

FOSTERING AGROPRENEURSHIP PRACTICE IN NIGERIA: A LOOK BENEATH THE SURFACE

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Abstract:

Agropreneurship is a powerful tool for shaping today's economic development. This article focuses on how governments, academics, and policymakers on agropreneurship programs can prepare both existing and potential agropreneurs to continue contributing to the economic growth and development of the country. This paper draws out the key findings of existing literature relating to the growing field of agropreneurship by critically and constructively reviewing literature that examines issues and perspectives on agropreneurship and the agricultural sector within the Nigeria context, especially with careful analysis of historical data and current data. The review is in line with the need to create sustainable development through agropreneurship initiatives: in an economy presently facing a high rate of unemployment, extreme poverty, poor earnings from foreign exchange, and insufficiency of food items, this article argues for the need to adopt an overarching agriculture value chain to ensure a rapid industrial and economic development across Nigeria. Therefore, an integrative framework for effective agropreneurship practice in Nigeria is proposed to build the capacity of the Nigerian agricultural system, which has a multiplier effect on both the socio-economic and industrial advancement of the country because of its multifunctional nature. Specific recommendations for the capacity of the Nigerian agricultural system through agropreneurship initiatives are offered.

Keywords: agropreneuship, youth employment, economic growth, agropreneurship initiative, Nigeria.

1. Introduction

The agriculture sector is widely acknowledged as an important sector for national and international economic development. The Agriculture sector contributes to the gross domestic product, employment generation, productivity increases, and tax revenue within local communities and national economies (Ogen, 2003; Olajide, Akinlabi, & Tijani, 2013). Apart from these direct benefits offered by the agriculture sector to national economies, agriculture is also the sustaining and solid rock upon which the development of the established human community has depended throughout the whole world, such as rural and urban communities. As pointed out by Ogen (2007), the study of the history of economics provides us with ample evidence that an agricultural revolution is a fundamental pre-condition for economic

development. Agriculture is, therefore, concerned with the production of food and livestock and the purposeful tending of plants and animals (Ahmed, 1993).

Like other economies of the world, Nigeria is also a beneficiary of the rapid economic development derived from the agricultural sector. For example, the report of CBN (2006), has shown that the sector has enormously contributed over 40% of the GDP of the country, and engaged over 70% of the labour force. The agricultural commodities have also significantly generated foreign exchange from export to achieve growth rates of 2-3% per annum and served as a supplier of raw materials for domestic and foreign industries (Famoriyo & Ahmad, 1986; Ijere, 1998; Idachaba, 2006). In the same vein, research evidence from recent studies on the role and contributions of the agricultural sector towards the economic development of Nigeria has shown that the agriculture industry through its huge potential and thriving business with full and active government backing has provided a big opportunity to entrepreneurs. (Omorogiuwa, Zivkovic, & Ademoh, 2014; Ndubuisi, 2018; Udemezue, 2019).

Owing to the fact that entrepreneurship has been acknowledged as a powerful tool for shaping today's economic development and reducing unemployment among the youths in both developed and developing economies, including Nigeria (Buttar, 2015; Asliza, Noor & Hasliza, 2018), little attention has been paid to the development of agropreneurship, a subdivision of entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector (Asliza et al., 2018), Nigeria a developing economy in Africa has left the growth of the agriculture sector behind to suffer due to negligence resulting from the 1970s oil boom witnessed by the country (Ogen, 2007). Consequently, this oil prosperity has continued to make governments in Nigeria over the years have only been paying lip service to agricultural development. This ill-repute of the sector has led to the orthodox view among many youths in the country that the agriculture sector is dirty, rough, has no potential to generate high income, and has no promising future (Adesina & Favour 2016; Asliza et al., 2018).

Meanwhile, the present economic crisis, extreme poverty, insufficiency of basic food items, and the country's youth protuberance and unemployment situation facing the country has returned the interest in the policy-level transformation of the sector by the governments and policymakers in Nigeria. The upsurge of interest in the sustainable development of the agricultural sector in Nigeria has prompted scholars and policymakers to readdress their attention on how the agriculture sector can shape and build the nation's economy by providing job opportunities for its youth population and food security for the nation as well as the world's population. Thus, the question arises – How can agropreneurship practice-based reduce youth unemployment and enhance economic growth in Nigeria? Given this question stated above, the paper describes how governments, academics, and policymakers in Nigeria and Africa can meaningfully reduce the incessant unemployment among the youths and create sustainable economic growth through effective and efficient agropreneurship initiatives.

This paper contributes to the growing field of agropreneurship by critically and constructively reviewing literature that examines issues and perspectives on agropreneurship and the agricultural sector within Africa and Nigeria as a case of emphasis, especially with careful analysis of historical data and current data. This study focuses on how agropreneurship could be used as a powerful tool for shaping today's economic development in developing countries (including Nigeria) instead of probing the broad areas of entrepreneurship and economic development. The study

aims to show how agropreneurship initiatives can be integrated to develop youths' entrepreneurial agility and employment opportunities within the agricultural sector which in return, will enhance the economic growth of Nigeria. The paper also presented an integrative framework for effective agropreneurship practice to build the capacity of the Nigerian agricultural system that offers socio-economic development and industrial advancement to the country, this is another notable contribution of this paper to the field of agropreneurship. The framework identifies which inputs are necessary to support the integration of agriculture and entrepreneurship as well as indicates the sources of capacity building.

2. Agropreneurship and Agropreneur: A Brief Overview of the Concepts

Agropreneurship is a powerful tool for shaping today's economic development. It is referred to as a subdivision of entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector (Asliza et al., 2018). According to Dias, Rodrigues, and Ferreira (2019b), the concept "agropreneurship" has acquired appellations such as farm entrepreneurship, agro-entrepreneurship, agripreneurship, and agripreneurship. Meanwhile, Fitz-Koch, Nordqvist, Carter, and Hunter (2018) described agropreneurship as a field of study that brings formal knowledge closer and uses them as skill acquisition. In other words, agropreneurship is the nexus between entrepreneurship as a discipline and agriculture as an economic sector. There are myriad definitions of agropreneurship. For example, Nagalakshmi and Sudhakar (2013) view agropreneurship as "sustainable, community-oriented, and directly marketed agriculture" Ahmed, Hasan, and Haneef (2011) go on to define agropreneurship as "an employment strategy that can lead to the economic self-sufficiency of rural people". For Asliza, Noor, and Hasliza (2015), agropreneurship can be viewed as the act of creating a venture that incorporates elements of innovation in an agriculture sector. Copious definitions of "agropreneurship" can also be found in the literature. In this paper, the broad definition offered by Saptu, Ambad, and Sumin (2020), is used, that agropreneurship is any attempt to "produce, process, and sell various agricultural products". Narrower definitions tend to focus on skill acquisition through formal knowledge (e.g., Fitz-Koch et al., 2018), some researchers in the field of entrepreneurship have argued that the thrust of agropreneurship is to modernize and promote the formation of enterprises in the agricultural industry through innovativeness. The field of agropreneurship is fundamental for capacity building in the areas of both agriculture and entrepreneurship (Yusoff, Ahmad, & Halim, 2019; Nnodim & Aleru, 2020).

In addition, an agropreneur or an agricultural entrepreneur is a person who makes the efforts that leads to higher agriculture production (Dias et al., 2019) and contribution to make to economic development. Nnodim and Aleru (2020) maintain that agropreneurs have a strong potential for productivity increases, innovation, satisfaction, and meeting consumer expectations within the agriculture sector. Therefore, for this paper, the content and context of Fitz-Koch et al., 2018; Dias et al., 2019; Saptu et al., 2020 definitions' of agropreneurship and agropreneur will be sufficient.

3. The Role of Agriculture in Economic Growth of Nigeria

The agriculture sector in the past decades and present has accounted for much of the economic growth and development across the globe when compared to other

economic sectors. Similarly, the agriculture sector plays a significant role in the Nigerian economy. For example, as pointed out by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2019), the sector provided the largest percentage of employment, estimated to be more than two-thirds of the country's workforce and generated over 20% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In addition to the enormous employment and GDP contributions provided by the agricultural sector of Nigeria, the agriculture sector has tremendously created foreign exchange from the export of agricultural commodities, provided food items, generated tax revenue for the government, served as a supplier of raw material for domestic and foreign industries (Ogen, 2007; Ismail & Kabuga 2016; Okunlola & Ehimare, 2019).

Much of the prolific research studies in recent times have provided strong evidence on the link between the agricultural sector and economic development in Nigeria.

For instance, the empirical studies of Yakub, 2008; Izuchukwu, 2011; Achinewhu & Opigo, 2013; Matthew & Mordecia, 2016 confirmed that the Nigerian agricultural sector makes meaningful contributions to the GDP of the country. The empirical inquiry of Jabbar and Singla (2020) on the role of the agriculture sector on the economic growth in Nigeria revealed that the Nigerian agricultural segment significantly influenced job creation and food production. For Taiga and Amejì (2020); Amao, Antwi, Oduniyi, Oni, and Rubhara (2021) the results of their studies on the role of Nigerian agricultural exports on economic growth reveal that the agricultural sector is essential for attaining sustainable economic development. In the same vein, recent reports on agriculture and employment in Nigeria have provided strong evidence that there is a link between the Nigerian agricultural sector and employment creation (Otedola & Etumnu, 2013; Ayomitunde, Pereowei, Abosede & Eusebius, 2020; Ochada & Ogunniyi, 2020; Folarin, Osabuohien, Okodua, Onabote & Osabohien, 2021).

Clearly, with the above reviews of recent literature, the most significant economic growth in Nigeria is often associated with developments in the agricultural sector. The Nigerian agricultural sector has a pivotal role to play in responding to the present economic crisis, extreme poverty, insufficiency of food items, and the country's youth protuberance and unemployment situation facing the country, but efforts are hampered by countless issues, including an unhealthy dependence on oil since the 1970s and relinquishment of the agricultural sector, lack of adequate funding to advance agricultural research, shortage of sophisticated farm equipment, poor agricultural financing, inadequate infrastructure, inadequate supply of input resources, price instability of both input materials and final products, poor quality of available input resources, poor transportation system and logistics, lack of technical know-how, and aging farming population. These and other challenges have been deliberated among authors such as Ogen (2007); Titilola (2008); Adeoye et al. (2012); Odetola and Etumnu (2013); Olukunle (2013); Adesina and Favour (2016); Taiga and Amejì, (2020).

4. Agropreneurship Initiative a “*Sine Qua Non*” for Economic Growth in Nigeria

Given the myriad of issues that tend to hamper the strategic role of agriculture in the economic growth of Nigeria, support for the formulation and implementation of the agropreneurship initiative is needed to optimize and shape the economic growth of Nigeria. This idea is predicated upon the Schumpeterian theory of economic

growth that is rooted in the general entrepreneurship literature. The Schumpeterian theory of economic growth is driven by the assumption that a country's capital and output growth depends significantly on the entrepreneur [agropreneur] (Schumpeter, 1911). In other words, the magnitude of managerial competence of the [agropreneur], which includes knowledge and skills, is the key driver of economic growth, such as job creation and competitiveness in the global markets (Kuratko & Audretsh, 2009). The agropreneur is, therefore, an important agent and supporter of the mechanism of economic growth or change, an initiator of innovations, and a distinct actor willing to break through traditional structures and challenge the accepted ways of doing things, to help the business grow.

In the review context above, this paper has uncovered the need for agropreneurship initiative as a "sine qua non" for economic growth, especially in Nigeria. However, from the myriad literature on returns to agropreneurship education and its causal growth effects (Asliza et al., 2018; Fitz-Koch et al., 2018; Dias et al., 2019; Yusoff et al., 2019; Nnodim & Aleru, 2020; Saptu et al., 2020), this paper, therefore, offered the following formal conceptual definition of "agropreneurship initiative" as "a conscious effort focused at inculcating transformative knowledge and skills into existing and potential agropreneur who become committed to it and who would utilize the knowledge and skills not only to create new powerful survival strategies but also help to reduce poverty alleviation and promote sustainable economic growth and development". Hence, the overall objective of the agropreneurship initiative would be to support employment creation, and poverty alleviation, and promote sustainable economic development through increased use of agropreneurship education in the policymaking process. This paper, however, classified the agropreneurship initiative to cover four (4) areas based on the available literature on agropreneurship (Maghsoudi, Hekmat, & Davodi, 2012; Yusoff, Ahmad, & Halim, 2019; Nnodim & Aleru, 2020). Agropreneurship initiative as proposed in this paper is a capacity-building programme that gives direction and guidance to government, academics, and policy-makers on how to support and sustain the agricultural system in Nigeria, which has a multiplier effect on both the socio-economic and industrial advancement of the country because of its multifunctional nature. The four focus areas of the agropreneurship initiative are research support, education, policy advice, and private sector development. Table 1 below shows the areas of the initiative and their focus.

Table 1. Focus areas of the agropreneurship initiative

Initiative	Description
Research supports	Research supports that include; identifying underlying problems within and outside the agropreneurship value chain system, evaluate their impact and propose efficient solutions; research studies on improvement of products quality, research interventions on innovation, technology and productivity, establishing research and development centres, research grants, market research analyses; research evaluations for small agro-business and strategic planning, corporate governance, agro-business incubation and start-up support processes and tools for agropreneurs.

<p>Education</p>	<p>Agropreneurship education at the various levels of education in Nigeria is essential for capacity building in the agriculture sector and economic growth. The Universal Basic Education (UBE) launched in 1999 should be re-evaluated and reactivated to lay a solid foundation for life-long learning in the field of agriculture and entrepreneurship. The continuous need by the government and policymakers to revamp and motivate the secondary education providers to provide more robust technical knowledge and vocational skills necessary for agropreneurship practice. Sustainable acquisition of physical and intellectual agropreneurship skills which enable the individuals (e.g. youths) to be self-reliant and contribute towards the economic growth of the country should be the main thrust tertiary education which the Nigerian university, colleges and polytechnics. supports Management levels` educations. The trainings should be oriented towards production and services standardization, the qualitative control of the productions, administration of corporations, marketing and exports educations, methods of providing assets; financial and commercial regulations education; human resources management, etc.</p>
<p>Policy structure</p>	<p>Legal and regulatory frameworks for agro-business improvement, supporting framework on adoption of agricultural technology, relevant rural infrastructures policy; tax exemption for new agro-businesses; legal framework for making export opportunities, agricultural institutional reforms and realignment for more effectiveness of agropreneurship practices in Nigeria</p>
<p>Private sector development and ecosystem</p>	<p>Private sector development such as public-private partnerships (PPP) drives innovation and creativity that support agro-business sector, as it also plays pivotal role in the economic growth. Agropreneuship initiative will encourage government and policymakers to create an enable ecosystem that will stimulate role models and mentors within agro-business to motivate and prepare the youths for successful careers in agro-business sector, facilitate social networking and sharing of experiences with those who are already in the agro-business sector, encouraging and showcasing agropreneurial exposure gained from working in family businesses.</p>

Source: *Compiled by Author*

5. Linking Agricultural Sector Value Chain and Agropreneurship Toward Economic Growth in Nigeria

Kaplinsky and Morris (2002) defined the value chain as the process needed to bring a product or service from conception through the intermediary of production, delivery to consumers, and final disposal after use. For PWC (2017), agricultural sector value chains include the input supply, primary production, storage and

processing, marketing, and trade of agricultural produce. Meanwhile, the underdevelopment and challenges faced by the agriculture sector value chain in Nigeria and Africa have been documented by Odetola and Etumnu (2013), Lusby and Panlibuton (2014), and Oxford Business Group (2019), among others. For example, the study of Odetola and Etumnu (2013) on the contribution of the agriculture sector to economic growth in Nigeria reported that growth in the agriculture sector is generally focused on the growth of primary production and not on the entire value chains of the sector. Similarly, Lusby and Panlibuton (2014) maintain that developing countries, including Nigeria, are faced with the risk of being hampered in producing low-value products and besieged to obtain a substantial value-added share in global trade due to the underdevelopment in their agricultural value chain systems.

This deficiency of the Nigerian agricultural value chain has not only created systemic and services gaps but caused the sector to have little control over its production and quality, leaving the chain to be determined mostly by the international operators. This view is echoed in the study of Oxford Business Group (2019), which reported that the agricultural value chain sector in Nigeria and Africa is underdeveloped and that the sector chain tends to export raw agricultural commodities and import finished goods. The study of Oxford Business Group (2019) further maintains that most rural areas of Africa and Nigeria in particular, lack the agro-processing value chain, which accounted for the significant post-harvest losses witnessed in these regions. Furthermore, the services gap in the mechanism of the agricultural value chain of Nigeria has led to an increase in unemployment situation, food security shortage, high market failure, cost increase, reduction of foreign exchange earnings, and decrease tax revenue for the government (Olomu, Ekperiware & Akinlo, 2020).

The above highlights the strong need for capacity building of the agricultural value chain through agropreneurship initiatives. Agropreneurship is described as a powerful tool put together to build both existing and potential agropreneurs with entrepreneurial [agropreneurial] skills which include skills on how to produce, process, and sell various agricultural products (Saptu et al., 2020) with the focus on skill acquisition through formal knowledge (Fitz-Koch et al., 2018). Therefore, optimizing the full potential of the agricultural value chain is at the core of agropreneurship initiatives (Yusoff et al., 2019; Nnodim & Aleru, 2020; Cheteni, (2016); Man, 2012; Njeru, 2017). There has been continued debate amongst scholars on the need for developing countries including Nigeria to revamp and upgrade their agricultural value chain by fostering agropreneurship development that generates employment opportunities for the youths and brings about sustainable economic growth (Cheteni, 2016; Man, 2012; Njeru, 2017). They further maintain that the existing gaps in the value chains of the agricultural sector, if bridged through agropreneurship initiative, will offer countless opportunities for tapping into the energy, innovativeness, and creativity of youths who can add value to the various components of the agriculture sector in an entrepreneurial manner.

Typically, an agropreneur has a strong potential for productivity increases, innovation, satisfaction, and meeting consumer expectations within the agriculture value chain sector (Nnodim & Aleru, 2020). Following the discussion on the need to entrench the Nigerian agriculture value chain sector through agropreneurship, a powerful tool for shaping today's economic growth and reducing unemployment, this paper provides a framework for the agricultural value chain adopted from

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) (2017). This framework provides the essential four components (agricultural chains) in line with the current situation of the agricultural sector in Nigeria as indicated in Figure 1 are 1) Input Supply, 2) Production, 3) Processing, and 4) Marketing Trade. These identified agricultural chains are important chains that will help the government, academics, policymakers, agropreneurs, and other partners interested in the agricultural sector to have a panoramic understanding of the critical roles of each stakeholder in the chains, problems associated with each, and how the value chain system of the agriculture sector can be optimized for economic growth and employment generation for the youths.

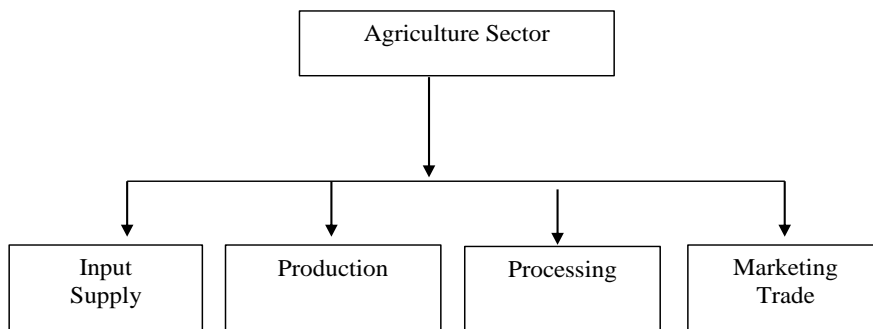


Figure 1. Nigeria's Agricultural Value Chain Interactions

Source: Adopted from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) (2017)

6. An integrative Framework for Agropreneurship in Nigeria

The review in the previous sections shows that the Nigerian agricultural sector remains the single largest economic sector that has continued to provide economic growth for the country (e.g., provides the largest percentage of employment, contributes to the country's GDP, generates export earnings, etc.). This suggests the need for a reinforcing integrated agropreneurship framework.

Although, several initiatives and programs such as; the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), N-Power, Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (Youwin), Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (YEDI), TraderMoni, and Youth Empowering People (YEP), have been incorporated at the various tiers of government in Nigeria by different administration to curb the incessant youth unemployment. While these initiatives are hoped to enhance the economic growth of the country. Surprisingly, many of these programs proved to be grossly ineffective in solving the problem of youth unemployment (Kallio, 2018). The reasons for the high failure of these interventions introduced by several governments in Nigeria to mitigate the youth unemployment situation in the country based on the reviews in this paper can be encapsulated in two folds. First, is the lack of integration of most of these initiatives and programs into the sectoral mainstream (i.e., the agricultural sector). For example, it has been documented that the agricultural sector in Nigeria remains the single largest economic sector that has continued to provide the largest percentage of employment (CBN, 2016; NBS, 2019). Second, the inability and poor efforts by the government and policymakers within the agricultural sector to optimize the agricultural value chain through inter-related and inter-connected efforts. The

services gap in the mechanism of the agricultural value chain of Nigeria has led to the increase in youth unemployment situation in the country as pointed out in the previous review section of this paper. It is to this end that this paper presents an integrated agropreneurship initiatives framework (see figure 2) to foster the Nigerian agricultural sector that offers potential employment opportunities for the youths and sustainable economic growth.

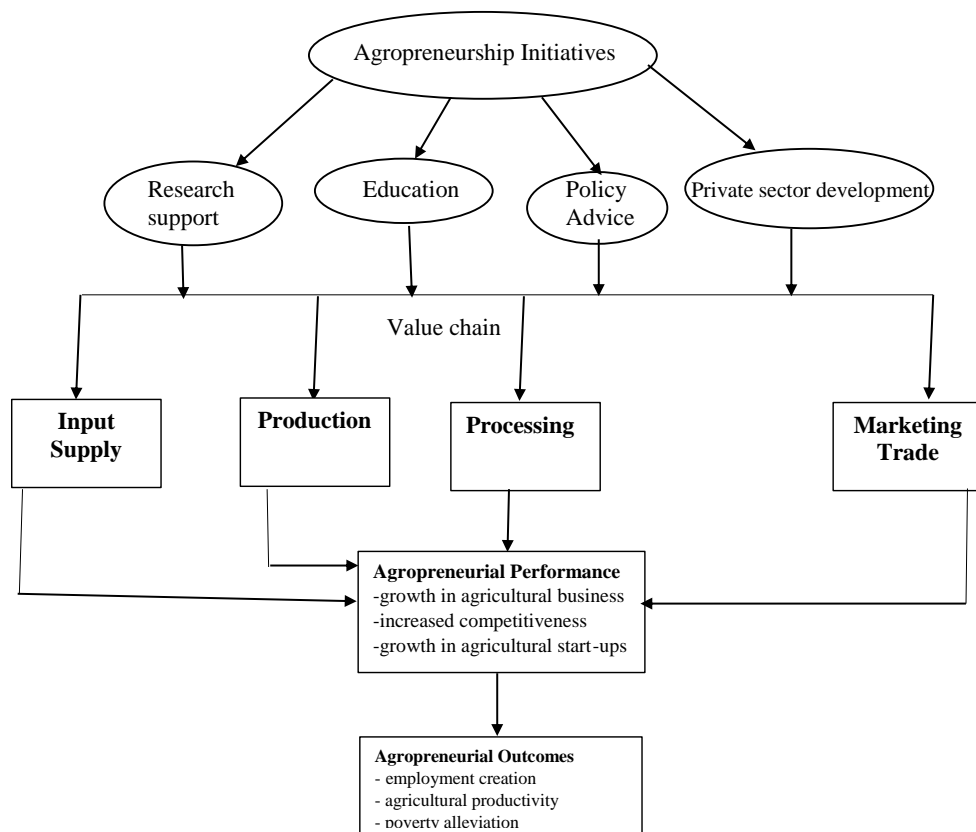


Figure 2. Proposed integrative framework of agropreneurship initiatives
Source: Author

The integrated framework in Figure 2 is an illustration of how agropreneurship initiatives (covering four focus areas: research supports, education, policy advice, and private sector development), which were derived from the literature reviewed in this study, could support youth employment creation by providing modern agricultural practices, practical skills for ascertaining value chains within agribusiness, and knowledge on how to market their agricultural products, and in turn, promote sustainable economic growth through increased use of agropreneurship education in the policymaking process.

These four agropreneurship initiatives are the fixed fundamentals against which the agropreneurship practice outcome (e.g., employment creation, agricultural productivity, and poverty alleviation) can be compared. This paper proposes these

four agropreneurship initiatives as the crucial steps toward building agropreneurship practices that will entrench the capacity of the Nigerian agricultural system, which has a multiplier effect on resolving the high rate of youth unemployment situation and improve the economic growth of the country.

The research support of the agropreneurship initiatives is central to the success of agropreneurship practice in any country; this is because research support helps to identify the underlying problems within and outside the agricultural value chain system, evaluate their impact, and propose efficient solutions; such as improvement of products quality, technology, and productivity. Furthermore, the research supports initiative would foster research interventions on innovation, market research analyses of agro-business incubation, and start-up support processes and tools for agropreneurs. While research support initiative is only a part of what is needed for effective agropreneurship practice, discussion on poverty alleviation, creation of wealth, and innovation start with education (Asiyai, 2013). The education system should therefore provide the individuals in any country with the apt training to function effectively in their communities, create wealth, and compete globally. Hence, a formal education system that employs experiential learning, role models (i.e., successful agropreneurs) in the agricultural sector, and learning that exposes the students' practical-based or real-life practices should be encouraged and sustained at the various levels of education in Nigeria for effective agropreneurship practice. The policy structure initiative is also essential to set the stage for modern agricultural practices within and outside the agricultural value chain system in Nigeria. This policy structure initiative should influence the type and form of legal and regulatory frameworks within the different regions of the country and the identified value chains in the Nigerian agriculture sector. The purpose of the policy structure initiative should influence supporting framework on the adoption of agricultural technology, relevant rural infrastructures policy, tax exemption for new agro-businesses, etc., which will stimulate youth employment creation and economic growth. Finally, establishing links with the private sector and ecosystem is another crucial initiative that will lead to the effective delivery of agropreneurship practices in Nigeria as the agriculture sector does not operate in a vacuum. The accomplishment of this initiative should create an enabling ecosystem that will stimulate role models and mentors within agro-business to motivate and prepare the youths for successful careers in the agro-business sector, facilitate social networking and sharing of experiences with those who are already in the agro-business sector, encouraging and showcasing agropreneurial exposure gained from working in family businesses. Hence, the private sector development and ecosystem initiative will ensure that youths (e.g., both potential and existing agropreneurs) have the requisite skills for identifying the value chains in the agriculture industry and can contribute meaningfully to the economic growth of their communities and the nation.

7. Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

This paper sought to explain the need to foster agropreneurship practice in Nigeria. This paper, however, stresses that the Nigerian agricultural sector can only offer potential employment opportunities for the youths and sustain the economic growth through reinforcing and integrating four agropreneurship initiatives into the agropreneurship practice in Nigeria. To ensure that the several initiatives and programs designed at the various tiers of government in Nigeria can effectively solve

the problem of youth unemployment and enhance economic growth. This paper offers an integrated agropreneurship initiatives framework (covering four focus areas: research support, education, policy advice, and private sector development) derived from the systematic reviews of literature and findings of existing literature relating to how to support youth employment creation that can provide modern agricultural practices, practical skills for ascertaining the value chains within agribusiness, and knowledge on how to market their agricultural products, which in turn, promote sustainable economic growth. This integrated framework has the potential to foster agropreneurship practice in Nigeria. To ensure these agropreneurship initiative arrangements produce good agropreneurship practice outcomes (e.g., employment creation, agricultural productivity, and poverty alleviation), this paper makes the following policy recommendations. First, to practically enhance and foster the agropreneurship practice in Nigeria, there is the need for governments, policymakers, and educational services in Nigeria to promote and reinforce practice-based agropreneurship education and training. For example, an agropreneur or entrepreneur, as maintained by Kalio (2018), needs effective and efficient training and education intending to equip him/ her with creative skills, critical thinking, initiative, innovation, and risk-taking. These skills and training are lacking in both the basic and higher education system of Nigeria, which is mostly certificate oriented. To fill this gap, this paper recommends that both the basic and higher education curricula should be infused with experiential agropreneurial fundamentals by engaging and encouraging relevant participants in the agro-business private sectors since they are endowed with a practical wealth of entrepreneurship experience in various critical value-chain of the agriculture industry. Past studies such as Bell (2015); Kassean, Vanevenhoven, Liguori, and Winkel (2015); and Muchira (2018) have also supported this recommendation. These studies argue that a well-incorporated practice-based education and training into the basic and higher education system curricula will ensure that students get the chance to engage in projects similar to experiences in the actual entrepreneurial environment, which improves their entrepreneurial outcomes. Consequently, this paper again suggests that for effective agropreneurship outcomes, trainers, teachers, and education providers that are involved in agropreneurship education should be trained, retrained, and engage in continuous training programs that will enhance and ensure that they are equipped with the required skills and knowledge that will be beneficial, impactful, and create the interest in students in taking-up agriculture as a career. The Ministry of Education should ensure that agriculture, business, and entrepreneurship subjects are made compulsory at both the basic and higher education levels with a basic emphasis on experiential learning through the usage of agro-clinic and agro-business centers. Second, the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sport should collaborate with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and the Directorate of Employment (NDE) to design experiential learning opportunities in the agriculture value chain system for young graduates in Nigeria. The project-based learning or experiential learning should be incorporated into the one-year service program for the fresh and young graduates, to equip them with the real-world experiences, skills, and practical knowledge necessary for identifying agro-business opportunities (i.e. employment opportunities) within the value chain system, and knowledge on how to market agricultural products, which in turn, will promote sustainable economic growth in Nigeria.

Lastly, this paper also recommends that governments and policymakers should establish agropreneurship education program centers in secondary schools (particularly rural communities' secondary schools) and higher institutions, design agropreneurship curricula in line with market demand and local needs, invite and involving of all stakeholders in various focus areas of agriculture that will enhance economic growth and development.

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