



Impact of Agricultural Policies on Agripreneurship Development in Nasarawa State

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Abstract:

This study examined the influence of agricultural policy on agripreneurship development in Nasarawa state. The study adopted survey design. The population of the study consists of 2076 agripreneurship managers operating their businesses within Nasarawa State area. The study objectives are to ascertain how specific agricultural policies and programmes have affected food security, poverty reduction and employment generation. Taro Yamane's sampling technique was used to derive the sample size of 335. Simple linear regression analysis was used to test the hypotheses formulated for the study. The findings revealed that agricultural policy has a significant effect on employment generation, (f- test 96.749 and p-value p of 0.000), agricultural policy also has a significant effect on poverty alleviation (f-test 200,756 and p-value of 0.000) and moreover, agricultural policy has a significant effect on food security (f-test 86.568 and p-value of 0,000) in Nasarawa state. The study concludes that agripreneurship policy has a positive and significant effect on agripreneurship development in Nasarawa State. The study therefore, recommends that farmers should be encouraged to establish safe storage facilities as it is very important for food security, as it as well help to stabilize food price. There is also need to increase agricultural production, preservation of unused produce or unsold items are equally as important to cutting waste.

Keywords: Agriculture Policy, Agripreneurship, Agripreneurship Development, Employment generation, Food security, Poverty reduction

1. Introduction

Nigeria has rich agricultural resource endowment and an avalanche of laudable agricultural policies that could turn her into an industrialised economy and reduce the incidence of poverty. The recent in the series of laudable agricultural policies meant to entrench Nigeria's economic growth within the agricultural framework was the transformation agenda. The Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) of the Goodluck Jonathan administration (2011-2015) was intended to re-enact once again agriculture as the main driver of Nigeria's economic growth as in the 1960s and 1970s (Igudia, 2017). Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) was created in 2016 to develop on the successes of ATA. Policy formulation is a crucial aspect of governance in any Nation or Organisation as it provides guidelines and frame work for the realisation of their set goals (Oluwafemi, 2017).

Nigeria's Agricultural policy is targeting food security, import substitution to mitigate the massive food import and conserve foreign exchange, job creation and enhancing economic diversification and growth. These objectives can be achieved if we run agriculture as a business and encourage private-sector

led engagements as the main objective driver. This commercialisation orientation will involve the application of technologies, development of input supply chains, market linkages and financial services that engage the farmers (Uche & Familusi, 2018). These are critical to job creation, economic diversity, and sustainable economic growth (Ado, 2017).

Agripreneurship helps to build resources by wealth creation along the value chain through production, value addition, and export of processed or unprocessed goods among others. For the purpose of this study, proxies identified as indicators of agripreneurship development are: employment generation, poverty reduction, and food security. These proxies analysed to form the specific objectives and statement of hypotheses.

Nasarawa state is made up of 13 Local Government Areas (LGAs) divided into three agricultural zones by the Nasarawa Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) (Kuzhkuzha et al, 2019). Agriculture is the mainstay of the state and the state has keyed into several Federal Government policies to improve the economy of the state and its residence. In spite the state efforts to improve the economy via agriculture, the impact to the state economy calls for improvement. Therefore, this study



focus is to analyse the impact of a program component of (APP) that anchors borrowers programme (ABP) on the beneficiaries in terms of employment generation, poverty alleviation and food security.

This paper examines Nigeria's agricultural policies and its impact on agripreneurship development in Nasarawa State. The policy focus is the agriculture promotion policy and the anchor borrowers' programme. It is interesting to note that this area of study has generated limited research especially as it relates specifically to agripreneurship in Nasarawa State.

Objectives of the Study

- i. To ascertain the impact of agriculture policies on employment generation.
- ii. To examine the impact of agriculture policies on poverty reduction.
- iii. To assess the impact of agriculture policies on food security.

Statement of Hypotheses

- i. Agriculture policies have no significant impact on employment generation.
- ii. Agriculture policies have no significant impact on poverty reduction.
- iii. Agriculture policies have no significant impact on food security.

Literature Review

Conceptual Framework

Agricultural Policy

Agricultural policy is the statement of what the government wants to do, what it is doing and what it is not doing and what would not be done as regards to agricultural activities in Nigeria. Nigeria's agricultural policy is the synthesis of the framework and action plans of Government designed to achieve overall agricultural growth and development (Ministry of Agriculture Policy Guide 2004).

Agriculture Promotion Policy (2016)

The new policy regime, tagged the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) Policy is founded on the following guiding principles, they are: Seeing agriculture as a business that should be led by the private sector in partnership with the government, viewing agriculture as a key to the growth and security of the economy in the long run. Ensuring the government carries out its social responsibility with regards to food security. Promoting enterprise development through the value chain approaches. Making crop production for both domestic and export markets a priority, ensuring market-oriented production. Others are: Ensuring sustainable use of natural resources (water, soil, land), encouraging the participation of all stakeholders, ensuring accountability and due process to uphold the integrity of the

policy and addressing issues of nutrition especially for the vulnerable groups then promoting linkages within the sector and between the sector and other sectors (Odunze, 2019).

Agripreneurship and Development

Addo (2018) defines agripreneurship as identifying and seizing an opportunity (problem, idea, business or market imbalances) in the agri-food space and organising resources to convert the opportunity into solutions (new or innovative produce, good or service) while embracing the associated risk and potential benefits thereof (material and immaterial); this may occur within an existing agri-food enterprise or lead to establishment of new agri-food enterprise.

Rao and Kumar (2016) define agripreneurship as the entrepreneurial process taken up in agriculture or allied sectors. It is the process of adopting new methods, processes, techniques in agriculture or the allied sectors of agriculture, for better

output and economic earnings: agripreneurship converts agricultural activity into an entrepreneurial activity.

Rao and Kumar (2016) are apt to agripreneurship development, so it aligns more with this study. Agripreneurship can be defined as the combination of agricultural skills with entrepreneurial skills and characteristics in turning a farm into profitable business.

Seers (1972) perspective on development is suitable to this study, in his view, "development means the conditions for realisation of the human personality. Its evaluation must therefore take into account three linked criteria: where there has been a reduction in (1) poverty, (2) unemployment, (3) inequality.

Agripreneurship development can best be defined as the combination of agricultural skills with entrepreneurial skills and characteristics in turning a farm into profitable business. Which in the long run translate into quality standard of living through better output and sustainable income.

Anchor Borrowers Programme

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in line with its developmental function established the Anchor Borrowers' Programme (ABP). It is intended to create a linkage between anchor companies involved in the processing and small hold farmers (SHFs) of required key agricultural commodities. The thrust of the ABP is provision of farm inputs in kind and cash to small hold farmers to boost production of these commodities, stabilize inputs supply to agro processors and address the country's negative balance of payment on food, thereby enhancing job creation, boosting food security and reducing poverty. The targeted commodities are of comparative advantages to the States include but not limited to: Cereals (Rice, maize, wheat, etc.), cotton, roots and tubers (cassava, potatoes, yam, ginger etc), sugarcane, tree crops (oil palm, cocoa, rubber, etc.), legumes (soybean, cow peas, groundnuts, sesame seed etc.), tomato, livestock (fish, poultry, ruminants, etc.) and any other commodity that will be introduced by the CBN from time to time.

Commented [MA1]:



The loan disbursement is through eligible Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) such as: Deposit Money Banks (DMBs), Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and Microfinance Banks (MFBs). The Anchor shall be private large-scale integrated processors who have entered into an agreement with the SHFs to off-take the harvested produce at the agreed market prices. State Governments may act as anchor upon meeting the prescribed conditions.

The fund provided by the Central Bank of Nigeria to target beneficiaries at 9% interest rate per annum. Tenor of repayment under ABP is the gestation period of the identified commodities. Loans so granted shall be repaid with the harvested produce that is mandatorily delivered to the anchor at designated collection centres in line with the provisions of the agreement signed. The produce to be delivered must cover the loan principal and interest (CBN, 2016).

Agricultural Policies and Agripreneurship Development

The impact of these policies on agripreneurship development will be measured based on three key indicators: Food security, employment generation and poverty reduction. Ojong and Anam (2018) concluded that is a key economic driver. It is central to individual livelihoods and alleviates poverty. The contribution of Agriculture sector provides food incremental markets for new products manufactured in the industrial sector, it has contributed immensely on the supply of new materials to other sectors, tax revenue to the Government to provide foreign exchange.

Nigeria's Agricultural policy if actually implemented will give room for job creation and enhancing economic diversification and growth amongst others. These objectives can be achieved if agriculture is run as a business by encouraging private-sector led engagements as the main objective driver (Uche & Familusi, 2018). Agripreneurship has the capacity to create jobs. It enhances and expands the market and demand for farm produce, the growth of commercial agriculture system in the rural areas is capable of galvanising agripreneurship development. The efficiency and expansion of postharvest handling, processing, marketing and value chain integration is an important factor in the providing food and creating employment for the people (Pawa, 2013).

Agribusinesses generate income for their owners and agriculture is regarded as a dependable source of livelihood. Agripreneurs will make sustainable income from it. Employees will also make a living from the salaries they receive. Thus, both the owners and the employees of agribusinesses become economically empowered and their standard of living will improve (Otache, 2017). When poverty is reduced, more income is earned to expand and diversify the agri – enterprise. The commercial value of agriculture is capable of generating higher incomes. These new income levels are capable of empowering small holder farmers into large holders. The expanded market increases the financial prowess of the input suppliers and the market for the processing firms. However, sustaining incomes accruing from agribusiness depends largely on the dynamic link between the farm and the non-farm sectors.

When such incomes increase, surplus are invested or reinvested, it stimulates growth and this becomes an important factor in poverty alleviation (Pawa, 2013).

When people are trained and developed entrepreneurially in agriculture, their capacity will be enhanced, and consequently, agricultural productivity will increase. Increased agricultural productivity guarantees food security for the individuals as well as for the nation at large (Otache, 2017). Agripreneurs are capable of ensuring food availability, sufficiency, affordability and quality to the people at all times to guarantee healthy life. They are also capable of continually providing basic raw materials to agro processors and other industries.

Empirical Review

Igudia, (2017) assessed a qualitative analysis of the agricultural policy dynamics and its relationship with the Nigeria economy from (1960-2015). The paper uses data obtained from secondary sources, from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The findings are that in spite of myriad of policy initiatives of successive administrations in agriculture from the outset, it has yielded little or no appreciable benefits. It means that agricultural policies have not significantly influenced agripreneurship development in Nigeria. From this work, it has exposed a gap in relating public policies with agriculture. So it gives room for more studies. Moreover, the study depended only on the use of secondary data.

Ojong and Anam (2018) examined the challenges and prospects of the agricultural promotion policy. Data is drawn largely from secondary sources and content analysis used to evaluate literature. The study found that, the issues of agriculture in Nigeria is historic, and bothers on: traditional farm practices in this new age, limited technology in handling soil erosion, water management and soil fertility. Other findings challenging the implementation of policies are: food insecurity, post-harvest loss (wastages) and institutionalised corruption. Although this work was on agriculture policy, credence was not given to the prospects of the agricultural promotion policy.

Badejo and Adekeye (2018) reviewed the impact of anchor borrower programme on poverty alleviation in Argungu Local Government Area of Kebbi State. Relevant data for this research work were collected from secondary sources through the content analysis of; documents, government publications, reports, quarterly magazines on Anchor Borrower Programme and data from Bureau of Statistics. It was found that (ABP) supports for farmer have a positive and significant impact on poverty alleviation in the area of; food supply, employment generation, improved standard of living and income generation.

Coker, et al (2018) conducted an assessment of implementation modalities of the anchor borrowers' programme in Nigeria. The article relied on content analyses and the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats strategic planning tool to reach its conclusion. The findings; though the Anchors Borrowers Programme (ABP) has strengths based on the SWOT analysis, there is doubt as to the conduct



of project appraisal; implementation arrangements are unclear, the recurring political pressures should not be made to becloud the objectives of the ABP. The research methodology in the study focused on a particular state.

Saheed, et al (2018) examined Anchor Borrower Programme on agricultural commodity price and employment generation in Kebbi State, Nigeria. Data were collected through interview and structured questionnaire administered to a sample of 400 farmers in Argungu L.G.A. It was found that Anchor Borrower Programmes (ABP) supports for farmer have a positive and statistically significant impact on agricultural commodity price (ACP) and employment generation (EMPG) in agricultural sector in Kebbi state, particularly in Argungu LGA. The positive significance of ABP on employment generation may not be conclusive as the study was done in one state and specifically one L.G.A of the state.

Kuzhkuzha et al (2019) assessed the economic efficiency level and the influencing factors among cowpea farmers in the western agricultural zone of Nasarawa state, Nigeria. The data used was collected for the 2017 farming season using structured questionnaires and analysed using data analysis tobit regression model. It found that the economic efficiency of cowpea farmers in the selected area was 6% with the tendency to increase the economic efficiency in the short run given existing technology by 94%. Additionally, the economic efficiency was only influenced significantly by the farm size. Education, farming experience, and extension visits were not significant determinants of the economic efficiency. From the findings, cowpea farmers cannot be said to contribute to agripreneurship development. Though the focus of the scholars was only on economic efficiency of cowpea farmers, it cannot be used to generalise for agriculture in Nasarawa State.

Theoretical Framework

The Easton System theory, can be employed to explain the policy making process of developing countries. Easton’s (1965) ‘political system’ model views the policy process as a ‘political system’ responding to the demands arising from its environment. He explains that the environment provides inputs to the decision process/political system in the form of demands and supports. Inputs into the system are provided through outside interests particularly from pressure groups, consumer groups and interest groups. These environmental inputs are converted through the political system into outputs or policies. The economy of any nation is like a system with many parts and sub-parts; it is difficult to understand one part without the other. The central assumption is that all social, economic and political phenomena are interrelated. They affect each other for survival of the whole system. Easton therefore argues that, it is not possible to understand one part of the society in isolation from the other parts which affect its operation. This theory is in line with Uche (2011).

Agricultural policies should embrace a bottom – top model to have a positive significant impact on all stakeholders. In the agriculture value chain, farmers in the grassroots residing in remote and rural areas are the largest percentage of primary

producers and are the foundation of the value chain. Yet, they are most neglected and are at the very bottom, as they are the main recipient effect of agricultural policies enactment. It has become vital that they and other stakeholders are actively involved in policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes.

Methodology

The study adopts a survey research design. Primary data were collected from the population of the study using survey questionnaire. This work is a descriptive study designed to investigate into the topic; assessing the impact of agriculture policies on agripreneurship development. Population is 2,076 farmers who are beneficiaries of the anchor borrowers’ programme in Nasarawa State as at 2017. However, three farming communities were selected using convenient sampling method; Karu, Keffi and Kokona farming communities. These communities were selected based on their diversified farm practices, accessibility and proximity to the researcher. A sample size of 335 was derived using Taro Yamane’s sampling technique. Taro Yamane’s formula for sample size determination is:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

n = Sample size
N = The population size
e = Expected error
1 = Constant

$$n = \frac{2,076}{1 + 2,076(0.05)^2}$$

$$= \frac{2,076}{1 + 2,076(0.0025)}$$

$$= 335 \text{ sample size for the study.}$$

Model specification

- Model One
EG = β₀ + β₁AP + σ ----- (1)
- Model Two
PV = β₀ + β₁AP + σ ----- (2)
- Model Three
FS = β₀ + β₁AP + σ ----- (3)

Where AP = Agricultural Policy
EG = Employment Generation
PV = Poverty Alleviation
FS= Food Security
β₀ = constant
β₁ = regression coefficients
σ = σ residual standard deviation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Descriptive statistic result

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev	Min	Max
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AP	2.576596	1.034906	1	5
EG	3.090311	.7185223	1	5
PV	2.817021	1.325509	1	5
FS	3.961702	.878342	1	5

Source: SPSS output 2022

From the table 1 above it can be seen that agricultural policy has a cumulative mean of 2.5766 with a corresponding standard deviation of 1.03491 which show that the respondents were almost equally divided in their opinion concerning the questions raised on agricultural policy. It was also found that employment generation had mean of 3.0931 and a standard deviation of .71852 which also show that most of the respondents showed a positive view on the assertions concerning employment generation. The study elicited the opinion of respondents on the issues concerning poverty alleviation and the outcome depicted an average of 2.8170 and a corresponding standard deviation of 1.32551 which clearly shows a certain level of agreement on poverty alleviation but standard deviation figure evidence that respondents may not fully understand the concerns raised on that area. Finally, respondents were also, quizzed on food security with the results showing a mean of 3.9617 and a standard deviation of 0.8783 which showed evidence of the level of satisfaction expressed by the agripreneurship managers on how agricultural policy provides food security in the study area during the period of the study. The result also, showed a minimum and maximum output of 1 and 5 respectively for all variables implying a complete absence of outliers.

Regression results

Model one

Model Summary

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.345 ^a	.297	.294	.8122

a. Predictors: (Constant), AP

The coefficient of determination (R Square) 0.297 in table 1.1 implies that agricultural policy account for 30% variation in employment generation, while the remaining 70% are

explained by other factors that are not included in the model. This is further justified by the 29% result of the Adjusted R Square.

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	63.823	1	63.823	96.749	.000 ^b
	Residual	151.066	354	.660		
	Total	214.890	355			

a. Dependent Variable: EG
b. Predictors: (Constant), AP

The F-test table above shows the goodness of fit of the model. The criterial is that if (Sig value is less than 0.05) at alpha 0.05 and 95% level of confidence it means the model is fit for the study. However, the value of our Sig is less than 0.05 which means that the model is fit for the study.

Coefficients ^a					
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	1.401	.191		7.351	.000
	.525	.053	.545	9.836	.000

a. Dependent Variable: EG

The result from the table above shows that agricultural policy has a coefficient of .525 and a p-value of 0 .000. Based on the p-value which is less than 0.05 level of significant, it means that there is no sufficient evidence to accept the null hypothesis one which states that, Agricultural policies has no significant effect on employment generation in Nasarawa state.

Model two

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.683 ^a	.466	.464	.7714

a. Predictors: (Constant), AP

The coefficient of determination (R Square) 0.466 in table 1.2 showed that the model has a good fit. This implies that agricultural policy account for the 47% variability in poverty alleviation, while the remaining 53% are explained by other factors that are not explained in this study. This is further justified by the 46% result of the Adjusted R Square.

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	119.098	1	119.098	200.156	.000 ^b
	Residual	136.261	354	.595		
	Total	255.359	355			

a. Dependent Variable: PV
b. Predictors: (Constant), AP



The f-test result in table above showed that a joint significant relationship exists between agricultural policy and poverty alleviation. This is explained by the p-value of 0.000 is less than 0.05 (critical value), since the p-value is less than 0.05 level of significant it signified that the model is fit for the study.

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	.439	.181		2.427	.016
	.717	.051	.683	14.148	.000

a. Dependent Variable: PV

The results from the above table shows that agricultural policy (AP) has a statistically positive significant effect on poverty alleviation for the period of this study, as evidenced from the coefficient of .717 which is significant at 5% level of significance (p value of .000). Based on this p-value which is less than 0.05 significant level, there is no sufficient evidence to accept the null hypothesis two (H02) which states that Agricultural policies has no significant effect on poverty alleviation.

Model three

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.524 ^a	.274	.271	1.9352

a. Predictors: (Constant), AP

The coefficient of determination (R Square) 0.274 in table 1.3 showed that the model has a good fit. This indicates that agricultural policy account for 27% variation in food security, while the remaining 73% are explained by other factors that are not captured in this model. This is further justified by the 85.8% result of the Adjusted R Square.

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	324.202	1	324.202	86.568	.000 ^b
	Residual	857.616	354	3.745		
	Total	1181.818	355			

a. Dependent Variable: FS
b. Predictors: (Constant), AP

The f-test result in table above showed that there is a joint significant relationship between agricultural policy and food

security. This is justified since the p-value which is 0.000 and is less than 0.05 (critical value). Therefore, it signified that the model fit and is capable of predicting the dependent variable food security.

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.829	.454		-1.826	.069
	AP	.832	.127	.524	9.304	.000

a. Dependent Variable: FS

The table above shows that agricultural policy (AP) has a statistically positive significant effect on the food security for the period of this study, as evidenced from the coefficient of .832 which is significant at 5% level of significance (p value of .000). Based on the p-value of 0.000 which is less than 0.05 level of significant, it means that there is a sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis three (H03) which states that agricultural policies has no significant effect on food security in Nasarawa State.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concluded that agricultural policy has positive significant effect on agripreneurship development in Nasarawa State. Specifically, the study reveals that agricultural policy has positive significant effect on employment generation in Nasarawa State. The study concludes that agricultural policy has significant effect on poverty alleviation in Nasarawa state, that agricultural policy has a positive significant effect on food security in Nasarawa state for the period under reviewed. This is in line with Yohanna, Sa,adu & Gona, (2019), Saheed, et al. (2018) and (Badejo & Adekeye, 2018)

The study recommends that farmers should be encouraged to establish safe storage facilities as it is very important for food security, as it as well help to stabilize food price. There is also need to increase agricultural production, preservation of unused produce or unsold items are equally as important to cutting waste.

Policies in place relating to agriculture trainings, establishment of Bank of Agriculture (BOI), Small and Medium Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and other key support agencies must be reviewed to ensure effective implementation and monitoring, as to ensure that need of target beneficiaries are met. Proper management of inputs and credits given to agripreneurs and effective monitoring mechanism to prevent fund diversion by these support agencies is panacea to poverty alleviation.

More farmers should be encouraged to participate in the programme by regularly providing necessary inputs by the government. Sustainability of any programme depends on its accessibility and utilisation by the end users. Other relevant



programmes should be initiated and effectively communicated to likely target beneficiaries. These efforts would boost employment.

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