Accepted
	previous experience	2.5	Accepted
	Ambition to become entrepreneurs	3.4	Accepted
	Desire to be self-employment	3.3	Accepted
	Government support	2.5	Accepted
	Family entrepreneurship history	3.0	Accepted
	Economic Need	3.1	Accepted
	Socio-economic Attributes	3.4	Accepted
	Lack of job	3.5	Accepted
	Personal choice	2.9	Accepted
	Parent motivations	2.7	Accepted

**Source: Survey Data, 2017**

The result of the likert scale (mean score) analysis regarding the factors influencing the rural youth agro-entrepreneurship development in the South-east, Nigeria as presented in table above.

Based on the decision rule that any item that records a mean score of 2.5 and above is considered a significant factor influencing rural youth agro-entrepreneurship development. It was observed that all the items/variable used in the proved to be highly significant. It is however note worthy from the table, that, lack of job came up as the most significant possible factors influencing rural youth agro-entrepreneurship development with the highest mean score of 3.5. This is quickly followed by socio-economic attributes of rural youths (age, gender, marital status, educational status, years of experience, household size, annual income, etc) and ambition to become entrepreneurs with mean score of 3.4. Other factors such desire to self employment, small investment, economic need, family entrepreneurship history, personal choice, high profitability, parent motivation, good market potential, technical qualification, previous experience, and government support are relatively of the same range of significance with mean score between 2.5 and 3.3 respectively.

**Relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of youth agro-entrepreneurs and their agro-entrepreneurship choice**

Variable symbols	Variable Name	Regression Coefficients	Standard Error	T-value	Sign.
Y	Constant	1.862	0.533	3.497	0.001
X1	Age	0.118	0.098	1.208	0.000
X2	Gender	0.122	0.108	1.134	0.003

X3	Marital Status	0.130	0.119	-0.093	0.003
X4	Edu. Status	0.128	0.097	1.316	0.019
X5	Entrep. Years of Experience	0.079	0.090	0.879	0.19
X6	Household Size	0.105	0.118	-0.809	0.038
X7	Source of Income	0.025	0.083	-0.305	0.076
X8	Annual Income	0.120	0.100	-1.203	0.023

Source: Survey Data, 2017

Result of the multiple regression analysis shows that the Multiple determination ( $R^2$ ) was 0.681 (68.1%) and adjusted  $R^2$  was 0.630 (63%), this means that about 68.1% variation on the dependent variable was influenced by the combined effects of the independent variables ( $X_1$ - $X_8$ ) and the remaining 31.9% change in the dependent variable was caused by those variables that are relevant to the dependent variable ,Y, but were not included in the regressions model, since, they are not the subject of the study. The high value of  $R^2$  (68.1%) signifies that the independent variables ( $X_1$ - $X_8$ ) had significant effects on the dependent variable and important variables were not omitted from the regression model used, this was confirmed by the positive coefficient of all of the independent variables, the closeness of  $R^2$  (68.1%) to adjusted  $R^2$  (63%) in numerical value implies that the explanatory power of the regression model employed was not exaggerated. The overall significant effects of socio-economic characteristic characteristics of the respondents on their level of output in the area was shown by the low value (1.309) of f-ratio, which was statistically significant at 1% level, also, the low value (1.911) of Durbin-watson reveals that there was absence of autocorrelation among the independent variables ( $X_1$  .  $X_8$ ) and this was statistically reliable because, the standard error of the estimates (1.90448) was low.

**Constraints to Agro-entrepreneurship choice among youth in the study area**

S/N	Factors	Components		
		Institutional Factor	Economic factor	Social factor
Vo1	Lack of Credit Facilities	0.314	0.725	0.026
Vo2	Corruption	0.557	0.054	0.119
Vo3	Inconsistent government Policies	0.274	-0.297	-0.684
Vo4	Multiple Taxation	0.702	-0.171	-0.321
Vo5	Inadequate of infrastructural facilities	0.520	0.339	0.133
Vo6	Lack of market information	0.252	0.175	0.041
Vo7	Limited access to improved technologies	0.356	-0.384	0.609
Vo8	Challenge of Entrepreneurship Training and Edu	0.292	0.023	0.133
Vo9	Business devt. Service issues	0.041	0.447	-0.221

Source: Survey Data, 2015

Using varimax principal component analysis with Kaiser’s rule of thumb the factors that constrained to rural agro-entrepreneurship among youths in Southeast, Nigeria were categorized into institutional, economic, and social factors. From categorized factors the following factors were identified as constraining factors; multiple taxation(0.702), inadequate of infrastructural facilities(0.520), lack of credit facilities(0.725), business development issues(0.447), limited access to improved technologies and challenges in agro-entrepreneurship training and education(0.792).

**IV. Conclusion**

Agro-entrepreneurship is a one key for economic development. Agro-entrepreneurial behavior of any society is determined by different factors. Based on the findings, it is concluded that it is note-worthy from the table, that, lack of job came up as the most significant possible factors influencing rural youth agro-entrepreneurship development. This is quickly followed by socio-economic attributes of rural youths (age, gender, marital status, educational status, years of experience, household size, annual income, etc) and ambition to become entrepreneurs. Other factors such desire to self-employment, small investment, economic need, family entrepreneurship history, personal choice, high profitability, parent motivation, good market potential, technical qualification, previous experience, and government support. However, the study also identified farm production (e.g. crop and livestock production), farm input supply, agro-processing and marketing /distribution as their major agro-entrepreneurial area of specialization. Again, the study identified the major constraints to agro-entrepreneurship development and youths choice in agro-entrepreneurial include; institutional, economic, and social factors. Based on the findings, it is observed that socio-economic characteristics of youth have significant effect on their agro-entrepreneurial choice in Ebonyi State.

## V. Recommendations

1. Government and NGOs should understand that to start and to continue to operate an entrepreneurial venture requires people with a tremendous amount of determination, effort and commitment, more than is needed for a conventional career. Therefore, youth should be given opportunity for entrepreneurship development.
2. The government should give young rural entrepreneurs opportunities to achieve their dream. The young rural agro-entrepreneurs are not given a list of agribusinesses and asked to select one and run with it, instead, the youth should bring their own ideas and the government or supporters to help them develop those ideas.
3. Young people with viable business ideas get start-up capital from the government and other financial institutions. Funds should be allocated based on the project idea and budget.
4. Agro-Entrepreneurial orientation is the development of entrepreneurial skills, effective and efficient application of the skills in management of business to create a significant difference from other business, recognizing the skill and allowing it to function effectively. Therefore, youths need agro-entrepreneurial orientation for them to play their principal role in the economic growth and development.
5. Visits to the youth and entrepreneurs' business by the mentor, field officer, sponsors and well-wishers will be a major boost to the entrepreneur. The community around them will begin to notice them and respect them for attracting regular 'foreign' visitors. It has above all given them a sense of belonging, which has resulted in increased self-esteem.

## Reference

- [1]. Rebecca Namatovu and Samuel Dawa (2012) Rural Youth Entrepreneurs in East Africa: A view from Uganda and Kenya; ICBE-RF Research Report No. 32/12 Investment Climate and Business Environment Research Fund (ICBE-RF) [www.trustafrica.org/icbe](http://www.trustafrica.org/icbe).
- [2]. Elder, S., Schmidt, D. & Sparreboom, T. (2010). Global Employment Trends for Youth. Geneva: International Labour Organisation.
- [3]. Chigunta, F., Schnurr, J., James-Wilson, D. & Torres, V. (2005). Being "Real" about Youth Entrepreneurship in Eastern and Southern Africa. SEED Working Paper No 72. Geneva: International Labour Organization.
- [4]. National Population Commission and ICF Macro. (2009). Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2008. Abuja, Nigeria: National Population Commission and ICF Macro.
- [5]. Chigunta F (2002). *Youth Entrepreneurship: Meeting the Key Policy Challenges*. England: Wolfson College, Oxford University.
- [6]. White and Kenyon (2000). *Enterprise-Based Youth Employment Policies, Strategies and Programmes*. Geneva: ILO.
- [7]. Virtanen M (2000). *The Role of Different Theories in Explaining Entrepreneurship*. Helsinki School of Economics.
- [8]. Nelson R. E & Johnson S. D (1997). Entrepreneurship Education as a Strategic Approach to Economic Growth in Kenya. *Journal of Industrial Teacher Education*, 35(1), pp. 108-120
- [9]. Chigunta F, Schnurr J, Wilson D & Torres V (2005). *Being 'Real' about Youth Entrepreneurship in Eastern and Southern Africa*. Geneva: International Labour Organization.
- [10]. Schoof, U (2006). Stimulating Youth Entrepreneurship: Barriers and Incentives to Enterprise Start-Ups by Young People. *ILO, SEED Working Paper No. 76*. Geneva: International Labour Organization
- [11]. Alvarez, S. A & Busenitz L. W (2001). The Entrepreneurship of Resource Based Theory. *Journal of Management*, 27 (2001), pp. 755-775.
- [12]. Chandler G. N & Hanks S.H (1994). Market attractiveness, Resource-Based Capabilities, Venture Strategy, and Venture Performance. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 9(4), pp. 331-349.

Igboji Chidi. " Towards Rural Agro-Entrepreneurship Choice to Nigerian Economic Development among Youths in South-Eastern, Nigeria. "IOSR Journal of Agriculture and Veterinary Science (IOSR-JAVS) 12.8 (2019): PP- 37-43.