Bioscene

Bioscene
Volume- 23 Number- 01
ISSN: 1539-2422 (P) 2055-1583 (O)
www.explorebioscene.com

Youth Restiveness and Agricultural Entrepreneurship Programmes in Isoko North Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria

Amafade U. G[1]; Omosigho, N. E[2]; Akpoghene-Oyibo, O[3]; Ekokogbe, O. O[1]; Umehai, M. C[1]; Adeoti, V. I[4]; Nwachukwu, N. C[1]; Eromedoghene, E. O[1]

Corresponding Author: **Amafade U. G**

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.23968971

Abstract: Delta State, one of the major oil producing states in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, has been plagued by youth restiveness, including pipeline vandalism, crude oil theft, kidnapping for ransom, militancy, and other social vices. Although, previous studies have documented the causes and impact of these vices on livelihoods of farmers, there is a paucity of research on how agricultural entrepreneurship programmes may mitigate youth involvement in such activities. Thus, this study examined the impact of agricultural entrepreneurship programmes on mitigating youth restiveness in Isoko North Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. A multistage sampling technique was used to select 112 respondents from fourteen villages of the seven wards in the study area. Data for the study were collected using structured questionnaire. Level of youth restiveness and participation of youth in agricultural entrepreneurship programmes were achieved with descriptive statistics. Logistic regression was used to analyse the effect of agricultural entrepreneurship programmes on mitigating youth restiveness. Key findings reveal high participation rates in the Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) at 58%, and moderate to high self-reported levels of restiveness, with 27.7% rating it high and 14.3% low. Logistic regression analysis indicates participating in YAGEP (B = -0.529, p = 0.008) and the Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) (B = -0.266, p = 0.010) significantly reduces the likelihood of youth restiveness. Involvement in the Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project for the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND) shows the most substantial impact (B = -4.728, p = 0.001) on mitigating restiveness. The study emphasizes the need for inclusive, context-specific initiatives aligned with the aspirations of vulnerable youth demographics.

Keywords: Youth restiveness, Agricultural entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship initiatives, Livelihoods, Skills training, Social deviance, Violent agitation, Criminal activities, Social unrest, YAGEP, STEP, YAP, LIFE-ND.

Introduction

In the global landscape of socio-economic challenges, the issue of youth restiveness emerges as a critical concern, particularly when examined in conjunction with agricultural entrepreneurship programs. Youth restiveness in Nigeria broadly refers to the inclination of youth populations to engage in acts of social deviance, violent agitations, and criminal activities (Umar, Johnson & Cheshire, 2021). In the Niger Delta region specifically, this phenomenon emerged in the 1990s as young people protested political marginalization, lack of economic opportunities, and the negative impacts of oil exploration by multi-national corporations (Ovwigho, Eromedoghene, Evwierhurhoma, Amafade, Onwaumere and Omosigho, 2025). According to Oni and Olaniran (2022), youth restiveness is often rooted in a complex interplay of factors such as unemployment, poverty, and disenchantment with existing socio-political structures. Delta State, despite its agricultural potential, grapples with high levels of youth unemployment and restiveness, posing a significant threat to social stability and economic development (Obumneke, 2012).

Militant youth groups have engaged in pipeline vandalism, kidnapping of oil workers, and other tactics to disrupt oil production and gain negotiation leverage (Alumuna, Ofoegbu & Edet, 2017). While militancy in the Delta State has waned since its peak in the 2000s, many risk factors for youth restiveness remain unaddressed. With over 60% of the Delta's population under age 35, high unemployment and few meaningful livelihood options leave youth susceptible to recruitment into cult groups and gangs (Bello, 2019). Poverty, income inequality, and lack of basic amenities foster grievances and proliferation of small arms gained during the militancy era enables violent expressions of dissent (Abazie-Humphrey, 2014).

Consequently, there is a pressing need to explore and implement interventions that harness the energy and potential of the youth towards positive and productive pursuits, such as agricultural entrepreneurship. Agricultural entrepreneurship programs have gained prominence as viable avenues for addressing youth unemployment and restiveness while simultaneously promoting sustainable development (FAO, 2016). These initiatives aim to build capacities in commercial farming, agro-processing, and marketing of agricultural products. Some also incorporate mentorship, career guidance, and mental health counselling to address psychosocial factors underlying participation in risky behaviours (Chukwuemeka, Anazodo & Nzewi, 2011). The integration of youth into agricultural value chains through entrepreneurship initiatives has the potential to not only provide economic opportunities but also to instil a sense of purpose and ownership, thereby mitigating the root causes of restiveness (Nyabam, Tarawali & Ijie, 2018).

Studies in the Nigerian context have demonstrated the positive impact of agricultural entrepreneurship on youth engagement and economic development (Na-Allah & Ahmad, 2022; Ajani, Mgbenka & Onah, 2015). Delta State, Nigeria, boasts substantial potential in agriculture and agro-business, and the State Government has undertaken diverse initiatives to empower its youth population, fostering a new generation of agricultural entrepreneurs and job creators. Among these programs, the Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) and Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprise for the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND) has been instrumental, offering training, establishment, and support to youths engaged in various agricultural enterprises such as poultry, piggery, fish production, and crop cultivation. With a successful track record of six consecutive cycles since 2015, YAGEP has enrolled over 1,500 beneficiaries (Delta State Government, 2022). Complementing this effort is the Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP), which provides skills training and entrepreneurship development across diverse vocations, including catering, fashion design, welding, and hairdressing. STEP also equips beneficiaries with starter packs and mentorship to facilitate the launch of their own businesses. Additionally, the Youth Agripreneur Program (YAP), developed through collaboration between the state government and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), aligns with the IITA Youth Agripreneurs (IYA) model. This program focuses on mentorship and hands-on training for youths involved in the cassava, plantain, and aquaculture value chains. The collective aim of these initiatives is to position Delta State as a thriving agricultural hub, thereby contributing significantly to the state's economic development (Delta State Government, 2022).

Previous studies have explored the factors influencing youth restiveness in the Niger Delta, including lack of education and skills, unemployment, poverty, corruption, environmental degradation, and lack of economic opportunities (Weeraratne, 2017; Okeyim, Adams & Ojie, 2012). While Nigeria has implemented various youth empowerment programs over the years, few studies have evaluated the effectiveness of these interventions in curbing youth restiveness, especially in Delta State (Asongu, Le Roux & Singh, 2021). Ahmadu and Valentine (2022) reported that existing programs lack an adequate focus on engaging youth in sustainable agricultural enterprises. However, evaluations of existing programs in Delta State have been limited. A study by Amafade, Ofuoku Ovharhe and Eromedoghene (2022) found high interest but low uptake, often due to start-up constraints like inadequate land access and financial capital. But psychological factors influencing enrolment and participation decisions remain underexplored. There is also limited longitudinal data tracking if programs lead to sustained engagement in legal livelihoods and reduced involvement in socially disruptive activities over time (Amafade et al., 2020). Addressing these empirical gaps can inform agricultural entrepreneurship policies and interventions to

more effectively realize socioeconomic outcomes around youth development and peacebuilding in the Niger Delta.

The specific objectives of this study are to:

i. examine the level of youth restiveness in Isoko North Local Government Area, Delta State;
ii. assess the participation of youths in agricultural entrepreneurship programmes in the study area; and
iii. analyse the effect of agricultural entrepreneurship programmes on mitigating youth restiveness.

Methodology

Study Area

The study was conducted in Isoko North LGA of Delta State, located in the southern part of Nigeria. Isoko North LGA is known for its rich agricultural resources and diverse youth population. The choice of this region is strategic, aiming to provide insights into the dynamics of youth restiveness and the impact of agricultural entrepreneurship programmes in a context with distinct socio-economic and cultural characteristics.

Sampling Technique and Sample Size

Multistage sampling technique was used to select the representative sample. The seven (7) wards in the Local Government Area were purposively selected. Two villages were randomly selected from each of the chosen wards, making a total of fourteen villages; then, eight (8) households were selected from the villages which was done through random sampling technique to arrive at a total of one hundred and twelve (112) respondents used for the study.

Data Collection and Analysis

The primary data for the study were collected using structured questionnaire. Assessment of the level of youth restiveness and evaluation of the participation of youths in agricultural entrepreneurship programmes in the State were realised through the use of descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage and mean. In order to examine the effect of agricultural entrepreneurship programmes on mitigating youth restiveness, the logistics regression model was used. The decision to use this model is justified on the ground that the dependent variable is a dummy variable (dichotomous).

The model is stated as:

……..(1)

Where;

Pi = is the indicator participation in youth restiveness (Pi = Yes; 1- Pi = No).
β_0 = Intercept
$\beta_1 - \beta_8$ = Regression Coefficients, of the independent variables
X_1 = Age of respondent (years)
X_2 = Gender (1= male, 0 = female)
X_3 = Educational level (1 = no formal education, 2 = primary, 3 = secondary, 4 = tertiary)
X_4 = Household size (persons)
X_5 = Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) (1 = Yes, 0 = No)
X_6 = Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) (1 = Yes, 0 = No)
X_7 = Youth Agripreneur Program (YAP) (1 = Yes, 0 = No)
X_8 = Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project for the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND) (1 = Yes, 0 = No)
e_i = error term.

Results and Discussions

Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1 presents the result of the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents, focusing on gender distribution, age, marital status, educational level, household size and occupation.

The result reveals that 56.2% of the respondents are male, while 43.8% are female. The gender distribution in this study aligns with broader discussions on gender dynamics, particularly in the context of participation in agricultural entrepreneurship programs and youth-related initiatives. Gender plays a crucial role in shaping individuals' experiences, opportunities, and challenges in various socio-economic contexts (Njoh & Ananga, 2016). Research on gender and entrepreneurship underscores the importance of considering the distinct ways in which males and females may engage with entrepreneurial activities (Cardella, Hernández-Sánchez & Sánchez-García, 2020). It emphasizes the need for inclusive policies and programs that address gender-specific barriers and promote equitable access to resources and opportunities for both men and women. In the context of agricultural entrepreneurship programs, studies have shown that gender dynamics can influence the effectiveness of interventions. For instance, research by Duflo (2013) emphasizes that understanding and addressing gender-specific constraints are essential for promoting successful agricultural initiatives, as women may face distinct challenges in accessing resources and participating fully in entrepreneurial activities.

The age distribution of the respondents, as presented in Table 1, reveal a predominantly youthful sample, with 66% falling within the age range of 25 to 30 years. The concentration of respondents in this age group aligns with the target

demographic for youth-focused programs, indicating potential relevance to agricultural entrepreneurship initiatives. The mean age of 26 years further underscores the youthfulness of the population, suggesting receptivity to skill development and entrepreneurial opportunities. This demographic composition resonates with findings from studies by Nwosu (2019) and Chidiebere, Iloanya and Udunze (2014), emphasizing the significance of tailoring entrepreneurship programs to specific age groups for optimal effectiveness. Additionally, the reported mean age aligns with the youth-centric nature of the agricultural entrepreneurship programs, as highlighted by Omeje, Jideofor and Ugwu (2020). Overall, the age distribution in the sample provides valuable insights for understanding the potential impact of these programs on mitigating youth restiveness in Delta State.

The result indicates that a substantial proportion of respondents (66.1%) are categorized as "Otherwise," suggesting unmarried individuals, while 33.9% are married. This distribution prompts consideration of the potential influence of marital status on various aspects of respondents' lives, including their participation in agricultural entrepreneurship programs. Understanding the demographic composition is crucial for contextualizing the impact of these programs on mitigating youth restiveness, as marital status can affect the availability of time, financial resources, and social support.

The study reveals a diverse educational background among the participants, with 4.5% having no formal education, 33.9% completing primary education, 23.2% having a secondary education, and 38.4% attaining tertiary education. Notably, the prevalence of respondents with tertiary education suggests a relatively well-educated sample. Literatures, such as studies by Glewwe, Maiga and Zheng (2014) on the role of education quality in economic growth and Acs and Szerb (2007) on entrepreneurship, economic growth, and public policy, supports the importance of educational factors in socioeconomic development and entrepreneurial behavior. Additionally, the World Bank's World Development Report 2018 emphasizes the significance of education in realizing its promise for empowerment, aligning with the observed educational diversity in the surveyed population (World Bank, 2018).

Most of participants (42.9%) reported household sizes ranging from 4 to 6 persons, followed by 37.5% reporting sizes between 7 and 9 persons. A smaller percentage had household sizes of fewer than 4 persons (17.9%), and only 1.8% reported sizes above 9 persons. The mean household size was 6 persons. These findings illuminate the distribution of household sizes among respondents, a significant factor with implications for resource allocation and economic dynamics. The observed prevalence of larger households aligns with studies such as Cracolici, Giambona and

Cuffaro (2014), emphasizing the importance of household characteristics in economic development.

The also study reveals a diverse distribution among the participants, with 19.6% employed, 42.9% unemployed, 11.6% students, and 25.9% entrepreneurs. Notably, the unemployed segment constitutes a significant portion, emphasizing the potential impact of targeted interventions, particularly agricultural entrepreneurship programs, to address economic challenges and enhance livelihoods. Understanding the unique perspectives and needs of each occupational group is crucial for tailoring effective programs, as highlighted in studies by Omeje, Jideofor and Ugwu (2020) and Undiyaundeye and Otu (2022). These findings underscore the importance of designing inclusive initiatives that consider the varied characteristics and aspirations of the respondents, ultimately contributing to the success and relevance of agricultural entrepreneurship programs in Delta State.

Table 1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percent	Mean/Mode
Gender			
Male	63	56.2	Male
Female	49	43.8	
Age (years)			
18 – 24	30	26.8	
25 – 30	74	66	
31 – 40	6	5.4	26 years
41 and above	2	1.8	
Marital Status			
Married	38	33.9	
Otherwise	74	66.1	
Educational level			
No formal	5	4.5	
Primary	38	33.9	Secondary
Secondary	26	23.2	
Tertiary	43	38.4	
Household size			
< 4 persons	20	17.9	
4 – 6 persons	48	42.9	6 persons
7 – 9 persons	42	37.5	
Above 9 persons	2	1.8	
Occupation			
Employed	22	19.6	
Unemployed	48	42.9	Unemployed
Student	13	11.6	
Entrepreneur	29	25.9	

Level of Youth Restiveness in the Study Area

Table 2 presents a result of the current level of youth restiveness in the study area, indicating that 48.2% of respondents perceive it as Moderate, 27.7% as High, 14.3% as Low, and 9.8% as Very High. These findings suggest a notable degree of restiveness among the youth population, with a substantial portion reporting moderate to high levels. The presence of a Low category indicates ongoing efforts to address youth restiveness, though challenges persist. The identification of a Very High category suggests the urgency of further investigation and targeted interventions. This analysis is informed by studies such as Omeje, Jideofor and Ugwu (2020) and Undiyaundeye and Otu (2022), which provide insights into the socioeconomic determinants and patterns of youth restiveness, contributing to a more nuanced interpretation of the presented result.

This study also reveals that 55.4% of respondents have engaged in such activities, while 44.6% have not. The study further shows the motivations behind youth restiveness in the study area, revealing that a significant majority (69.4%) is driven by a need for belonging or identity, aligning with social identity theory concepts (Owigho et al., 2025). Additionally, 29.0% express a motivation for social justice, indicating a segment of the youth population moved by a sense of societal injustice (Suddaby, Bitektine & Haack, 2017). Peer pressure emerges as a prevalent motivator, with 64.5% influenced by their social circles, consistent with social contagion theory (Centola, 2018). Notably, economic or financial incentives are cited by 41.9%, suggesting an intersection between economic factors and youth restiveness, supporting perspectives on social movements (Heersmink, 2021). These findings underscore the multifaceted nature of motivations driving youth restiveness in the study area, emphasizing the need for comprehensive and context-specific interventions.

Table 2: Level of Youth Restiveness in the Study Area

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Current level of youth restiveness		
Low	16	14.3
Moderate	54	48.2
High	31	27.7
Very High	11	9.8
Have you participated in youth restiveness		
Yes	62	55.4
No	50	44.6
If yes, what was the motivation? *(Multiple response, n = 62)*		

Need for belonging/identity	43	69.4
Desire for social justice	18	29.0
Pressure from peers	40	64.5
Economic/financial incentives	26	41.9

Youths Participation in Agricultural Entrepreneurship Programmes in the Study Area

Table 3 illustrates the distribution of youth participation in agricultural entrepreneurship programs in Isoko North LGA, Delta State. The Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP) exhibits the highest participation rate constituting 58.0% of the sample, suggesting its widespread adoption and positive reception. Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) follows with 16.1%, Youth Agripreneur Program (YAP) with 35.7%, and Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project for the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND) with 23.2%. This implies that YAGEP and YAP are more popular and accessible among the youths in Delta State than STEP and LIFE-ND. The result also suggests that there is a need to increase the awareness and availability of the other programmes to encourage more youths to participate in agricultural entrepreneurship. According to Emerole, Chikwe and Joel (2018), youth restiveness is a major challenge in Nigeria, which can be mitigated by providing opportunities for youths to engage in productive and profitable agricultural activities. The authors also recommend that the government should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to design and implement effective agricultural entrepreneurship programmes that can address the needs and aspirations of the youths in the area.

Table 3: Youths Participation in Agricultural Entrepreneurship Programmes in Delta State

Agricultural entrepreneurship programmes	Frequency	Percent
Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP)	65	58.0
Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP)	18	16.1
Youth Agripreneur Program (YAP)	40	35.7
Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project for the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND)	26	23.2

Multiple response

Effect of Agricultural Entrepreneurship Programmes on Mitigating Youth Restiveness

Table 4 presents the results of a logistic regression analysis assessing the effect of various variables on mitigating youth restiveness in Isoko North LGA, Delta State.

Educational Level: The study reveals that educational level significantly influences the likelihood of youth restiveness in the study area. The negative coefficient of -0.399 ($p = 0.043$, $Exp(B) = 0.671$) suggests that higher educational attainment is associated with a lower probability of youth restiveness. This is consistent with the findings of Abraham (2011) who reported that education enhances the cognitive and analytical skills of youths and makes them less prone to violence. They argued that education also exposes youths to alternative sources of income and livelihoods, thereby reducing their dependence on oil revenues and their vulnerability to conflicts. Omeje, Jideofor and Ugwu (2020) also emphasized the positive correlation between education and reduced social unrest among youth, underscoring the potential role of education in shaping attitudes and behaviours, contributing to a more stable and engaged youth population.

Participation in specific agricultural entrepreneurship programs, such as YAGEP and STEP, emerge as significant factors in mitigating youth restiveness in Isoko North LGA. The negative coefficients of -0.529 ($p = 0.008$, $Exp(B) = 0.589$) for YAGEP and -0.266 ($p = 0.010$, $Exp(B) = 1.305$) for STEP indicate that involvement in these programs is associated with a lower likelihood of youth restiveness. This is in line with the objectives of these programmes, which are to empower youths with skills and resources to start and run their own agribusinesses and create employment opportunities for themselves and others (Delta State Government, 2018). These programmes also aim to foster social cohesion and peace among youths by promoting dialogue, collaboration and mutual respect among different ethnic groups and communities. This result also aligns with the notion that agricultural entrepreneurship initiatives contribute to positive youth outcomes by fostering skill development and economic empowerment (Onwunyi & umeifekwem, 2023). The findings underscore the potential of targeted interventions in shaping the behaviour of the youth population through meaningful participation in such programs. The result also highlights the substantial impact of the LIFE-ND on mitigating youth restiveness in the study area. The highly significant negative coefficient of -4.728 ($p = 0.001$, $Exp(B) = 113.025$) indicates that participation in LIFE-ND is associated with a markedly lower likelihood of youth restiveness. This underscores the effectiveness of LIFE-ND in addressing socio-economic challenges and fostering positive outcomes among the youth in Delta State. This is in accordance with the expectation, as the LIFE-ND is designed to improve the livelihoods of rural youths and women through agricultural value chain development (NDDC, 2020). This result supports that of Amafade et al.

(2022) who reported that the LIFE-ND is effective in achieving its goals and has a positive impact on the socio-economic well-being of its beneficiaries. This could be attributed to factors such as good governance, transparency, accountability, inclusiveness and participation of the stakeholders in the programme implementation and monitoring.

Model Summary: The -2 Log likelihood value of 163.351 indicates the goodness of fit, with lower values suggesting a better fit. The Cox & Snell R Square and Nagelkerke R Square values of 0.493 and 0.542, respectively, demonstrate the proportion of variance in the dependent variable explained by the independent variables. The chi-square test statistic of 19.305 with 8 degrees of freedom is statistically significant (p = 0.004), indicating that the model as a whole significantly contributes to explaining the variance in youth restiveness. These results collectively suggest that the model is a robust representation of the relationship between the selected variables and youth restiveness in the specified geographic context.

Table 4: Effect of Agricultural Entrepreneurship Programmes on Mitigating Youth Restiveness

Variable	**B**	**S.E.**	**Wald**	**df**	**Sig.**	**Exp(B)**
Age	0.001	0.022	0.001	1	0.974	1.001
Gender	-0.474	0.476	0.992	1	0.319	0.623
Educational level	-0.399**	0.197	4.092	1	0.043	0.671
Household size	2.094	1.45	2.086	1	0.149	8.121
Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP)	-0.529***	0.199	7.097	1	0.008	0.589
Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP)	-0.266**	0.103	6.69	1	0.010	1.305
Youth Agripreneur Program (YAP)	-0.241	0.562	0.183	1	0.669	1.272
Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project for the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND)	-4.728***	1.388	11.604	1	0.001	113.025
Constant	-0.483	0.218	4.88	1	0.027	0.617

Model Summary					
-2 Log likelihood	**Cox & Snell R Square**	**Nagelkerke R Square**	**Chi-square**	**df**	**Sig.**
163.351	0.493	0.542	19.305***	8	0.004

*** and **, significant at 1% and 5% level of probability

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study provides a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between youth restiveness and agricultural entrepreneurship programs in Isoko North LGA, Delta State. The socioeconomic characteristics of respondents reveal a predominantly youthful population, emphasizing the relevance of tailored interventions for this demographic. The varying levels of youth restiveness underscore the urgency for targeted strategies, considering motivations such as the need for belonging, social justice, and economic incentives. The participation patterns in agricultural entrepreneurship programmes suggest the necessity of enhancing awareness and accessibility. The logistic regression analysis highlights the pivotal role of educational level and programmes participation in mitigating youth restiveness. Based on the study findings, the following recommendations are made: in implementation of targeted educational programmes, educational stakeholders should be engaged to enhance the cognitive skills of youth beneficiaries. This involves developing partnerships that expose them to alternative income sources, thereby reducing dependency on volatile revenue streams; government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should play a pivotal role in expanding awareness campaign about agricultural entrepreneurship programmes. The focus should be on emphasizing the diverse benefits of agricultural entrepreneurship programs to ensure inclusivity in messaging and maximize youth participation; collaboration between the government, relevant stakeholders, and local communities is essential for effective programmes design. This will help foster transparent and accountable partnerships involving government authorities, stakeholders, and community representatives. This collaborative effort should tailor initiatives to address the unique needs of the youth population, ensuring that programs align with local contexts and aspirations.

Author Address:

[1]Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State, Nigeria.

[2]Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria.

[3]Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Southern Delta University, Ozoro, Delta State, Nigeria.

[4]Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute, Sapele, Delta State, Nigeria.

References:

1. **Abazie-Humphrey, I. M.** (2014, June). **In Office of the Special Adviser to the Nigeria President on Niger Delta,** Engaging the Nigerian Niger Delta ex-agitators: The impacts of the presidential amnesty program to economic development. **14th EADI General Conference**: Page.23-26.
2. **Abraham, N. M.** (2011). **African Journal of Political Science and International Relations**, Functional education, militancy and youth restiveness in Nigeria's Niger Delta: The place of multi-national oil corporations. **Volume 5 Number 10**: Page.442-453
3. **Acs, Z. J., & Szerb, L.** (2007). **Small Business Economics**, Entrepreneurship, economic growth and public policy. **Volume 28 Number 2:** Page.109-122.
4. **Ahmadu, A., & Valentine, O. E.** (2022). **FUW-International Journal of Management and Social Sciences,** Youth Unemployment, Causes, Effects and Implication On Nigeria's Security Industry. **Volume 7 Number** 1: Page.18-18.
5. **Ajani, E. N., Mgbenka, R. N., & Onah, O.** (2015). **International Journal of Research,** Empowerment of youths in rural areas through agricultural development programmes: Implications for poverty reduction in Nigeria. **Volume 34 Number 1**: Page 540-557.
6. **Alumuna, S., Ofoegbu, R. C., & Edet, A. S.** (2017). **Elixir Social Studies**, Militancy and kidnapping in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria; A recap. **Volume 112 Number 2:** Page.49425-49434.
7. **Amafade, U. G., Ofuoku, A. U., Ovharhe, O. J., & Eromedoghene, E.** (2022). **Innovations,** Evaluation of the Livelihood Improvement: Family Enterprise Project for the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND) programme on living standard of youths in Delta State, Nigeria., **Volume 71 Number 6:** Page.790-784.
8. **Asongu, S. A., Le Roux, S., & Singh, P.** (2021). **Journal of Policy Modeling,** Fighting terrorism in Africa: complementarity between inclusive development, military expenditure and political stability. **Volume 43 Number 5:** Page.897-922.
9. **Bello, D. T. T.** (2019). **Journal of Humanities and Social Science,** The Role of the Youth in the Electoral Process in Nigeria Politics: From Historical Appraisal. **Volume 24 Number 1**: Page.18-29.
10. **Cardella, G. M., Hernández-Sánchez, B. R., & Sánchez-García, J. C.** (2020). **Frontiers in psychology,** Women entrepreneurship: A systematic review to outline the boundaries of scientific literature. **Volume 11 Number 1**: Page.1557-1572.
11. **Centola, D.** (2018). **Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press,** How behavior spreads: The science of complex contagions. **Volume 3.**

12. **Chidiebere, O. N., Iloanya, K., & Udunze, U**. (2014). **Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review,** Youth unemployment and entrepreneurship development: Challenges and prospects in Nigeria. **Volume 4 Number 4:** Page.20-36.
13. **Chukwuemeka, E. E., Anazodo, R., & Nzewi, H**. (2011). **African Journal of Political Science and International Relations,** Social conflict in the South-South Nigeria: Implications for foreign investment. **Volume 5 Number 6:** Page.335-351.
14. **Cracolici, M. F., Giambona, F., & Cuffaro, M.** (2014). **Social Indicators Research,** Family structure and subjective economic well-being: Some new evidence. **Volume 118 Number 2:** Page.433-456.
15. **Delta State Government.** (2022). Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP). Retrieved from deltastate.gov.ng
16. **Duflo, E.** (2013). **Omran for Social Sciences,** Women's empowerment and economic development. **Volume 2 Number 5:** Page.51-76.
17. **Emerole, G. A., Chikwe, G. C., & Joel, A. D.** (2018). **Archives of Business Research,** Sustainable curbing of youth restiveness in IMO State: the strategic role of entrepreneurship development. **Volume 6 Number 3:** Page.13-25
18. **FAO.** (2016). Youth and Agriculture: Key Challenges and Concrete Solutions. www.fao.org
19. **Glewwe, P., Maiga, E., & Zheng, H.** (2014). **World Development,** The contribution of education to economic growth: A review of the evidence, with special attention and an application to Sub-Saharan Africa. **Volume 59 Number 1:** Page.379-393.
20. **Heersmink, R.** (2021). **Review of Philosophy and Psychology,** Materialised identities: Cultural identity, collective memory, and artefacts. **Volume 23 Number 1:** Page.1-17.
21. **Na-Allah, S. R., & Ahmad, N. H.** (2022). **Sustainability,** Entrepreneurial orientation and venture creation in Nigerian context: Assessing mediating and moderating roles of self-efficacy and entrepreneurial support among graduates. **Volume 14 Number 9:** Page.4904-4920.
22. **NDDC.** (2020). Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project for the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND). Retrieved from nddc.gov.ng
23. **Njoh, A. J., & Ananga, E.** (2016). **Social Indicators Research,** The development hypothesis of women empowerment in the millennium development goals tested in the context women's access to land in Africa. **Volume 128 Number 1:** Page.89-104.
24. **Nwosu, M.** (2019). **Doctoral dissertation, Walden University,** Youth entrepreneurship among university graduates in Anambra, Nigeria.

25. **Nyabam, V. S., Tarawali, G., & Ijie, B. A.** (2018). **International Journal of Governance and Development,** Empirical analysis of IITA youth in agribusiness model as a panacea for solving youth unemployment problem in Nigeria. **Volume 5 Number 1 & 2**: Page.117-121.
26. **Obumneke, E.** (2012). **Journal of Social Science and Public Policy,** Youth unemployment and its socio-economic implications in Nigeria. **Volume 4 Number 1:** Page.47-59.
27. **Okeyim, M. O., Adams, J. A., & Ojie, P.** (2012). **International Journal of Arts & Sciences,** Managing election violence in Nigeria. **Volume 5 Number 2**: Page.43-60.
28. **Omeje, A. N., Jideofor, A., & Ugwu, M. O.** (2020). **Sage Open,** Youth empowerment and entrepreneurship in Nigeria: Implication for economic diversification. **Volume 10 Number 4:** Page.2158-2193.
29. **Oni, A. A., & Olaniran, O. L.** (2022). **Africa's Radicalisms and Conservatisms**, Unemployment, youth restiveness and skills development in Nigeria. Page.404-422.
30. **Onwunyi, u. M., & umeifekwem, U. T.** (2023). **Socialscientia: Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities,** Youth empowerment, crime prevention and control in ihiala local government area of Anambra State, Nigeria. **Volume 8 Number 2:** Page.304-321
31. **Ovwigho, O, Eromedoghene, E. O, Evwierhurhoma, F. E, Amafade, U. G, Onwaumere-Idolor, O. S and Omosigho, N. E,** (2025). **Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science.** Impact of N-Agro programme on job creation and income generation among youths in Delta, State. **Volume 31 Number 3:** Page.438-446.
32. **Suddaby, R., Bitektine, A., & Haack, P.** (2017). **Academy of Management Annals,** Legitimacy. **Volume 11 Number 1**: Page.451-478.
33. **Umar, F., Johnson, S. D., & Cheshire, J. A.** (2021). **Journal of Quantitative Criminology,** Assessing the spatial concentration of urban crime: an insight from Nigeria. **Volume 37 Number 1:** Page.605-624.
34. **Undiyaundeye, F. A., & Otu, E. A.** (2022). **European Journal of Social Science Education and Research,** Entrepreneurship skills acquisition and the benefits amongst the undergraduate students in Nigeria. **Volume 9 Number 1:** Page.24-32.
35. **Weeraratne, S.** (2017). **Terrorism and Political Violence,** Theorizing the expansion of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. **Volume 29 Number 4:** Page.610-634.
36. **World Bank.** (2018). **World Development Report 2018:** Learning to Realize Education's Promise. World Bank.