

# **Impact of Agricultural Training programs on Youth Agripreneurship Performance and Empowerment in Nigeria: The case of Fadama GUYS program**

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## **Abstract**

There have been many controversial debate as to whether youth bulge is a time-ticking bomb waiting to explode or a blessing in disguise to the Africa continent following the incidence of high unemployment rate among young people. As a strategy to reduce youth unemployment, agripreneurship is being increasingly adopted as a valuable means to create jobs and improve livelihoods as well as economic independence of young people. Government and developmental partners have come up to support this by organizing agricultural training programs which specifically targets young people. There are quite a number of such programs but, there is a dearth of empirical evidence on the impact these trainings have on youth agripreneurship performance and empowerment. This study therefore investigated the impact of agricultural training program on youth agripreneurship performance and empowerment in Nigeria. The study used both primary and secondary data. A total of 977 respondents which comprises 455 participants and 522 non-participants were sampled across three regions in Nigeria. Propensity Score Matching method was adopted to analyse the impact of the program on youth agripreneurship performance. The findings show a significant, positive and robust impact of the program on youth agripreneurship performance as performance improved by up to 27 percentage points. Also unlike existing training impact assessment studies, the study adopted a three-stage estimation procedure to analyse the impact of the program on youth empowerment. Consistent with the PSM results, Participation in the program was found to be positively and significantly ( $p < 0.01$ ) related with youth agripreneurship performance. Also, as conceptualized, agripreneurship performance as a result of participation in training had a positive and significant impact on empowerment. The implication is that investing in agricultural training programs is a way of empowering young people which is necessary to reduce the high unemployment rate among these category of the population.

**Keywords :** Youth unemployment, Youth empowerment, Agripreneurship performance, Agricultural training